

NATURAL OPEN SPACE

The natural open space areas are concentrated in undeveloped canyon areas interspersed throughout the community (Figure 43). These natural open spaces range from the steep, southern hillsides of Mission Valley, which reach 200 feet in height, to the nearly flat mesa in Hillcrest.

The natural canyon systems, originally identified as part of the Uptown Community Plan of 1975, comprised approximately 363 acres. Of the 363 acres, 34.18 acres have been acquired by the City of San Diego. Of this city-owned land, 11.27 acres are in Maple Canyon, 0.9 acres on Sunset Street and Sunset Road near Presidio, 11.29 acres dedicated as a park for open space, "University Heights Park," 6.81 acres dedicated as a park for open space "Mission Hills Park," and 3.91 acres in various canyons in the Uptown area (Figure 43).

Canyons presently placed on the City's Proposed Open Space Retention List are listed in Appendix A. These canyons will be retained through purchase, the subdivision/planned residential development process, open space dedications and easements. If these areas cannot be acquired, they will be allowed to be developed in accord with the guidelines described in this element.

Other open space areas are interspersed throughout the community, primarily as public easements or private open space in planned residential developments (Appendix B).

Many canyon areas are covered by a grid of dedicated street rights-of-way which have not been improved because of the steep terrain. These dedicated street reservations are city-owned and provide opportunities for view retention, hiking trails, and connecting public open space unless they are vacated and sold or developed for access.

Recent studies of the Uptown community's open space system have identified additional natural open space areas. Canyons which have slopes between 13 and 25 percent are found in all of the subareas of Uptown but predominantly in the Middletown and Mission Hills subareas (Appendix C). Canyons with slopes exceeding 25 percent are primarily located on the northern slopes of Mission Valley, but also occur in portions of the many smaller canyons in Mission Hills and Middletown.



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| ① MISSION VALLEY | ④ MAPLE/REYNARD |
| ② UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS | ⑤ WASHINGTON STREET |
| ③ BALBOA PARK EXT. | ⑥ MISSION HILLS |



NATURAL OPEN SPACE SYSTEMS
UPTOWN Community Plan
 CITY OF SAN DIEGO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

FIGURE
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CITY OWNED OPEN SPACE — (C)
UPTOWN Community Plan
 CITY OF SAN DIEGO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

FIGURE
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