

***Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area is OPEN** to the public Thursdays through Saturdays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Please remember:

-No dogs or other animals allowed in the conservation area;

-Please remember to bring water, sunscreen, good hiking shoes and hat to protect against outside elements;

-Please wear a mask and maintain at least six feet apart when interacting with staff and other members of the public;

- Use the restroom before you come as our public restrooms are not available to the public at this time;

-The Visitor's Education Building/District Office also remains closed at this time.

***District Monthly Column:** The District will be featuring a monthly column in the Valencia News Bulletin every 4th Thursday of the month that will highlight different programs and projects relating to the District; the next column will run on March 25th and will focus of these upcoming events.

***This winter, Valencia SWCD awarded 13 community members** Financial Assistance for their conservation projects, for a total of almost \$40,000 in reimbursement funds upon completion of projects.

***East Valencia Urban Garden Program** recently completed the deliverables for the Permaculture Grant awarded to the District by NM Foundation for approximately \$18,000. As part of the grant, Lindsey Diaz, Conservation Manager, collaborated with Michael Reed, local Certified Permaculture Instructor to create a 4-part educational series that is now available on the Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District YouTube Channel

***Education Program Updates:** Teacher grants, free school activities and lessons are now public and available on the Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District YouTube Channel. To help us keep

track of how many students and schools we are reaching, please provide your name, school, and number of students to allisonmartin@valenciaswcd.org

***EVENTS Coming Up!**

Interested in leading a hike during the Nature Challenge or being a participant for Earth Day Science Fiesta? Please email Education Manager, Allison Martin ASAP to find out more information. Allisonmartin@valenciaswcd.org

-Earth Day Science Fiesta: April 29th-May 3rd at Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area.

Join local vendors to celebrate our planet earth with live animals, local organizational demos, events and activities at Whitfield during the hours of 9-4 pm daily.

-The Nature Challenge: April 30th - May 3rd at Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area. 9-4 pm daily. Join us for self-guided or volunteer guided hikes to observe nature and include findings in the INaturalist app! Hikes are limited to 10 people over these days. *Registration required for volunteer led hikes. Email Allison at allisonmartin@valeciaswcd.org to reserve your spot!

***Friends of Whitfield Silent Auction:** Aldo Leopold, hand carved and painted benches and other Nature Lover resources up for bid soon! The auction will be going on from April 1st to May 3rd. You can find the items here: <https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/friends-of-whitfield-online-auction-21519>

As always, we thank you all for the opportunity to grow our projects and programs to benefit the local community and the land surrounding it. We look forward to future collaborations with you all. Please reach out to us with any questions or feedback regarding how we can best serve you.

-From all of us at Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District

Staff:

Andrew Hautzinger, District Director

Lindsey Diaz, Conservation Manager

Allison Martin, Education Manager

Amanda Carrasco, Business Manager

Johnny Chavez, Lead Field Technician

Board Supervisors:

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Teresa Smith de Cherif, Vice Chair

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