

April 2015

Dear Friends of the Discovery Center,

Earth Day 2015 marked the 45th birthday of the modern environmental movement. Earth Week celebrations around the world called for action on climate change and for environmental equity for all communities.

The Earth Day Network calls 2015 possibly the most exciting environmental year in history, when international movements for environmental justice and sustainability are gaining momentum toward positive change.

Here in Southern California 2015 will be a big year for environmental education equity as the San Gabriel River Discovery Center turns a major corner—thanks to your support and that of hundreds of community groups, activists and educators. Funding is now in place for the first stage of development.

The vision behind the San Gabriel River Discovery Center lines up with the international Earth Day 2015 spirit: equity and access to quality environmental education for underserved communities.

The Discovery Center Project means restoration and support for the San Gabriel River watershed area and the creation of community space at Whittier Narrows with state-of-the-art facilities for local residents to learn about water issues and discuss the drought and our rapidly changing eco-systems.

As a jewel on the “Emerald Necklace”—a series of parks on a 17-mile loop of bike and pedestrian trails along the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers—the Discovery Center Project dovetails with the mission of Amigos de Los Rios, a project supporter, to provide green space and park access in an increasingly urbanized inland area.

This month architects are reviewing Discovery Center plans for the design of wetlands to be used by native and migrating birds, re-planting of native trees and an outdoor classroom to expand the EcoVoices education program that guides thousands of students yearly along watershed trails and through hands-on scientific activities that teach about water and the fragility of the local ecology.

We'll keep you informed as things roll along. Wishing you a happy springtime!

