



RANCHO SIMI RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE

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RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT INVITES COMMUNITY TO JOIN THE PARKS FOR POLLINATORS BIOBLITZ VIRTUAL EVENT

The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District is hosting a Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz event the week of September 14th – 18th. This virtual event will include daily videos posted on the District Facebook page (/RSRPD), as well as participants joining in on the fun through the iNaturalist app.

This community event will also allow participants to explore four of our local community parks and identify pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths, and beetles, and pollinator-friendly plants. The parks included in the event are Rancho Santa Susana Community Park, Rancho Tapo Community Park, Rancho Simi Community Park, and Rancho Madera Community Park.

Through the iNaturalist app participants will be able to upload photos of the different pollinators they find in the parks. Those findings will then be added to the data base of the Parks for Pollinators campaign hosted by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

Parks for Pollinators is a national campaign focused on raising public awareness of the current pollinator crisis by encouraging local action and positioning parks as a national leader in advancing pollinator health. Pollinators are a vital component of our ecosystem, are an essential link to the world's food supply and parks play an important role in providing habitat for them.

Data collected will contribute to a national collection of information that can help further pollinator research. The iNaturalist app helps educate by identifying species in pictures taken using smartphones. You don't need to be an expert in identifying plants or pollinators, the platform will do it for you!

The results not only make an impact for awareness of pollinators nationally and for those that participate, but also helps agencies know what pollinator species are in their parks, helping them plan for how to protect them and track biodiversity in our region.

For more information on this event, or any other fun and affordable Park District classes and events, please call 805-584-4400 or visit the District website at www.rsrpd.org

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