

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

HABITAT MAINTENANCE

The following maintenance guidelines are to assure that FSDRIP's original permit goals and requirements are maintained and to insure public safety. Appendix E describes FSDRIP maintenance in greater detail for implementation by Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) staff and other City staff.

1. A park ranger/site manager will be employed to enforce FSDRIP's rules and regulations. The park ranger/site manager will be qualified in local biology, including recognizing plant and wildlife species occurring within FSDRIP.
2. Invasive, exotic species will be removed on a regular basis from September 15 through March 1. Table E-2 lists and Appendix F illustrates the species that will be eradicated completely from FSDRIP. During the sensitive bird breeding season (March 1 through September 15), noxious, invasive weeds may be removed by hand subsequent to a visual inspection to ensure the work area is clear of nests. Only two persons are allowed to work at the same time during this period.
3. No pruning will occur in the habitat areas, except for pruning to keep the walkway clear and to remove dangerous tree limbs. All work will be done by hand and by no more than two persons at any one time during March 1 through September 15. During this period, a visual inspection by a qualified biologist is required to ensure the work area is clear of nests.
4. Fertilization will be done only as required to establish remedial plantings or to correct soil chemistry problems. Soil samples will be taken when soil fertility problems are suspected. No fertilization will occur during March 1 through September 15 if least Bell's vireo is present onsite.

5. Pest animal species, such as ground squirrels, cowbirds, and gophers will be controlled if they endanger FSDRIP habitat and desired species composition.
6. Control agents for pest animal and exotic plants will be carefully selected to avoid adverse effects on wildlife and native plants and habitat. These agents could be fertilizers, insecticides, algal control agents, and vertebrate poisons. There are a number of safe biological control methods for mosquitos. A licensed pest control advisor should be consulted regarding control agents, devices, or methods to be used. Any control agents used should be approved for use in a wetland by CDFG and USFWS.
7. Ludwigia will not be allowed to cover more than 10 feet of open water as measured from the edge of freshwater marsh and open water areas of FSDRIP. There are several herbicides approved for aquatic use that will control ludwigia. Chemical control is the most cost effective and environmentally friendly method available to control this species. A ludwigia control program based on the recommendations of a licensed pest control adviser should be implemented on an as needed basis to accomplish this goal.
8. Water hyacinth will be monitored on a regular basis, and removed when first encountered.
9. Native plant species will be allowed to remain in the riprap as long as it does not interfere with safety or riprap integrity.
10. Plant replacement may be needed in damaged areas. Plant replacement will occur between September 15 and March 1. Native species shown in Appendix D will be used for this purpose.
11. In general, little irrigation will be used. Supplemental irrigation will probably be needed on the upper slopes to insure survival of some tree species (such as white alder) and to decrease the fire potential.

12. Overall maintenance will be performed routinely as needed, and manicuring natural areas will be avoided. Special care should be taken during the sensitive bird breeding season (March 1 - September 15) to avoid potential impacts to nesting birds.
13. Trash and debris will be removed from FSDRIP on a regular basis.
14. Picnic tables and sidewalks will be maintained in good condition.
15. Graffiti will be removed regularly.
16. Utility maintenance will not be allowed to impact FSDRIP vegetation. If impact is unavoidable, approval from the Park and Recreation Department and other appropriate agencies is required prior to any impacts.
17. Maintenance of storm drains will be the responsibility of City of San Diego Transportation Department. Storm drain maintenance will not be allowed to impact FSDRIP habitat. If impact is unavoidable, approval from Park and Recreation and other agencies, as appropriate, is required prior to impact.
18. Hydraulic efficiency of the flood control channel will be maintained to ensure the channel can accommodate a 100-year flood flow estimated to be 49,000 cfs under regular flood conditions. After major storm events, however, some dredging may be necessary upstream of drop structures and culverts. The following maintenance operations shall be implemented within the floodway zone and funded through the Maintenance Assessment District to assure these standards are met:
 - Check the channel depth immediately upstream of the drop structures to ensure that water depth conforms to design levels. Dredge, if necessary, to remove silt.

- Check channel depths at points between drop structures to ensure that water depth conforms to flood design standard. Dredge, if necessary, to remove silt.
- Check channel depths around MVLRT pilings to ensure there is no scour and/or sedimentation. Dredge, if necessary, to remove silt. Monitor scour to document potential problems.
- Dredged spoils will be transported off-site to an approved location.
- Inspect culverts each year after the rainy season and remove collected debris, if necessary. Cleaning the culverts shall be the responsibility of the City Transportation Department.
- Clear any excess marsh vegetation in the open water areas as necessary to maintain flood control.
- Dredging and construction within FSDRIP boundaries will be scheduled to avoid disruption of sensitive bird breeding season (March 1-September 1). If this is not practicable, there must be a phasing plan that provides for the retention of some nesting habitat within each area where dredging is taking place.
- Dredging operations will be most effectively accomplished by use of a floating "mini-dredge". Dredging and spoil removal will be done by the City of San Diego Engineering and Capital Projects.
- Dredge entry will occur only over riprap areas of FSDRIP.
- Maintenance dredging will be confined to the open water areas of the channel and initiated by decisions of the City Engineering and Capital Projects with approval of the CORPS.

PUBLIC USE

FSDRIP is a wetland corridor protected by national and state environmental laws. FSDRIP was created by dredging a section of the San Diego River to create a 100-year flow flood control channel and by revegetating the banks and buffer zones to mitigate the impacts of dredging the new channel. The federal and state permits for this mitigation required that FSDRIP be permanently preserved as wildlife habitat; although, passive human uses are allowed. The following guidelines were developed so that public uses of FSDRIP will remain non-disruptive to the wetland habitat.

1. Only non-disruptive recreation, such as walking, bicycling, picnicking, fishing, and wildlife observation, will be allowed. Fishing is an allowable use in the riprap areas and from bridge crossings. Other activities which deviate from the sidewalks are not permitted.
2. All pets or other domestic animals using the project must be kept on a leash. These animals chase away the wildlife or kill them. Domestic pets, such as rabbits or ducks, are not to be released into FSDRIP.
3. Motorized vehicles are not permitted. All vehicles must stay on the roads and parking lots outside of FSDRIP.
4. Swimming and boating is not permitted. These activities discourage use of the water by waterfowl and destroy the vegetation along the shoreline.
5. Entry and usage of FSDRIP will be on sidewalks only. Walking through the vegetation is prohibited unless along designated fishing access paths.
6. Pruning by other than City maintenance crews or destruction of the vegetation is not permitted. Views from the sidewalk and condos will become obscured as the vegetation continues to grow. Because a primary purpose of FSDRIP is the establishment of riparian woodland, the vegetation will be allowed to grow naturally.

7. Access for pruning of ornamental trees on land adjacent to FSDRIP, will not be allowed from FSDRIP.
8. Installation of plants within FSDRIP, including buffer areas, is not permitted except by Park and Recreation. The plants within FSDRIP must be native to the area. All plants which are not native to the area will be removed by the maintenance staff.
9. Night use is discouraged as no lighting is provided. Artificial light disrupts wildlife.
10. Firearms use is prohibited.
11. Fires are prohibited.
12. Glass containers are prohibited.
13. All litter should be placed in trash cans.
14. Fishing access will be limited to no more than one or two clearly identified sites within each phase of FSDRIP. Such sites will be mainly near bridge crossings.