

Juniper Canyon Enhancement Planning



Agenda, Workshop #4 MEETING NOTES

November 1, 2017, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

San Diego Canyonlands Headquarters

3461 Euclid Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

Stakeholder Attendees

San Diego Canyonlands Staff & Intern

Eric Bowlby- Executive Director

Lauren Kahal- Stakeholder Workshop Assistant (Notes)

Juniper Canyon Stakeholders

Ranger Jason Allen – Senior Park Ranger, City of San Diego Parks and Rec

Cara D’Angelo – Juniper Canyon neighbor/friend, lives on canyon rim

Carrie Schneider – President of San Diego Canyonlands, long time Friend of Juniper Canyon

Art Stillwell- Friedrich Manor HOA Board of Directors

Aric Henschen- Juniper Canyon neighbor/ Friend of Juniper Canyon

Kate Callen- SoNo (South/North Park) Neighborhood Alliance

1. Introductory Comments & Summary of CEP Process:

- Clarifications from the Friedrich Manor HOA Representative are highlighted in yellow
- Eric gave a brief overview of canyon enhancement planning process and the first three workshops held

2. Stakeholder Introductions and Brief Comments

- Stakeholders introduced themselves

3. Opportunities and Constraints

- Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) discussion:
 - Not all City of San Diego canyons are covered by the MSCP
 - The far-off end goal is to return MSCP habitat back to 100% native species. While some non-native vegetation may provide habitat values, it does not necessarily provide high quality ecosystem values or meet all needs for all species; it affects ecosystem functions)
 - Native plants are necessary for many native animal species to survive
- Difference between non-native and invasive species:
 - Both are not natural to the ecosystem. Invasive species more aggressively take over habitat and outcompetes native species.
 - California Invasive Species Council gathers input from scientists to compile and determine invasive species classifications
- To restore an area, Canyonlands would prioritize invasive species for removal
- One method to restore an area is to start with the high-quality (healthy) habitat and work outward from the perimeter removing and controlling non-native plants within about six to ten feet of the habitat
- Species control would not involve non-native animal species
- A key priority is also to ensure, safe, sustainable public access to canyons in a way that also ensures protection of wildlife values.

4. Review of Draft Juniper Canyon Action Plan Narrative and Map

- **The route of the only proposed new trail** (in South Juniper Canyon) is also identified in the North Park Community Plan Update. See “Juniper Canyon South DRAFT Action Plan Map” for proposed trail alignment.
 - **Stakeholders reached consensus on the general alignment for the proposed new trail.**
 - The City Transportation Department is okay with changing the easement through Frederick Manor from a public street alignment (“paper street”) to a public trail easement.

However, according to a representative in attendance at this meeting, Frederick Manor would want the easement to be simply “given up”, and Frederick Manor would then allow public access through HOA property to Whaley Avenue ~~“permission”~~, **via an easement with conditions, (i.e. that the easement would be effective as long as the easement was used as a trail).**
 - Eric Bowlby expressed that he had attended those meetings with the City and Frederick Manor HOA and this was not his understanding of Frederick Manor’s position, nor the City’s position, and that the City wants the easement to allow a permanent public-access “trail” easement, and they want it to be iron clad in perpetuity as part of the deal to vacate the “street” Right of Way.
- There is potential for a future connection that would complete loop to south of C Street.
- Frederick Manor has a gate **at their property line** at the east end of the finger-canyon social trail to Elm St.
 - The City does not allow exclusive private access into public open spaces.
- In some locations, restore unapproved social trails to native habitat.
 - **Revegetation of native habitat to close a social trail at Elm street** is not likely because people would continue to use the linkage to get to restaurant and activity centers off of Grape Street. This is a positive link that encourages walking instead of driving.
- **Stakeholders have consensus to continue searching for a way to create a loop at the south end of the trail.**
- The potential to have a loop at Frederick Manor gate up through Elm Street was discussed.
 - This finger canyon trail would require an easement with Frederick Manor.
 - Cannot make a connection to Petra Place or Petra Drive without a new, public easement, because this area of the canyon is privately owned.
 - Trail would connect via Whaley Street, to the south end of the street, down to a public utility access road in a canyon formerly called “34th St. Canyon” by some City staff. Ranger Jason has always considered this canyon area to be part of Juniper Canyon. Group agreed that this is a continuation of Juniper Canyon and referred to it as “South-south Juniper Canyon”.
- A fence was built by Frederick Manor HOA along the existing trail **east south** of the fork, **at the property line**, to defer people going into private backyards
- All City trails, regardless of condition, are considered multi-use trails however only non-motorized activity is allowed in the City Open Spaces to protect wildlife and their habitat
 - **A stakeholder asked how rules prohibiting non-motorized activities are enforced.**
- The Draft Action Plan for Juniper Canyon will be edited to clarify that the plan is not *specifically* intended to create a new “bicycle path”.
- Hikers need to get safely across Juniper Street.
 - Stakeholders request that the City make an opening in the guard rail on the north side of Juniper St. so people can easily cross and connect to the trailheads on the north and south side of Juniper St.
 - Suggest adding a crosswalk and traffic calming measures – **stakeholders reached group consensus**
- Adding a bench is not supported by the City because it attracts transients, hang-outs, and litter
- Brazilian pepper tree in the canyon is slated for removal because it’s one of most invasive species
- Check dams are suggested to help with erosion problems. Stakeholders agree that a qualified consultant should be hired to create a comprehensive plan to reduce erosion issues throughout canyon.
- Stakeholders will revisit a plan to install a kiosk at the trailheads once there is an approved trail that doesn’t dead-end on private property. Ranger added that it can be a graffiti problem but the stakeholders agreed a kiosk is desired to let people know the trail is there.

5. Maps Materials and Meeting Notes located:

<http://www.sdcanyonlands.org/canyon-enhancement-planning> (scroll down to Juniper Cny.)