

The National Park Service and Groundwork USA® have teamed up to engage urban youth with their local National Parks, as part of their participation in the GW Green Team Program. Here's what's happening.....

GW San Diego Green Team Spotlights Cabrillo National Monument



Located on the tip of Point Loma Peninsula in San Diego, the Cabrillo National Monument commemorates the expedition of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the first European to set foot on the

West Coast. The Groundwork San Diego Chollas Creek Green Team recently did some exploring of their own and documented what their National Park has to offer. The Green Team, seniors from the Media Arts Academy at Crawford High School, visited the site three times in May and June and created videos telling their peers about the park and encouraging them to visit.

Many of the Green Team members did not know they had a National Park in their community. They hiked the Bayside Trail, visited exhibits, a whale watching station and Old Point Loma Lighthouse. They particularly liked the tide pools because it connected with their oceanography class. Carl Pierce of NPS talked with them about science and conservation jobs and internships. He gave them each a DVD on the park and a pass so they can visit in the future.



Team members will premiere their videos at a camping trip to Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve in late June. GW San Diego will continue with this Green Team project to connect the city's

youth to their National Park. For more information, contact Liz Faddis at lizfaddis@yahoo.com.

GW Bridgeport Green Team Builds a New Trail at Weir Farm

Late 19th century painter J. Alden Weir opened his summer farm in Connecticut to other artists as a place to find inspiration for their work. Today, wetlands, orchards and woodlands continue to inspire artists who visit the historic farmstead at Weir Farm National Historic Site. The Groundwork Bridgeport Green Team has joined forces with the NPS to share a new section of this beautiful landscape with the public.



Led by Weir Farm Natural Resource Manager Greg Waters, four Green Team members

cleared over 200 ft. of a new trail to be completed this fall. During their first visit, they removed invasive plant species and created paths over two brooks. As part of the GW Bridgeport Individual Self-Sufficiency Program, the Green Team has studied horticulture, landscape design and maintenance. At Weir Farm they learned how to identify poisonous plants and properly build a trail.

Though they were well-prepared, the day brought new experiences for the



Green Team. Some never visited a large park before and enjoyed a hike around a nearby pond after working on the trail. GW Bridgeport plans to return to Weir Farm with 9-10 students throughout summer to finish the trail, help with gardens and rebuild a stone wall. For

more information, contact Dick Tiani at groundworkbpt@sbcglobal.net

