

Land Matters

Spring 2016

A NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGIN RIVER LAND PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

New Partners Join VRL To Lead the Greater Zion Conservation Fund

Virgin River Land is pleased to welcome two new partners in the Zion Canyon business community to our local initiative, the Greater Zion Conservation Fund (GZCF). Virgin River Land has established the GZCF to collect voluntary contributions from visitors to help preserve important open space surrounding Zion National Park. The Cliffrose Lodge in Springdale and the Zion Mountain Ranch at Zion's East Entrance have agreed to help by collecting a small voluntary contribution from guests at their lodges. These contributions will be used to purchase land or acquire important conservation easements to protect critical lands within and adjacent to the park.

Cliffrose Lodge and Gardens, located at 281 Zion Park Boulevard, is one of Springdale's premiere lodges, offering upscale accommodations, beautifully designed gardens, and many amenities for guests. The owners, Alison, Breck, and Colin Dockstader, believe that their clients

come to Springdale because they love the park and the natural open space surrounding it. We are very grateful the Dockstaders have joined us in trying to preserve in perpetuity the Greater Zion area. <http://cliffroselodge.com/>

Zion Mountain Ranch, situated at the East Entrance, offers unique experiences to Zion visitors who stay on the East Side. The rustic and serene setting at the Ranch is the perfect vacation spot for guests who want a true "Western" vacation. Owner Kevin McClaws has been a supporter of Virgin

River Land for a number of years, and has previously partnered with VRLPA to create a permanent conservation easement on 250 acres on the well-known "Buffalo Meadow" which adjoins the Ranch. VRL is pleased to have Zion Mountain Ranch as a partner. <https://www.zmr.com/>

Funds generated through these partnerships will be used to purchase land or conservation easements so future generations can continue to enjoy the unique experience of visiting Zion National Park and its surrounding communities. Participation in GZCF is more than preserving open space; it is good business. Zion's scenic vistas and rural character bring millions of visitors to Springdale and surrounding communities each year. The money tourists spend sustains local businesses and creates the important tourist economy upon which the towns surrounding the park depend.



Photo courtesy Zion Mountain Ranch

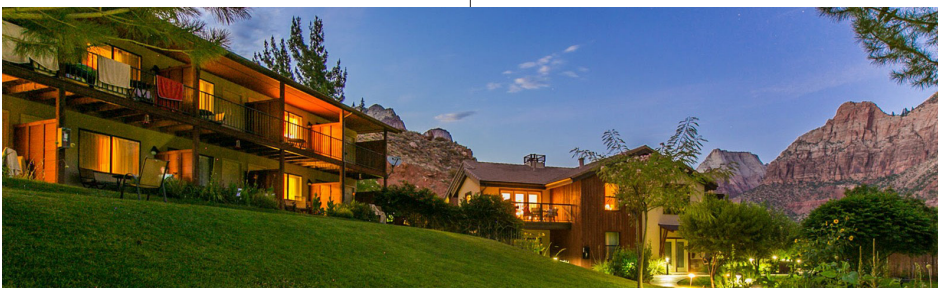


Photo courtesy Cliffrose Lodge

If you would like to become a partner, please contact Louise Excell, VRL board member, at 435-705-9993 and visit our website to learn more about us. <http://www.virginriverland.org/>. You can also connect with GZCF on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/greaterzionconservationfund/>



Confluence Park

Confluence Park Grows Larger!

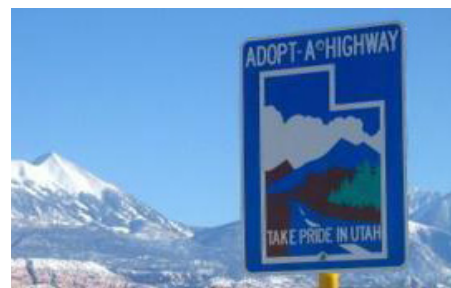
Virgin River Land is working with our partners to acquire the final 185-acre parcel that completes Confluence Park. Located on the north side of the Virgin River, west of LaVerkin Creek, this purchase will protect over 3.5 miles of riparian corridor for wildlife habitat and recreation access. It includes the actual confluence of Ash Creek with the Virgin River.

We invite you and all the friends of Confluence Park to help make the park whole . . . be a part of this acquisition with a contribution that will be used exclusively for purchasing this last parcel.

Confluence Park, a permanently protected public open space in Washington County—owned by the County and managed by a local community consortium—that protects natural habitat for people and wildlife.

Earth Day in Springdale April 23rd

You can't miss the annual Earth Day Festival in Springdale! This will be the 12th year that the Town of Springdale and Zion National Park have joined to celebrate Earth Day. The festival features live solar-powered music, art and food vendors, activities and demonstrations about alternative energy, native plants, "Leave No Trace," and sustainable products. VRL will be there, so please stop by the land trust booth to learn more about our Greater Zion Conservation Fund initiative. Festival takes place on the lawn of the Bit & Spur Restaurant at 1212 Zion Park Boulevard from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.



Virgin River Land Adopts a Highway

To foster awareness of VRL's Greater Zion Conservation Fund, the land trust is participating in the UDOT Adopt-A-Highway program. The two-mile stretch of highway we have adopted is on Utah Highway 9, near the East Entrance to Zion National Park.

This will be a good way for VRL and friends to have an additional, small, but important impact on the local environment. Dates for clean-up parties will be announced on the GZCF Facebook page. Visit and like us at <https://www.facebook.com/greaterzionconservationfund/>

Amazon Smile

Have you heard about Amazon Smile? Virgin River Land is now a registered charity with this Amazon program. When you shop through the Amazon Smile portal, Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to your chosen charity. Shop at Amazon and support VRLPA . . . Please give it a try. Follow this link to learn more! <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/87-0516535>.



Renew or Become a Member Today

Your support goes directly into our work to protect southwestern Utah's heritage of scenic vistas, open lands, and quality of life.

How to contribute: Online through our website www.virginriverland.org or mail a contribution to Virgin River Land Preservation Association, PO Box 1804, St. George, UT 84771.



Stay in touch through Facebook or e-mail us at: vrtpa@infowest.com.