

Your Park Newsletter Sessions

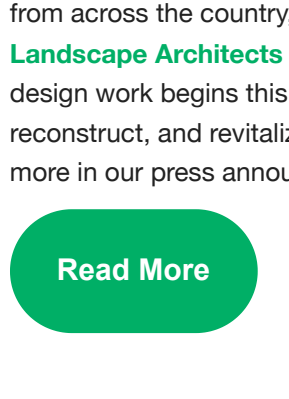


A New Year's Message

As we embark upon a new year, I would like to take a minute to thank you for your support in 2023. With your involvement, Forever Balboa Park begins 2024 having accomplished a number of key milestones:

- Completed a historic structural restoration of the Dorothea Laub Balboa Park Carousel, ensuring its vitality for future generations of Balboa Park families.
- Provided a warm welcome and visitor information to 300,000 people attending December Nights.
- Signed a multi-year comprehensive special use permit with the City of San Diego that gives Forever Balboa Park permission to deploy volunteers across all 1,200 acres of the park, and pursue park improvements, public engagement, and maintenance projects.
- Adopted of a new strategic plan that outlines our vision and action plan for the next three years. Look for opportunities to learn more in future newsletters as we take the plan on the road.
- Launched the design phase for the Botanical Building and Gardens Phase 2. With the philanthropic support of many community leaders, we have embarked on this critical step to renew the exterior gardens surrounding the iconic Botanical Building. The designs will be completed by late summer 2024.
- Successfully completed the fall annual fund campaign, *Growing Together*. Your support makes our work possible, beautifying and stewarding Balboa Park for its millions of visitors. With your help, we exceeded our matching fund goal by 25%, raising \$250K!

Balboa Park plays a critical role in the lives of so many San Diegans and visitors from across the region and beyond. Together, we are embracing our collective responsibility to steward this park into the future, with a renewed commitment to enriching Balboa Park so that people and nature thrive together. Thank you for your dedication to our mission, and all my best wishes for a happy 2024!



Elizabeth C. Babcock, PhD
President & CEO
Forever Balboa Park

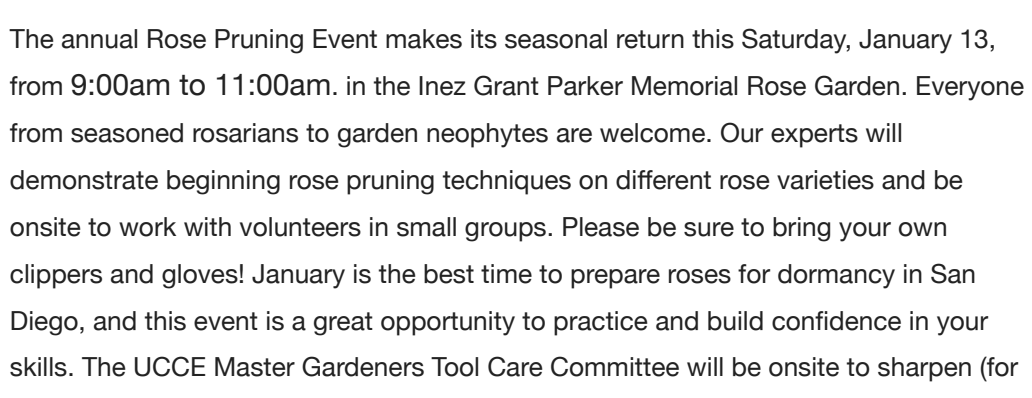


Botanical Building and Gardens Phase 2 Underway

Spurlock Landscape Architects Selected as Design Consultant

Balboa Park's Botanical Building and Gardens is entering the second phase of its historic restoration project. After receiving several proposals from award-winning firms from across the country, Forever Balboa Park is excited to announce that **Spurlock Landscape Architects** has been selected as the consultant team for Phase 2, and the design work begins this month. Phase 2, led by Forever Balboa Park, will restore, reconstruct, and revitalize the Botanical Building exterior gardens. Click below to read more in our press announcement.

[Read More](#)



Trees for Health Garden Trail Restored

Partnership with CCC Creates Easier Access to Medicinal Garden

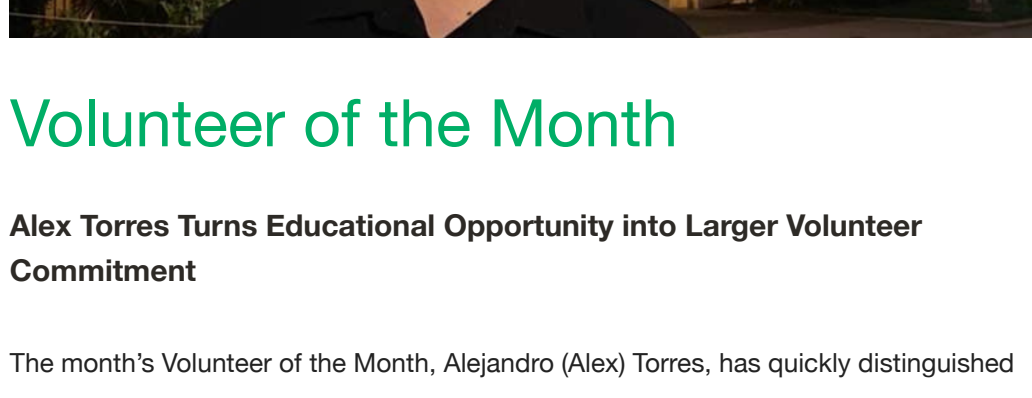
The **California Conservation Corps (CCC)** partnered with Forever Balboa Park and Trees for Health Garden volunteer leadership for a major project in the Trees for Health Garden. The CCC crew improved and enhanced the garden's trails to increase safety and accessibility for visitors. The restored trails will make it easier for visitors to explore the park's largest educational garden and learn about its rich variety of flora with medicinal properties in a relaxed recreational setting. Funding for the trail restoration project was generously provided by the San Diego Foundation – Balboa Park Fund as well as a number of private donors.



Rose Garden Ritual Returns

Learn Best Gardening Practices at the Annual Rose Pruning Event

The annual Rose Pruning Event makes its seasonal return this Saturday, January 13, from 9:00am to 11:00am, in the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden. Everyone from seasoned rosarians to garden neophytes are welcome. Our experts will demonstrate beginning rose pruning techniques on different rose varieties and be onsite to work with volunteers in small groups. Please be sure to bring your own clippers and gloves! January is the best time to prepare roses for dormancy in San Diego, and this event is a great opportunity to practice and build confidence in your skills. The UCCE Master Gardeners Tool Care Committee will be onsite to sharpen (for free) one pruner for the first 30 people. For more details, visit the [San Diego Rose Society's website](#).

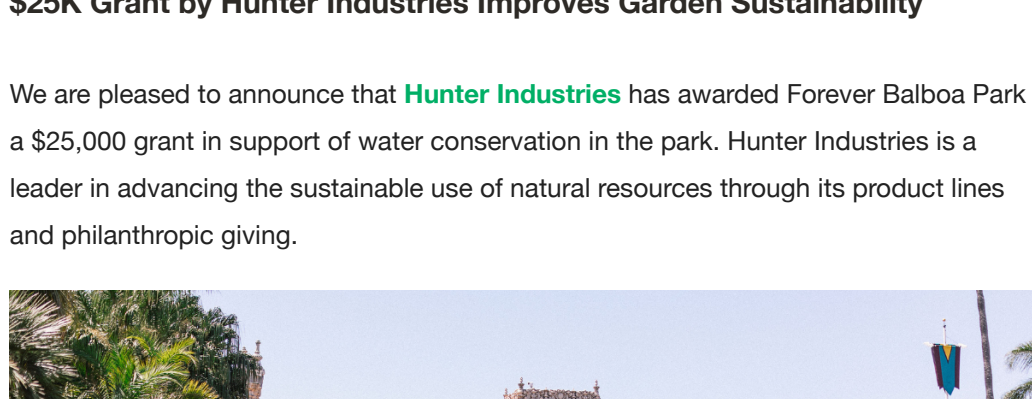


Join the Class of '24

Next Visitors Center Volunteer Training Group Starts in February

Ever wondered why Visitors Center volunteers are so knowledgeable and seem to enjoy their work so much? Learn their secrets this February by joining the next batch of volunteer trainees for our Visitor Services corps. Visitor Services volunteers assist park visitors in getting the most out of their visit to Balboa Park by greeting them, answering questions, making recommendations based on each visitor's interests, and providing the latest information. Volunteers make a one-year commitment and must be available for at least one shift per week. To learn more or to sign up, click below to fill out the volunteer interest form.

[Contact Us](#)



Visitors Center Hosts International Volunteers

Korean University Students Gain Unique Work Experience

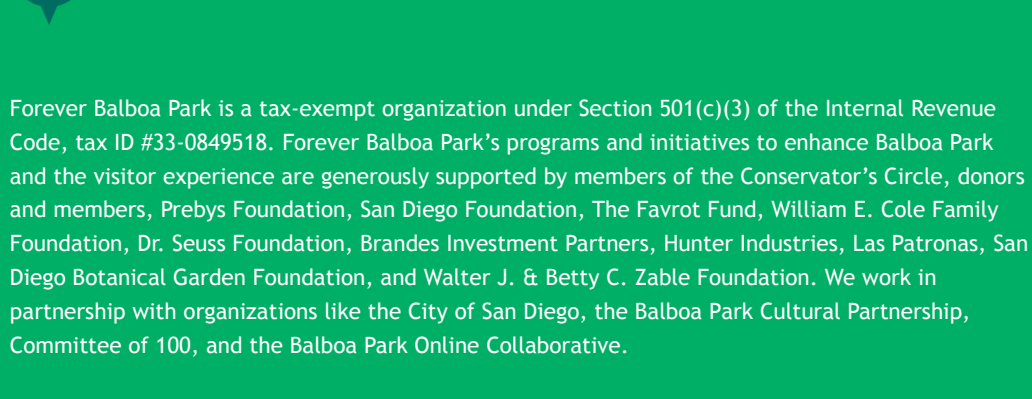
The Balboa Park Visitors Center was fortunate to host seven university student volunteers from South Korea through **INX Academy**, a San Diego English education school. Volunteers worked in the Visitors Center for eight weeks, practicing conversational English with fellow volunteers and park visitors. They also helped translate visitor information materials into Korean, equipping us to better serve international visitors. Julie, an INX volunteer, said, "This experience was so much more than I hoped. I really enjoyed my time working with the Visitors Center volunteers and wanted the opportunity to practice English." Pictured above are Yumin and Julie, both from Seoul, South Korea.



Volunteer of the Month

Alex Torres Turns Educational Opportunity into Larger Volunteer Commitment

The month's Volunteer of the Month, Alejandro (Alex) Torres, has quickly distinguished himself in the relatively short time he's been here. As a student at Cuyamaca College working on an associates degree in Landscape Architecture, Alex initially volunteered with Forever Balboa Park in August to earn volunteer hours toward his degree program. Already experienced in gardening work, he excelled as a new Garden Steward but also volunteered for two double shifts at December Nights and other events. He's eager to continue to work as a Garden Steward beyond his degree requirement because, as Alex puts it, "I've met some great people while volunteering here, and the environment here is unlike any place I've seen in San Diego."



Water Conservation Efforts Receive a Boost

\$25K Grant by Hunter Industries Improves Garden Sustainability

We are pleased to announce that **Hunter Industries** has awarded Forever Balboa Park a \$25,000 grant in support of water conservation in the park. Hunter Industries is a leader in advancing the sustainable use of natural resources through its product lines and philanthropic giving.



Share Your Thoughts on Balboa Park

Survey Responses Will Help City Prioritize Resources for Future Improvement

What would you do to further enhance the overall visitor experience in Balboa Park? What are your favorite areas of the park? Which areas need the most attention? The City of San Diego would like to know the answers to these questions and more. You are invited to share your thoughts in a five-minute **public survey** the city has set up. This is a unique chance to let the city know what your priorities are for improving one of the greatest urban cultural parks in the world. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts before the survey closes on January 28.

[Take Survey](#)

In the News

In Case You Missed It . . .

- **Fox 5 News** posted an update on the progress of the Botanical Building and Gardens restoration project, led by Forever Balboa Park in partnership with the city.
- Balboa Park and the Japanese Friendship Garden were highlighted in **The San Diego Union-Tribune's** round up of great public parks and other places to get active in this year.
- The park's recreational areas are expected to play a role in contributing to the \$100 million economic impact projected for World Road Run Championships taking place in and around Balboa Park in 2025, according to **Times of San Diego**.
- Forever Balboa Park Trustee Lucy Warren presented on Balboa Park's gardens for the Redlands Horticultural and Improvement Society in November, as posted in the **Redlands Daily Facts**.
- **ABC 10News** and other media outlets reported on the celebrations marking the Fleet Science Center's 50th anniversary last month.

Forever Balboa Park is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, tax ID #33-0849518. Forever Balboa Park's programs and initiatives to enhance Balboa Park and the visitor experience are generously supported by members of the Conservator's Circle, donors and members, Prebys Foundation, San Diego Foundation, The Favrot Fund, William E. Cole Family Foundation, Dr. Seuss Foundation, Brandes Investment Partners, Hunter Industries, Las Patronas, San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation, and Walter J. & Betty C. Zable Foundation. We work in partnership with organizations like the City of San Diego, the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, Committee of 100, and the Balboa Park Online Collaborative.

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