

I see their vehicles at the Trailer but where are the Rangers?

The San Dieguito River Park Ranger is probably out patrolling, working on trail construction, leading a bird count walk or perhaps guiding the Dust Devils in their volunteer work. Dust Devils volunteer work includes trail maintenance, helping in the native plant nursery or planting on prepared berms.

Wow. How often are the Rangers doing all this?

There is at least one Ranger on site every day of the week, including weekends, during daylight hours. Their primary job is patrolling the restoration work; making sure hikers are staying on the trails and not in the restoration areas. They have had to divert kayakers from the lagoon and even halt fishing activities.

But, for the most part the Rangers are having very positive contact with the public. Hikers come from all over the County expressing their appreciation for the restoration project and the new trails. "This is super!" is a common comment.

Will the trail here eventually connect with the Coast to Crest Trail that is expected to go east all the way to the Julian area?

Yes. One of the rangers' major projects now is construction of the Lagoon trail segment between the trailhead at the foot of San Andres and Horse Park. In some cases that means converting basic construction roads developed during the Lagoon Restoration into undulating trails with native planting.

Are there any trails on the other side of the River?

The rangers are currently working on getting permits for construction of a Mesa Loop trail on the south side of the river, west of El Camino Real. The State Coastal Conservancy awarded the River Park funds for construction of the proposed 1.7 mile Loop Trail

I noticed the new Treatment Ponds panel at the foot of San Andres Drive. Are the Rangers involved with this project?

Yes, in fact the rangers created the project as a showcase for handling urban runoff from storm drains. The State Water Resources Control Board awarded the River Park \$550,000 to create the treatment ponds. The Park is responsible for keeping the storm drain at San Andres cleared so runoff can be cleansed of pollutants before entering the nearby wetlands. They are also responsible for controlling invasive weeds, allowing the healthier natives to take over.

What is the best way to hook up with a ranger?

Join a Ranger and walk the Lagoon Trail every second Saturday. The next walk is scheduled for December 11 at 9 a.m. at the San Andres trailhead. And let us know about your experience. We would love to hear from you.

