

PRESIDIO SENTINEL

September 2010

Volunteers are needed to clean up canyons

Volunteers are needed for a big Canyon Cleanup in Mission Hills Canyon from 9 a.m. to noon, September 25. The event is part of the Coastal Cleanup organized by I Love A Clean San Diego and San Diego Coastkeeper, which last year attracted

over 10,000 volunteers in an effort to clean up the County's beaches, creeks, and watersheds. The local event, sponsored by the Friends of Mission Hills Canyons, will focus on removing invasive plants and trash from an area at the top of the Canyon behind the Pioneer Park tennis courts, to prepare the site for eventual restoration with native plants.

"Invasive exotic plants are the number one threat to our canyon and open space areas," said Steve Huemmer, founder of the Friends group. "They drive out native species and cause all kinds of problems, including increased fire danger. We have made some real progress in previous work parties getting rid of giant reed (Arundo) and had a great time working with neighbors at the same time. If we get enough help, we can get rid of the rest of it and also reduce its use

as a homeless encampment. Then we can bring back the native willows, oaks, and cottonwoods to restore the area's habitat."

You MUST REGISTER to participate at <http://www.cleanupday.org/cleanupsites>. Choose Zone 3/Mission Hills Canyon. Important details are on the website.



Canyon Cleanup: Helping with a recent work party sponsored by the Friends of Mission Hills Canyons to remove invasive plants in Mission Hills Canyon are (from left) Bobby Mays, Cheri De Corso, John Lomac.