



Surfrider Foundation, San Diego County Chapter

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Next Surfrider San Diego Lawn Patrol Walk April 15th at Sunset Cliffs

San Diego, California – The San Diego County Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation will hold the next **Lawn Patrol** neighborhood walk on **Sunday, April 15th**, beginning at the corner of **Sunset Cliffs Blvd.** and **Hill St.** in Point Loma.

Led by landscape designer **Morgan Vondrak**, the Lawn Patrol will run two hours from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Surfrider members, volunteers, advocates and those interested in improved water management policies are invited to enjoy an informative walk around an area of San Diego suffering from significant erosion issues, resulting in damage to nearby Sunset Cliffs Natural Park. The proximity of the Lawn Patrol route to the park and bluffs will highlight how the choices we make in gardening and water use directly impact the environment around us.

Attendees will learn the basics of how a typical lawn can become an **Ocean Friendly Garden** by applying **CPR**:

- **C - Conservation:** Properly-spaced native and climate-appropriate plants.
- **P - Permeability:** Healthy soil, mulch and hardscape with direct water into an ocean-friendly garden.
- **R - Retention:** Directing rain gutters into mulch and a “swale trail” crossing into an ocean-friendly garden.

Participants will walk the neighborhood, utilizing Ocean Friendly Garden criteria to determine which properties have the best OFG elements. Flyers and information will be left with properties close to OFG compliance, with an invitation for Surfrider chapter help and assistance in achieving full Ocean Friendly Garden certification.

Water use and gardening practices in the Sunset Cliffs area have a direct impact on the ecological health of not only Sunset Cliffs Natural Park, but also the area’s overall water quality. Through the **Ocean Friendly Gardens** initiative, Surfrider San Diego seeks to educate residents to think of their property as a mini-watershed, and how all our homes and properties are part of a larger watershed.

Susan Krzywicki, chair of the chapter’s Ocean Friendly Gardens committee, says “We hope to see the entire neighborhood come out and join us. The erosion issues at Sunset Cliffs are significant, and we can all help mitigate the impact of stormwater by making simple changes on our properties. This event will help teach both homeowners and renters how to do so.”

The chapter also hopes to impress upon residents what they can do to help protect Sunset Cliffs, even if their property is not immediately adjacent to the park, and how we all play a role in helping maintain our public spaces. **Morgan Vondrak** says, “I spent 20 minutes scouting for the tour and caught damaging irrigation runoff in action less than a block from the cliffs.”

The **April 15th** Surfrider San Diego **Lawn Patrol** neighborhood walk gets underway at **9:00 am** at the corner of **Sunset Cliffs Blvd.** and **Hill St.** in Point Loma.

Those interested in attending should RSVP as soon as possible to info@surfridersd.org, and include “Lawn Patrol” in the subject heading. **Ocean Friendly Garden** criteria and an on-line OFG tracker are all available at <http://oceanfriendlygardens.org/>.

For more on the San Diego County Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, go to <http://surfridersd.org/>.

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of oceans, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network. Founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers in Malibu, California, the Surfrider Foundation now maintains over 50,000 members and 90 chapters worldwide. For an overview of the San Diego Chapter’s current programs and events, log on to our website at <http://sandiego.surfrider.org/> or contact us at info@surfridersd.org.