

## Switzer Canyon Enhancement Planning



### Notes, Workshop 2 (Field Visit)

September 9, 2017 - 9:00am to 11:00am

Switzer Canyon at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Redwood Street, San Diego, CA 92104

#### Stakeholder Attendees

Joel Devine

Lise Diamond Devine

Paul Glassco

Chris Drayer

Cara D'Angelo

Aric Henschen

Mike Zadeik

Marney Jensen

Libby Brydolf

Patti Shields

Barbara Kruming

Carrie Schneider

Jim Merich

Lauren Kahal

Eric Bowlby

Senior Ranger Jason Allen

#### Workshop Notes:

- **Workshop kickoff/roundtable:**
  - Create trail network for pedestrians
  - Suggestions to provide for child access for environmental education/awareness programs
  - Next Saturday: coastal cleanup day at Juniper Canyon beginning at 9 a.m.
  
- **Review of trailhead at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Redwood St.:**
  - Add a trail sign or kiosk
    - In addition to regulation signs, include a sign that is more welcoming
    - Kiosks *may* be approved by City where vandalism is less likely
  - Very steep at the beginning
  - Add timber box steps for safety and erosion prevention
  - Severe erosion problem could stem from runoff from the adjacent private property
    - Opportunities may exist to reduce flow velocity
    - For example, check dams could be used to slow flow
  - There is a wood foot bridge that crosses the drainage),
  - Dog bag dispensers **suggestion**, Ranger: City does not do this due to staging concerns, but could be a Friends of Switzer Canyon project
  - Need restoration to remove non-native species along this trail (note there is invasive, non-native cape ivy infestation along trail)
  - Eucalyptus branches can be dangerous, City will remove when there's a risk to life and property but this is done over time
  - City rangers can take care of the removal of furniture left in the canyon
  - Potential for trail alignment off of the stream that follows the sewer access; Ranger: there is a usable trail outside of the drainage but it is currently overgrown
    - Canyonlands could submit a project description for Switzer Canyon to receive a Right-of-Entry permit for trail maintenance
  - Towards bottom of canyon, check dams may help reduce drainage flow and allow sediment to build up, perhaps smoothing out the uneven cobble surface
  - Dianne Kennedy and Brad Langfester were mentioned as noted local hydrology experts
  - **Suggestion** There's a potential for puncheon bridge to cross shorter segments of drainage bottom, (bridges are not possible everywhere)
  
- **Review of trail beginning at 31<sup>st</sup> St and Redwood St.**
  - This trail is approved in the recent Community Plan Update
  - Though group prioritizes the 32<sup>nd</sup>/Redwood trailhead and trail improvements, many in the group support a second access at 31<sup>st</sup> St.
  - This trail has good mix of mature, native species, group agrees it has the most aesthetic value

- Group is split on desires to remove the non-native agave “forest”
  - The City’s policy is to remove non-native plant species;
  - Switzer Canyon is part of the City’s native habitat preserve;
  - One stakeholder **suggested** side-by-side conversion of the area to the native Yucca.
- **Suggestion:** Add a sign and bench to the street edge that overlooks the canyon (along a portion of the street where no houses border the canyon) for nature viewing and to help educate people about the canyon’s existence
- **Review of trail beginning at 30<sup>th</sup> St between Burlingame and Olive**
  - This trailhead, on the east side of 30<sup>th</sup> street, is included in the Community Plan Update (CPU)
    - Biological resources study is already completed for this alignment
  - Sensitive species could be impacted by the current alignment (coastal sage scrub)
  - Ranger: if stakeholders wanted to change the trail alignment a new study would need to be prepared
    - Discussion about switchbacks that would avoid an area of sensitive plant species ensued  
Could we also avoid impacts by putting a portion of the trail through the weeds growing on the 30<sup>th</sup> St. manufactured slope?
    - Would a new bio-resources study be required if a minor, alternative alignment, had less impact to sensitive resources?
    - An alignment that used the 30<sup>th</sup> St. slope would not be impossible but filled slopes have relatively loose, unstable soils; Retaining walls may be necessary; the filled/manufactured slope is quite steep and has erosion problems
  - **Suggestion** to not allow bicycles down steep slopes to prevent worsening erosion; Ranger: the City trails are multi-use trails
  - Consensus is that there should be a trail, so should construct whatever works best,
- **Trail also proposed on the slope along west side of 30<sup>th</sup> St. into West Switzer Canyon**
  - This trailhead, on the west side of 30<sup>th</sup> street, is included in the Community Plan Update (CPU)
  - Again, the biological resources study is already completed
  - Opportunity for trail with gradual/gentle decline here
  - Stakeholders would want a crosswalk to get to/from canyon trails on either side of 30<sup>th</sup> St.
    - Crossing would likely be at the intersection with Olive Street
    - Suggestions to use striping and flashing lights if possible
  - Ideas came up for putting a trail through the culvert under 30<sup>th</sup> St.; Ranger: Cannot put a trail through a culvert
  - **Suggestion:** Bad erosion downstream, at end of the culvert under 30<sup>th</sup> (on west side), need to stabilize
  - A suspension bridge would be nice to restore the east-west access through Switzer (not necessarily realistic due to cost)
- **Another potential trail on Redwood was suggested by stakeholders**
  - Along Redwood St., very close to 30<sup>th</sup> St. and behind some businesses, there is a Sewer Maintenance Access Path gate
  - This utility access crosses private property where there is no Right of Way
  - Is there an opportunity for a public access easement for trail access here?
    - An easement would be negotiated and approved by the private property owners.
- Next meeting, the group will review Draft Action Plan for Switzer Canyon.