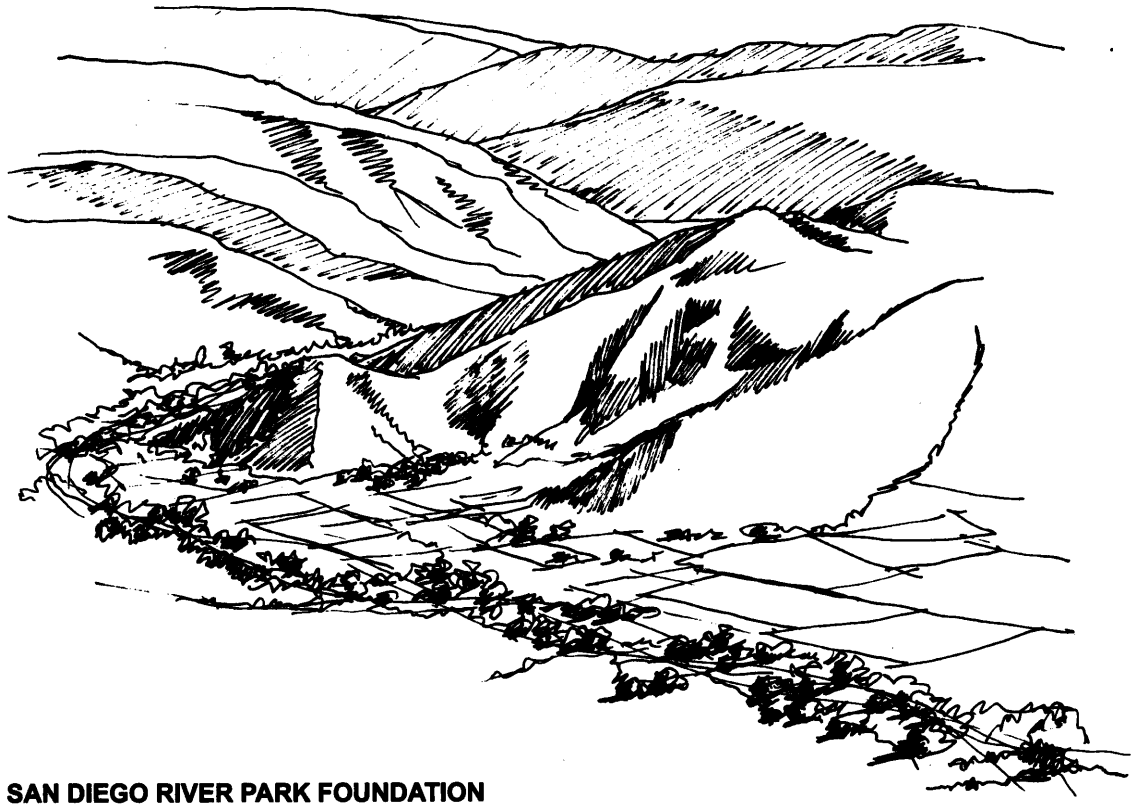
SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK
CONCEPTUAL PLAN



SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK FOUNDATION

The mission of the San Diego River Park Foundation is to support and empower community groups working to restore and enhance the San Diego River and to foster stewardship of this important community and regional asset in perpetuity.

The Foundation works to support important projects which will help to establish a river-long park while restoring and enhancing the river, providing greatly needed community facilities and opportunities to learn about our region's rich history, encouraging stewardship of the riparian environment, and improving the lives of those that live, work and play in the area.

We are dedicated to making this project a truly treasured regional asset that is valued by all members of our community. We welcome and encourage everyone who is interested to join us in this effort.

San Diego River Park
Conceptual Plan

Prepared for
San Diego River Park Foundation

Sponsored by
California Coastal Conservancy

Design Team
Sarah Easley
Leslie Redick
Katie Turnbull
Wei Zhang

Principal Advisors
Kyle Brown, Ph.D.
Phil Pregill, ASLA
Gerald O. Taylor, Jr., ASLA
Joan Woodward, ASLA

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606 Studio Department of Landscape Architecture California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

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Board of Directors: Jo Ann Anderson, Michael Beck, Kurt Benirschke, M.D., Charles V. Berwanger, Sandra Ciallela, Thomas DiBenedetto, James Hubbell, James Peugh, M. Lea Rudee, Ph.D.
Staff: Jo Ann Anderson - Exec. Dir., Rob Hutsel - Project Director.

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Members: San Diego Mayor, Dick Murphy (Chair);United States House Representative, Susan Davis; State Senator, Dede Alpert; State Assemblymember, Charlene Zettel; State Assemblymember, Christine Kehoe; San Diego; County Supervisor, Diane Jacob; Santee Mayor, Randy Voepel; San Diego City Councilmember, Donna Frye; San Diego City Councilmember, Jim Madaffer; San Diego City Councilmember, Byron Wear; Chair San Diego River Coalition, Jo Ann Anderson.

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Members: Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Endangered Habitats League, California Native Plant Society, San Diego Baykeeper, Back Country Land Trust, Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation / MTRP Citizens Advisory Committee, Tecolote Canyon Citizens Advisory Committee, San Diego River Park - Lakeside Conservancy, San Diego River Park Foundation, Cuyamaca Rancho Foundation, Friends of Dog Beach, Friends of Famosa Slough, Friends of Mission Valley Preserve, Friends of Adobe Falls, Navajo Community Planners, Tierrasanta Community Council, Mission Valley Community Council, Ocean Beach Town Council, San Diego County Bicycle, San Diego Trails Council, Aquatic Adventures, Project Pacific, California History and Culture Conservancy, San Diego Archeological Center, Ramona Trails Association, Urban Corps of San Diego, Founder's Trail Associates, San Diego Bike Coalition, San Diego Stream Team, Back Country Coalition.

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ABSTRACT

The San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan provides a framework for the establishment of a river park along the length of the San Diego River, located in Southern California, from El Capitan Reservoir to the Pacific Ocean at Ocean Beach. A detailed examination of the context of the river, including the cultural context, water resources, plants and animals, and recreation and education provides a foundation upon which the community's vision for the river park, revealed through community workshops and meetings, can be achieved.

Based on the opportunities developed from the river's context and community involvement, detailed planning goals are developed for the Conceptual Plan. The goals are to preserve and celebrate the river's historic resources, to support the natural stream processes, to preserve and enhance riparian habitat and to provide recreation access and activities.

The Conceptual Plan consists of three components: River Park Framework, Design Patterns and Recommendations. The River Park Framework is developed directly from the planning goals and provides the vision to drive the establishment of the park. Design Patterns are developed to provide a vocabulary for the design and implementation of the river park in which the planning goals can be met. Recommendations for each of the river park's reaches are developed to guide the design, application of Design Patterns, and character of future parks and trails within each distinct reach of the river park.

The process of applying the Conceptual Plan components to the design of individual sites within the river park is described, and three site designs on publicly owned land along the river are provided to further illustrate this process and to provide a beginning point for the establishment of the river park.

An implementation plan details the steps involved in using this document to guide the creation of the San Diego River Park. Phase One includes the development of Reach Specific Plans, improvements of existing facilities and community outreach. Phase Two involves land and easement acquisition, parks and trail development and ongoing community outreach. Phase Three involves monitoring and maintenance and ongoing community support for the established river park.

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