

POWAY TODAY

A Quarterly Municipal Newsletter for the Residents of Poway, California

Come and Enjoy the Beauty of Blue Sky!

Blue Sky Ecological Reserve makes a comeback after the wildfires and re-opens to the public

Have you had a chance to visit Blue Sky Ecological Reserve since its re-opening in April? Nestled in a canyon off Espola Road in north Poway, Blue Sky offers over 700 acres of open space for nature observation, hiking, running, bird-watching, or simply a place for quiet reflection.

In October 2007, as wildfires raged throughout San Diego County, our community learned that Blue Sky had been ravaged by the fire. While nature always finds a way to rebound, it was difficult to imagine as we looked out at the barren landscape. Hillsides once covered with lush chaparral and coastal sage were stripped bare. Majestic oaks and tall sycamores stood

black and charred. The silence was overwhelming. No longer were the songs of birds and frogs heard. No longer did leaf litter rustle as lizards scuttled about.

But, true to form, Mother Nature not only rallied, she bounced back with a vengeance. Within a week of the fire, tiny bright red and green shoots sprouted from the bases of trees, and wild cucumbers sent snake-like tendrils along the ground. Steady rains in the weeks following the fire helped the 'greening up' process.



The birds and frogs have returned, and several mule deer continue to make Blue Sky their home. Wildflowers, like golden poppy, lupine, peony, baby blue eyes, blue dicks, woodland stars, and milkmaids have created a colorful backdrop.

Re-opening the Reserve on April 1st was possible because of the volunteers who gave so generously of their time, and assisted with signage replacement, trail delineation, and the removal of a mountain of debris exposed by the fire. Blue Sky

docents, students from Poway High School, and members of the community donned work gloves, and armed with shovels, trash bags, and a great attitude, made short work of a hefty task.

If you haven't been out on the Green Valley Truck Trail yet, lace up your hiking boots, and witness this remarkable recovery for yourself! If it's a challenging hike you're looking for, head all the way up to Ramona Dam and you will be rewarded with a magnificent bird's eye view of the Reserve and north Poway. Check out the Recreation section to learn more about our upcoming evening wildlife programs for the entire family.



May is Water Awareness Month!

Look inside for valuable information on Poway's water supply, and what you can do to help conserve this precious resource.

Finding Ways to Conserve & Reuse our Resources in Poway

Cities across the country are taking a look at how they currently use resources, and what they can do to conserve and use recycled products. The City of Poway is examining our current practices, and finding ways to improve that are fiscally responsible.

Conservation

Through the California Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE), the City of Poway is participating in the Sustainable Regional Plan for local governments. As a part of the Plan, CCSE engineers audited energy use at City facilities this spring, and are developing recommendations about how the City can reduce our energy consumption and make more sustainable energy choices.

Later this year, Fire Station 1 will be outfitted with solar panels thanks to Borrego Solar Sys-

tems Inc. and Sharp Solar Energy. This system will collect a substantial portion of the energy needed to operate the fire house for at least 25 years.

The City of Poway also takes water conservation seriously. Recycled water is used for all landscaping in the Poway Business Park. Recently, the City had irrigation on City-owned land evaluated to ensure the systems are running as efficiently as possible. The City has also participated in water conservation programs and activities for the past ten years, and is actively encouraging residents and businesses to conserve water. In this edition of *Poway Today* you will find an educational insert on water supply and conservation.

Sustainable Buildings

In addition to using energy and water more wisely, the City has utilized sustainable green building practices. Solara is an excellent example. This 56-unit development includes extensive green building techniques focusing on energy, efficiency, natural lighting, and recycled materials. Solara is equipped with solar panels and landscaped with lush native plants that require little water.

The upcoming Meadows development will also include green elements, including solar panels, tankless water heaters, energy efficient appliances, and drought-tolerant landscaping.

ReUse

The City utilizes recycled products whenever practical.

Since 1993, Poway has used asphalt-rubber aggregate (recycled tires) to pave over 86 lane miles of road. That's 36,000 recycled tires! The City also uses recycled tire products for playground re-surfacing, and more recently as rubber mulch for City street medians. City staff continues to look at ways to increase green purchasing City-wide.

City staff are also advocates for recycling. We recycle at work and at home; as do Poway's residents. The State of California requires that all communities recycle and divert a minimum of 50% of their solid waste from going into the landfill. In 2006, Poway's estimated diversion rate was 62%.

Working together, we can all find ways to do more to recycle and reduce our use of precious resources.



Poway's conservation initiatives include the use of recycled tires as mulch for medians, Solara's energy efficient housing, and irrigating with reclaimed water.

PROTECTING YOUR HOME WITH DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Protecting your home from the threat of wildfire begins with you, by providing and maintaining defensible space around your home.

What is defensible space? Defensible space is the area around your home where vegetation and structures are maintained to reduce the risk of fire spreading to your home.

Dead, dying, or diseased trees outside your home provide fuel for a wildfire, and overgrown and dry vegetation can be ignited by flying embers. This burning vegetation increases the intensity of a fire, and can become another source for embers, which increases the risk of additional fires starting in the community.

You should have a minimum of 100-feet of defensible space around your home, to help reduce the impact of wildfires and provide firefighters with adequate space to safely defend your house. Below are a few simple steps you can take today to reduce your fire risk.

10 Steps You Can Take To Reduce Your Risk:

Step 1: Focus on creating a 100-foot defensible space around your home. Defensible space should be created around entire neighborhoods, as well as individual homes.

Step 2: Create a "lean, clean, and green" area by using fire-resistant, irrigated landscaping in the first 30- to 50-feet around your home. These plants must be maintained year-round. Fire-resistant plants typically have the following characteristics: grow close to the ground; have a low sap or resin content; do not accumulate dead branches, needles, or leaves; are easily maintained; and are drought-tolerant.

Step 3: Next, reduce vegetation coverage in the next 50- to 100-feet around your home. The goal is to have intermittent vegetation to slow down a fire, its flame length, and intensity. If cutting back natural vegetation is needed to achieve desired plant spacing, you should cut back no more than six inches above the ground.

Step 4: Trim lower tree branches at least six-feet off the ground. Burning needles and twigs lying on the ground can ignite low-growing tree branches.



Step 5: Trim tree branches that overhang or touch your home. Remove any limbs within ten-feet of your chimney. A burning tree may produce embers that could ignite your home. Burning debris can fall directly on your roof, in gutters, or enter your home through the chimney or vents.

Step 6: Trim or remove trees located under or near electrical power lines. Contact between trees and electrical power lines can start a fire. If tree limbs are near power lines contact SDG&E at: (800) 411-7343.

Step 7: Never remove more than 1/3 of a tree's branches. Removing too many branches can compromise the tree's health, which can make it more likely to catch fire.

Step 8: Create vertical separation between trees and shrubs by removing the lower vegetation or trimming the tree's lower branches. Separation is necessary to avoid creating a "fire ladder" from which the fire can easily ignite from ground vegetation and spread into a tree's branches.

Step 9: Remove all dead or dying vegetation, debris, green waste, rubbish, and other combustible materials. Depending on where you dispose of the materials, they can provide fuel for a wildfire to burn your home. Remember, the City of Poway has unlimited green waste curbside pickup as part of your refuse service.

Step 10: Thin dense stands of shrubs. Shrubs should be separated from one another by at least twice the height of the average shrub.

If you think your property might be within the Habitat Conservation Plan, before you reduce

any vegetation, call Jim Lyon, Sr. Planner for the City's Development Services Department at (858) 668-4657. Residents are responsible for following all environmental policies and obtaining all the necessary permits required for their area. Use only legal practices for reducing vegetation, such as mowing and cutting, and leave the root structure intact.

Do not completely remove all vegetation, or leave the ground bare. Illegal clearing practices or removal of all vegetation may cause soil erosion and habitat destruction.

Lake Poway has Summer Activities for Everyone!

Lake Poway is truly one of the community's finest treasures, and summer brings something special for everyone. The City is proud to offer an exciting summer lineup of community events, programs, and recreational opportunities. Gather up your family and friends, and join us for memorable experiences in the great outdoors.

Summer 2008 promises a special experience for every member of the family. The Target Summer Concert in the Park Series returns to the Lake, offering sunset concerts with a wide variety of music genres. You can bring the kids out for a night of magic under the stars at one of two Family Campouts, or catch a show at our Movie in the Park event. Outdoor enthusiasts will get their chance to hook one of the elusive giant catfish at the Midnight Catfish Craze or

during our regular night fishing season.

Summer programs abound for kids of all ages and interests. The Lake Poway Day Camp offers eight themed weeks of challenging adventures and fun designed just for kids 6-12. Teens are invited to join in on the fun as a Counselor in Training. Specialty camps are also available through Mad Science and Archery Camps.

In addition to these structured activities, you can visit Lake Poway all summer long for hiking, boating, fishing, picnicking, and other exciting outdoor opportunities. The hillsides are blooming with new life following the October fires, making it a great time to become reacquainted with this beautiful outdoor area in your community. Look inside this issue for more information on all of these programs.



Discount Fishing Day
June 7 - 7:00 a.m.

Movie in the Park
June 7 - 8:00 p.m.

Day Camp Begins
June 16
(See the Recreation insert to register)

Target Summer Concerts in the Park
June 22, July 13 & 27,
August 10 - 5:30 p.m.

Family Campouts
June 28 & August 2 -
5:30 p.m.

Midnight Catfish Craze
August 15 - 4:00 p.m.

Lake Poway is open 7-days a week at 7:00 a.m. Fishing and boating are available Wednesday - Sunday.

Volunteers are "On the Right Trail"

Would you like to be a part of a team that helps keep Poway's parks and trails so enjoyable? Join the Adopt-a-Park or Adopt-a-Trail volunteers.

The City maintains the parks and trails, but there are opportunities for volunteers of all ages and skill levels. There are 18 parks in the program, and volunteers enjoy activities like planting vegetation and painting park tables.

There are 82 miles of public recreational trails, and individuals, families, and organizations can adopt a segment of any length. Volunteers often live or work near a park or trail and recognize the importance of helping to keep it neat and clean.

If you would like information about adopting a park or trail, contact Bob Hahn, Parks Maintenance Supervisor for the City of Poway, at (858) 668-4721.

Summer at Lake Poway offers a wealth of activities, such as fishing and boating, Day Camps for kids, family campouts, concerts, and movies.



KICK'N IT AT THE SKATE PARK

KICK'N IT WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday
Spring Hours
 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Summer Hours (starting June 18)
 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

FREESTYLE FRIDAYS

Every Friday
 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Are you 14 years old or younger? Wondering what to do Wednesday afternoon or Friday evening? Come to the Skate Park!

The City has supervised programs at the Poway Skate Park each Wednesday and Friday, for youth 14 years old and younger. These programs give Poway youth a chance to practice their skating skills in a safe, supervised setting. Even better, their non-skating friends can join in the fun

with the Mobile Recreation program, which will provide games, sports, and other activities at the Park during the same time.

A participation form is required, and a parent or legal guardian must be present to sign. You can register by visiting the Community Park Office located at 13094 Civic Center Drive between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., or during one of the sessions at the Skate Park.

Come on out and ride the snake run, work the bowl, or hang out with Mobile Recreation! Poway's versatile Skate Park is great for everyone, from the best skaters, to those just learning. For more information call (858) 668-4671.



Employee Spotlight Mark Olson: Making swimming fun for everyone!



Each summer when Mark Olson came home from college, he would work for the City as a part-time lifeguard. He enjoyed it so much he became an instructor, and then in August 2003 was promoted to Recreation Supervisor at Poway's Community Pool.

For 10 years, Mark's passion has been to make pool activities and other community events exciting for everyone in Poway. Mark enjoys working with the team of staff he has put together at the pool, and the variety of community events he gets to organize. Not only does he supervise activities at the pool, he plans Poway's Fourth of July Celebration and Community Days.

When you see him at the next community event, please stop and say hello.

"I enjoy being part of a team that truly understands what it means to be public servants. I take great pride in knowing that the decisions I make will not only create memories and experiences that last a lifetime, but also enrich the lives of the individuals and families who take advantage of these services."

Do I Need a Grading Permit?

Did you know that you may need to get a grading permit from the City before removing earth or placing fill on your property? The Poway Municipal Code states that no person shall conduct any grading, filling, excavating, or earth moving without obtaining a grading permit. Additionally, stockpiling fill requires a stockpile permit.

The Code provides for the following exemptions:

- Grading less than 50 cubic yards with fill heights less than three feet;
- Clearing sites less than 10,000 square feet (approximately ¼ acre);
- Paving roads or parking lots less than 10,000 square feet; and
- Landscape grading on developed lots, if the total amount of excavation and fill is less than 250 cubic yards (approximately 25 dump

truck loads) and less than three feet high.

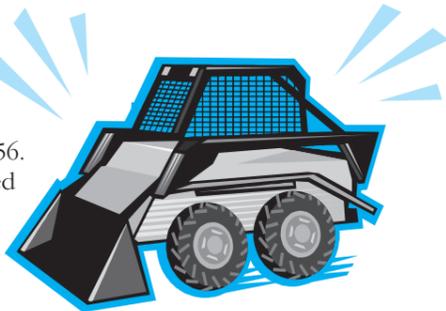
Landscape grading cannot alter drainage, be within an easement or open space, or support a structure such as a swimming pool or patio.

The Poway Municipal Code outlines the requirements for a grading permit in Division III, Chapters 16.40 through 16.56. The Code can be viewed on the City's web site at www.poway.org.

A grading permit must be obtained prior to beginning any grading work. An application for a grading or stockpile permit may be obtained from the Development Services Department, located on the first floor of City Hall at 13325 Civic Center Drive.

Grading work performed without a permit is a violation of the Poway Municipal Code and

could result in fines, increased fees, and/or the requirement to undo the work which was done. Retaining walls exceeding four feet in height will also require a building permit.



Silverset Playground Renovation is Complete!

Families are enjoying the new swings and slides at Silverset Park, located north of Twin Peaks Road. Two play areas were renovated, one for children aged 2 to 5, and the other for 5 to 12 year olds. Four swings, five slides, and a new playground surface were in-

cluded in the renovation, which was largely paid for with State grants.

Silverset Park also has a baseball field, basketball court, picnic tables, restroom, and walking track. It is a great park for families to relax and have fun.



POWAY *Your First Choice*

Keep the Money in Poway

Bet you had no idea what your tax dollars could do!

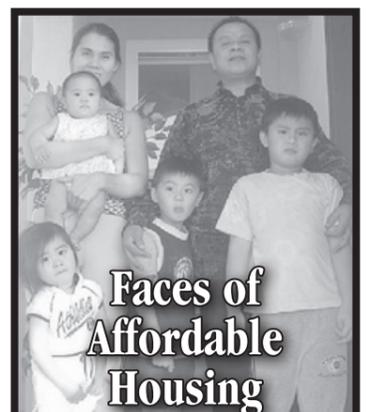
Like help fund our fire department!

Shop in the City of Poway. A portion of every dollar you spend stays right here in Poway and is used to help maintain roads, parks and provide for public safety.

Invest in your Community. Shop within the City limits.

Shop Poway

www.poway.com



Faces of Affordable Housing

Meet the LeNguyen family. This family of six are residents at Hillside Village, an affordable housing development in Poway. Mr. LeNguyen works in Poway as an LCD projector service technician.

With help from Community HousingWorks (CHW), Mr. LeNguyen has taken many steps to prepare for homeownership. He has completed CHW's Financial Fitness Program and the HUD Certified Homebuyer Education course that CHW encourages all of its residents to take.

The family recently submitted an application to purchase one of the affordable homes for sale in Poway, and hope to own a home of their own in the near future.

More Than Just A Summer Job!

The City offers many opportunities for young adults looking for summertime employment

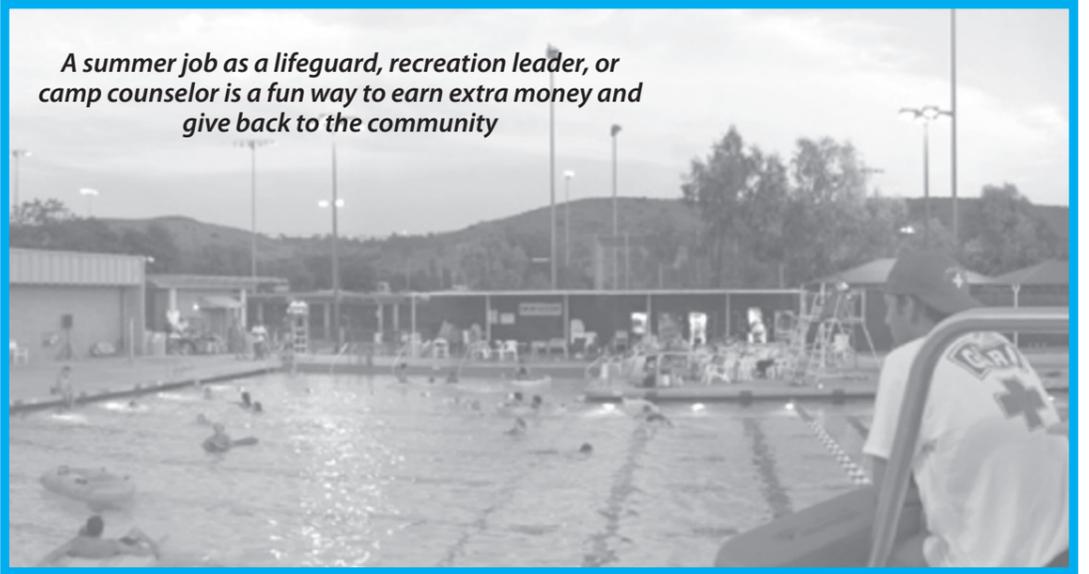
Each summer, Poway hires young adults as camp counselors, recreation leaders, and lifeguards. These jobs are fun, well-paying, and offer opportunities to give back to the community.

Summer jobs with the City instill valuable skills like leadership, organization, and patience. Employees are role models, who make a lasting impression

on the kids they work with. A summer job can also lead to a career in recreation, as individuals realize the rewards of working with the community.

The Poway Community Services Department is looking for bright and energetic Recreation Leaders and Lifeguards. If you are interested in making a difference in the community, call (858) 668-4440.

A summer job as a lifeguard, recreation leader, or camp counselor is a fun way to earn extra money and give back to the community



VACATION!

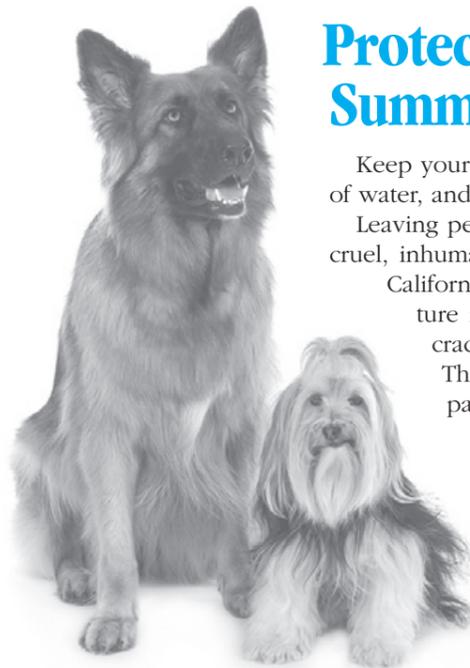
Vacation Check Services

Sheriff's Volunteer Patrol will keep an eye on your home while you're away

The Poway Sheriff's Station offers a free Vacation Check Service to Poway residents. This service is conducted by the Senior Volunteer Patrol for households on vacation from five to thirty days. Senior Volunteers will inspect your home for

flooding, fire, or vandalism and confirm that all doors, windows, and gates are locked.

To participate in this program, and gain a little piece of mind while you enjoy your vacation, call (858) 513-2800.



Protect Your Pets from the Summer Heat!

Keep your pets safe this summer! Make sure they have plenty of water, and never leave them in a parked vehicle.

Leaving pets in parked vehicles, particularly on warm days, is cruel, inhumane, and potentially deadly. It is also illegal under California Penal Code 597a. On a hot day, the temperature in a parked car can reach 130 degrees. Shade and cracked windows are not enough to keep pets safe. This summer, leave your pets at home rather than in a parked vehicle.

Make sure your pet has:

- Plenty of fresh water to drink
- Access to shade or indoors where it's cool
- NEVER leave your pet outside in a parked vehicle – it's dangerous and illegal

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What's Happening in Poway This Summer?

Great Outdoor Movie Night

When: June 7
Where: Lake Poway

Youth Day Ultimate Pool Party

When: June 13, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Where: Poway Community Swim Center

Old-fashioned Fourth of July

When: July 4, 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Where: Old Poway Park

Fourth of July Fireworks Display

When: July 4, Open at 5:00 pm, Fireworks begin at 9:00 pm
Where: Poway High School stadium

Target Summer Concert Series

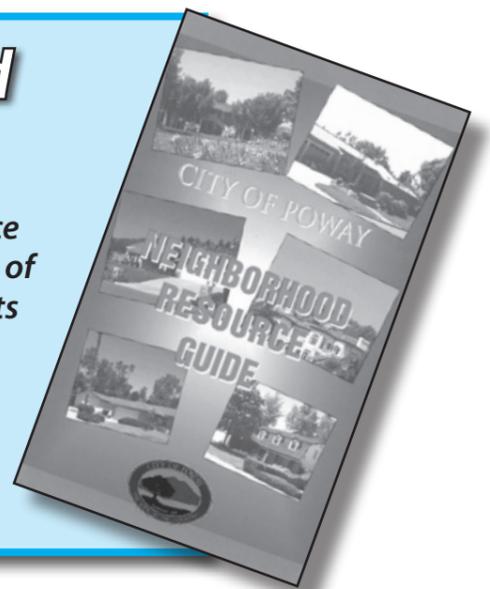
When: June 22 through August 17
Where: Lake Poway and Old Poway Park

Community Day Celebration

When: September 13
Where: Poway Community Park

Poway Neighborhood Resource Guide

The Poway Neighborhood Resource Guide is a compact easy-reference of services and programs for residents in the City of Poway. Best of all, it's free! Pick up a copy today at City Hall, 13325 Civic Center Drive, or call (858) 668-4500.



For more information on these and other Poway events, visit:

www.poway.org

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