

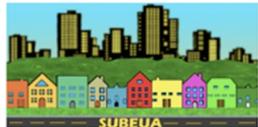
San Diego Canyonlands:

Movements for Urban Nature and the Politics of Place in 21st century San Diego, California

Andrew Wiese,

Professor of History, San Diego State University

SUBEUA, Transnational Meeting-Multiplier, Clermont-Ferrand, FR, March 14, 2023



Peregrine Falcon,
NYC
Richard Newstead
for Nature
Conservancy, 2018

San Diego Canyonlands:

Mouvements pour la nature urbaine et la politique du lieu au début du XXI^e siècle à San Diego, Californie

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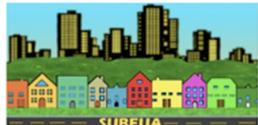


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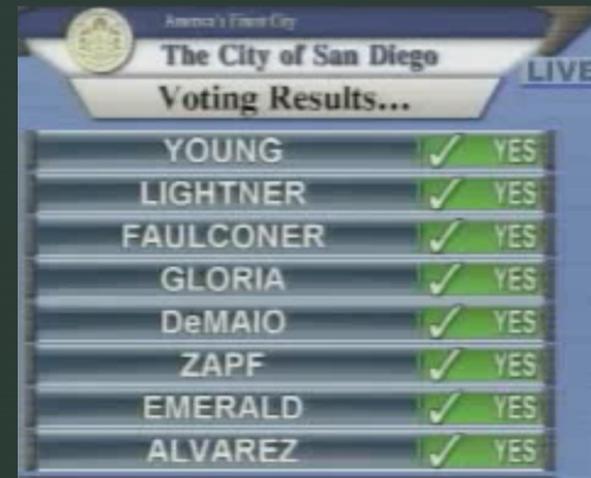
Peregrine Falcon,
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Richard Newstead
for Nature
Conservancy, 2018

Protecting Urban Nature – San Diego Open Space Ordinance, 2012

6,558 acres (2,650 ha)
protected for people
and wildlife

Movement driven by
place-based activism

*“San Diegans love their neighborhood canyons,”
“There are canyons that have been saved through advocacy by individuals, by communities and by neighborhoods, decades of doing that. [T]his is our chance... to take care of our unique asset... our canyons.” Eric Bowlby, San Diego Canyonlands*



America's Finest City The City of San Diego Voting Results...		
YOUNG	✓	YES
LIGHTNER	✓	YES
FAULCONER	✓	YES
GLORIA	✓	YES
DeMAIO	✓	YES
ZAPF	✓	YES
EMERALD	✓	YES
ALVAREZ	✓	YES



This vote is for the volunteers who have “taken urban canyons, which as I recall as a kid were places my parents told me never, ever to go... and turn[ed] them into the urban jewels they are....” Councilmember, Todd Gloria





Protection de la nature urbaine - Ordonnance sur les espaces ouverts de San Diego, 2012

6 558 acres (2 650 ha) protégés pour les personnes et la faune

Mouvement porté par l'activisme local



America's Finest City
The City of San Diego
Voting Results... LIVE

YOUNG	✓	YES
LIGHTNER	✓	YES
FAULCONER	✓	YES
GLORIA	✓	YES
DeMAIO	✓	YES
ZAPF	✓	YES
EMERALD	✓	YES
ALVAREZ	✓	YES



“Les San Diegans adorent les canyons de leur quartier », «Il y a des canyons qui ont été sauvés grâce au plaidoyer d'individus, de communautés et de quartiers, des décennies de travail. [C]'est notre chance... de prendre soin de notre atout unique... nos canyons. »

Eric Bowlby, San Diego Canyonlands



Ce vote est pour les volontaires qui ont "pris des canyons urbains, qui, si je me souviens quand j'étais enfant, étaient des endroits où mes parents m'avaient dit de ne jamais, jamais aller... et les ont transformés en joyaux urbains qu'ils sont...
Membre du Conseil, Todd Gloria



Movements for “Urban Nature”

The City – A Focus of Global Environmental Action in the 21st century

Seeing Cities as part of ‘nature’

Urban environments as ‘hybrid’ spaces where nature and culture converged.

Diverse initiatives:

- Urban ‘Greening’ - Nature-based solutions
- Green building / infrastructure
- Smart Growth
- Climate Action and Urban Resilience
- Environmental Justice
- Equal Access - Children in Nature
- Nature and Public Health
- Urban Ecology and Habitat Conservation



Stormwater Biowalls, Seattle, WA. © Paul Joseph Brown



Installing mailbox collinator gardens, Atlanta, GA. © Aubrey West Williams



Mouvements pour la « nature urbaine »

La ville - axe de l'action environnementale mondiale au XXIe siècle

Considérer les villes comme faisant partie de la « nature »

Les environnements urbains comme espaces « hybrides » où nature et culture convergent.

Initiatives diverses :

« Verdissement » urbain - Solutions fondées sur la nature

Bâtiment / infrastructure écologique

“Smart Growth”

Action climatique et résilience urbaine

Justice environnementale

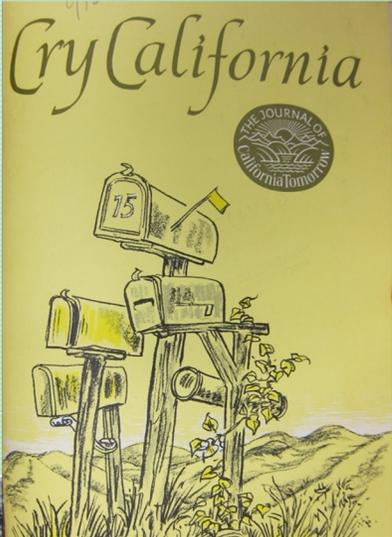
‘Enfants dans la nature’

Nature et santé publique

Écologie urbaine et conservation des habitats



The Politics of Place



Places played a key role in environmental politics



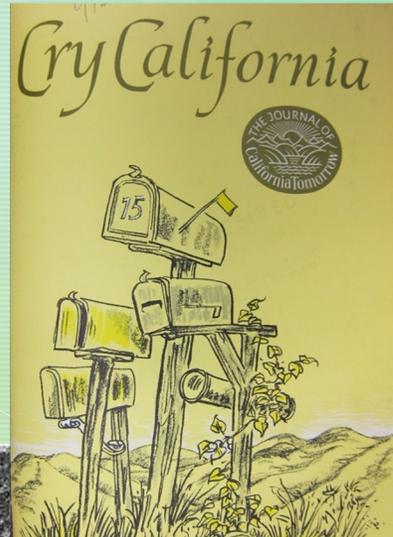
“Place is space invested with meaning in the context of power,” Tim Cresswell, *Place: An Introduction*, 2015

Places serve as touchstones for individual meaning and community mobilization



“The Right to the City is far more than the individual liberty to access urban resources: it is a right to change ourselves by changing the city....”
David Harvey, *Rebel Cities* 2012

La politique du lieu



Les lieux ont joué un rôle clé dans la politique environnementale



« Le lieu est un espace investi de sens dans le contexte du pouvoir », Tim Cresswell, *Place : An Introduction*, 2015

« *Le Droit à la Ville est bien plus que la liberté individuelle d'accéder aux ressources urbaines : c'est un droit de se changer en changeant la ville...* » David Harvey, *Villes rebelles* 2012

Les lieux étaient pierres de touche pour le sens individuel et la mobilisation communautaire



Politics of Place and Exclusion Politique du lieu et exclusion

Placed-based politics can emphasize an exclusive vision of locality and localness

La politique basée sur le lieu peut mettre l'accent sur une vision exclusive de la localité et de la localité

"A large part of environmental politics ... adopts a rhetoric of nostalgia by regretting the loss of primeval relations between humans and nature, and endorses an essentialist... definition of locality and the locals."

Certoma, "Environmental Politics and Place Authenticity Protection," 2009

"Suburbia ... was predicated on a restricted vision of belonging."

Nicolaides and Wiese, *The Suburb Reader*, 2016



"1000 Acres Restricted, Country Club District," Kansas City, Mo., J. C. Nichols, builder, c. 1905-10. Western Historical Manuscript Collection, Kansas City.



NEGRO DOCTOR'S HOUSE IN CREVE COEUR CONTROVERSY



Homesite Seizure Voted Over Creve Coeur Mayor's Veto

The Creve Coeur ordinance plans to finance purchase of the selecting a Negro eye surgeon's park site, not to build the club new-home site for a city park house, tennis courts and ball diamond planned on it. Creve Coeur has no park tax, but there was vetoed by Creve Coeur Mayor James P. Wilson. The Globe-Democrat learned yesterday. But in a possibility one will be established. Creve Coeur Aldermen usually. The Globe-Democrat was mostly overrode his veto.

Wilson would not comment on the matter, but has previously expressed himself as opposing condemnation for park purposes.

A city official also said that Venable's property have pledged \$25,000 towards purchase of the park site.

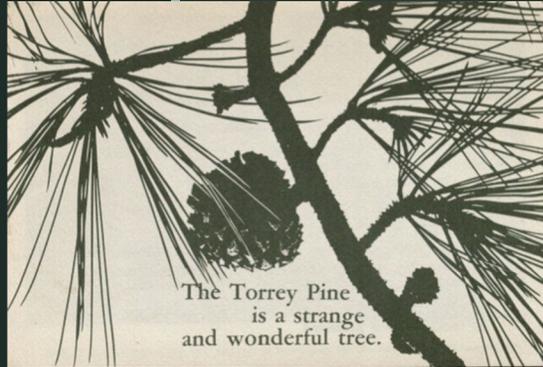
Dr. Venable, ophthalmologist in Creve Coeur, Mo., is the only Negro eye surgeon in the city.

Dr. Howard P. Venable started

Have Your PRESCRIPTION FILLED BY FREE, QUICK, RELIABLE SERVICE. FILLER ONLY. 24 HOURS. 1213-14 COMMERCE BLDG. KANSAS CITY, MO.



Place and Urban Nature in San Diego Lieu et nature urbaine à San Diego



Biodiversity Hotspot:

More birds (520+)
More native plants (1,700+)
More endemic species
More threatened or endangered species (200+) than any metro area in North America

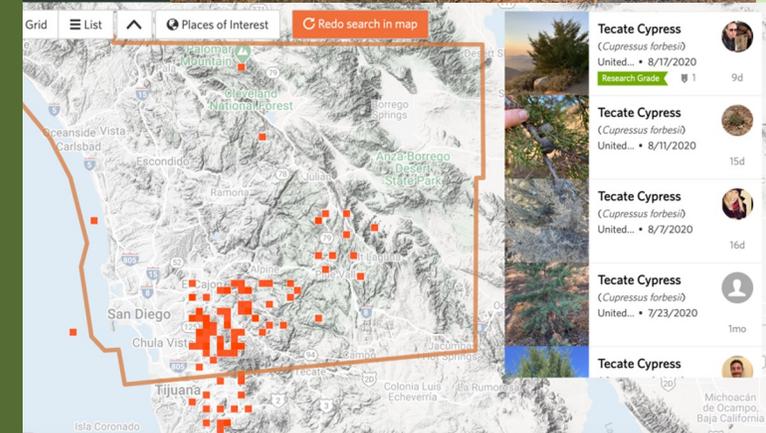
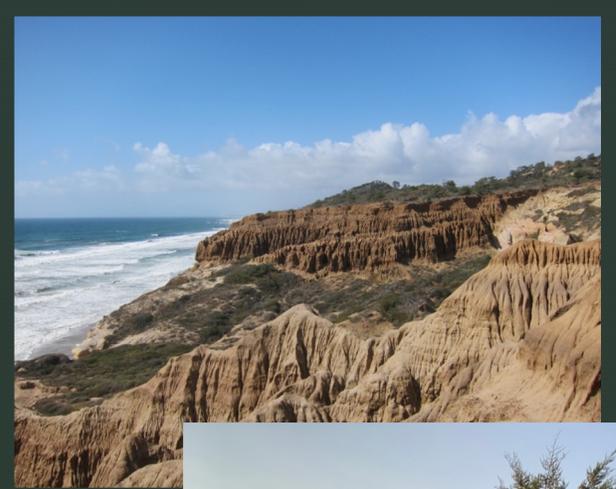


San Diego: "A rare jewel in America's crown of great natural spaces."

"Un joyau rare dans la couronne américaine des grands espaces naturels."

The Nature Conservancy

Plus d'oiseaux (520+)
Plus de plantes indigènes (1,700+)
Plus d'espèces endémiques
Plus d'espèces en voie de disparition que n'importe quelle région métropolitaine d'Amérique du Nord



“Islands of nature in the middle of the city”

Canyons – “The Geographic DNA of San Diego”

“Two level geography” - Mesas and Canyons

~200 urban/suburban canyons

A few acres to a few thousand acres

Histories of neglect

Histories of community organizing
and environmental activism



Patterns of mesa and
canyon development

« Des îlots de nature au milieu de la ville »

Canyons – "L'ADN géographique de San Diego"

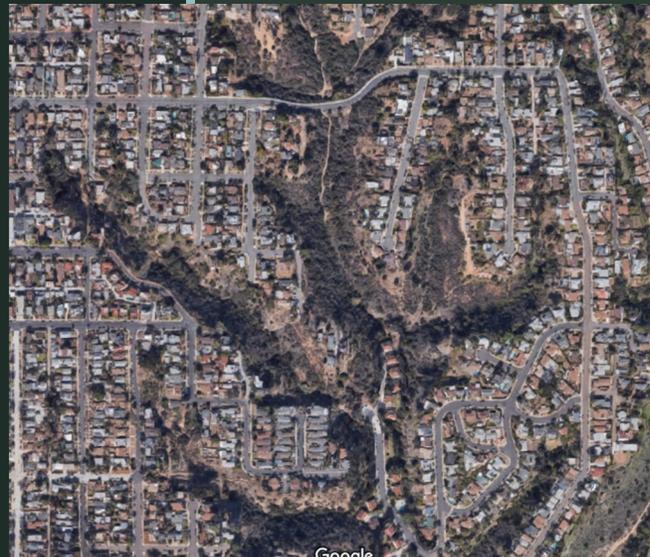
La «géographie à deux niveaux» - Mesas et Canyons

~200 canyons urbains/suburbains

De quelques hectares à quelques centaines d'hectares

Histoires de négligence

Histoires d'organisation communautaire et d'activisme environnemental



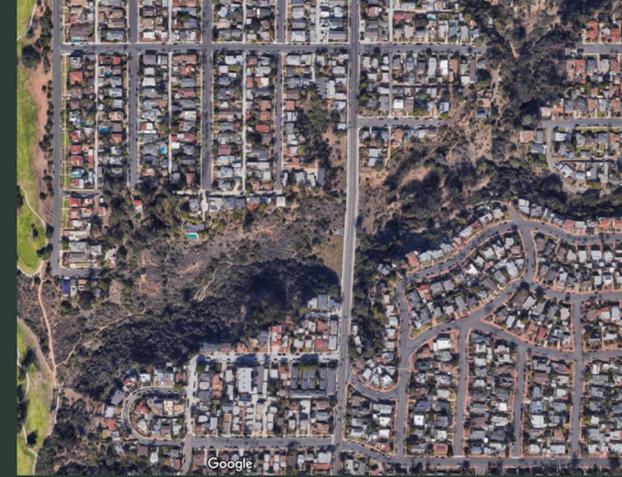
Modèles de développement de mesa et de canyon



San Diego's North Park neighborhood

“They picked the wrong canyon”

Residents in San Diego's North Park neighborhood reacted to a city plan to pave a sewer access road in Switzer Canyon, a community green space.



Switzer Canyon

Nature Walk
in your
Neighborhood
CANYON
(Switzer Canyon)

Saturday, March 6th
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Corner of 28th & Maple

Sponsored by:

The City Plans to Build
Over 30 Miles of Roadway into
37 of our Open Space
Canyons and Parks.

IS THIS REALLY
NECESSARY?

IS YOUR
FAVORITE CANYON
ON THE BLOCK?

CHECK OUT THE MAP INSIDE



Activists mobilized a city-wide campaign to protect and preserve San Diego's urban canyons.

Sierra Club flyer highlights City plans to build roads in 37 neighborhood canyons



Habitat restoration at Switzer Canyon



Quartier North Park

"Ils ont choisi le mauvais canyon"

Les résidents du quartier North Park de San Diego se sont opposés à un projet de pavage d'une route d'accès aux égouts dans Switzer Canyon, un espace vert communautaire.



Canyon Switzer

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in your
Neighborhood
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(Switzer Canyon)

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Over 30 Miles of Roadway into
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IS THIS REALLY
NECESSARY?

IS YOUR
FAVORITE CANYON
ON THE BLOCK?

CHECK OUT THE MAP INSIDE



Les militants ont mobilisé une
campagne à l'échelle de la ville
pour protéger et préserver les
canyons urbains de San Diego.

Le dépliant du Sierra Club met
en lumière les projets de la
ville de construire des routes
dans 37 canyons urbaine



Restauration de l'habitat à Switzer

Friends of the Canyons



“We have an incredibly unique geography that lent itself to neighborhood-based connection to natural open space...”

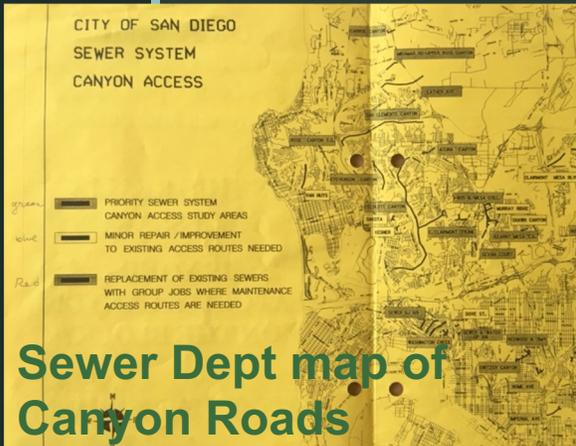
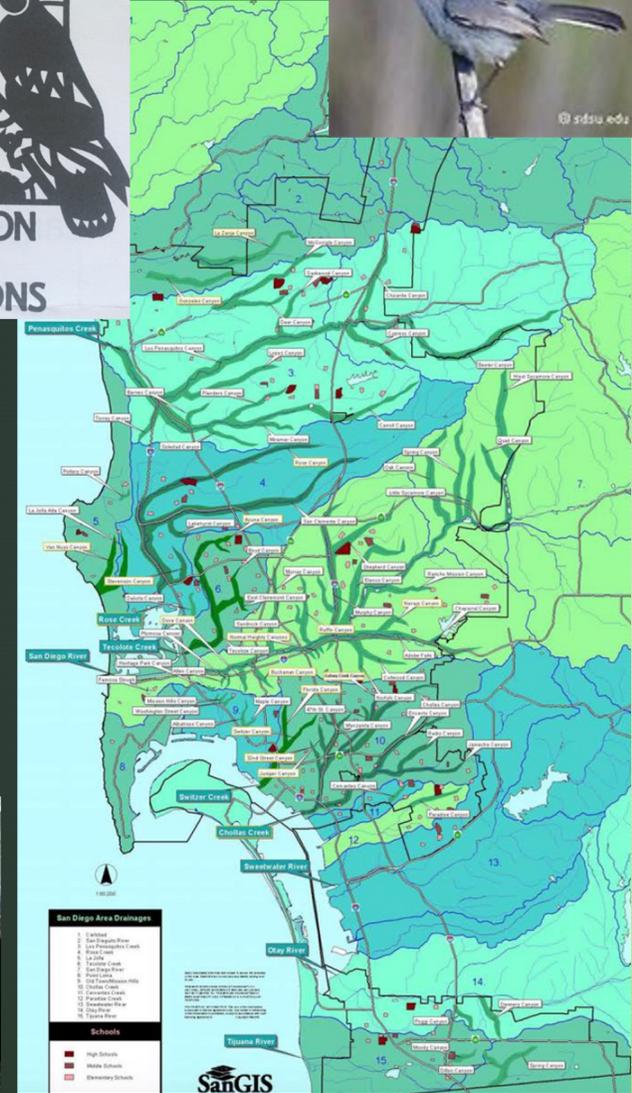
“We could go to neighborhoods in San Diego and organize them to be stewards of their nearby nature, which was often literally right in their backyards.”

Eric Bowlby, 2020

Sierra Club’s Eric Bowlby, “the Paul Revere of San Diego’s canyons”



- 36 Friends groups
- New coalitions and partnerships
- New city-wide non-profit groups



Youth weeding at Swan Canyon in City Heights

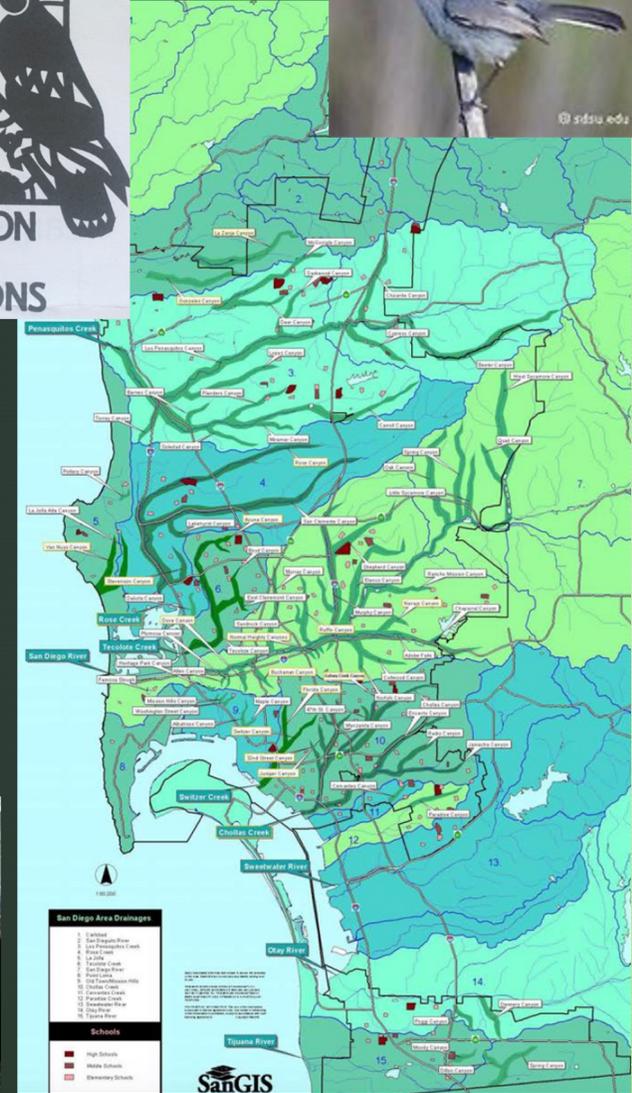
San Diego Canyons and “Friends” Groups

Amis des Canyons

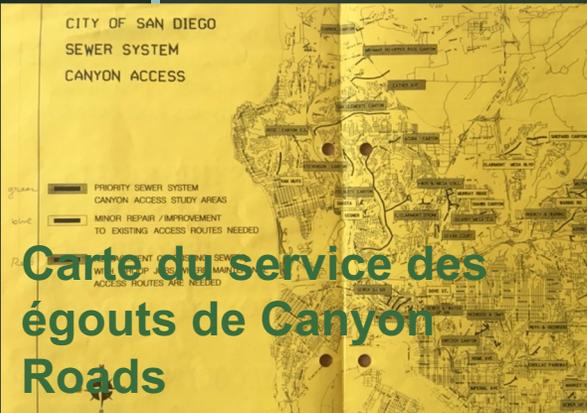
"Nous avons une géographie incroyablement unique qui se prête à une connexion basée sur le quartier à un espace naturel ouvert..."

*"Nous pourrions aller dans les quartiers de San Diego et les organiser pour qu'ils soient les gardiens de leur nature à proximité, qui était souvent littéralement dans leur arrière-cour."
Éric Bowlby, 2020*

Eric Bowlby du Sierra Club, "le Paul Revere des canyons de San Diego"



- 36 groupes d'amis
- Nouvelles coalitions et partenariats
- Nouveaux groupes à but non lucratif



Youth weeding at Swan Canyon in City Heights

Canyons de San Diego et groupes "d'amis"

Making Places: Making Meaning

“Places are never entirely local phenomena, but... exist in relationship to ideas and influences ‘elsewhere.’”

Doreen Massey

Activists sought to create Canyons as Meaningful Places:

Magnifying local significance

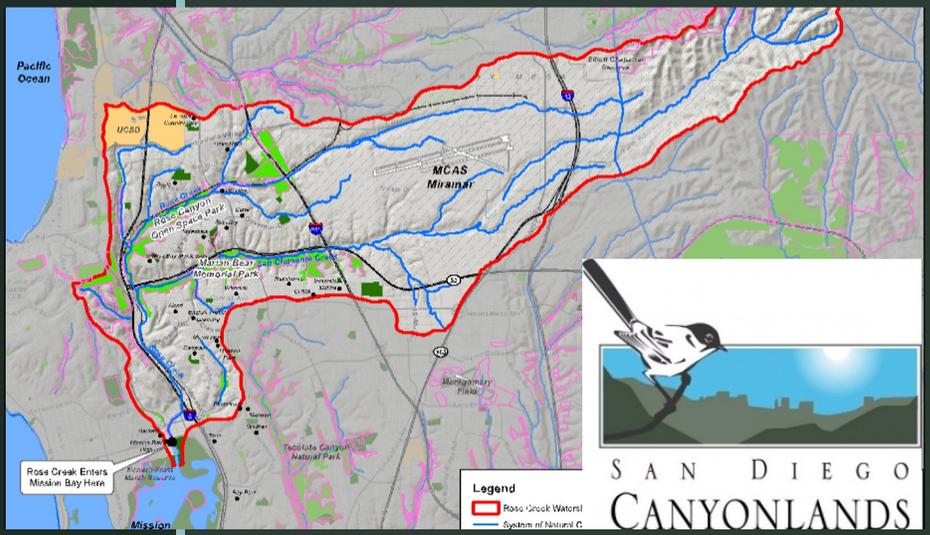
Connecting across scales

Naming Canyons

“Getting people into the canyon”

Making memory and meaning

‘Caring’ for canyons



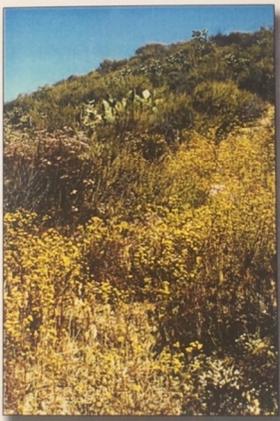
SAN DIEGO CANYONLANDS



Friends remove invasive plants



EXPLORE RUFFIN CANYON



Serra Mesa's Dedicated Open Space

Spring Bird Walks 2017
Rose Canyon Open Space Park Preserve

Come for a free bird walk led by skilled birders.
 April 15 - May 13
 Experience the amazing sights & sounds of spring birds.



For Adults & Kids (ages 9 and up) Birders of all levels welcome - we provide binoculars if needed.

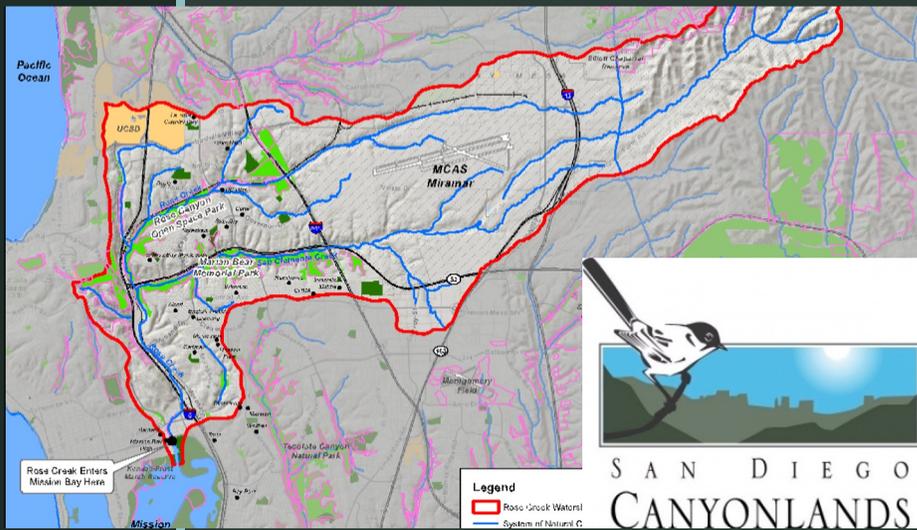
View and Print Flyer with Bird Walk Info

- Saturday, April 15, 8- 10am
- Saturday, April 22, 8- 10am
- Sunday, April 30, 8- 10am
- Sunday, May 7, 8- 10am
- Saturday, May 13, 8- 10am



Faire des lieux : donner du sens

"Les lieux ne sont jamais des phénomènes entièrement locaux, mais... existent en relation avec des idées et des influences "ailleurs"."
Doreen Massey



Les activistes ont cherché à créer des canyons comme des lieux significatifs :

Magnifier l'importance locale
 Connexion à grande échelle
 Nommer les canyons

« Amener les gens dans le canyon »
 Faire de la mémoire et du sens
 « Prendre soin » des canyons



Friends remove invasive plants

Canyon Campaign

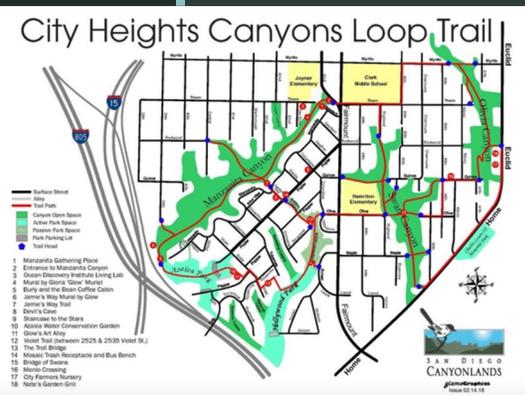
"Kids in Canyons"
 A Watershed Day for San Diego

Ann Sandersfeld,

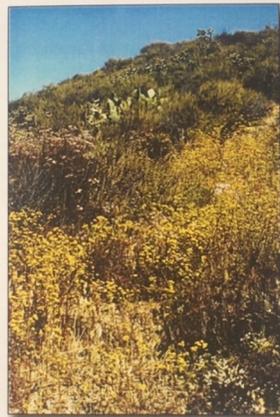
...old students got a neighborhood canyon 28th, when they 32nd Street Can-



Reflections on water quality...



EXPLORE RUFFIN CANYON



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Making Places: Mobilizing Communities

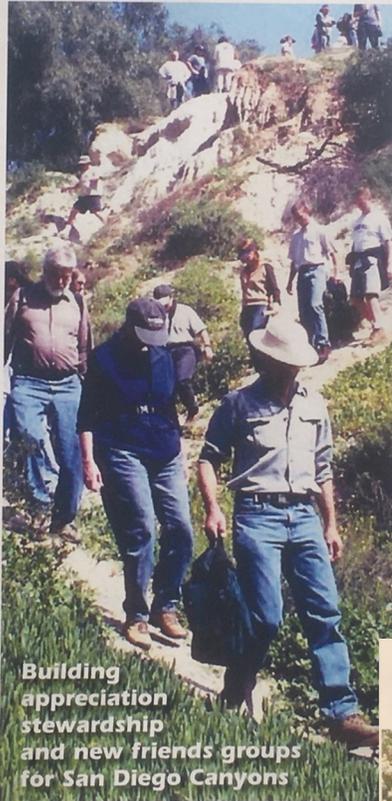
Canyon events provided a focus for collective action and identities

Making Collective Meanings

Building communities

Creating coalitions

Fighting City Hall: Making places through politics



The Canyon Campaign emphasized coalitions and connections among communities



Residents of University organize to protect Rose Cyn



City Heights residents restore native plants in Manzanita Cyn



Créer des lieux : Mobiliser les communautés

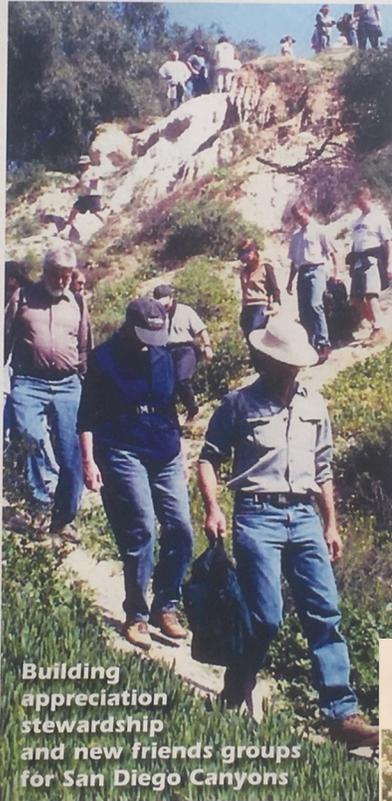
Les événements Canyon ont permis de mettre l'accent sur l'action collective et les identités

Créer des significations collectives

Construire des communautés

Créer des coalitions

"Fighting City Hall" : faire des places par la politique



Building appreciation stewardship and new friends groups for San Diego Canyons

JOIN US!



La campagne Canyon a mis l'accent sur les coalitions et les liens entre les communautés



Les résidents de la quartier Université s'organisent pour protéger Rose Canyon



Les habitants de City Heights restaurent des plantes indigènes à Manzanita Canyon



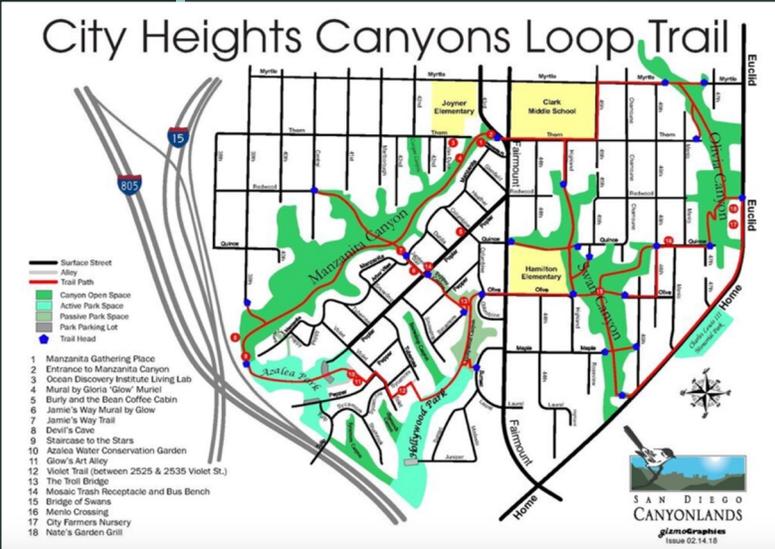
The Canyon Campaign addressed environmental inequity sooner and more insistently than traditional environmental groups.

Navigating Equity

“Canyons bisect almost every urban neighborhood in San Diego. Because of that, they are a great opportunity that everybody can access. There’s no cost with that, and they are usually walking distance from people’s homes.”

Shara Fisler

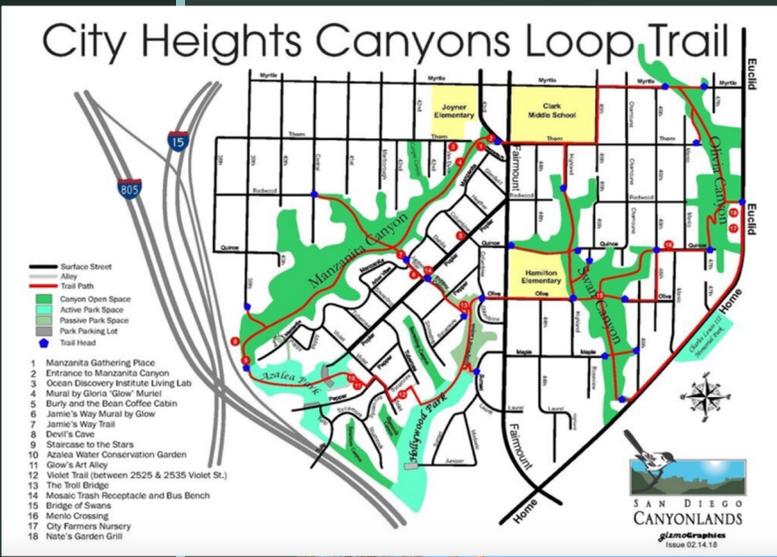
Community-driven canyon restoration projects in City Heights, San Diego’s most diverse neighborhood, – sponsored by SD Canyonlands.



Le Canyon Campaign s'attaque aux problèmes d'inégalité environnementale plus tôt et avec plus d'insistance que les groupes environnementaux traditionnels.

Naviguer dans l'équité

« Les canyons traversent presque tous les quartiers urbains de San Diego. Pour cette raison, ils sont une excellente opportunité à laquelle tout le monde peut accéder. Il n'y a aucun coût avec cela, et ils sont généralement à distance de marche des maisons des gens. » Shara Fisler



Projets communautaires à City Heights, le quartier le plus diversifié de San Diego, parrainés par SD Canyonlands.



Getting the City on Board

Author, Richard Louv helped spark a new movement for children in nature.

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

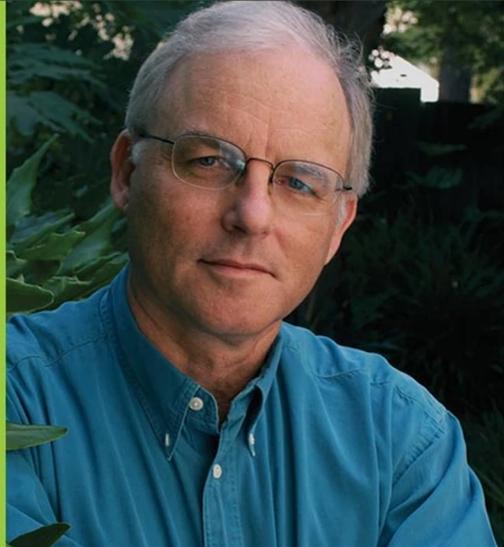
Last Child in the Woods



Saving
Our Children
from
Nature-Deficit
Disorder

"An absolute must-read
for parents."
—THE BOSTON GLOBE

RICHARD LOUV
RECIPIENT OF THE AUDUBON MEDAL



"We can't expect kids to take buses to Nature... It has to be where they live..." Richard Louv, 2020



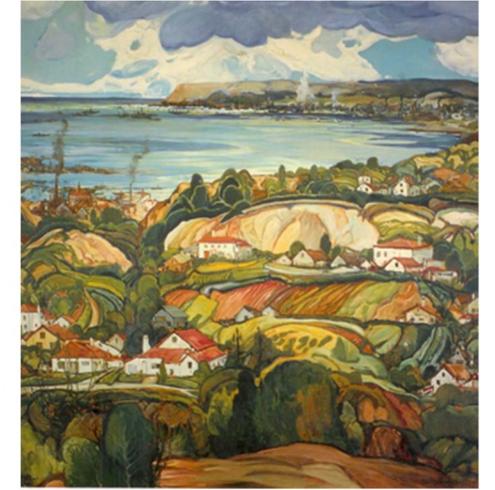
Civic Solutions joined Louv's call for a Canyonlands Regional Park to protect urban canyons in one system.

Canyonlands

The Creation of a San Diego Regional Canyonlands Park

A White Paper prepared by:

San Diego Civic Solutions



March 15, 2006

"We have chosen to live in a landscape of incredible but not indelible beauty: the canyons, mesas, mountains and ocean that define us as a place."

*San Diego Civic Solutions,
2006*

Convaincre la Ville

Auteur, Richard Louv a suscité un nouveau mouvement pour les enfants et la nature.

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

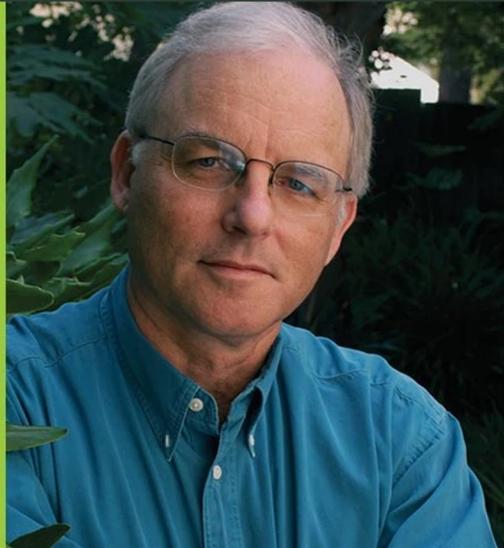
Last Child in the Woods



Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder

"An absolute must-read for parents."
—THE BOSTON GLOBE

RICHARD LOUV
RECIPIENT OF THE AUDUBON MEDAL



"On ne peut pas s'attendre à ce que les enfants prennent le bus pour aller dans la nature... Il faut que ce soit là où ils habitent..."
Richard Louv, 2020



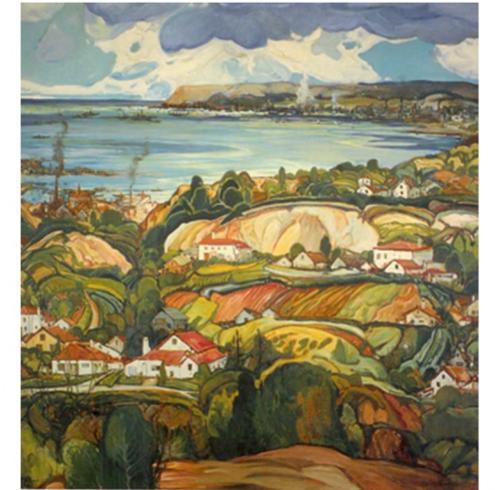
"Civic Solutions" a rejoint l'appel de Louv pour un parc régional de Canyonlands afin de protéger les canyons urbains dans un seul système.

Canyonlands

The Creation of a San Diego Regional Canyonlands Park

A White Paper prepared by:

San Diego Civic Solutions



March 15, 2006

"Nous avons choisi de vivre dans un paysage d'une beauté incroyable mais pas indélébile : les canyons, les mesas, les montagnes et l'océan qui nous définissent en tant que lieu."
Civic Solutions, 2006

Saving Open Space



Canyon Movement:

New environmental engagement –
politics of place

Reclaimed urban canyons for
people *and* ecology

Reimagined relations b/n cities
and nature

Reframed more inclusive
environmental politics

Councilmember, Toni Atkins, pushed the City to protect its urban canyons.

A city inventory found 17,000 acres of city-owned land eligible for protection.

2007 and 2012, the city permanently protected 12,000 acres



“Will the less tangible benefits of a wild and vanishing ecosystem, accessible and free in most neighborhoods in the city, be recognized?”

Elaine Brooks, 2001

Saving Open Space



Mouvement Canyon :

Nouvel engagement environnemental – politique du lieu

Des canyons urbains récupérés pour l'homme et l'écologie

Les relations entre les villes et la nature réinventées

Recadrage de politiques environnementales plus inclusives

Le membre du conseil, Toni Atkins, a poussé la ville à protéger ses canyons urbains. Un inventaire de la ville a révélé que 17 000 acres de terres appartenant à la ville étaient éligibles à la protection. 2007 et 2012, la ville a protégé en permanence 12 000 acres.



*« Les bénéfiques moins tangibles d'un écosystème sauvage et en voie de disparition, accessible et gratuit dans la plupart des quartiers de la ville, seront-ils reconnus ?
Elaine Brooks, 2001*