



Annual Report
Asociación Cívica de Nosara - 2016

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT



Dear members,

I would like to thank our members and donors for providing the support needed to do our work.

2016 was a busy and productive year for the NCA. Our goals for the year were to protect our beaches, to permanently protect our parklands, to strengthen our organization, and to start the process of creating a local zoning plan.

Our collaborative approach to finding permanent solutions to problems is starting to show results. We made progress on our first three goals and realized we needed to lay the groundwork before starting on a local zoning plan.

By narrowing our focus we were able to be more productive. This year we will continue to work on the same four goals and look forward to being able to report continued success.

We believe the level of civic engagement in our community is what makes Nosara such a special place. Over the past 40+ years the community has raised considerable sums of money to support local organizations. Both the generosity and the volunteer spirit found here are unique and are the keys to keeping our community thriving.

As we move forward, we seek to engage the new wave of residents and visitors who are attracted to our area. We hope more people will join with us in preserving the unique character of the place we all love.

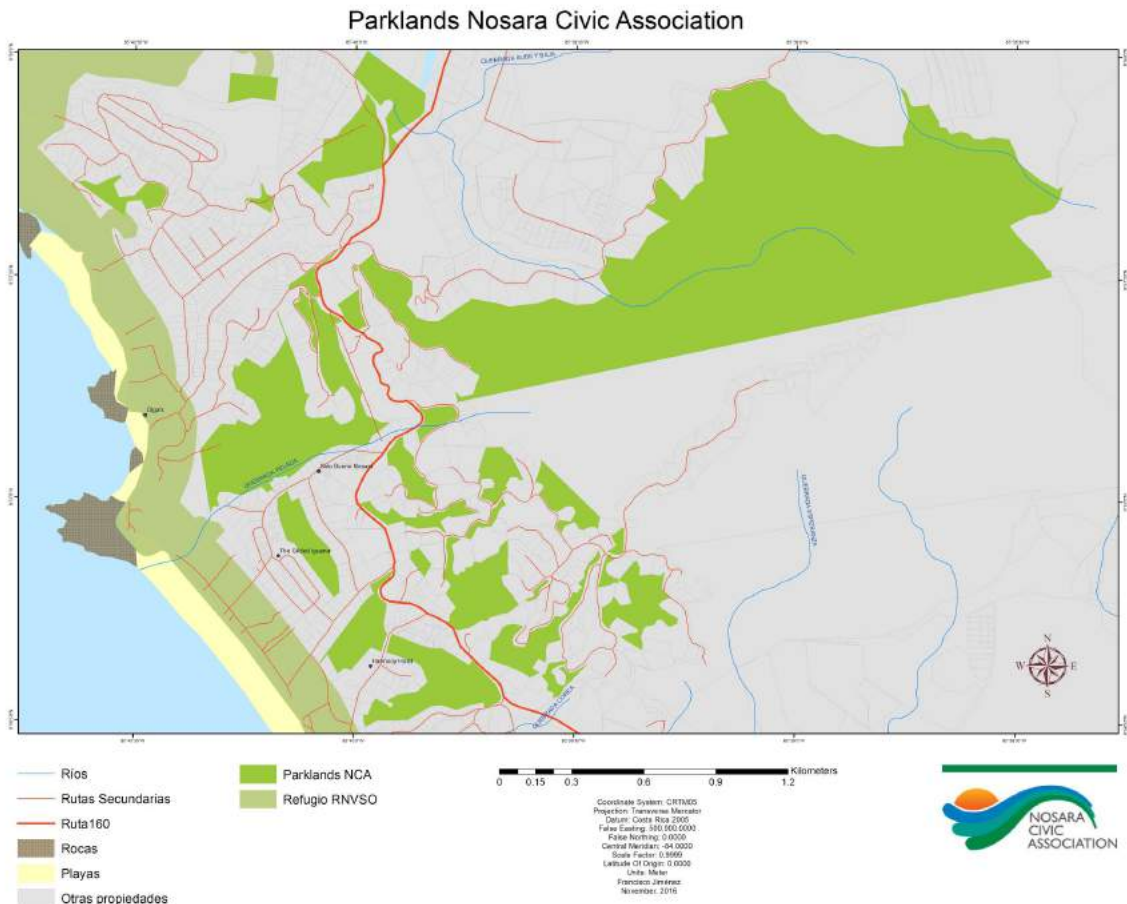
Sincerely,

Nice Alterman



Our goal is to permanently protect our parklands for sustainability of wildlife and enjoyment of our residents. Our green areas make Nosara unique and allow everyone to be part of the beautiful nature that surrounds us.

- We registered 16 of our properties under Ley Forestal, exempting them from property taxes and adding another level of protection. **Our annual tax bill decreased by 80%**
- We re-surveyed most of our properties as a step toward removing the annotations the Registro placed on them.
- We entered into negotiations with Custodia S.A. to resolve the legal conflict regarding eight double-titled properties.





- We established 16 km of trails, allowing people to avoid the road and enjoy nature. We began placing signs along the trails, with more to come. We built bridges to allow for year-round access and created a plan to address the system's overall needs. More people are discovering and using this community asset
- We are in the process of transferring three properties from Amigos de Nosara to the NCA. When completed, the NCA will own almost 230 hectares of parkland.
- We established 20 parcels on the parklands as part of the carbon project to measure the amount of carbon sequestered. Once measured, at the end of this year we will be able to sell carbon credits and use the proceeds to help maintain these properties.

Our goal is to continue protecting our beaches from new development and to **maintain critical habitat**.

- NCA continues to be a part of CIMACO (the advisory community group for the Ostional Refuge). Bobbi Johnson and Kuki Araya and NCA consultant, geographer Francisco Jimenez, assist once a month to the meetings where the planning and strategies are set up regarding community projects and implementation of regulations in the refuge.
- This year, we saw the change in the law for the status of the Refuge going from state to mixed use. NCA reps have presented a strong case on the importance of keeping the level of protection of Guiones and Pelada due to turtle presence and to protect the coastal forest.



- We supported and worked closely with TORTUGuiones, an organization tracking turtle activity on our beaches. This data is critical to limiting new development on our beaches.
- We continued as a main supporter of Costas Verdes, which is reforesting our beach. Reforestation has created a new ecosystem, bringing back birds and other species. This project is a model for other coastal communities.



We are happy to have strengthened the organization, both internally and externally, by setting processes that help with accountability and long term sustainability.

Our new membership management program, **Wild Apricot**, went online this past December and it will allow you to manage your email and subscriptions. On the back end, it automates the compilation of information, billing and email lists.

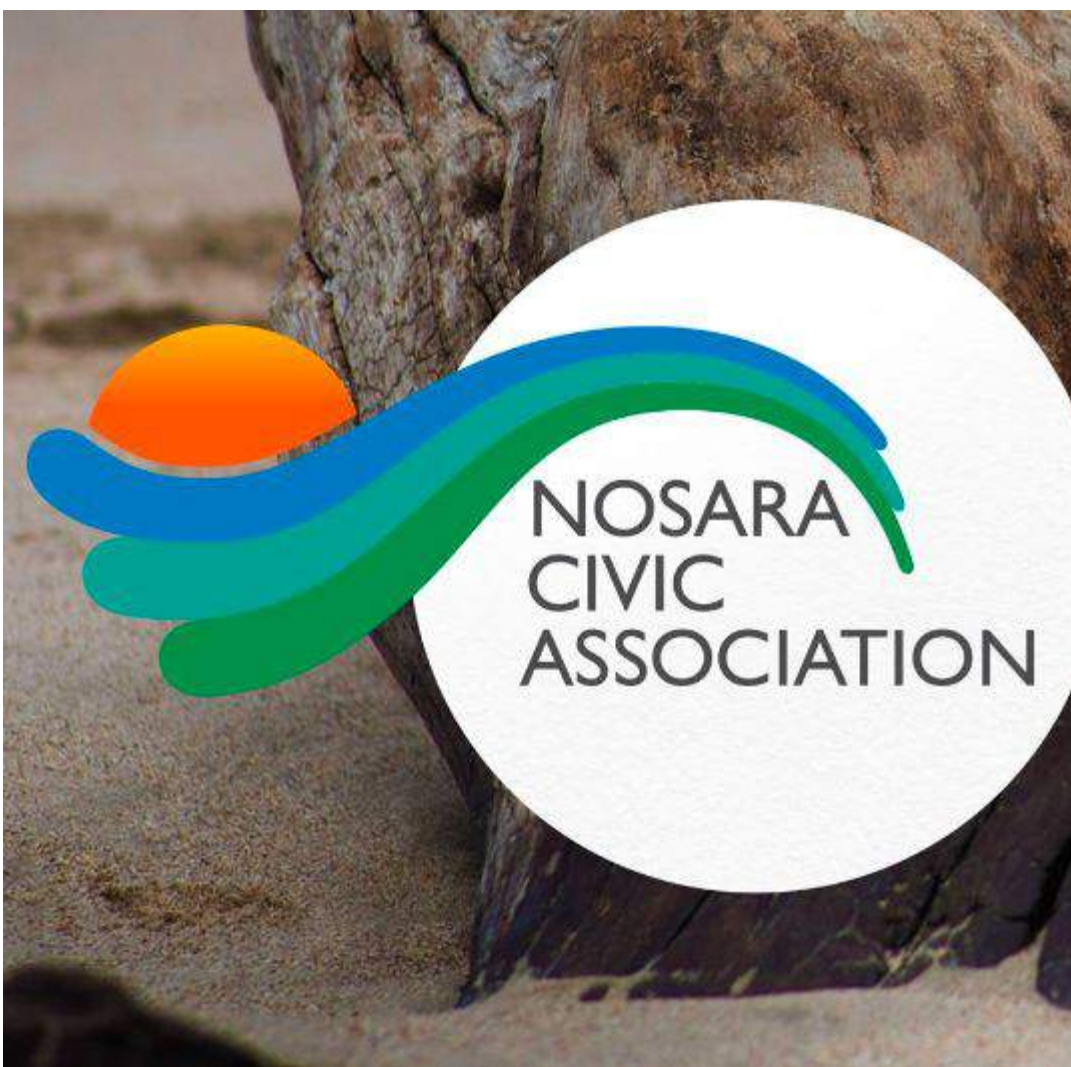
We adopted new systems of banking and bill paying to provide more security and checks and balances.

We increased communications with our members and the community through monthly newsletters, weekly blogs, frequent Facebook posts, and targeted letters on important issues.

We are updating our website, which is due to be unveiled in March. We secured a small grant to embed a Trails Map on our website for easy access

We strengthened our relationships with government agencies and local organizations, including the Municipality of Nicoya, MINAE, the Conservation Area of Tempisque and the Association of Private Reserves of Costa Rica. This has helped us move our agenda forward.





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