



Juniper Canyon Enhancement Planning

Workshop 3, Notes

June 17, 2017; 9:00 am – 11:30 am
Juniper Street & Felton Street
San Diego, CA 92104

Stakeholder Attendees

San Diego Canyonlands Staff & Intern

Eric Bowlby- Executive Director
Shayne Zack- GIS Specialist
Henry McCarthy- GIS Intern

Juniper Canyon Stakeholders

Ranger Jason Allen – Senior Park Ranger, City of San Diego Parks and Rec
Cara D'Angelo – Juniper Canyon neighbor/friend, lives on canyon rim
Carrie Schneider – President of San Diego Canyonlands
Mike Zadeik – Juniper Canyon friend, Nearby resident, taking leadership role in Switzer Canyon
Jonathan Appelbaum – Juniper Canyon friend, nearby resident, Biologist consultant that has mapped Vegetation Communities in Juniper Canyon;
Three other stakeholders came to the beginning of the meeting to sign up and ask questions.

Stakeholder Self Introductions:

Cara D'Angelo – resident that lives near Juniper Canyon and likes to hike in the canyon. Has supported community outreach and hosted a meeting for Juniper Canyon.

Ranger Jason Allen – Open Space Canyons; aiming to preserve these areas as natural habitat/open space for sensitive wildlife. Also promote recreation within canyons –hiking, biking, equestrian. Short staffed, low funding...manages about 3,500 acres so depends on volunteers like Canyonlands and other non-profits to restore habitat, trash cleanup, safety. Finds it interesting what stakeholders had mentioned about Switzer Canyon trails. Has physically worked in Juniper Canyon for over 11 years before he became manager. Still doing volunteer events.

Eric Bowlby – Executive Director of SD Canyonlands, implementing a vision to create lasting stewardship groups/friends of canyon groups that work hand-in hand with ranger group. CEP seeks a balance between public enjoyment and healthy wildlife/ecological resources in the canyon.

Carrie Schneider- Nearby resident and long-time Juniper Canyon friend/advocate. Interested in keeping the canyons healthy.

Mike Zadeik- Neighbor who enjoys urban hiking and wants to see thriving canyons

Jonathan Appelbaum- Current Juniper Canyon Stakeholder and neighbor. Previous SDCL staff member.

A stakeholder and his wife that did not join the field visit, came to the meeting location and s came to asked about the disposition of palm trees. Eric explained that the palm trees are not native to San Diego's coastal canyons and are displacing native riparian woodland species and destabilizing the stream corridors with their massive trunks... resulting in further habitat impacts and sedimentation. Habitat management includes preventing further propagation of palm trees and palm tree removal as feasible. Side-by-side conversion of stream corridors from palm groves to native tree species is another method that is used sometimes.

Initial Notes:

At Kalmia and 33rd Street there is invasive *Arundo donax* that needs removal. Ranger Jason planted native Laurel sumac to help displace areas of *Arundo*.

Carrie brought up the private property encroachment across the canyon.

Just before the trail begins (on the West side) is a former encampment.

Walking the Trail:

At the beginning of the right, eastern branch are invasive Acacia trees (black/gold wattle?) Jonathan Appelbaum noted that there is also Mustard, Radish, Bermuda Grass and Horehound that could be removed to enhance the habitat via Bradley method.

R. Jason showed where social trails exist under the oak trees below Kalmia and parallel with the main trail. He does not think the social trail is necessary because it is small and redundant to the main trail.

Here, trimming of oak understory took place illegally to establish homeless encampments. Carrie suggests maintaining a line of site as a solution to deter future encampments. She is concerned about the issue of human and drug smuggling in the canyon and does not want to the canyon to return to those illegal activities.

The area is visible from the trails and can thus be easily policed. There were oak seedlings growing all around. **Stakeholders agreed to retain the line of site but allow this area to self-restore.**

The group considered that deterrent plants could be helpful such as Yuca. This could be difficult since Ranger Jason and SDCL staff will need to return to the site for monitoring as well.

Asparagus and more Horehound were spotted on the social trail. It has been noted on the map by Henry.

Carrie says there are two options for the social trail: Make it a formal trail or close it. R. Jason says it is a short stretch, let's leave the social trail open because the access road has to stay.

Jonathan Appelbaum notes that it is important to keep the invasive (Eucalyptus) saplings in check. Mature trees are much more difficult to remove under CEQA.

Carrie asserts that it would be best to take a slow approach to ridding the canyon of invasive trees and that it will be most beneficial if it is done over time.

Carrie would like to research opportunities for water retention to encourage a water table that supports a riparian habitat.

Check dams were discussed to stabilize the stream and increase infiltration. Downstream efforts to install check dams using gravel bags failed and they were blown out. Stabilization in upstream areas with native vegetation and minor recontouring would be ok. Minor check-dam efforts are included as part of the Master Permit being reviewed by City Development Services.

Jonathan Appelbaum says to check for raptor nests in the Eucalyptus trees. If they exist there are seasonal restrictions on tree removal.

R. Jason notes that some neighbors have sewer outlets coming down into the canyon that would be illegal today. These people were grandfathered in because they had the sewer before it became a law.

Carrie suggests establishing neighbor outreach to raise awareness and increase responsibility and friends groups helping property owners with restoration for free.

At site 8 (see map), jute net stabilization is suggested for bank stabilization (erosion control).

Eric suggested to mitigate cobble on the pathway in some way because it seems precarious. R. Jason, Carrie and Eric brainstorm a way to retain sediment between cobbles, smoothing over the path. Carrie adds that slowing down the water flow will drop more sediment in the area.

R. Jason notes that in the past, we haven't had this much water moving through and we probably won't in future seasons.

Jonathan Appelbaum says this area probably formed out of a minimum defined bed/bank and redirected waters onto the pathway. The areas in the top reaches of the canyon floodplain tend to meander more creating a braided stream.

Carrie would prefer to see the cobbles left as they are because this trail is open space not a park. Jonathan had the idea that invasive trees could be chipped on site and used as cap to fill in the cobble pathway.

There are Oriel's nesting in the trees near the Kiosk (north).

Trail bench needs to be defined near kiosk.

Advocate for an opening in the guard rail at the bottom of the Juniper dip at the trail crossing for north and south Juniper Canyon.

Main Points:

Control invasive tree saplings from taking over. Mature trees may be difficult to remove under CEQA.

Encampments need to be controlled to keep the neighborhood and the canyon safe. Safety can be achieved by maintaining a line of site to easily inhabited places and consistently monitoring the canyon for encampments.

Collectively, all support a balance between trail safety and preserving natural space.