



April 2015

Happy Earth Day!

There's lots of energy and excitement about Earth Day 2015—the 45th [birthday of the modern environmental movement](#). The [Earth Day Network](#) calls 2015 possibly the most exciting environmental year in history, when international movements for equity and sustainability are gaining momentum toward positive change.

Celebrations around the world this week will [call for action on climate change and for environmental equity](#) for all communities.

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 environmental restoration for the San Gabriel River watershed area and the creation of a community space at Whittier Narrows with state-of-the-art facilities for local residents to learn about water issues and discuss the drought and rapidly changing eco-systems.

As the gateway to the “Emerald Necklace”—a series of parks on a 17-mile loop along the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers to that connects San Gabriel Valley cities with bike paths and trails--the Discovery Project dovetails with the mission of [Amigos de Los Rios](#), a Discovery Center Project supporter, to provide green space and park equity in an increasingly urbanized inland area.

This month architects are reviewing Discovery Center plans for the design of wetlands for 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. Happy Earth Day!

