



Enhancement Planning for San Diego's Canyons

Enhancement Planning is a critical part of implementation of a Canyonlands Park for the San Diego Region. The first step is preparation of a Canyon Enhancement Planning Guide that will be a resource to cut time, cost and red tape for comprehensive canyon-enhancement plans and for implementing individual canyon projects.

San Diego Canyonlands, a new non-profit, dedicated to restoration and preservation of San Diego's unique canyons, has established a Canyon Enhancement Planning 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 committee will promote visual and physical canyon access, connections into communities, restoration, conservation, environment-based education, and ecologically sensitive recreation.

Background In 2006, members of C-3, Civic Solutions, and Sierra Club developed a San Diego Canyonlands 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. Now, facilitated by the new non-profit and funded by the San Diego Foundation, this expanded team of landscape design and urban planning visionaries are implementing action items starting with creation of the Canyon Enhancement Planning Guide. The white paper can be found at: <http://sdcanyonlands.org/welcome/attachment/canyonlandswhitepaper>.

Components of the Canyon Enhancement Planning Guide

- Guidelines and protocol for canyon enhancement
- Maps, Directory of Resources
- Internship program
- Existing Conditions Analysis & Opportunities Assessment
- Youth and Nature Opportunities
- Assembling a Stakeholder's Group
- Enhancement Opportunities Analysis
- Stakeholder Action Plan
- Building Local Support & Friends Group Development, Civic and Planning Groups
- 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

Dedication of city-owned canyon lands and establishment of the San Diego Regional Canyonlands Park will provide a framework for the future 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: Manzanita Canyon in City Heights by December 2010
- Dedicate up to 10,400 acres of City-Owned land and establish the San Diego Regional Canyonlands Park by June 2011
- Planning Guide adopted by City of San Diego by June 2011
- Seek/Find funding for a Program Environmental Impact Report and Master Permit

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



CANYONS -SAN DIEGO'S *THIRD* DIMENSION

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