



Switzer 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.

The 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 sustained and restored 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 *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** and 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, Development Services Department, and City Council. **Other lands to be considered are Street Rights of Way (ROWs) and other public access easements;**
- **The land in our canyons is "Environmentally Sensitive Land" and there are regulations that are designed to protect wildlife and the natural values of the land that we will comply with both in our planning and implementation. 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 Army Corps of Engineers where wetlands are involved, are stakeholders and may require permits for proposed enhancement projects;**
- **Private land owners can play a role in this planning effort but it should be clear that this effort will not use private land without the land owner's agreement (or unless a public access easement already exists on the land).**

