

...AND FUTHER MORE...

# PRESIDIO PARK



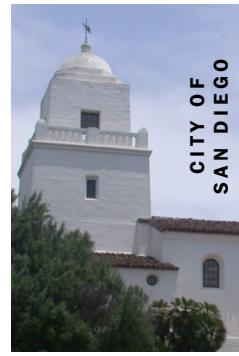
## PRESIDIO PARK RANGER-LED TOURS

Join a Park Ranger every **second Sunday of the month** for a free tour of Presidio Park. The Ranger will discuss the history of Presidio Park and its relevance to the area, horticulture, archeology and more, all designed to give you a greater understanding and appreciation of this beautiful park. **Please meet outside the entrance of the Serra Museum at 1pm.**



AS A RECIPIENT OF FEDERAL FUNDS, THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO CANNOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANYONE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, CREED, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR ANCESTRY, RELIGION, PREGNANCY, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY, VETERAN STATUS, MARITAL STATUS, MEDICAL CONDITION, GENDER (TRANSEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER), SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER CATEGORY PROTECTED BY FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL LAWS. IF ANYONE BELIEVES HE OR SHE HAS BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, HE OR SHE MAY FILE A COMPLAINT ALLEGING THE DISCRIMINATION WITH EITHER THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT [CONTACT DISTRICT MANAGER (619) 235-1124] OR THE OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20240. THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS UPON REQUEST. PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

"We enrich lives through quality parks and programs"



CITY OF SAN DIEGO

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4

# PRESIDIO PARK

## RANGER REPORT

Two Times the Capital

### Inside this issue

Historical 1

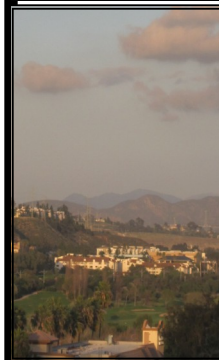
*Aphelocoma californica* 2

Things to know...and other interesting items 3

Contact info 4

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

(look for answers inside)



Where is that?

Most people think of Sacramento when asked what the capital of California is, but it hasn't always been that way. Before Sacramento there was San Jose and Vellejo, among others. However, prior to California statehood, the entire region was under the jurisdiction and control of either the Spanish or the Mexicans. When Gaspar De Portola and Father Junipero Serra arrived in Alta California in 1769, the new settlement called San Diego served as the seat of government for one non-eventful year. Thereafter the new city to receive the honor as capital of the region was given to Monterey.

San Diego drifted away into its quiet existence for several decades. The town did begin to grow, but its political influence waned. The Mexican Revolution of 1821 ended Spanish rule. And with that upheaval came the internal and societal conflicts inherent in any political change. Citizens, landowners, merchants, indigenous peoples had to decide where their loyalties lay. It took several years after Mexico declared its independence from Spain for policies and procedures to trickle into the local bureaucratic offices. One of the largest and most fundamental shifts occurred when Mexican officials sought to restrict the control of the Church's agricultural and pastoral holdings and secularized these vast tracks of land.

Unfortunately for the California Presidios, the Mexican government did not think the Spanish Presidios important enough to continue the financial support, and these funds slowed to a trickle. This resulted in the ever deteriorating conditions inherited by the first Mexican Governor of California, Jose Maria Echeandia (1825-31).

The Spanish capital of Monterey still remained after the 1821 Mexican Revolution, but when Mexican Governor Echeandia was appointed in 1825, he moved the regional capital to sunny San Diego. He made his home literally within the walls of the Presidio. Here he lived for the majority of his first term. It was during his leadership that a new community began to develop and grow, gradually pulling attention away from the Presidio itself and to the new town that sat at the base of Presidio Hill near the river.

### Bird Spotlight: Western Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*)

By Ranger Carina

If you see a blue bird flying around Presidio Park, you are probably seeing a Western Scrub Jay. They are about 11 inches in length, with deep blue feathers above and white below, a long tail and thick beak. You may hear it as you walk through the park: its calls include a raspy *shreep*, often in a short series. They are widespread in urban areas, so if you keep your eyes and ears open, you will have a good chance of spotting one.

Western Scrub Jays are in the Corvid family, and just like their relatives, crows and ravens, are reputed to be very intelligent. In fact, Scrub Jays are the only non-primate known to plan ahead for the future. They will store food in hidden caches throughout their territories, and can remember the locations of over 200 caches as well as the food item in each cache and the rate of that food's decay. They seem able to plan ahead in choosing their cache sites to provide adequate food volume and variety for their future needs. But they can also be mischievous! They are known to steal from each other and from other species of birds, and will check to make sure other birds are not watching before they hide food in their own caches. Western Scrub Jays eat small frogs and lizards, eggs and the young of other birds, insects, and various grains, nuts and berries.



Nesting season for the Western Scrub Jay starts in February, with breeding pairs building a large, sturdy nest in bushes or trees. They will lay a clutch of 4-6 eggs, greenish or grayish in color with dark speckles. The female will incubate the eggs for about 16 days before hatching, and the young will remain in the nest for about 18 days before fledging. Western Scrub Jays live for about 9 years, but the oldest recorded was 15 years old!

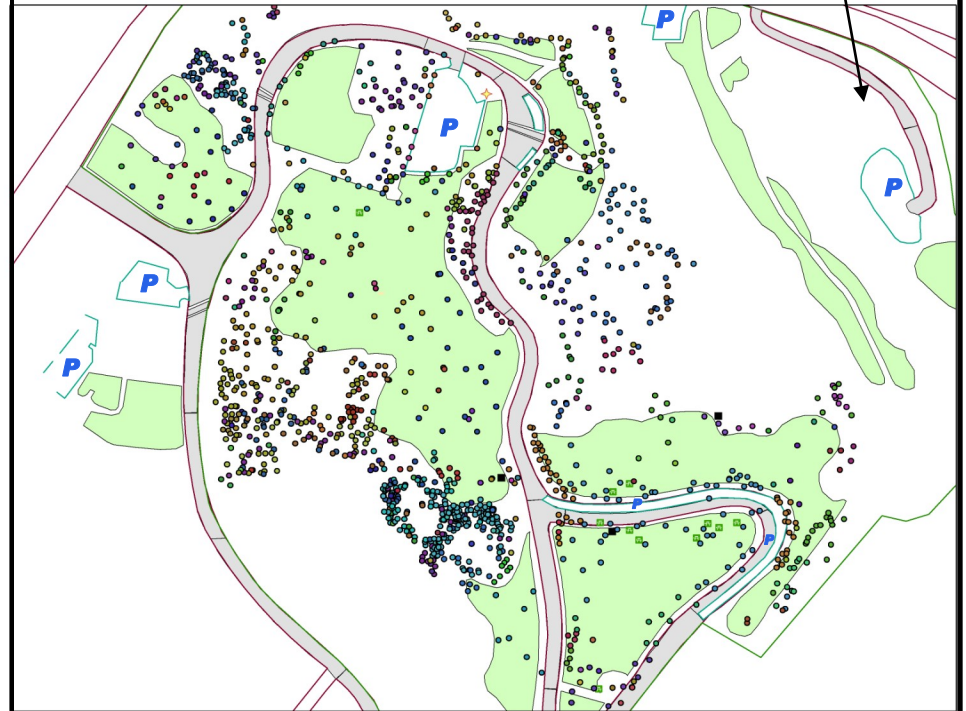
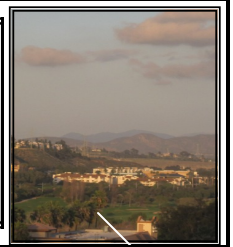
Watch for these showy blue birds around Presidio Park as they collect acorns from the oak trees - if you're lucky you might see them exhibit some mischievous behavior!

### The Presidio Plant ID Project ...

has resulted in the identification of over 1400 plants and the GPS data associated with those plants...just a few more acres to go...(see below)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST - That's where it is

The View From Here!



### PLEASED BE ADVISED:

- ◆ Smoking is **ILLEGAL** in all of San Diego's parks and beaches
- ◆ Nothing should be staked into the ground
- ◆ No metal detectors allowed
- ◆ Do not feed the wildlife. It is **NOT** beneficial to them
- ◆ Camping in the park is **illegal**
- ◆ Please stay on designated trails
- ◆ Jump-for-Joys are not allowed
- ◆ Dogs must be leashed at all times

