

10 Recreational Resources

The RCW offers a multitude of recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors alike. Two open space parks reside within the RCW that offer activities such as hiking, jogging, mountain biking and bird watching. The La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club Nature Trail across the street from University High School offers educational opportunities with a self guided nature trail complete with an informative kiosk and plant signage and benches along the trail. Numerous City of San Diego owned active recreation parks also can be found scattered throughout the watershed offering facilities for soccer, baseball and softball. Accessibility to these parks and opens spaces are easily obtained through main arterial roads and even residential streets.

10.1 Open Space Parks

There is approximately 949 acres of open space within the RCW. Open Space within the City of San Diego is generally defined as areas free from development or developed with low intensity uses that respect the natural characteristics. Open Space is used for the preservation of natural and cultural resources, outdoor recreation, health and safety, and as a form of urban growth control. The largest area of open space lies within the Marian Bear Memorial Park just south of State Route 52 between Interstates 5 and 805 (Figure 10-1 and Table 10-1). Marian Bear Memorial Park encompasses 467 acres or 49% of open space while the Rose Canyon Open Space contributes 312 acres to the overall open space land. The Rose Canyon Open Space Park spans from the western most edge of Marian Bear Memorial Park and heads northeast following Rose Canyon towards Interstate 805 to the border of MCAS Miramar. The Soledad Natural Open Space Park west of Interstate 5 is the third largest open space area at 197 acres with 121 acres within the RCW. Marian Bear Memorial Park lies solely with the community of Clairemont Mesa, while Rose Canyon Open Space lies within the community of University and the Soledad Natural Open Space lies entirely in La Jolla. Additionally, a portion of Pottery Canyon (3 acres) is also within the RCW. Table 10-1 lists all the major open spaces within the RCW.

Marian Bear Memorial Park is located within San Clemente Canyon and his home to a mix of chaparral, sycamores, riparian woodland and oak woodlands. It supports a population of resident wildlife such as raccoons, skunks, rabbits, amphibians, reptiles, birds and serves as a corridor for coyotes, fox and other mammals. Fossilized mollusks, such as snails and clams can still be found in

the canyon walls dating back 40 million years. During the early 1900's, cattle grazed in the canyons and hillsides of San Clemente Canyon. Today the park offers plenty of recreational opportunities such as hiking and mountain biking.

Coastal-Sage scrub and chaparral cover the hills and fields of the Rose Canyon Open Space Park. Riparian habitats traverse the length of the park as oak woodlands take root along the north-facing slopes. Rose Creek meanders through the canyon floor from the east at Scripps Miramar Ranch southward through MCAS Miramar towards Mission Bay where it eventually drains. Raccoons, coyotes, mule deer, bobcats, fox, weasels, opossum and skunks can be found residing within the Rose Canyon Open Space Park. The San Diego Natural History Museum's bird atlas lists 99 species of birds that are resident to or migrate through the park. A few of these species are large raptors such as hawks, kites and owls. Hikes and walks are typically organized by the Friends of Rose Canyon which co-sponsors them with the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department. Hiking, mountain biking and bird watching are just a few of the activities that the Rose Canyon Open Space Park has to offer.

Table 10-1: Open Space Parks

Open Space	Clairemont Mesa	Kearny Mesa	La Jolla	MCAS Miramar	Mira Mesa	Mission Bay Park	Pacific Beach	Scripps Miramar Ranch	University	Totals
Marian Bear Memorial Park	467									467
Bay Ridge	17									17
Clairemont	1									1
La Jolla			3							3
Pottery Canyon			3							3
Soledad Natural			121							121
Bayview							2			2
Capehart							5			5
Rose Canyon									312	312
University City									19	19
Totals	484	0	128	0	0	0	6	0	331	949

10.2 Neighborhood and Community Parks

Of the 234 acres of City of San Diego owned parks within the RCW (Figure 10-1 and Table 10-2), 52% can be found within the University community. The Nobel Athletic Field off of Nobel Drive is the

largest community park within the University community, currently at 31 acres. This park offers open fields for recreational activities such as soccer, baseball and softball. With the development of the Nobel Recreation Center and Library this acreage may change.

The small portion of Mission Bay Park within the RCW is part of the largest park in the region but only 49 acres fall within the RCW. Table 10-2 lists all the City of San Diego owned parks within the RCW. Mission Bay Park encompasses over 4,000 acres, approximately 46% land and 54% water. It offers a wide range of recreational activities such as boating, volleyball, basketball and bicycle/walkway paths throughout the park. It boasts 27 miles of shoreline of which 19 miles are beaches. Mission Bay Park is also home to several wildlife preserves, which include federally endangered species such as the Least Tern, the Brown Pelican and Lightfooted Clapper Rail. The Belding's Savannah Sparrow and Great Blue Heron can also be found within the preserves.

Table 10-2: City of San Diego owned Parks

Neighborhood & Community Parks	Clairemont Mesa	Kearny Mesa	La Jolla	MCAS Miramar	Mira Mesa	Mission Bay Park	Pacific Beach	Scripps Miramar Ranch	University	Totals
Cadman Park & Recreation	8									8
Campland Park						1				1
Clear Site 023A & 942	1									1
Clear Site 675									0	0
Doyle Community Park									26	26
Gershwin park	5									5
Hickman Field Park		42								42
Mac Dowell Park	3									3
Mandell Weiss / Eastgate Park									10	10
Marcy Park									11	11
Mission Bay Park						49	1			51
Nobel Athletic Field									31	31
Standley Park & Recreation									21	21
University Garden Park									13	13
University Village Park									4	4
Villa La Jolla Park									6	6
Totals	18	42	0	0	0	50	1	0	122	234

10.3 Trails

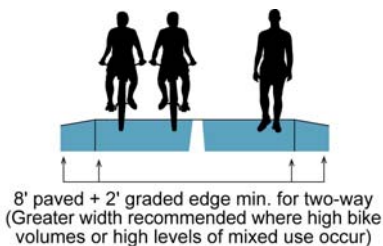
There are miles of hiking and mountain biking trails within the Rose Creek Watershed, predominantly traversing the larger Rose Canyon and Marian Bear Open Space Parks. Many of these trails are multi-

use and provide benches along the trail for rest stops and in some cases, informative kiosks and restrooms. The main trails of Rose Canyon and Marian Bear also serve as utility access paths that span almost the entire length of the parks. Connecting to these utility access paths are miles of foot trails or single-tracks that meander in and out of the adjacent vegetation and either connect back to the main utility access paths or into nearby neighborhoods. Some of these trails are volunteer trails whose long-term use should be assessed and coordinated with City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department staff as use of these volunteer trails may cause impacts to sensitive habitats.

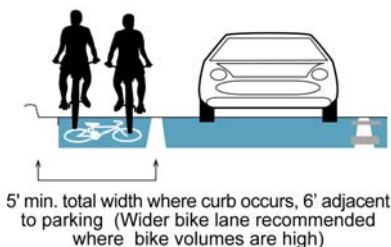
10.3.1 Bikeway Facilities

There are 37 miles of designated bikeway facilities on city streets within the RCW (Table 10-3 and Figure 10-2). To prevent confusion when referring to bikeways, bicycle lanes, bicycle paths and bicycle routes, a description of each bicycle facility type is as provided below.

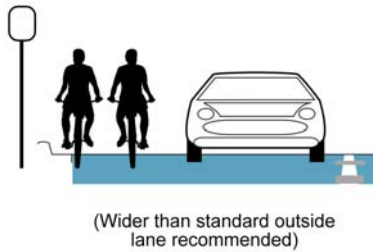
Class 1 – Paved “Bike Path” with an exclusive right-of-way, physically separated from vehicular roadways and intended specifically for non-motorized use.



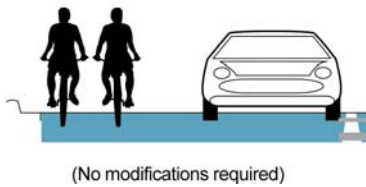
Class 2 – Signed and striped “Bike Lane” within a street right-of-way.



Class 3 – “Bike Route” within a street right-of-way identified by signage only.



Undesignated – An additional category defined as locally recommended on-street routes that appear on area bikeway maps only.



The largest bike facility found in the RCW is the Class 2 bike lane that meanders 17 miles primarily west of MCAS Miramar. A Class 2 bike lane on Genesee Ave provides access to both the Rose Canyon Open Space and the Marian Bear Memorial Park. Both parks can also be accessed from the Rose Canyon Bike Path, a Class 1 bikeway facility, at the northern end of Sante Fe Street in Clairemont Mesa. However, it should be noted that access to the open space parks from the Rose Canyon Bike Path currently requires recreational users to illegally cross the railroad tracks. For this violation an individual can be fined for \$1,000.00 by the local police department.

Table 10-3: Bikeway Facilities

Bikeway Facilities	Miles
Class 1: Bike Path	3
Class 2: Bike Lane	17
Class 3: Bike Route	7
Undesignated	10
Totals	37

There are roughly 15 miles of designated bike trails within the RCW (Figure 10-3). Three miles lie within the Rose Canyon Open Space Park and another 9 miles in the Marian Bear Memorial Park. These off-road bicycle trails are a shared-use facility with hikers. In addition to these designated trails, there are approximately 3 miles of utility access paths on the north side of the railroad tracks in Rose Canyon. This fire road extends from where Gilman Drive and Rose Canyon Bike Path merge eastward to Interstate 805. This trail is the potential site for the Class I Coastal Rail Trail intended to connect from Oceanside to the Santa Fe Depot in downtown San Diego. Just north of this fire road along the northern rim of the canyon is a trail made of fine crushed rock resembling asphalt. This trail begins from Regents Road and ends a half mile west near the rail road tracks. Currently there is no continuous off-road connection between Marian Bear Memorial Park and the Rose Canyon Open Space Park.

10.3.2 Community Plan Bikeway Facilities

Clairemont Mesa

The Clairemont Mesa Community Plan states that its objective, along with most other Plans, is to create a system of bicycle lanes and paths to link parks, recreation areas, schools and commercial areas throughout the community. Many Class I, II and III bikeways are proposed with an emphasis on the development of those south of SR-52 and along Genesee Avenue. The San Clemente Canyon Bikeway (I-805 to I-5) is recommended along the northern boundary of Marian Bear Memorial Park in order to ensure that the bikeway will not interfere with biological resources in the canyon park. The plan recommends that bikeway signs should include directional signage to lead bicycles to their destinations. The plan also suggests that secure bicycle racks should be placed in visible locations

near building entrances and employers should provide bicycle lockers for employees that commute by bicycle. Bikeways in this area should be directed to serve future Trolley and bus transit stations with bicycle racks and lockers at each location.

Kearny Mesa

According to the Kearny Mesa Community Plan, the high level of vehicular traffic on most streets does not encourage bicycling. Therefore, it recommends developing a community bikeway system, which includes covered parking and bicycle lockers at activity centers and commercial areas. The Plan also suggests the inclusion of a Bicycle Commuting Encouragement Program in a future Transportation System Management Program. It recommends promoting bicycle commuting in this heavy commercial area and that employers provide parking and locker and shower facilities for commuting bicyclists.

La Jolla

The La Jolla Community Plan recommends that priority be given to establishing bike paths in the community. It is also suggested that existing and proposed routes should be separated whenever possible for motor vehicle and bicycle safety.

Mira Mesa

The Mira Mesa Community Plan identifies a system of bikeways and standards. Class II bicycle lanes are recommended along major roadways including Carroll Canyon Road, Miramar Road, Camino Santa Fe and Camino Ruiz.

Scripps Miramar Ranch

The Scripps Miramar Ranch Community Plan states that non-motorized transportation be accommodated through the development of accessible pathways and/or sidewalks and bikeways along parking strips and sidewalks in all residential areas. A Non-Motorized Circulation Element included in the Plan identifies a system of bikeways and hiking and equestrian trails. The bikeways include the highly used Class I bikeways around Miramar Reservoir and along Interstate 15, which connects with Poway Road to the North.

University

As of the date of adoption of the University Community Plan (1990), a system of bikeways was already established. Class I bikeways include the Rose Canyon Bike Path and portions along North Torrey Pines Road. Since there are no parallel roadways from Sorrento Valley Road to Genesee Avenue, bicyclists are permitted to utilize the shoulder of Interstate 5 between these two freeway exits. The proposed Coastal Rail Trail project will traverse the University Community. The route is planned for Genesee Avenue from Rose Canyon to north of Eastgate Mall where a Class I path is planned to connect to Sorrento Valley Road.

Figure 10-1: Parks and Open Space

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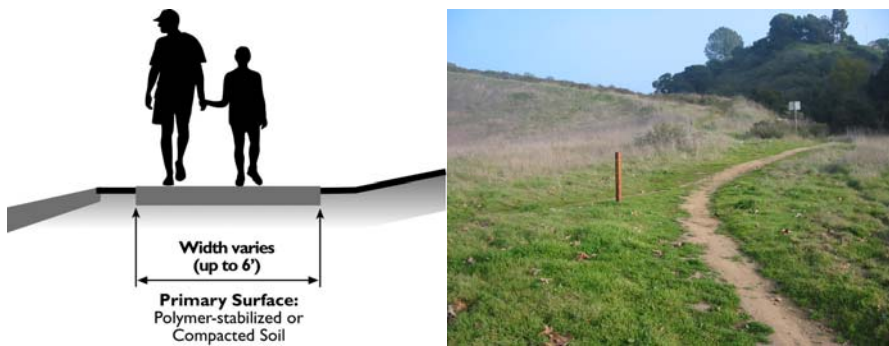
Figure 10-2: Bikeway Facilities

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10.3.3 Official Trails

In both the Rose Canyon Open Space Park and Marian Bear Memorial Park, cyclists and hikers share the use of the designated 15 miles of trails (Figure 10-3). The Marian Bear Memorial Park has numerous entrances into the park from both residential neighborhoods and designated parking areas off of Santa Fe Street, Regents Road and Genesee Ave. Rose Canyon Open Space Park can be accessed from the same streets as Marian Bear but at different locations. Marian Bear Memorial Park has two residential access trails on its southern slopes. One is the Biltmore Trail that is about one-third of a mile in length and can be accessed from Biltmore Street in Clairemont Mesa. A concrete staircase off Cobb Place also in Clairemont Mesa can access Cobb Trail. Cobb Trail is roughly 900 feet in length from Cobb Place to the main trail in the Marian Bear Memorial Park. Both the Cobb and Biltmore Trails are highly shaded by a thick canopy of willows and oak woodlands keeping the trails moist and protected from direct rainfall which helps keep erosion to a minimum. A third access point is the Kroc Trail, which is a quarter-mile long trail and is the eastern most designated access into Marian Bear Memorial Park. The Kroc Trail follows a highly eroded tributary into San Clemente Creek and outlets onto a power line road that can be accessed from Lehrer Drive. Erosion can be found along certain sections of the Kroc trail making it challenging for cyclists but not for hikers. Kroc trail is almost void of any canopy and the adjacent tributary is eroding towards the trail, making the long-term stability of the trail uncertain without management intervention. The northern most access into Marian Bear Memorial Park is through the Standley Trail north of San Clemente Creek. This trail can be accessed from Governor Dr. at the Standley Community Park. The trail then heads south across Syracuse Ave, then continues beneath State Route 52 and connects with the main fire road in Marian Bear Memorial Park.

Designated trails throughout the Rose Canyon Open Space and Marian Bear Memorial Park are typically 3-6 feet in width and meander throughout the parks. These trails are designated for pedestrian and cycling use only.



Maintenance roads (also known as utility access paths) are typically the main trail type throughout these parks due to their heavy use and easy accessibility. The maintenance roads serve dual purpose in that they provide access for authorized vehicles for park management and recreational use for pedestrians and cyclists. These utility access paths also provide access to Metro Wastewater Department and San Diego Gas & Electric utilities. In many cases, these paths provide reasonable trail connections and linkages. As these paths are normally linear and bisect open space boundaries, they provide excellent connections between developed areas.



10.3.4 Un-official Trails

There are numerous miles of volunteer trails within the RCW particularly within the Rose Canyon Open Space Park and Marian Bear Memorial Park. These trails do not show up on official park maps or general plans and are not designated for “use”. These volunteer trails are mainly created by local residents who use these trails as access into the park. Many of these trails can be found parallel to the main trails as another means of recreation to avoid the main trails and utility access paths. Some volunteers trails are used as detours over obstacles such as fallen trees and will either be covered by vegetative growth if not regularly used or become a well-used un-paved trail through compaction by bicycle tires and hikers. All trails (including volunteer trails) will be evaluated by Open Space staff to

determine suitability. Trails approved by staff will be included in the City Master Trail Plan. Volunteer trails not designated for use will be closed and actively or passively restored. Users who create their own trails without proper planning can create detrimental issues within the park system by potentially causing erosion and loss of habitat.

10.3.5 Trail Amenities

Trail amenities can be found in both Marian Bear Memorial Park and Rose Canyon Open Space Park although they are very sparse in Rose Canyon. Marian Bear Memorial Park does have better amenities such as benches, restrooms and parking for users. Restrooms can be found at the Genesee Ave parking lot and both Regents Road parking lots in Marian Bear. Picnic tables can also be found on both Regents Road parking lots in Marian Bear Memorial Park. Here users can read informative kiosks to traverse east or west throughout the park. Individual trail maps can be found at the eastern parking lot of Regents Road before they head east on the main trail. The other kiosks at Genesee Ave and west Regents Road provide an outdated trail map for users to use. The kiosks at all the Marian Bear parking lots range in educational information from California's biodiversity to the wildlife and history of the Marian Bear Memorial Park. Plastic bags for picking up dog feces can be found at these entrances as well as drinking bowls for the dogs. Along the main utility access paths, benches are spread about for users needing a quick break. The current signage of Marian Bear Memorial park is adequate for the users but more informative kiosks along the main trail could educate users as they pass connecting trails, cultural resources and sensitive habitats.

Within Rose Canyon, there are benches near the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club Nature Trail off of Genesee Ave. There is no parking off Genesee to access Rose Canyon so users must either commute by foot or bicycle or park at University City High School across the street. Benches and kiosks are rare throughout Rose Canyon and can be found at the trail head off Genesee Ave and the Regents Road access trail. The kiosks at these two entrances do not provide as much educational information as those of Marian Bear and lack trail maps for users to orient themselves in the park. There are no public restrooms in Rose Canyon but plastic bags for dogs are present at these kiosks. Kiosks near the Rose Canyon Bike Path entrance would be a good place to put a kiosk for users entering the park from the west. More kiosks, benches, picnic tables and a public restroom would be a good start to promote the use and preservation of the Rose Canyon Open Space Park.

10.3.6 Park Accessibility

Accessibility in general is good but improvements can make these two parks even more educational and experience higher use. Essentially there are four main entrances to the parks. Both Rose Canyon Open Space Park and Marian Bear Memorial Park can be access from Genesee Ave and Regents Road. Only Marian Bear Memorial Park can boast restrooms and a parking lot. From the Marian Bear Memorial Park parking lots, kiosks will inform users the sensitive habitat throughout the park and a warning for poison oak. The parking lots are not striped or paved and do not provide dedicated improved handicapped parking. They are created with dirt and gravel and somewhat smoothed out. The Marian Bear Memorial Park parking lots do have potholes and can be difficult to drive through. From the west end, users can park at Sante Fe Street and use the Rose Canyon Bike Path to get near the Marian Bear Memorial Park trailhead. Accessibility from the west end does pose some danger. Users must cross the railroad tracks, without signage, then cross Rose Creek without a bridge. Currently disabled users cannot enter the park form the west end due to its difficulty and safety issues.

There are no parking lots or staging areas for the Rose Canyon Open Space Park so users must use residential streets to access the park from either Regents Road or Genesee Ave. There is parking on Santa Fe Street in Clairemont Mesa for users entering from the west end of the park. When entering Rose Canyon Open Space from Regents Road or Genesee Ave, users will be able to use the kiosks to guide their way into the park but there are no trail maps provided. From the west end, there is no signage to direct users to the appropriate trail. Users must cross the railroad tracks in order to enter the Rose Canyon Open Space Park similar to that or Marian Bear. Currently there is an existing railroad crossing to access Rose Canyon but has been closed. A bridge does exist for users to cross Rose Creek into Rose Canyon.

Figure 10-3: Hiking Facilities

Back of Figure 10-3