

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ally Welborn, Community Engagement Manager
The San Diego River Park Foundation
Mobile (480) 334-0772
ally@sandiegoriver.org



Earth Day isn't Cancelled!

Celebrate nature from home with the San Diego River, our local nature connection

San Diego, CA – The San Diego River Park Foundation is launching an online campaign to celebrate Earth Day and help socially distant San Diegans come together to connect virtually with nature and the San Diego River.

Wednesday, April 22nd is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. This annual international holiday is usually an opportunity for people to celebrate nature by getting outside, volunteering, advocating for nature, and getting involved with environmental causes. This year, because of public health concerns, San Diegans will not be able to participate in typical Earth Day events. Instead, The San Diego River Park Foundation is offering alternative ways for people to celebrate and enjoy nature through an interactive campaign that includes digital opportunities and socially-distanced time in nearby nature.

Here are a few ideas from The San Diego River Park Foundation for virtual Earth Day Celebrations:

- Become a naturalist in your neighborhood. Bird and plant guides as well as digital species identification tools like iNaturalist offer anyone the opportunity to be a naturalist, right in their own backyard! Learn how using one of the San Diego River Park Foundation's free online tools.
- Paint social media green. Use the hashtag **#EarthDaysntCancelled** to fill social media with photos of nature on April 22: a favorite river photo from the past, a dream destination, a flower from the garden, a houseplant.
- Get the kids involved. Many nature organizations, including The San Diego River Park Foundation, are offering free natural science curricula and virtual activities right now.
- Volunteer from home. Remote volunteers can help environmental organizations organize data, research, apply for grants, design new public education materials, and much more!
- Try out a virtual nature exploration. Follow along with our outdoor documentary/craft night pairing suggestion, or one of other suggestions online!

To see a complete list of ideas with links to resources, visit www.sandiegoriver.org/earthdaysntcancelled.html.

"Research shows that nature connections are important for physical and psychological well-being," explains The San Diego River Park Foundation Chief Associate Director Sarah Hutmacher, "It has always been important to The San Diego River Park Foundation to facilitate connections between people and the outdoors and to bring community members together to celebrate natural resources, such as our San Diego River. This feels especially crucial right now, when people may feel more isolated from each other and from nature than they ever have been before. Join us this Earth Day to (virtually) celebrate nature and local natural resources like our San Diego River!"

###

About The San Diego River Park Foundation

The San Diego River Park Foundation's mission is to engage people to work toward a better future for the historic San Diego River and the creation of a 52-mile river parkway from the mountains to the ocean. The River Park Foundation is a non-profit community-based organization founded in 2001. Visit www.sandiegoriver.org for more information.