



# Juniper Canyon -Enhancement Planning

**San Diego Canyonlands (SDCL)** is a non-profit dedicated to restoration and preservation of San Diego's unique canyons and creeks. SDCL has established a Canyon/Creek Enhancement Planning (CEP) Committee to create a guide for community stakeholders that facilitates a systems approach for integrating our natural open spaces within the fabric of the urban environment.

**CEP over-all goals are:** *to promote visual and physical canyon access, connections into communities, restoration, conservation, environment-based education, and ecologically sensitive recreation. Per San Diego's General Plan (2008), we seek a balance between human enjoyment of the canyons and educational opportunities and restored/thriving nature within the canyons/creeks.*

**For example,** it would be beneficial to create safe access to and through the canyons for people to enjoy nature and provide connections or shortcuts to other neighborhoods, schools, and activity centers. To balance this increase of human activity in the canyons with the needs of wildlife and sometimes endangered species, we could restore areas where un-approved trails have been established which would reduce habitat fragmentation and erosion and provide a safer environment for wildlife.

## The Steps of Canyon/Creek Enhancement Planning (CEP)

1. **Establish a knowledgeable and active *Friends Group*,** (Stewardship Group)
2. **Create GIS maps of existing conditions** for analysis & opportunities assessment
3. **Assemble stakeholders,** conduct a series of workshops for input and create an Action Plan with enhancement opportunities, priorities, and address issues/problems
4. **Plan Approval Process: Build local support** including civic and planning groups;
  - a. Seek funding as needed for **project permits and/or CEQA process**
5. **Implement the plans** where possible with volunteers, collaborations, and partnerships
  - a. **Seek funding for other, major improvements** to implement plans when possible.

**Land Jurisdiction** Most of our proposed projects will be on **City of San Diego Open Space Division** land and will require agreement with, and approvals from, community stakeholders and planning groups, the Parks and Recreation Department (including the Open Space Division), Development Services Department, and City Council. **Other lands to be considered are Street Right of Ways (ROWs).**

- **The land in Juniper Canyon is "Environmentally Sensitive Land" and is part of our City's habitat preserve.** Regulations exist that are designed to protect wildlife and the natural resource values of the canyons. **Our planning and project implementation will comply with all regulatory requirements.** The resource agencies, such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (where wetlands are involved), are also stakeholders and may require permits for proposed enhancement projects.
- **Private land owners** can, and hopefully will, play a role in this planning effort but **it should be clear that this effort will not use private land without agreement with the land owners.**

**Decision Making Process:** The goal is to come as close to consensus as possible through deliberations and weighing the pros and cons of each topic. Reminder, the Stakeholder's adopted plans are only advisory.