

The Story of El Corazon

El Corazon consists of 465 acres in the heart of Oceanside. It is located between El Camino Real and Rancho del Oro Drive to the west and east, and Oceanside Boulevard and Mesa Drive to the south and north. El Corazon was once the site of U.S. Silica Mining Company. For over 60 years U.S. Silica mined sand from the site. The mining process used water to separate the sand from the remaining soil. Contrary to what some people might think El Corazon is not and never was a “dump” site.



In 1994, the mining operation closed and the title to the property was transferred to the City of Oceanside. In order to make the site “safe and stable” for future use, the City began the process of reclaiming the site by filling the former mining ponds with non-hazardous items such as rocks and clean construction materials. Moody’s Reclamation is currently conducting the reclamation work by crushing rocks, concrete, and other aggregate material into smaller, compact sizes. Hazardous and contaminated material is not accepted or used anywhere at El Corazon.

In addition to Moody’s Reclamation, the El Corazon Compost Facility, operated by Agri Service, began its operation in 1995 to create organic material to help stabilize the soil. Agri Service opened its recycling facility to accept “green waste” material, which includes grass clipping and landscape trimmings. The green waste is recycled into high-quality compost and mulch products. Agri Service has never accepted manure or biosolids, and does not create products with manure or biosolid additives.

In 2013, Agri Service updated its facility at El Corazon by installing a state-of-the-art aeration system. The new technology significantly reduced odor caused by anaerobic microbial activity and the time needed to produce compost. The innovative technology also reduced the size of the land needed to recycle “green waste” and the net carbon footprint. As with the Moody’s operation, the Agri Service “green waste” facility does not produce toxic or hazardous odors or materials.

Moody’s and Agri Service help reduce Oceanside’s waste stream by diverting construction material and “green waste” from entering landfills, which enables the City of Oceanside to meet diversion mandates required by the State of California. Additionally, Oceanside residents enjoy the added benefit of receiving free compost and mulch, which help reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers. All of the products available at the El Corazon Compost Facility are made without creating hazardous byproducts that are harmful to humans or the environment.

The result of Oceanside’s recycling efforts at El Corazon has created a “safe and stable” landscape for the community. In 2014 Oceanside’s So Cal Sports Complex opened on El Corazon. The Sports Complex consists of 20 multi-use grass athletic fields, two other fields and a walking trail for public use. The Sports Complex, like other city parks and fields, does not generate any toxic or hazardous materials that pose a threat to Oceanside residents. The athletic fields host major sporting events, such as youth soccer, throughout the year. Bringing athletic events to Oceanside allows the City to generate revenue from a clean use of City property in order to enhance public services to its residents.