

**City of San Diego
MSCP Annual Summary Report
2006**



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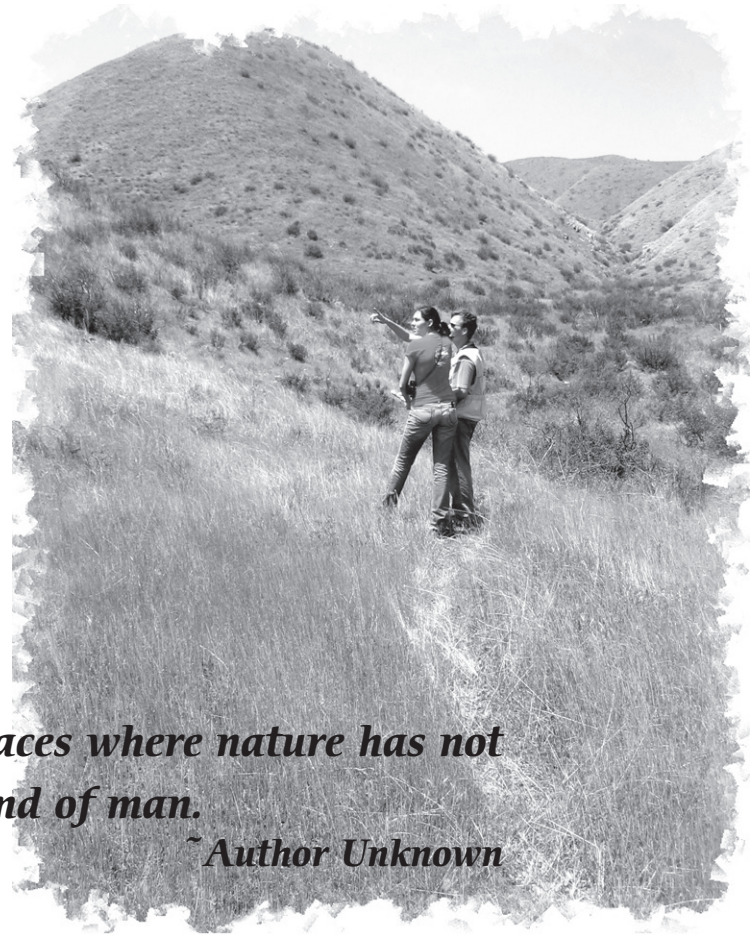


THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



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Now in its ninth year since adoption, the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) is recognized as a successful model in the conservation of endangered and sensitive species and their habitats. This continuing effort is the joint work of the State government (California Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Board and California Coastal Conservancy), the Federal government (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management), local jurisdictions, and development and environmental interest groups. In the City of San Diego, 91.9% of the conservation goal of 52,727 acres has been realized in nine years through public acquisitions, conservation through the development entitlement process and mitigation banks. The remaining 8.1%(4,273 acres) is the focus of the City of San Diego's on-going conservation effort associated with public acquisitions and development project review. As the City gets closer to reaching its conservation goal, it is refining its biological monitoring and long-term management efforts.



***The human spirit needs places where nature has not
been rearranged by the hand of man.***

~ Author Unknown



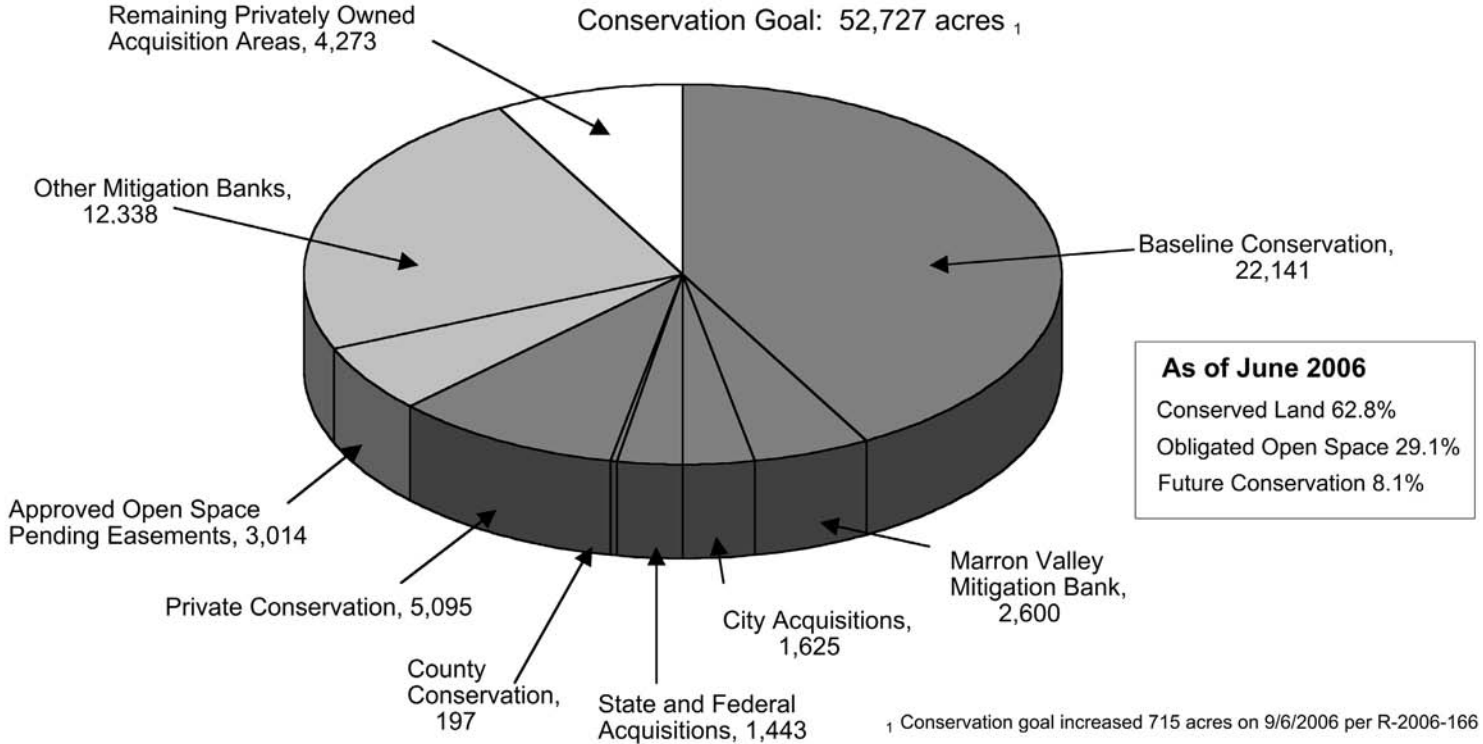
Acquisitions

On April 17, 2000 the City of San Diego Council's Rules Committee developed an acquisition strategy for the conservation of four large biologically significant areas. These areas, nearly 4,700 acres, were determined by the committee to be core biological habitat necessary for the success of the MSCP. An additional focus area, the San Diego River, was added to this list of key acquisition areas in 2002.

Since 1997, the City has acquired 48.1% of these target areas. Acquisition of the Montana Mirador target area, expanding the boundaries of Black Mountain Park by 535 acres, was completed in 2001. Eighty-four percent of the Del Mar Mesa target area is now completed following the establishment of a 60-acre mitigation bank. The current focus of acquisitions has been in East Elliott, the area north of SR 52 and the Mission Trails Regional Park, where 80 acres have recently been purchased, bringing the conservation of this area to 30% (645 acres). Appraisals and initial acquisitions have begun in the other focus areas of Otay Mesa and the San Diego River.

City of San Diego MSCP Conservation Status in Acres

Conservation Goal: 52,727 acres ₁

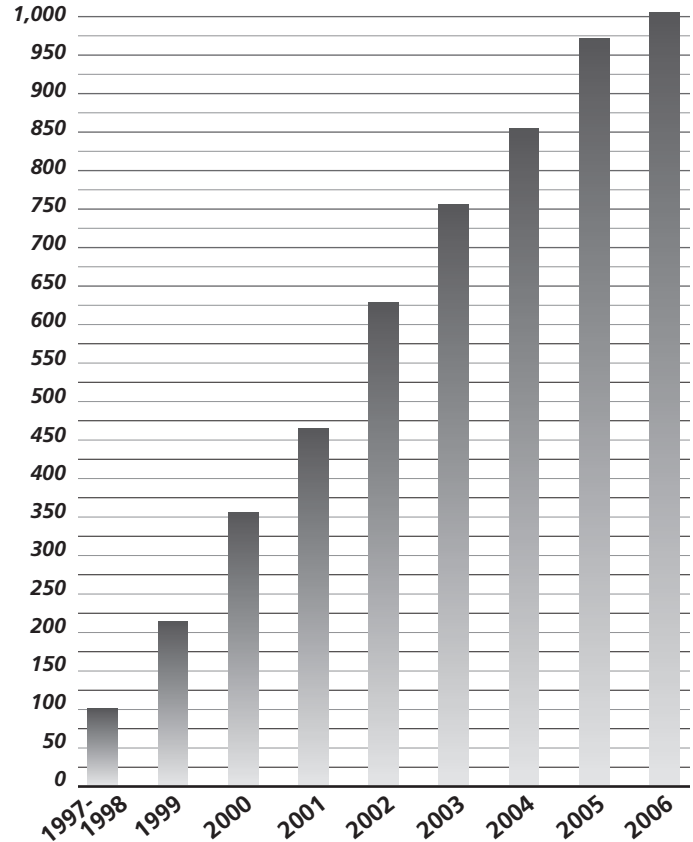


PROJECT REVIEW

In 2005, 120 new development projects were reviewed by MSCP staff for consistency with the adopted MSCP Subarea Plan and implementing regulations. Since January 2006, an additional 30 new development projects have been reviewed, bringing the total number of new projects reviewed since the adoption of the MSCP to 1,002. City staff continues to ensure that the MHPA preserve design, land use adjacency guidelines, mitigation requirements and specific area management directives have been evaluated and, as appropriate, incorporated into project designs. Projects that comply with the policies of the MSCP are afforded “Third Party Beneficiary” status as provided for in the City’s MSCP (section 17.1)



Cumulative Project Review



MSCP Biological Monitoring

MSCP covered species are monitored to assess their condition and status as required by the City's MSCP permit. In 2005, quantitative monitoring was conducted for 26 rare plant populations throughout the City in conformance with the 1996 MSCP Biological Monitoring Plan. Species monitored include state and federally endangered *Monardella viminea* (willow monardella); federally threatened, state endangered *Acanthomintha ilicifolia* (San Diego thorn-mint) and *Deinandra conjugens* (Otay tarplant); state endangered *Dudleya brevifolia* (short-leaf dudleya); as well as other rare species including *Brodiaea orcuttii* (Orcutt's brodiaea), *Cordylanthus orcuttianus* (Orcutt's birds beak), *Dudleya variegata* (variegated dudleya), *Lessingia filaginifolia* var. *linifolia* (Del Mar sand aster), *Lotus nuttallianus* (Nuttall's lotus), and *Muilla clevelandii* (San Diego goldenstar).

www.sandiego.gov/planning/mscp/biomonitor.shtml



During 2005, City staff also administered a state/federal grant to review and revise the regional 1996 MSCP Rare Plant Monitoring Plan. The review was performed by a team of four scientists led by Dr. Kathryn McEachern, Rare Plant Specialist with the U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Research Division with the support of an independent advisory group comprised of Dr. Bruce Pavlik, Dr. Jon Rebman, and Mr. Robert Sutter. A public workshop was held on March 29, 2006, to present and discuss the advisor's recommendations. These recommendations will be used to revise how all MSCP participating jurisdictions conduct monitoring to improve efficient and effective data collection.

www.sandiego.gov/planning/mscp/rareplantmonitor.shtml

Future Grants and On-going Collaborations

The City also received a grant to review and revise the animal monitoring portion of the 1996 MSCP Biological Monitoring Plan. The City will administer this grant over the next year, beginning with a public workshop in late summer, 2006 where the project scientists can meet and hear from local stakeholders.



Key Management Activities

City of San Diego Vernal Pool Management Plan

MSCP is continuing to focus on the stewardship of vernal pools within the City. In 2005, a follow-up field survey was undertaken to compare vernal pool area and species composition between normal (2003) and high (2005) rainfall years. A draft Vernal Pool Management Plan has been prepared based on this comparison study and the data collected for the Vernal Pool Inventory (City of San Diego 2004). With the Management Plan nearing completion, the City partnered with the County of San Diego and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to obtain grant funding for implementation of management actions recommended in the Plan. Over \$260,000 was awarded by SANDAG through the TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program with an additional USFWS match of \$250,000 for vernal pool management and restoration. A contract is currently being prepared and work, including fencing, reintroduction of locally extirpated species, removal of invasive species, and re-shaping of basins, is estimated to begin prior to winter 2007.

www.sandiego.gov/planning/mscp/vpi/index.shtml

Carmel Mountain Management Plan

Identified as San Diego's last undeveloped coastal mesa, the conservation of Carmel Mountain was completed in 2000. A draft resource management plan has been completed and will be brought to City Council for adoption. A multiple use trail system, with educational kiosks, interpretive signage and directional fencing has been designed to facilitate recreational use while protecting this biologically valuable area.

www.sandiego.gov/planning/mscp/mgmtplans.shtml

**When we see land as a
community to which we belong,
we may begin to use it with love
and respect.**

- Aldo Leopold



Tecolote Canyon (Mt. Carol Drive)

City staff and volunteers removed non-native species including invasive species such as pepper trees, arundo, German ivy, and eucalyptus.

Rose Canyon (Genessee Avenue)

City staff and volunteers removed an acre of non-native plants and planted 100 native plants.



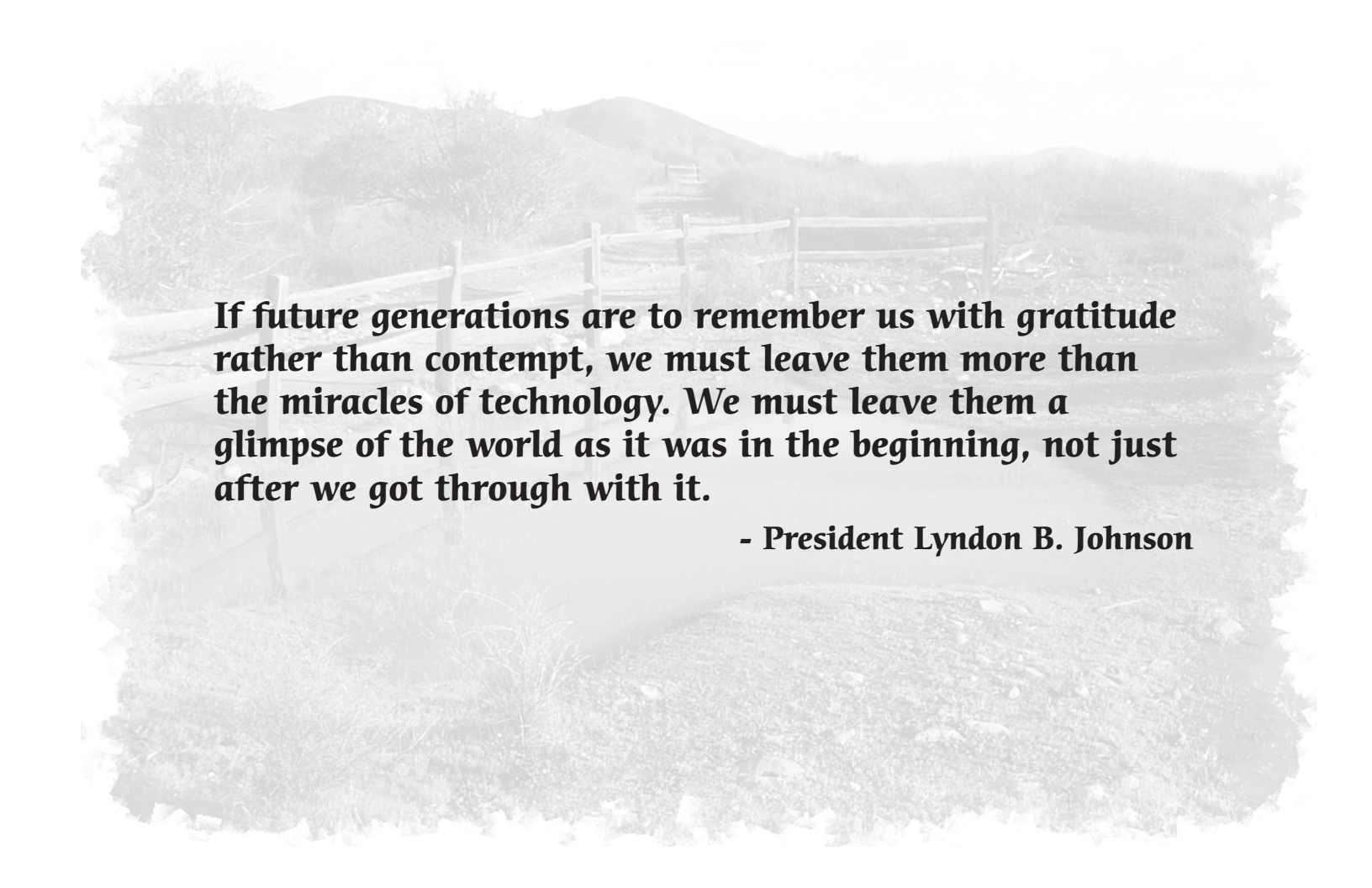
Crest Canyon

City Staff and Kids Korps volunteers removed non-native plants (mostly invasive ice-plant) from the park and have conducted trail maintenance and closed off undesigntated trails to protect the state endangered *Dudleya brevifolia* (short-leaf dudleya) and other native species in the Park. In addition, the California Conservation Corps restored trails and installed erosion control measures.

Canyon Enhancement Activities

One of the unique features of the City of San Diego is its topography and specifically its numerous undeveloped urban canyons. Many of these urban canyons have been included in the Multi-Habitat Planning Area, the planned preserve to implement the MSCP. As with many urban open space areas, the need exists to balance habitat preservation with passive recreational uses and green space enjoyment. In a coordinated effort, City staff along with Friends of Canyons groups, have been working to prepare a planning guide for canyon enhancement. Challenges identified include:

- Managing canyons to simultaneously protect and enhance natural resources, while improving public access and enjoyment.
- The high likelihood for exotics and invasive species,
- Small tracts of land with more “edges” along property lines and roads, making management more difficult.
- Numerous distinct parcels, which increase management efforts.
- Fire and brush management issues adjacent to and within canyons.
- The need for daily monitoring to prevent litter, vandalism, and illegal lodging.



If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.

- President Lyndon B. Johnson



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