

East Elliott Community Plan



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

CITY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

EAST ELLIOTT COMMUNITY PLAN

San Diego Planning Department
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EAST ELLIOTT COMMUNITY PLAN

The following amendments have been incorporated into this November 2006 posting of this Plan:

Amendment	Date Approved by Planning Commission	Resolution Number	Date Adopted by City Council	Resolution Number
Elliott Community Plan adopted.			April 29, 1971	R-202550
East Elliott community created with the adoption of the Tierrasanta Community Plan which ceded the western portion of the Elliott community to Tierrasanta community.			July 27, 1982	R-256890
Expanded the Open Space area to coincide with the boundaries of the MSCP; reduced the residential acreage in the community; and increased the acreage associated with the landfill.			March 18, 1997	R-288456
Permitted aggregate extraction and processing associated with the landfill through a Planned Development Permit and corrected the increase in landfill acreage to 493 acres.			April 9, 2002	R-296297

EAST ELLIOTT COMMUNITY PLAN

BACKGROUND

For many years, the East Elliott area was a portion of the Elliott Community Plan. This plan was adopted in 1971. Subsequently, most of the original Elliott planning area was removed from the Elliott Community Plan and incorporated in the new Tierrasanta Community and Mission Trails Regional Park Plans. The remaining portion of the Elliott community, known as East Elliott, has remained undeveloped. The previous community plan for this area designated scattered unconnected areas of residential development surrounded by open space. Residential and other forms of urban development are impractical and uneconomical in most of East Elliott because of rugged topography, environmental constraints, lack of utility and road connections and other services, a multiplicity of small ownerships and proximity to the Sycamore Canyon Landfill.

East Elliott is dominated by native vegetation including sage scrub, chaparral, native grassland and oak and sycamore woodland and constitutes one of the largest and biologically most important remaining open space areas in San Diego. The topography is characterized by a series of parallel north-south trending canyons and ridges. A number of endangered and threatened wildlife species inhabit this area.

LAND USE PLAN

Due to the natural resources on site and the factors described above which make urban development infeasible in much of East Elliott, a majority of this area is designated for long-term open space use. As such, a majority of the area (2,259 acres out of the 2,862 in the East Elliott planning area) will be one of the most important components of the City's Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP). These open space areas will provide habitat for a number of endangered or threatened wildlife species and will provide corridors for wildlife movement from Mission Trails Park northward into the Miramar area.

An approximately 117-acre area on the eastern fringe of East Elliott, adjacent to a residential area in Santee, is designated for residential use. A maximum of 500 single-family residential units can be constructed in this area. Residential use is designated in this area due to its relatively level terrain and proximity to residential and residential serving land uses in Santee. The residential units should be sensitive and similar to the adjacent development in Santee in terms of siting, scale, density and design. Due to a lack of nearby residential development or services in San Diego and proximity to residential development in Santee, deannexation of this 117-acre area to Santee should be considered if, in the future, Santee favors such an annexation.

Twelve acres of commercial office use are designated in two separate parcels in the vicinity of State Highway 52 and Mast Boulevard. These two properties have excellent road access and have potential such as accounting, legal and medical offices to residents of eastern San Diego and Santee.

Four hundred seventy-four acres in the Sycamore Canyon watershed in the north central portion of the planning area are designated for use as a landfill. A smaller landfill exists in a portion of this area in 1995 (the date that this plan was written) and expansion of this landfill is anticipated. This plan also recognizes the possibility that a portion of the area west of Sycamore Canyon (within the Oak and Spring Canyon watershed), which is designated in this plan for open space use, could be considered for use as a landfill in the future. Many environmental factors will need to be carefully considered prior to a decision to expand the landfill area beyond the 474 acres in Sycamore Canyon.

The land uses designated for the East Elliott area are summarized in the table below and illustrated in the attached land use map.

LAND USES IN EAST ELLIOTT

Use	Acres
Open Space	2,259
Residential	117
Commercial	12
Landfill	474
Total	2,862

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are designed to foster preservation and enhancement of the natural open space areas which cover a majority of this planning area:

1. Natural open space areas should remain undeveloped with disturbance limited to trails and passive recreational uses such as walking, hiking and nature study that are consistent with preservation of natural resources.
2. More active recreation uses, including horseback riding and mountain biking, may also be permissible if measures are taken to ensure that biological values are not threatened.
3. Public access to limited areas of particularly sensitive natural open space could be restricted. Examples of locations where access could be controlled include vernal pool areas and identified nesting areas for endangered or threatened animal or bird species.
4. Additional recreational uses may be appropriate along the preserve edge or in the relatively limited open space areas that do not contain sensitive habitat and wildlife. In these areas, horticultural and gardening uses could be permitted on a case-by-case basis. Such uses should not involve construction of permanent structures or paved areas.

5. Open space areas which cover an entire ownership should be preserved through means that include, but are not limited to, acquisition by the City with state and federal assistance or by other large property owners as mitigation lands for environmental impacts anticipated on other properties.
6. Open space areas which cover portions of an ownership and where reasonable development rights still exist on portions of the ownership, should be dedicated by the owner/developer, through an open space/conservation easement. Long-term maintenance should be provided on an individual basis or by an open space management entity that may be formed to implement the MSCP.
7. Disturbed areas designated for open space should be recontoured where feasible, to recreate the natural topography. These areas should also be restored or enhanced where feasible with natural vegetation to return these areas to a natural appearance.
8. At locations where roads, railroads or other urban intrusions traverse open space corridors, provisions should be made to minimize habitat fragmentation and to provide for a continuous open space linkage. In some instances, structures such as bridges or culverts should be sited in lower quality habitat or in disturbed areas to the extent possible.
9. Transition areas should be established between urban uses and the open space system, along traffic corridors and canyon overlooks, where feasible and appropriate. Such transition areas may be developed by providing additional maintenance and planting non-invasive grass, shrubs and trees that provide a sensitive transition between uses.

