

A Glimpse into the Life of a Core River Park Foundation Intern Maggi Davis

As some might know, the River Park Foundation's office consists of 6 staff members and with all the work there is to do creating the River Park, we rely heavily on the wonderful support of volunteers! Their meaningful contributions range from helping with clean-ups to leading service projects and river surveys to office support. One of our core volunteer programs, and the one I'm personally the most involved with, is our internship program. Visitors to the office can often find up to 8 interns assisting with data entry, volunteer recruitment, event planning, graphics production, and preparing for outreach, clean-up, and garden events. One particular intern has been especially busy lately, helping (in a major way!) prepare for RiverFest, the big community festival we are hosting on May 15th at Qualcomm Stadium.

Maggi Davis, a fantastic intern, has been helping to coordinate the Fest and its pre-Fest Healthy River 5-Mile Walk, and has been focusing her efforts on working with the media, vendors, and Fest participants. Maggi is a unique intern – she's come to us via the US Department of Labor's Senior Community Service Employment Program ([click here for information about this program](#)) brings a real wealth of experience with her. She owned Eagle Promotions, for almost 20 years, in which she handled public relations and promotions for special events – particularly for non profits – so, as one might imagine, has been a key asset to the RiverFest planning effort!

I got a chance to take a break with her recently and learn some more about her interesting past and what motivated her to get involved with the San Diego River Park Foundation and our efforts along the San Diego River. It's funny how you can sit so close to someone every day and, in the hustle and bustle of the office, don't get to really know about their life and how they got where they are today.

It turns out Maggi's always cherished the water. She was born in Oregon, along the Columbia River where she enjoyed camping and fishing. Her father was a tug boat captain in New York harbor and later a ferry boat captain in Seattle. Maggi also owned tuna boats for a number of years, which led to an opportunity for her to travel to fishing communities all over the world. She's a gal after my own heart who's always been a lover of nature and water, and so was drawn to the opportunity to join the River Park Foundation's effort of creating a river-long park and trail system. In her own words, "*I take pride in making a difference in any small way for the "San Diego River Park and Trail."* She really enjoys working with "the people" – and guess what, we really enjoy working with her!

Maggi will be graduating with her MBA, from the University of Phoenix, in June and as sad as we'll be to see her go, we wish her well in her endeavors to lock down a steady job where she can continue to handle special events for a non-profit (she adds, smiling, it would be ideally 3 days a week so she can focus on her other interests including

painting and photography). On May 2nd, two of her granddaughters will be graduating with their bachelors degrees and, because their grandmother is now receiving her masters degree, one of them will be enrolling in graduate school this fall. Maggi has not only been an inspiration to her family, but has been an inspiration to us all and a great member to have on our team!

- Elizabeth Hanley, Project Coordinator, San Diego River Park Foundation