

Current assumptions
Balboa Park Trails
February 29, 2008

Gateways

There are 5 gateways total: 6th and Upas; Morely Field; Park Administration (President's Way and Park Blvd); Golden Hill; and Marston Point. The map will be from the Friends of Balboa Park updated park map (with permission).

Trail Distances

Casey Smith and his department have measured each suggested route with the park department's global positioning system (GPS) for accuracy of distance. The park rangers are also assessing safety for each route. Since most routes are already mapped on well-traveled areas of the park, upgrading of route surfaces is not needed with these current configurations.

Gateway Signage

Gateway signs will be at each of the five gateways and will consist of two steel columns holding a sign with a half-round top and square bottom. Currently park of the park's master plan signage known as "pedestrian sign."

Signage will include verbage or icons to distinguish specific trails as jogging, walking or biking appropriate.

Trail marker signage

Trail marker signs are 5" square, with each gateway being a separate color. Sixth and Upas will be blue; Morley Field green; Park Administration (President's Way and Park Blvd) a brown; Golden Hill orange; and Marston Point red.

The trails will be numbered sequentially, so participants will recognize it as a park-wide system. It will start with numbers 1-10 at the 6th and Upas gateway; 11-20 for Morley field; 21-30 for Park Admin; 31-40 for Golden Hill; and 41-50 for Marston Point. Although there are currently no more than five routes per gateway, this would allow for expanding the system. Surrounding the trail number will be a shape signifying the degree of difficulty: blue for easiest, green for medium, and black for most difficult.

The signs will be at approximate measured distances, ideally at .5 mile increments, with shorter trails being potentially .25 mile increments. Each trail will be assessed separately. The objective is to use current park poles to attach signage and reduce sign clutter, especially in the west mesa. Signs will be ideally only when there is a change of direction on the path.

Signs will include the number of the path (sequential), an inner shape, color, directional and gateway. They will be engraved plastic sign. If production is outsourced, two signs may be made for easy replacement if vandalized or stolen. The alternative would be to allocate a portion of the budget to sign replacement (maybe 25% of the trail marker budget). Existing poles will be used where available. If not, 4 x 4 plastic posts. Estimates for trail marker signs are 136 on the high end, and 106 on the low end. Fifty-five posts should be adequate for the sixth and upas gateway.

The signs will be placed in one direction as to how the path is laid out to eliminate confusion for the runner and sign clutter. The gateway sign can denote suggested direction and allow the runner to choose whichever way is most appropriate. The direction is important also in rating the degree of difficulty for the trail.

Funding

The Balboa Park Endowment Fund committee at the San Diego Foundation is currently considering the project for funding. The first phase would be the Sixth and Upas gateway. And donor recognition would be minimal on any signage.