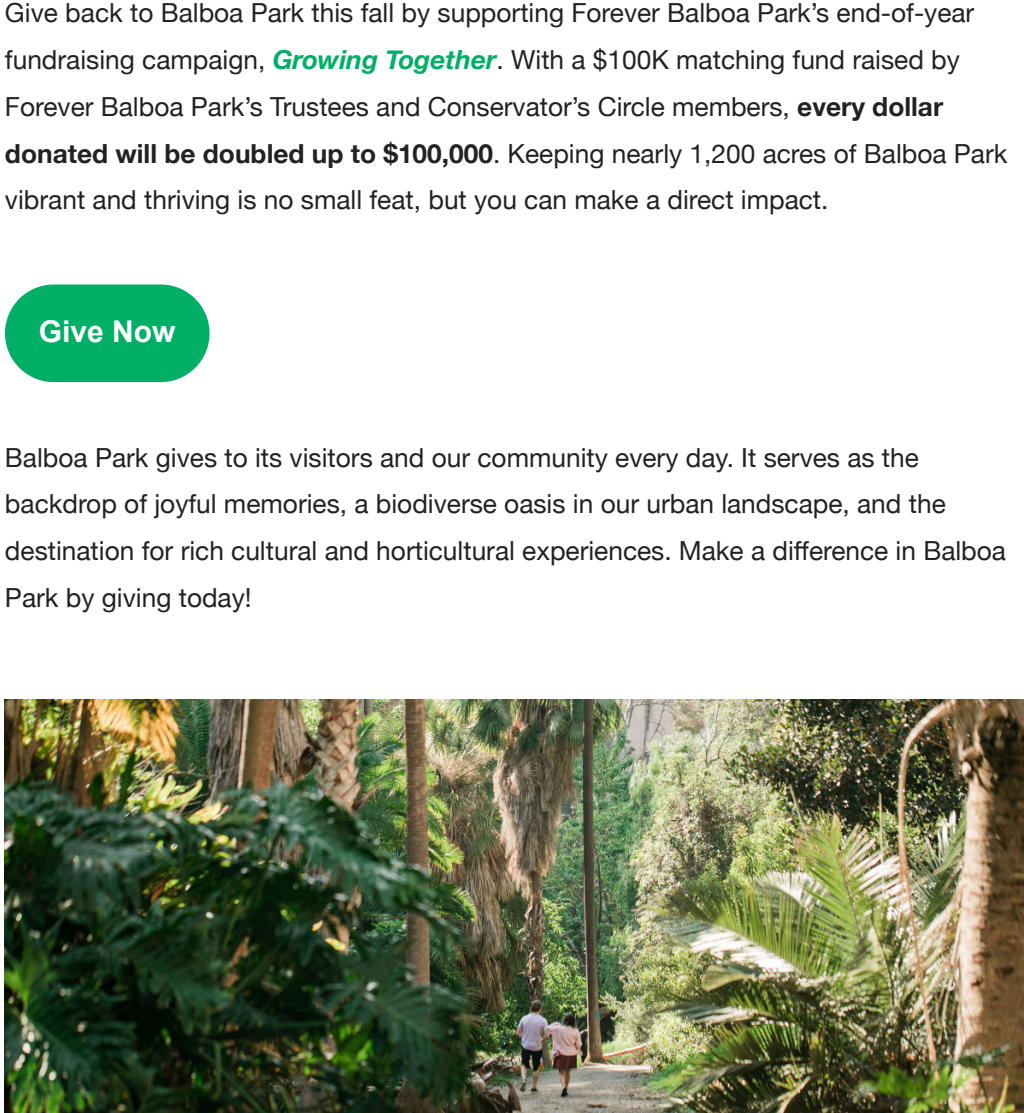


Your Park Newsletter Sessions



Growing Together

Your Gift to Balboa Park Now Matched 1:1 up to \$100K

Give back to Balboa Park this fall by supporting Forever Balboa Park's end-of-year fundraising campaign, **Growing Together**. With a \$100K matching fund raised by Forever Balboa Park's Trustees and Conservator's Circle members, **every dollar donated will be doubled up to \$100,000**. Keeping nearly 1,200 acres of Balboa Park vibrant and thriving is no small feat, but you can make a direct impact.

Give Now

Balboa Park gives to its visitors and our community every day. It serves as the backdrop of joyful memories, a biodiverse oasis in our urban landscape, and the destination for rich cultural and horticultural experiences. Make a difference in Balboa Park by giving today!

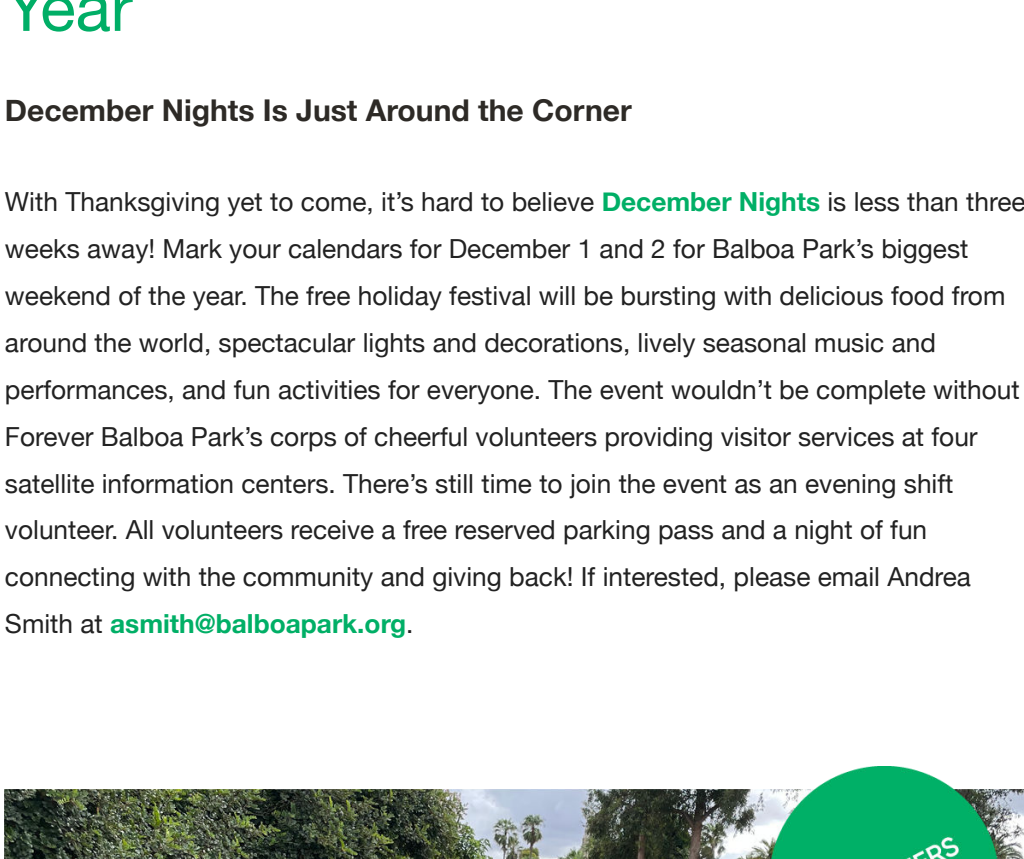


Extra! Extra!

New Edition of Sessions Newsletter Has the Scoop on Park Projects

The third edition of *Sessions*, Forever Balboa Park's biannual publication, is hot off the press. Taking a deeper dive than our monthly e-newsletter, the biannual version includes project updates, park stories, and volunteer features. Read more at the link below!

Get the Scoop



The Future Is Green

Annual Plant It Forward Event Engages Youth and Community

We celebrated **Plant It Forward** last week with the first tree planting event of the season and a sapling giveaway. Fifty students from City Heights Preparatory Charter School participated, planting Torrey pines and Engelmann oaks for a total of 11 new trees on the West Mesa near Redwood Circle. Thank you to Councilmember Stephen Whitburn, District 3; Kohta Zaiser and Stephen Hill of Mayor Todd Gloria's office; Brian Widener, City Forester; and Morgan Justice-Black and Kazeem Omidiji from SDG&E for kicking off the event. The following day, Forever Balboa Park gave out 75+ free tree saplings to the community. Once those trees take root throughout San Diego, they will help grow the region's urban forest even beyond Balboa Park. You can still participate in Plant It Forward. Click the button below to learn about recommended tree species that you can plant at home and safe tree planting tips.

Plant It Forward is made possible by an SDG&E Environmental Champions grant. See a feature of the Plant It Forward youth planting on **NBC 7**.

Tree Planting Info

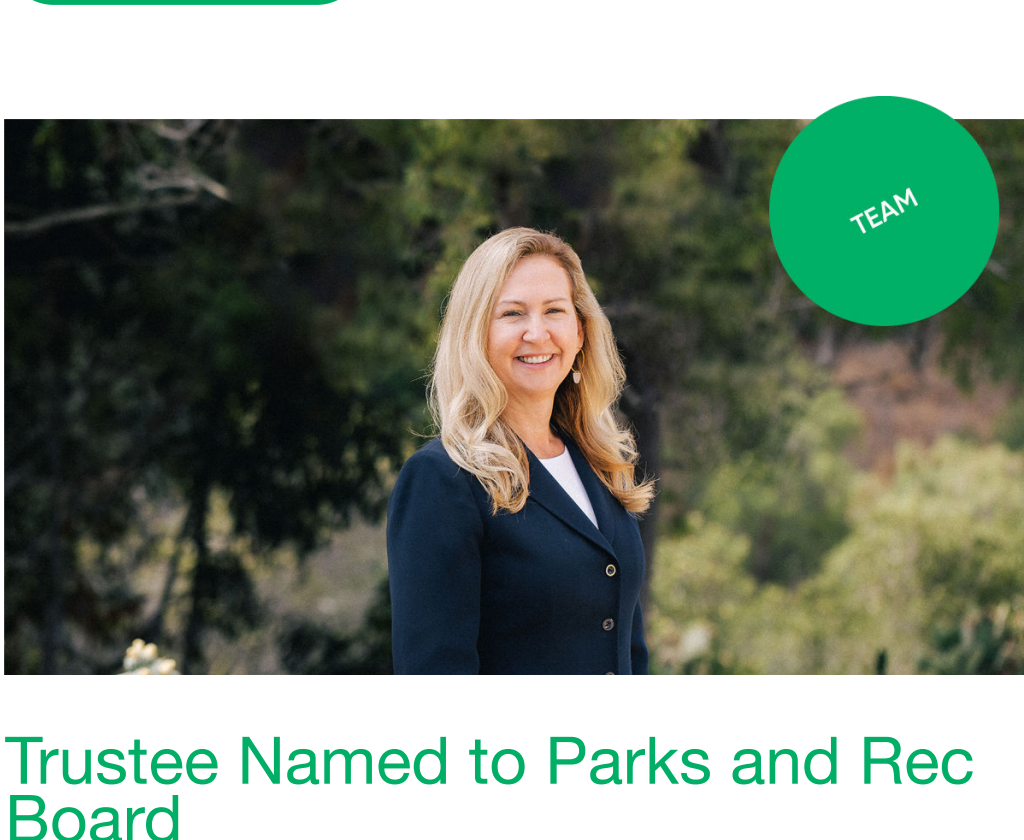


Start a New Holiday Tradition

Balboa Park Carousel Open Thanksgiving Week

Treat your out-of-town family and friends this Thanksgiving week to a true San Diego tradition! The Dorothea Laub Balboa Park Carousel will be open daily Saturday, November 18, through Sunday, November 26, 11am to 5:30pm, but closed on Thanksgiving Day (November 23). For an extra special treat they won't soon forget, you can also book a private event or birthday party at the Carousel when it's closed to the public. For information, email carousel@balboapark.org.

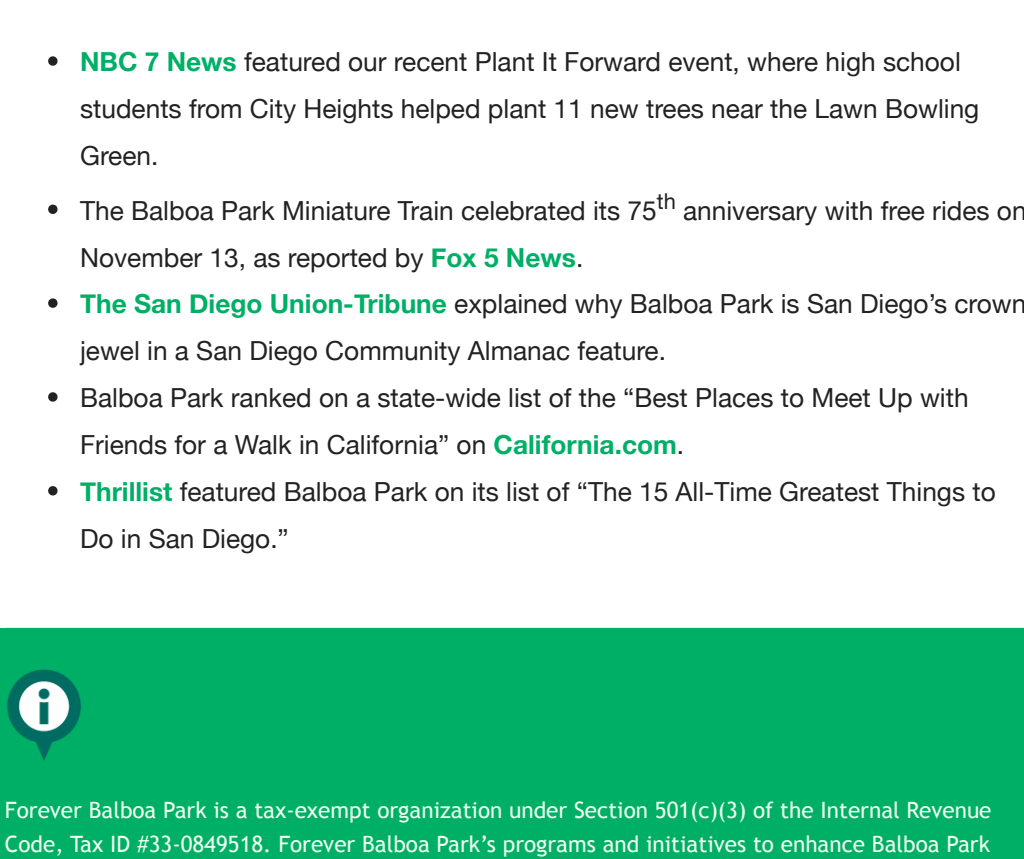
The **Balboa Park Visitors Center** is also closed on Thanksgiving Day but will remain open its regular hours (9:30am–4:30pm) throughout the week. Be sure to stop by on Black Friday and throughout the holiday season for park and nature-themed gifts your friends and family will love!



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

December Nights Is Just Around the Corner

With Thanksgiving yet to come, it's hard to believe **December Nights** is less than three weeks away! Mark your calendars for December 1 and 2 for Balboa Park's biggest weekend of the year. The free holiday festival will be bursting with delicious food from around the world, spectacular lights and decorations, lively seasonal music and performances, and fun activities for everyone. The event wouldn't be complete without Forever Balboa Park's corps of cheerful volunteers providing visitor services at four satellite information centers. There's still time to join the event as an evening shift volunteer. All volunteers receive a free reserved parking pass and a night of fun connecting with the community and giving back! If interested, please email Andrea Smith at asmith@balboapark.org.



Growing Our Volunteer Leadership Corps

Tree Stewards Prepare to Take the Lead During Tree Planting Season

With tree planting season upon us, we recently promoted four of our Tree Stewards, training them to take on additional responsibilities. Our newly minted Tree Planting Team Leaders, Thomas Lennan, Valerie Benner, Karen Davidson, and Keith Kinaly, completed two online training sessions and one in-person hands-on session with Certified Master Arborist Bradley Brown. The training not only reinforced and expanded their abilities in proper tree planting techniques and knowledge in the environmental benefits of a healthy urban forest, but it also helped enhance their leadership skills. In the very near future, they will lead groups of volunteers (students, corporate partners, and community members) to plant trees in Balboa Park. These events wouldn't be possible without them. Thank you!



Service Day Sprucing

Ninth Graders Experience First-Hand the Value of Volunteerism

La Jolla Country Day School returned for another service day in October, this time with 30 ninth graders ready to help beautify Balboa Park. Led by Lynn Langley (a Forever Balboa Park Trustee, Tree Steward, and Garden Steward) and Christine Hoey (a member of the California Native Plant Society), they helped clear weeds and other plant debris in Bird Park on the park's East Mesa. After service days for high school students not only teach young people the value of volunteerism but an appreciation for Balboa Park's many recreational and environmental assets and all the hard work that goes into maintaining them at best-in-class levels. My thanks to the teachers and students at La Jolla Country Day School as well as to Lynn, Christine, and Ranger Conners, our Parks and Recreation partner who helped facilitate this event.

Volunteer of the Month

In-Demand Tour Guide MJ Crow Now Trains Our Newest Guides

In less than five years as a Forever Balboa Park volunteer, Marijean "MJ" Crow has become one of our most sought-after and knowledgeable tour guides. She recently took on the role of Mentor Tour Guide and will be leading and supporting our newest guides as they train. MJ's tour guide days began when she was working as an admissions officer at various universities, which sometimes involved giving campus tours. In semi-retirement, she became a docent at the Coronado Historical Association before also volunteering to give tours of the park in 2019. "It's been a wonder to 'discover' Balboa Park, even though I've lived in San Diego County for decades. The improvements made to the park, while restoring/maintaining its history, make it a delightful place to visit and share," says MJ.

Revitalizing the Botanical Building and Gardens

Lath Install Begins; Planting Plan Unveiled

The Botanical Building and Gardens revitalization project is making visible progress! Just last week, the construction team began installing the new redwood lath roof on the west side of the building. As one of the most iconic elements of the structure, the new lath is a beautiful reminder of the restored building to come. More important than the lath itself is the beloved collection of flora housed in the building. Included in the fall edition of *Sessions*, discussed above, is a description of the planting plan for the restored interior garden. Click below to read about the building's treasured collection to come.

Sessions Newsletter

Trustee Named to Parks and Rec Board

Allison Soares Will Help Advise the City on Balboa Park and More

The San Diego City Council has appointed Forever Balboa Park Board Secretary and Treasurer Allison Soares to the city's **Parks and Recreation Board**. This board advises the city on matters relating to the development, maintenance, and operation of parks, beaches, and recreation facilities. In addition, Allison was also named chair of the **Balboa Park Committee**, another advisory board to the mayor and city council but focused on policy issues relating to Balboa Park. Allison's recent appointments are a testament to her dedicated service to the park, which offers welcoming spaces for recreation, respite, inspiration, and well-being for all San Diego communities.

In the News

In Case You Missed It . . .

- **NBC 7 News** featured our recent Plant It Forward event, where high school students from City Heights helped plant 11 new trees near the Lawn Bowling Green.
- The Balboa Park Miniature Train celebrated its 75th anniversary with free rides on November 13, as reported by **Fox 5 News**.
- **The San Diego Union-Tribune** explained why Balboa Park is San Diego's crown jewel in a San Diego Community Almanac feature.
- Balboa Park ranked on a state-wide list of the "Best Places to Meet Up with Friends for a Walk in California" on **California.com**.
- **Thrillist** featured Balboa Park on its list of "The 15 All-Time Greatest Things to Do in San Diego."

