



Enhancement Planning for San Diego's Canyons

The San Diego Canyonlands non-profit was formed in 2008 and is dedicated to restoration and preservation of San Diego's unique canyons and creek habitats. A Canyon Enhancement Planning Committee was established in 2009 to promote visual and physical canyon access, connections into communities, restoration, conservation, environment-based education, and ecologically sensitive recreation.

Canyon Enhancement Planning (CEP) A Canyon Enhancement Planning Guide has been prepared as a resource for community stakeholders for comprehensive canyon-enhancement plans and for implementing individual canyon projects. It facilitates a systems approach for integrating our natural open spaces within the fabric of the urban environment.

Background In 2006, members of C-3, Civic Solutions, and San Diego Canyonlands produced a White Paper that outlined a series of steps and goals to ensure the enhancement and conservation of San Diego's canyons as a Canyonlands Park. The Canyon Enhancement Planning Committee is a team of landscape design and urban planning visionaries that are implementing action items of the white paper including **dedication** of the City-owned canyons and open space as open-space parkland, a Master Permit for permitting efficiency to implement enhancement projects, and establishment of a Regional San Diego Canyonlands Park.

Components of the Canyon Enhancement Planning Guide

- Building Local Support & Stewardship Groups, Civic and Planning Groups
- Guidelines and protocol for canyon enhancement
- Maps, Directory of Resources
- Internship program: Existing Conditions Mapping, Analysis
- Assembling a Community Stakeholder's Group
- Youth and Nature Opportunities
- Enhancement Opportunities Analysis
- Stakeholder Action Plan
- Enhancement Approval Process
- Evaluating Improvements

The spectacular setting of our region and our communities are defined by our geography. Canyons, mesas and valleys connect the mountains in the east to the ocean in the west.

Restoring our green infrastructure is a necessity toward the goals of economic and environmental sustainability as well as maintaining our quality of life.

Specific Objectives

- Open space preservation
- Safer, cleaner open space for residents and youth
- Healthier canyon habitat for wildlife
- Stronger communities and sense of place

2007 – 2013 San Diego Canyonlands facilitated a community vetting process for Dedication of 13,100 acres of city-owned canyon lands. This 20-square-miles of protected open space will provide a framework for the future planning of our region.



Youth weeding at Swan Canyon in City Heights

Integrate the Regional Vision with Local Implementation

- Facilitate action through volunteers, property owners, and community stakeholders.
- Coordinate planning with and approvals through government agencies.
- Coordinate planning meetings, opportunities assessments, and action plan development



Implementation Timeline

- Model Project Action Plan: Four Canyons in City Heights - project implementation in 2015.
- Dedication: SDCL is currently working on dedication of 3000 more acres of City-Owned land within the municipal City limits and 25,000 acres more outside the City limits. We expect to accomplish this by 2021.
- Planning Guide adopted by City of San Diego in June 2011.
- Establish a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and Master Permit for efficient implementation of canyon projects by 2017 - 2018.

The Mission of San Diego Canyonlands is to promote, protect and restore the natural habitats in San Diego County canyons and creeks. We do this by fostering education and ongoing community involvement in stewardship and advocacy, and by collaborating with other organizations.



CANYONS - San Diego's Geographic DNA of

◆ 3552 Bancroft Street San Diego, CA 92104 ◆ 619-284-9399 ◆
www.sdcanyonlands.org

