

Immediate Release

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GAUGING THE HEALTH OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER

San Diego, CA, On April 4th and 11th, Volunteers of the San Diego River Park Foundation will set out in teams to walk the length of the San Diego River to document the presence and quantity of trash and debris as well as seek out and document a targeted list of non-native, invasive plant species that degrade the habitat and water quality of the San Diego River.

RiverBlitz occurs Saturday April 4th in Mission Valley East and April 5th in Mission Valley West from 9AM-12:30PM. The following Saturday April 11th in Santee from 9AM-12:30PM field collection will take place. This semiannual event is important as the River Park Foundation's goal is to have the entire river cleaned up in two years.

"Knowing exactly where the trouble spots are along the river helps us in planning our river cleanups which we do twice per month" say Rob Hutsel, Executive Director of the River Park Foundation, "The data gathered during RiverBlitz is uploaded to our IM Rivers Site (<http://www.imrivers.com/sandiego>) so the public can see the challenges faced by our river. We then convert that data into action by engaging the community in caring for the river and helping to clean it up.

Trained leaders will take volunteers teams out to survey for non-native plants, trash, and park problems. Volunteers will learn how to use GPS, cameras and field data sheets to gauge the health of the river and surrounding habitat.

No Science background or experience is required. RiverBlitz is a great way to get out and see the river and help it to be healthy again.

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About The San Diego River Park Foundation

The San Diego River Park Foundation is the only non-profit organization working to restore and enhance the entire San Diego River, from the mountains to the ocean. Working with a broad-based coalition of over 50 community, civic, and public interest groups, as well as public agencies, elected officials, and civic leaders, the Foundation believes a River Park is a special project that has tremendous potential to benefit not only the current generation but future generations as well.

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NEWS ALERT

RESTORING THE HEALTH OF THE RIVER WITH RIVERBLITZ

What: Community members involved with surveying and collecting data on invasive plant species, presence of trash and other information to determine the health of the river.

When: Saturday April 4th and Sunday April 5th 9AM-12:30PM and the following Saturday April 11th from 9AM-12:30PM.

Where: Saturday the 4th takes place at Mission Valley East and that Sunday 5th Mission Valley West. The following Saturday the 11th takes place at Santee.

Why: RiverBlitz an event hosted by the San Diego River Park Foundation Clean and Green Team, strives to make the river a healthier waterway. This semiannual event is important because it not only enhances the quality of the river but it educates the public on what it takes to maintain a healthy river.

A trained river leader will take volunteers teams out to survey for non-native plants, trash, and park problems. Volunteers will learn how to use GPS, cameras and field data sheets to gauge the state of the river. All data collected will be used to help in efforts to restore our river back to a healthy state.

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