

THE CONEJO OPEN SPACE FOUNDATION NEWS

Spring of 2018

www.cosf.org

Happy New Year!

Thank you for being a supporter of our local open space. We hope you will find this newsletter informative, interesting, and helpful, and we welcome article ideas, submissions, photos, and queries from all of our readers. You can contact us with your comments here: newsletter@cosf.org.

We're starting this March issue with a reprint of a poster we recently made up for meetings and exhibitions we attend. It lists many of the major accomplishments of the Foundation over the years. Take a look to the right:



FOUNDATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1995 -2018

Fund and support Trails Education Days – 26 Years, nearly 40,000 students

\$35,000 donation raised for the Hill Canyon Bridge construction

Funding provided for all open space volunteer programs

Funding provided for 6,000 bike "awareness bells" offered free at select trailheads

Fund the development of up-to-date COSCA trail maps

Funds provided for an Open Space Outreach trailer

Host cosf.org website to inform and educate about Conejo open space and to recruit volunteers

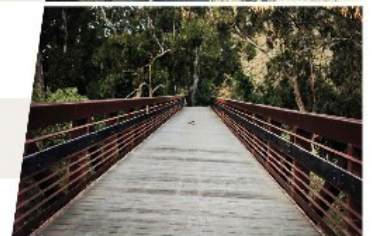
Joined the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce in 2017

Publish and distribute a quarterly e-newsletter

Exhibit at numerous corporate health and green fairs and environmental events

Secure grants to support Trails Education Days, Trail Work Days, and Resource Management programs

Host the annual Foundation Holiday Party to recognize YOU and your support



Thank you!

Donate

Volunteer

Trail Education Days 2018 26 years, and almost 40,000 students!

The Conejo Open Space Trails Education Days (TED) provides lessons on open space subjects for Conejo Valley Unified School District 4th grade students every spring. TED includes a 30-minute video presentation and a field trip to Wildwood Park where the students experience nature hikes, park ranger talks, a trail safety and courtesy workshop, and a presentation of live indigenous animals. The goal is to instill the students with an appreciation and sense of stewardship of the open space at an early age. The students are invited to enter a letter-writing contest to describe some of the things they learned during their TED experience. Two winners from each school and five Grand Prize winners district-wide are chosen to receive cash awards as well as recognition by the Thousand Oaks City Council and the CRPD Board of Directors.



New Conejo Canyons Bridge Is Coming!

Some local experts have long seen the need for a bridge that would connect Conejo Canyons Open Space (AKA the Western Plateau) with Wildwood Regional Park. As part of the Conejo Canyons Master Plan for years, the new bridge was recently approved by CRPD and the City and is tentatively planned to be located approximately 1 mile south of the existing

parking area bridge (which the new bridge will likely resemble) and close to the Hill Canyon Wastewater Treatment Plant. The benefits of the new bridge are to make the above open space connection and to safely divert people off Hill Cyn Rd, which runs to the treatment plant and has some truck traffic. Much planning and work still need to be done, but the bridge is intended to be used by hikers, runners, cyclists, and equestrians, as well as COSCA Rangers. The bulk of funding is coming from CRPD, the City will provide engineering and contract support, and the Conejo Open Space Foundation has pledged a large donation and plans to conduct a fund-raising campaign for the bridge in coming months. We hope our readers will respond generously!

Thank you to the T.O. Acorn for the use of the above image.

Announcement

The Conejo Open Space Foundation is actively seeking new board members. The Foundation board is an 11-member, all-volunteer group dedicated to raising funds to support open space programs in Conejo Valley and to educating the public (especially children) about the value of

open space. We are in particular need of someone with accounting, bookkeeping, and/or CPA experience, but we welcome all applications. If interested, please send an email of interest with your qualifications to r.craig.percy@gmail.com .

Thank you to SMMTC and CORBA!

Every year, COSCA hosts spring and fall Trail Work Days, bringing together hundreds of volunteers to help build, clean, clear, and maintain COSCA open space and trails. Volunteers are generally split into work crews of 10 to 15, and each crew has a crew leader. Who are these crew leaders? Several local organizations help provide trained crew leaders, including the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council ([SMMTC](#)) and the Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association ([CORBA](#)). SMMTC and CORBA volunteer members have been trained in the art and science of trail building and trail maintenance, and by volunteering their leadership, COSCA is able to safely mobilize and oversee hundreds of volunteers without accidents or health problems out in the field. SMMTC volunteers also work with local Rangers to help plan and set up the site work, making Trail Work Days go smoothly and safely.

So, the next time YOU volunteer at Trail Work Day (thank you!), be sure to say “hi” to all the crew leaders and thank them. They’re volunteers, too. Without them, our COSCA trails might not be the envy of Southern California!

Annual Holiday Party

Our annual Conejo Open Space Holiday party in December was a huge success! This tradition is our way of thanking YOU for the volunteer hours and donations you provide us with throughout the year. This event pays for itself through the silent auction that has generously been



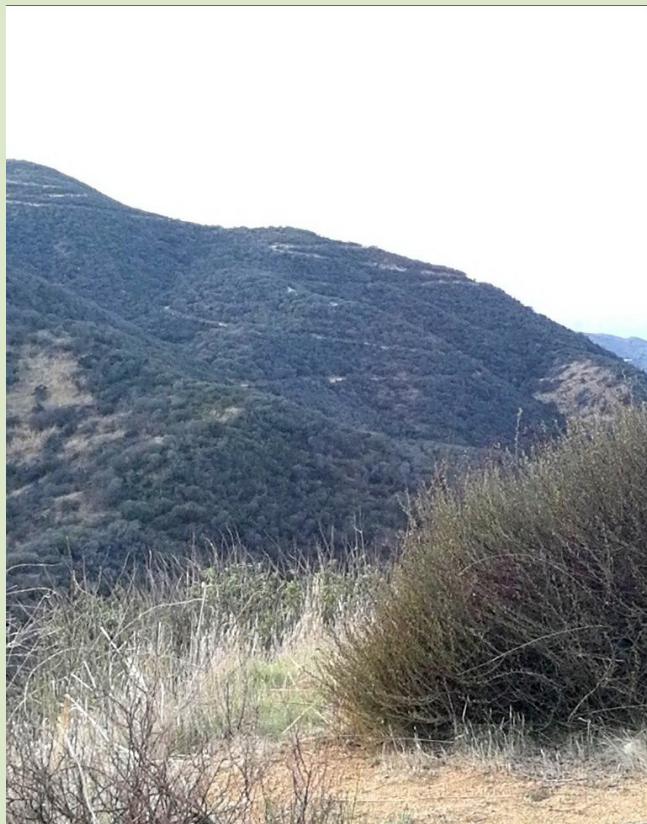
overseen and organized by former board members Melanie Ashen and Fontayne Holmes. We appreciate their dedication to the foundation for so many years.

Trail Trivia: Space Mountain

Thank you to Dan Goldstein at conejovalleyguide.com for permission to reprint this post about "Space Mountain", also known as "Los Robles West"

"Space Mountain" is not the "official" name of the [Los Robles Trail](#) heading west from the [South Moorpark Road and Greenmeadow Avenue in Thousand Oaks](#) trail access point, but this mostly single track trail was affectionately named after the Disneyland ride due to its switchbacks and twists and turns to the top, where you will be rewarded with outstanding views of the Conejo Valley and beyond. These trails are particularly popular with mountain bikers who enjoy the rocky, single track trails, as well as hikers and runners. From the main trail head, go west just under 1/2 mile and you'll see the fork in the road where you can go east or west. Go west, young man (or woman). After making your way up the hill to the right, you'll go down a hill to another fork in the road, where you can either veer slightly right to to the [Spring](#)

[Canyon Trail](#), which takes you about a mile to the Ventu Park area of Newbury Park. Instead, veer to the left to continue on the Los Robles Trail West... It is roughly 3 miles to the top, where you will find one bench directly on the trail, facing a very short path to a viewing area with another bench.



Geocaching

Geocaching is the activity of searching for hidden containers, called geocaches, using a Global Positioning System (GPS)-enabled device such as a smartphone or GPS receiver. There are millions of geocaches hidden everywhere around the world, and there hundreds in the Conejo Valley, including along the trails in our open spaces! Three of many reasons that people enjoy geocaching are that it's a great family activity, the thrill of finding a container that is cleverly disguised to blend in with its surroundings, and the lure of seeing something new on the journey to find them. They are often hidden at special places, for example with amazing views!



You can learn more about geocaching at geocaching.com (it's free to sign up!) and COSF.org. We lead an "Introduction to Geocaching Hike" on National Trails Day (the first Saturday in June). Watch [our calendar](#) for details. We hope you can join us! --Steve Clark

Erratum

In the December *Foundation News* we reported that all 151 miles of COSCA trails are open for all users. This is not quite accurate: there are five trails that have restrictions due to safety concerns. All of them are in Wildwood Park, including the Moonridge Trail from the main parking area south-east to North Tepee Trail (0.9 miles), Indian Creek Trail from the mesa south-east and down to the bottom of the 76-step Trail (0.2 miles), the entire 76-Step Trail (0.15 miles), an unnamed trail that connects Wildwood Cyn Trail to Tepee Trail (0.1 miles), and another unnamed trail that crosses a small dam between Lynnmere and Wildwood Cyn Trail (340 feet). These total just over a mile, so 99.1% of our trails are open to all users! Enjoy!

Thank you to Steve Clark for these details!

Want to Volunteer? Here's How!

The COSCA Volunteer Corps has many ways for residents to help maintain and preserve the open space that surrounds our beautiful Conejo Valley. By joining with others, we can make sure that the trails, canyons, and ridgelines will be enjoyed by visitors for generations to come. You can read about the specific volunteer opportunities below, and you can submit a request to volunteer, noting your specific interests, [here](#).

- [Adopt-a-Trail Program](#)
- [Trail Watch Program](#)
- [Trail Ambassador Program](#)
- [Trail Work Days](#)
- [Trails Education Days](#)



The Conejo Open Space Foundation was formed in 1995 to promote and maintain the open space and trail system of the Conejo Valley and to educate residents as to their roles as custodians and protectors of the open space and the environment. Our [web site](#) illustrates ongoing Conejo Open Space programs supported by the Foundation that help preserve and protect our precious open space.

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