Our Core Programs
The sustenance of the park

The workings of Balboa Park happen in very big ways – like the Science Festival drawing 50,000 to the lawns on the first weekend of April, and in very small ways – like tracking the placement and watering of saplings from the nursery as they transform the park into a canopy of shade and color. Changing the light bulbs is a small thing, but it can result in big savings to the park’s energy bills. Adding a doggie drinking fountain and providing instant directions to the nearest restroom are small things, but on a day you desperately need one, it may seem like a big thing.

The Friends have supported the park in big and small ways for over a decade, adding nearly $1 million in improvements through dozens of projects. We look for things that have an immediate impact, like putting the park’s activities on an easy to access, free kiosk touch screen. Some of our projects take a longer view, such as participating in plans to address park ‘greening,’ the Centennial Celebration, and lack of parking.

Maybe you are one of the people who tried to visit the park, but found parking was a headache.

Core programs are the very sustenance of the park – things that may not be obvious, but you would notice if they were gone. Park benches for resting weary bones, brochures to help a parent plan their child’s summer learning experiences, acquiring high-tech GPS equipment, and leading tours of the gardens and hiking trails are all ways to help connect people to the park.

As the park approaches its 100th birthday, we’ll continue to work in big and small ways to improve the park experience for all who visit. We thank all of you who have supported our efforts through your donations to Friends of Balboa Park. Please come and enjoy the spring flowers everywhere – it’s a wonderful time to spend time in the park.

- by Susan Hoekenga
Maureen Lamberti Named Board Chairman

We welcome Maureen “Moe” Lamberti as our new chairman of the board. Maureen was born in Pennsylvania and lived in Boston and Chicago before moving to San Diego. She received a Master's Degree in Telecommunications and Film from San Diego State University, produced several documentaries, and worked as a video producer. She served on the board of The San Diego Visual Arts Foundation, where she organized several fundraisers and served as a judge for student film selections from several area colleges. Maureen has been involved with the Friends of Balboa Park as chair and co-chair of the Friends’ Millennium Awards Luncheon, and served on the Marketing Committee. She is also a member of the San Diego Women’s Foundation and the San Diego chapter of the ARCS Foundation. Maureen enjoys photography, tennis, swimming and skiing and she travels frequently to visit her two grown daughters who live in New York City.

Help Us Go Green

Sign up for E-News Delivery

In an effort to reduce waste and save on mailing and printing costs, Friends of Balboa Park invites you to receive your quarterly Millennium Minutes via e-mail. We’re also sending brief bi-monthly E-news about events in the park you may be interested in, updates on important park issues, volunteer opportunities, and special invitations. Please send us your e-mail to info@friendsofbalboapark.org. Thanks for helping us GO GREEN!
Every contribution makes a meaningful difference!

Up to $100 (Naturalist)
Maxine Allen
Joseph Barone
Emily Bagnall
Kurt and Julie Bohusack
Abigail Broedling
Diana Brotherton-Ware
Marianne A. Burkenroad
Josephine G. Bell
Cornelia D. Collins
Elizabeth J. Conklin
Darlene G. Davies
Michiko Delaney
Mary E. Diamond
The Dow Family
Kathy Eckery
Dr. Bernard J. Eggertsen
Bea A. Esten
Estrada Land Planning
Jim Felix
Arline M. Fisch
George and Lucy Franck
Philip L. Gildred, Jr.
Jean and John Gossom
Alan and Ilene Greenspan
Kathryn Guymon
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harris
Joanne B. Hickey
Guy and Toshiye Kiyoi
Klonie Kunzel
Silka Kurth, in honor of Betty Peabody
Tom Leech
Lorraine F. Loverison
Josephine R. MacConnel
Kevin V. Munnely
Cecile Perretta
Joe Pifer
Cathy Potter
Ralph and Deborah Richey
The Rudees
Anne L. Rosser
John Rotsart
Mrs. Doris F. Shulkin
Mary Secan Smith
Matthew Smith
Donald E. Steele
Judy Stephens
Michael and Rosemary Stepner
Kim J. Sugeno
Patricia Sweeting
Kathy Vandenheuvel and Robert Hammil

Up to $100 (cont.)
Rex and Kathy Warburton
John and Diane Watson
Michael J. Welch
William L. and Judy White
Heather Xitco
Robert D. Yates

InsupportofProjects and Programs

Arbor Day 2009
Anonymous
Tom and Shelby Goad
James M. and Maxine L. Hall

Kiosk Project
Gayle and Enrico Grosso Fund,
at The San Diego Foundation
Betty Peabody

Ranger GIS/GPS Equipment
Kathy and Rob Jones
Mission Hills Garden Club

Jr. Friends of Balboa Park
Patch Program
Dr. and Mrs. John C. Carson

Park Benches
Elizabeth A. Day, in memory of Kimberly Anne Gerhard

The Friends of Balboa Park thank our corporate and foundation supporters

Hughes Heritage Plaza
The San Diego Foundation

Regional Transportation Center
Friends of Balboa Park

If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please let us know. The Friends of Balboa Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. For more information, call our office at (619) 232-2282 or e-mail: info@friendsofbalboapark.org. Donations accepted via credit card.

Your Legacy Gift to the Park

What better way to remember Balboa Park and contribute to its legacy than through a bequest. Please join those who, these past 100 years, have helped keep the park a priceless treasure for future generations. It’s easy – simply make a bequest to the park through Friends of Balboa Park. Our mission is to preserve the park’s legacy for future generations through park-wide projects. If you desire, you can make your gift for a specific park purpose. Please act now to establish your Balboa Park legacy. Call the Friends office today at 619-232-2282.
Balboa Park Celebrates Arbor Day

Friends of Balboa Park Plant Oak Trees in New Grove

On Thursday, April 23, 2009, Friends of Balboa Park celebrated Arbor Day by planting a new grove of oak trees along Balboa Park Drive just west of the Lawn Bowling Green. Thirty students from San Diego High School’s Garden Club and Roosevelt Middle School helped Friends’ volunteers dig wells around the 21 Engelmann Oak, Island Oak, and Western Redbud trees. The trees were generously gifted to the city by Phil Green, whose significant donation of time and resources to Balboa Park horticulture have allowed the planting of many new trees in the park. Noted Park Horticulturist Crystal Ritchie, “The oak, America’s national tree, has been chosen this Arbor Day to reflect our regional identity, to inspire the imagination, and to beautify Balboa Park.” The oak species planted is native to Southern California’s coastal foothills.

Balboa Park Nursery Supervisor Mike Rasmusson was on hand to encourage the students gathered there to get involved in “greening” their community. He brought oak seedlings to give to all of the 75 participants, encouraging them to plant the future trees in their respective communities. District Three Councilmember Todd Gloria spoke about current efforts to achieve park sustainability through new initiatives to lower energy and gas usage, increase recycling, conserve water, and other activities, which will lower the carbon footprint in Balboa Park. He invited the children to come back in the future with their children and grandchildren to take pride in the legacy they would be leaving behind.

Thanks to all who made Arbor Day happen

City of San Diego
Park & Recreation Dept.
San Diego Unified School District
Roosevelt Middle School
San Diego High School
Garden Club
San Diego Urban Corps

For their dedication and contribution to horticulture in Balboa Park:

City Beautiful
Friends of Balboa Park
Mr. Phillip Green
Rotary Club of Torrey Pines
Trees for Health
Garden Volunteers
UC Master Gardeners

Arbor Day photos by Susan Hoekenga and Ken Tranbarger
GPS equipment is making a difference in our park system!

Early this year, with support from our members, garden groups and a private donor, Friends of Balboa Park purchased some much-needed GPS (Global Positioning System) equipment for the park rangers. Currently a plant identification project is underway in Presidio Park with help from the Mission Hills Garden Club and Master Gardeners of San Diego County.

The information gathered in the field is then transferred to GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software where it will be used to produce maps, which can serve broad functions such as ensuring plant diversification, plant species growth and development, and plant placement. The maps can also be used to produce informative brochures for the public – a plant walk, a hiking trail, etc. The experience gained in Presidio Park will be valuable in producing an inventory of the plant life in Balboa Park as well, including the mapping of the plants in the Botanical Building for museum accreditation. The equipment will also be used in Balboa Park to locate and map irrigation lines and identify and locate plants, trails, historic markers, and monuments.

The Balboa Park Trust of The San Diego Foundation is purchasing accessories and support for staff training, which will enhance the equipment’s efficacy. Park rangers, maintenance supervisors, and nursery staff will all benefit. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Park Ranger Parrish Rye (pictured below using the GPS in the Desert Garden), who is coordinating the project: (619) 235-1122 or PRye@sandiego.gov

Kiosk News

by Ken Tranbarger

The electronic information kiosks designed, installed, and operated by Friends of Balboa Park, are proving to be quite popular. Our latest usage statistics show that one hundred people use the touchscreens (pictured above) each day. The Cascades location (near the Bea Evenson Fountain) is the most heavily used kiosk. The information most frequently requested is the locations of restaurants, transportation, restrooms, gardens and the schedule of events in the park. In addition, information about each of twenty-four institutions and organizations is regularly requested, including unique screens promoting park projects and exhibits. The Spanish language information screens account for nine percent of all requests.

To be more responsive to the needs in the park, we have decided to make the WiFi feature of the kiosk free and will continue to monitor its usage. As a result of the promotion on the touch screen, our usage of the eCard (pictured below) has increased and we expect that to continue to grow.

Friends of Balboa Park is now accepting donations for Phase II - the construction and operation of two additional kiosks to be located at the Inspiration Point tram stop and in the Pan American Plaza. Please check out the website of Kiosk Arts, Inc. to view a special video produced about the kiosks and to download information about kiosk sponsorship (display) opportunities: www.kioskarts.com.
Balboa Park Educators’ Council

*Friends of Balboa Park offers ongoing support*

*by Libby Carson*

The mission of Friends of Balboa Park is to preserve the park’s legacy for future generations through park-wide projects. Working on nurturing the future legacy, the Education Committee of the Friends has directed its efforts toward getting children – future park supporters – into the park, and ensuring they have a memorable experience. Friends of Balboa Park has been privileged to work with the Balboa Park Educators’ Council (BPEC) – a dynamic group voluntarily started over 25 years ago by museum staff who meet monthly to coordinate, collaborate, and create meaningful, fun, park-wide experiences for children visiting the park. Their two most recent projects – summer camp brochures and the Junior Friends of Balboa Park Patch Program, underwritten by the Friends, are designed to help children enjoy the park.

**Summer Camp brochures:** Do you have children or grandchildren who might enjoy summer camps in Balboa Park? Combine two half-day programs to make a full-day of summer fun in Balboa Park! To make summer camps more convenient, many of the park’s institutions have coordinated their programs, and the Friends have again underwritten the 2009 Balboa Park Summer Camp program brochure.

**Junior Friends of Balboa Park Programs for Organized Youth Groups:** Are you a Cub Scout den mother or Girl Scout troop leader looking for creative group activities in Balboa Park? The Junior Friends programs allows kids to earn a patch by attending a performance, participating in a workshop, exploring a site on your own, taking a guided tour, or joining a free program. Eighteen museums and institutions are offering programs, some free, or for a very modest fee. Reservations must be made in advance for any organized youth groups. The patches, once earned, are free and can be obtained from the Visitors Center after the group has received a stamp or a sticker in their completed “passports” as proof of completion.

Both programs are designed to help bring children into the park and create better access to park programs for all children. The Friends welcome donations to the BPEC Scholarship Fund which brings low-income school children to the park on field trips through their schools. Call the Friends’ office to receive more information and a free copy of the Summer Camp brochure or the Junior Friends of Balboa Park Program brochure: 619-232-2282. Both can also be viewed and downloaded from our website: [www.friendsofbalboapark.org](http://www.friendsofbalboapark.org)

**Junior Friends of Balboa Park** patches can be obtained from the Balboa Park Visitors Center after completing the organized activities and workshops, featured in the new brochures. The museums and park institutions are now accepting summer camp enrollments - check out the fabulous programs offered by our ‘Friends’ - the Balboa Park Educators’ Council!
Trails for Runners and Walkers
Given High-Tech Makeover
Balboa Park Trails
by David Contois

A committed group of community volunteers envisioned and developed the establishment of a park-wide system of nature and exercise trails for runners and walkers of all levels, known as Balboa Park Trails. There will be five gateways: Sixth and Upas; Morley Field; Park Administration (President’s Way and Park Blvd); Golden Hill; and Marston Point.

The lead funder for the project has been the Balboa Park Trust at The San Diego Foundation. Reflecting their fifty-year history and dedication to the park, The San Diego Track Club generously funded the Morley Field gateway, slated for installation next month. With community collaboration being a driving force within the Trust, other groups or donors in the park are also encouraged to contribute to the project.

The first in a series of gateway signs is located at the intersection of Balboa Drive and Sixth Avenue, on the northwest corner of the park. A satellite image-based map has been merged with a series of GPS-documented routes and includes a significant advancement in park signage designed to highlight topography that incorporates park landmarks to help guide the user and gauge the level of difficulty of the trails. The routes are clearly marked with color-coded, numbered signs, which inform users of the distance, degree of difficulty and change of route direction. Information about the routes with downloadable PDF files can be found at www.balboapark.org/trails.

The timeline for incorporating all the gateways is roughly the end of this year. The vision is to then expand this series of trails beyond Balboa Park, affording fitness enthusiasts venues into downtown, by the harbor and through some of San Diego’s diverse central neighborhoods.

This is one of a series of projects designed to increase safety and usability within the many canyons and natural areas of the park, adhering to the Balboa Park Master Plan. This system was developed in partnership and with guidance from the City of San Diego’s Department of Park & Recreation and the Balboa Park Committee.

Hiking Tour June 6

Get your hiking shoes on and come join us for a Balboa Park Trails Tour on Saturday June 6. Together, with the Balboa Park Trust of The San Diego Foundation, the Friends is co-hosting a walking tour of the Balboa Park trails on the west side of the park. We will be meeting at the Sixth & Upas gateway at 9:30 a.m. We will have light refreshments, a short talk, and a moderate one hour walking tour of two plus miles on the newly installed Balboa Park trails system. Interesting features will include the Bridal Trail, the Juniper Staircase, Redwood Circle, and the native-plant area. All are welcome to attend. Jerry Schad, hiking enthusiast and local author of “Afoot & Afield, San Diego County” will be our tour guide. For more information and to RSVP, please call the Friend’s office at 619-232-2282 or e-mail: info@friendsofbalboapark.org. Bring a friend!
Save the Date!

*Ninth Annual Millennium Awards Luncheon*

On Tuesday October 27, 2009, Friends of Balboa Park will host the Ninth Annual Millennium Awards Luncheon at the Balboa Park Club. Co-Chairs Wendy Ledford and Bev Zukor promise a wonderful event as we gather to celebrate and honor those who make Balboa Park the special landmark it is today.

This year the Friends have invited Fred Kent of Project for Public Spaces to be the keynote speaker. Fred Kent is a leading authority on revitalizing city spaces and one of the foremost thinkers in livability, smart growth, and urban parks. As founder and president of Project for Public Spaces, he is known throughout the world as a dynamic speaker and prolific ideas man. Today, PPS is working with more communities than ever before to transform underperforming parks into great public destinations that are lively, secure, and distinct in character. Mr. Kent consults for the San Diego Port Authority regarding our city’s waterfront, and the Friends are pleased to have him as part of the program. Expect to be inspired!

The Millennium Award honorees will be announced soon. Inspiration Awards will be presented to five Balboa Park volunteers for their outstanding dedication. Invitations will be mailed in early September. For more information, please contact the Friends of Balboa Park office at 619-232-2282 or info@friendsofbalboapark.org.

Friends Welcome New Board Member

*Jim Hughes*

The Friends of Balboa Park are pleased to welcome Jim Hughes to the Board of Directors. Jim, a San Diego Rotarian since 1991, has been a stalwart of the Friends’ luncheon committee for the past several years, helping us produce the program for many successful Millennium Awards luncheons! Jim was born and raised in Pasadena, a city rich in architecture, parks, and community beautification. He initially came to San Diego to attend law school, presuming to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather and become a career FBI agent. He took a job during his first year in law school in the legal support industry, and consequently founded his own company providing services to lawyers. He went on to graduate from law school, but never took the bar exam or practiced law, but followed his natural “seat of the pants business man instincts” to grow Hughes Attorney Service to a company with 98 full-time employees. Jim retired from his company after 28 years, and has been managing Hughes Heritage Plaza and the RTC, commercial complexes that he owns, leases, and maintains.

Notes Jim of his interest in Balboa Park: “I have come to know Balboa Park deeper than its stunning beauty, and I know the park can use all the TLC that the community can muster. I look forward to being on the Friends’ board and being part of the leadership that looks out for the entire park.”

Jim and Carmen Hughes pictured at right.