



# San Diego Canyonlands

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San Diego Canyonlands' is a non-profit organization whose mission 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.*

Here is a brief summary of our programs that our staff has been running for over ten years.

## 1) COMMUNITY EDUCATION and ORGANIZING

San Diego Canyonlands works to engage residents into the volunteer stewardship of local urban canyons or creeks through the development of neighborhood-based “friends groups” throughout San Diego County. We conduct educational guided tours of neighborhood canyons/creeks to start up *friends groups* that will “adopt” and routinely maintain these natural open spaces. Events include information on: habitat loss, trash and other threats, wildlife and endangered species, and the role of canyon wetlands and vegetation in capturing and filtering polluted urban storm-water run-off. We distribute handouts on habitat restoration techniques, species lists, and important contacts for reporting problems such as sewer leaks, erosion, illegal dumping, etc.

## 2) YOUTH-ORIENTED PROGRAMS

Through collaborations with other non-profits and youth groups we utilize neighborhood canyons as “*Nature Classrooms*” connecting local youth to nature, providing nature experiences and cutting edge environment-based education. We foster awareness, appreciation and an ethic of stewardship for the important natural resources in the canyons through our educational tours, cleanups, and hands-on habitat restoration projects. Kids love to revisit the canyons to nurture and watch the native plants grow.

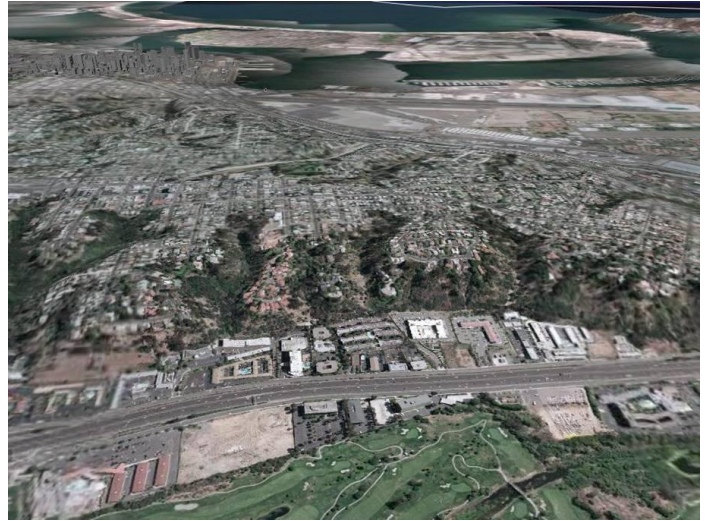


Youth weeding at Swan Canyon in City Heights

**3) CANYON ENHANCEMENT PLANNING** is an important and relatively new program for San Diego Canyonlands (SDCL). SDCL is creating a Canyon Enhancement Planning Guide that will be a resource to cut time, cost and red tape for comprehensive canyon-enhancement plans for dozens of canyons throughout the city of San Diego and eventually hundreds throughout the county. SDCL 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.

## 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



### Specific Objectives

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Bowlby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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