

RECOMMENDATIONS

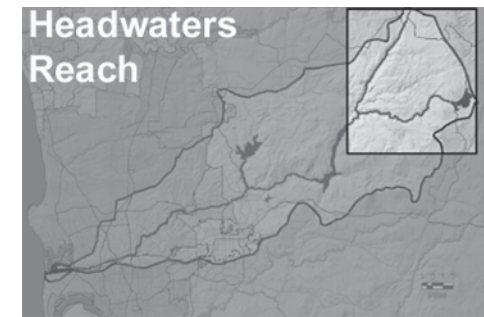
While the San Diego River Park will serve to unify the river as a whole, each reach of the river park maintains distinct resources and character. Recommendations for each reach have been generated in three categories:

- Design
- Patterns
- Character

Design Recommendations

Process

Design Recommendations are generated for each reach of the river park based on an analysis of the opportunities available in each reach. Opportunities, as previously described, are developed from the synthesis of project goals, context and community involvement. Design Recommendations provide guidance regarding the possibilities of design opportunities for each reach. Their specific application in site design is described in detail in Chapter Five, Site Design.



Headwaters

The Headwaters reach is not included within the boundaries of the proposed San Diego River Park, but due to its strong influence on the entire river, the headwaters should be included in planning considerations for the park.

The historic resources, natural river environment, high quality of habitat, and recreational and educational opportunities make connections to this portion of the watershed a high priority.

1. Protect historic resources by coordinating with the local Kumeyaay Indian Reservations to promote their cultural heritage linkages with the San Diego River, with the National Forest and State Park Services to promote cultural identity with the river, and with the town of Julian State Historic Landmark
2. Enhance the preservation and management of historic resources including Kumeyaay village sites of Sinyau-Tehwir, Witlimak, Kosmit, Anyaha and Atlkwanen as well as existing agricultural heritage.
3. Preserve the free-flowing character of the river and its tributaries to prevent further alteration of sediment transport processes.
4. Prevent increased runoff and decreased groundwater infiltration by limiting impermeable surfaces and facilitating public education about the impacts of runoff
5. Prevent deterioration of water quality by maintaining riparian habitat, promoting good management practices for agriculture and recreational facilities, utilizing vegetative filters and stormwater treatment areas for runoff flowing into the river or tributaries, and educating the public about how their actions affect water quality affect downstream
6. Enhance existing native habitat by encouraging habitat protection, including Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Designation for the river, promoting native habitat restoration where necessary, and providing management strategies to counteract the effects of fire suppression
7. Maintain connectivity for habitat and bobcats into the San Diego River corridor
8. Promote appropriate integration of recreation and wildlife by managing for horse traffic and designing to prevent impacts to sensitive species
8. Educate the public about the plants and animals of the region and their potential impacts on them
9. Encourage local schools, colleges and universities to utilize the area as a natural outdoor laboratory
10. Coordinate with Inaja Memorial Picnic Ground and National Recreational Trail
11. Create opportunities for connections to existing trails in Cleveland National Forest and Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and the TransCounty Trail
12. Provide additional opportunities for appropriate recreational facilities and trails as the population grows
13. Provide signage at all river crossings



Reservoir to 67 Freeway

At the western end of the river park, this reach, predominately by agricultural, maintains much of its natural character. Recommendations, therefore, focus on preserving this natural character.

1. Enhance preservation and management of the agricultural heritage of the area through coordination with local farmers
2. Facilitate public education about the history of the river, revealing the changes to the river valley caused by the El Capitan Reservoir and Dam
3. Preserve the free-flowing character of the river and its tributaries to prevent further alteration of sediment transport processes
4. Prevent increased runoff and decreased groundwater infiltration by limiting impermeable surfaces and facilitating public education about the impacts of runoff
5. Prevent further development within the floodplain
6. Develop a program for the removal of non-native flora within the river that can worsen the impacts of flooding
7. Prevent deterioration of water quality by maintaining riparian habitat, promoting good management practices for agriculture, recreational facilities and golf courses, utilizing vegetative filters and stormwater treatment areas for runoff flowing into the river or tributaries from developed areas, and educating the public about how their

- actions affect water quality downstream
8. Monitor groundwater quality and implement improvement strategies such as phytoremediation if necessary
9. Enhance the existing native habitat by encouraging habitat protection, promoting native habitat restoration, and providing management strategies to counter act the effects of fire and flood suppression
10. Maintain connectivity for habitat and bobcats along the San Diego River corridor
11. Promote appropriate integration of recreation and wildlife by managing for horse traffic and designing to prevent impacts to sensitive species
12. Provide interpretive signage about the natural history of the river.
13. Take advantage of educational opportunities to educate the public about the plants and animals of the region and their potential impacts on them. Encourage local schools, colleges and universities to utilize the area as a natural outdoor laboratory
14. Coordinate connections with El Capitan Reservoir, El Monte Park, Lake Jennings and El Monte Golf Course), and enhance these recreational areas to better reflect their river side locations
15. Create a continuous trail along the San Diego River that connects with trails in adjoining reaches
16. Create opportunities for connections to the existing local trails and the Trans-County Trail
17. Provide additional opportunities for recreational areas, trails, and public access, and preserve open space
18. Provide signage at all river crossings and where river park trails cross streets and roads



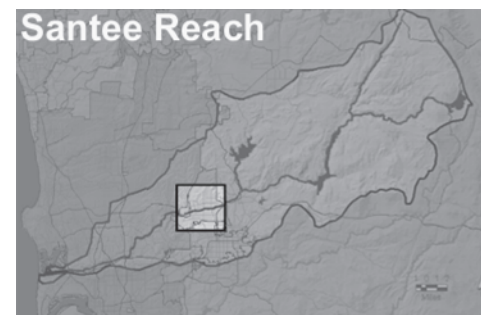
Lakeside

Lakeside is a rapidly changing area as mining and agriculture are being replaced by suburban development. Recommendations for the river park focus on preservation of cultural heritage and improvement of recreational access, with additional recommendations regarding water resources and habitat.

1. Enhance the preservation and management of the agriculture and mining heritage of the area by working with local farmers and designing to reflect the cultural influences of the area
2. Facilitate public education about the history of the river, revealing the changes to the river valley caused by sand mining and channelization
3. Restore mining pits in the river to their natural grades to improve sediment transport processes
4. Prevent increased runoff and decreased groundwater infiltration by maintaining and promoting the use of permeable surfaces and facilitating public education about the impacts of runoff
5. Prevent further development within the floodplain
6. Develop a program for the removal of nonnative fauna in the river that can worsen the impacts of flooding
7. Prevent deterioration of water quality by maintaining riparian habitat, promoting good management practices for agriculture, recreational facilities and golf courses, utilizing vegetative

filters and stormwater treatment areas for runoff flowing into the river or tributaries from developed areas, and educating the public about how their actions affect water quality downstream

8. Monitor groundwater quality and implement improvement strategies such as phytoremediation if necessary
9. Enhance the existing native habitat by encouraging habitat protection, promoting native habitat restoration, and providing management strategies to counteract the effects of fire and flood suppression
10. Maintain connectivity for habitat and bobcats along the San Diego River corridor
11. Promote appropriate integration of recreation and wildlife by managing for horse traffic and designing to prevent impacts to sensitive species.
12. Provide interpretive signage about the natural history of the river
13. Educate the public about the plants and animals of the region and their potential impacts on them
14. Encourage local schools, colleges and universities to utilize the area as a natural outdoor laboratory
15. Coordinate connections with Cactus Park, San Vicente Reservoir and Willowbrook Golf Course and enhance these recreational areas to better reflect their riverside locations
16. Create a continuous trail along the San Diego River, connecting with trails in adjoining reaches
17. Create opportunities for connections to existing local trails
18. Provide additional opportunities for recreational areas and trails, and preserve open space, including retired mining operations, for future public access for a growing population
19. Provide signage at all river crossings and where river park trails cross streets and roads



Santee

Santee has planned for parkland and trails along the length of the river through the city. Recommendations for Santee focus on management practices and educational opportunities to improve water resources and habitat.

1. Enhance the recognition of the Kumeyaay village site of Sinyeweche
2. Enhance the preservation and management of the agriculture and mining heritage of the area by working with local farmers and designing to reflect the cultural influences of the area
3. Facilitate public education about the history of the river, revealing the changes to the river valley caused by sand mining and channelization
4. Restore mining pits in the river to their natural grades to improve sediment transport processes
5. Prevent increased runoff and decreased groundwater infiltration by maintaining and promoting the use of permeable surfaces and facilitating public education about the impacts of runoff
6. Prevent further development within the floodplain
7. Develop a program for the removal of nonnative fauna in the river that can worsen the impacts of flooding.
8. Prevent deterioration of water quality by maintaining riparian habitat, promoting good management practices for agriculture, recreational facilities

and golf courses, utilizing vegetative filters and stormwater treatment areas for runoff flowing into the river or tributaries from developed areas, and educating the public about how their actions affect water quality downstream

9. Monitor groundwater quality and implement improvement strategies such as phytoremediation if necessary
10. Enhance the existing native habitat by encouraging habitat protection, promoting native habitat restoration, and providing management strategies to counteract the effects of fire and flood suppression
11. Maintain connectivity for habitat and bobcats along the San Diego River corridor
12. Promote appropriate integration of recreation and wildlife by managing for horse traffic and designing to prevent impacts to sensitive species
13. Improve interpretive signage about the natural history of the river
14. Encourage local schools, colleges and universities to utilize the area as a natural outdoor laboratory
15. Connect with trails along the river in adjoining reaches
16. Create opportunities for connections to existing local trails
17. Provide signage at all river crossings and where river park trails cross streets and roads

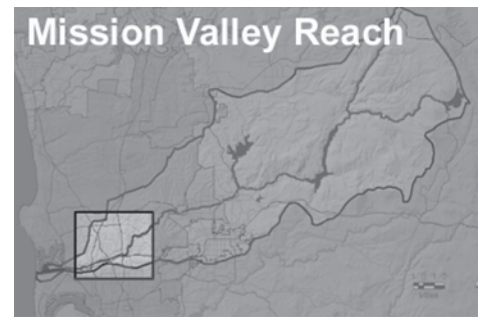


Mission Valley Regional Park

This large regional park is an existing jewel in the center of the proposed river park. Recommendations are focused on management practices for the park and connections to surrounding areas.

1. Coordinate with MTRP to promote the cultural identity of the river and enhance the preservation and management of historic resources including Kumeyaay village sites artifacts and the Mission Dam and Flume National Historic Landmark
2. Prevent increased runoff and decreased groundwater infiltration by maintaining and promoting the use of permeable surfaces and facilitating public education about the impacts of runoff
3. Prevent deterioration of water quality by maintaining riparian habitat, and educating the public about how their actions affect water quality downstream
4. Monitor groundwater quality and implement improvement strategies such as phytoremediation if necessary
5. Enhance the existing native habitat by encouraging habitat protection and native habitat restoration, and by implementing management strategies to counteract the effects of fire and flood suppression
6. Maintain connectivity for habitat and bobcats along the San Diego River corridor
7. Promote appropriate integration of

- recreation and wildlife by managing for horse traffic and designing to prevent impacts to sensitive species
8. Expand interpretive signage about the natural history of the river
 9. Continue to encourage local schools, colleges and universities to utilize the area as a natural outdoor laboratory
 10. Connect with trails along the river in adjoining reaches
 11. Coordinate river park trail and recreational area planning efforts with those of MTRP
 12. Create opportunities for connections to existing local trails
 13. Provide signage at all river crossings and where river park trails cross streets and roads



Mission Valley

Mission Valley is a dense urban area with highly impacted water quality, habitat and limited public open space. It is also the site of much rich cultural history. Recommendations for this reach include increasing recognition and preservation of historic resources, managing for improved water quality, improving habitat quality and providing additional recreational areas.

1. Enhance the recognition of the Kumeyaay village sites of Cosey and Nipaguay
2. Coordinate with Mission Presidio, Mission San Diego de Alcala State Historic Landmark and Old Town State Historic Park to promote the recognition of the river's important role in San Diego History
3. Work to preserve the portion of Mission Flume that is within private property
4. Facilitate public education about the history of the river corridor as the first transcontinental mail route and its role in supplying the infrastructure materials for the building of early San Diego
5. Preserve remaining free-flowing stretches of the river and its tributaries to prevent further alteration of sediment transport processes
6. Restore mining pits in the river to their natural grades to improve sediment transport processes
7. Prevent increased of runoff and

decreased groundwater infiltration by maintaining and promoting the use of permeable surfaces and facilitating public education about the impacts of runoff

8. Prevent further development within the flood plain
9. Develop a program for the removal of nonnatives in the river that can worsen the impacts of flooding
10. Prevent deterioration of water quality by maintaining riparian habitat, promoting good management practices for recreational facilities and golf courses, utilizing vegetative filters and stormwater treatment areas for runoff flowing into the river or tributaries from developed areas, and educating the public about how their actions affect water quality downstream water quality
11. Monitor groundwater quality and implement improvement strategies such as phytoremediation if necessary
12. Enhance the existing native habitat by encouraging habitat protection and native habitat restoration, and by implementing management strategies to counteract the effects of fire and flood suppression
13. Maintain habitat connectivity along the San Diego River corridor
14. Promote appropriate integration of recreation and wildlife by designing to prevent impacts to sensitive species
15. Educate the public about the plants and animals of the region and their potential impacts on them
16. Encourage local schools, colleges and universities to utilize the river corridor as a natural outdoor laboratory
17. Coordinate connections with FISDRIP, Admiral Baker Golf Course and Handly Golf Course (if it remains as a golf course), enhancing these

recreational areas to better reflect their riverside locations

18. Create a continuous trail along the San Diego River connecting with trails in adjoining reaches
19. Create opportunities for connections to existing local trails
20. Provide additional opportunities for recreational areas and trails, and preserve open space for public access, designing for a sense of safety within the river park
21. Provide signage at all river crossings and where river park trails cross streets and roads



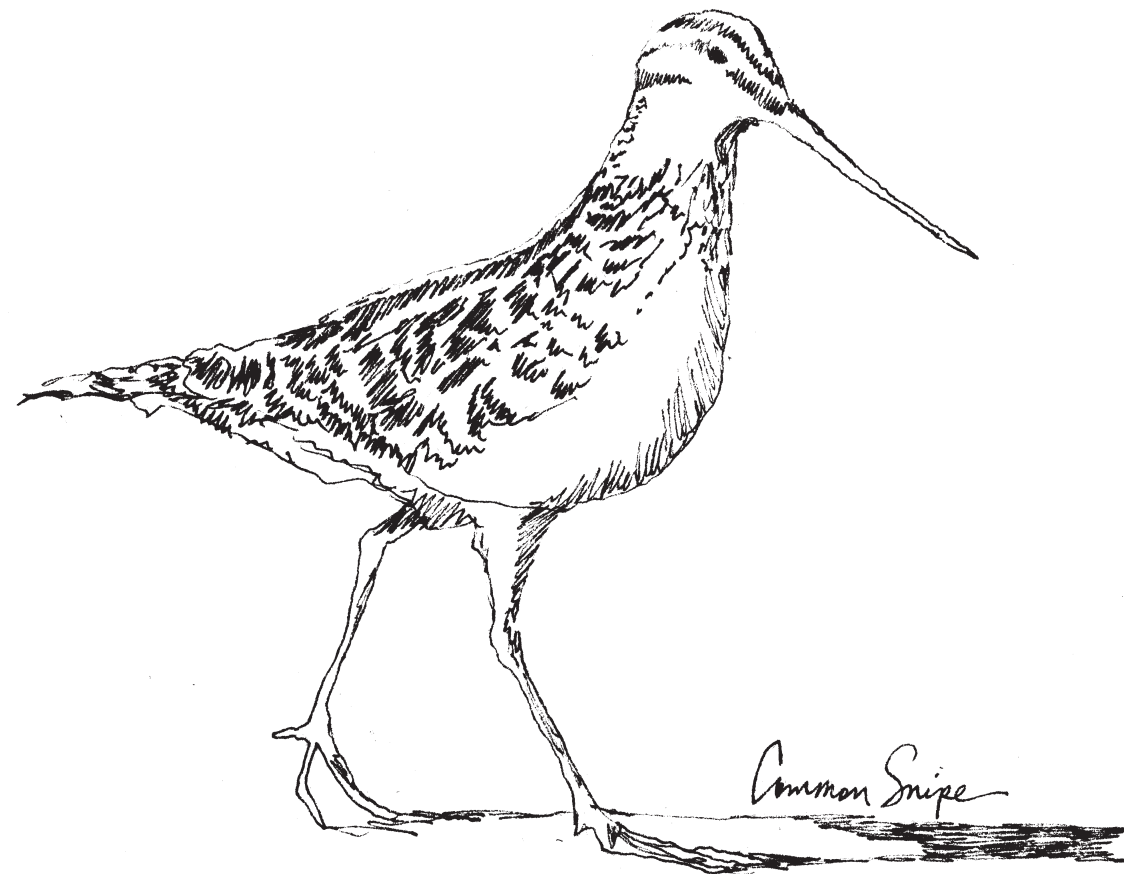
Estuary

Where the San Diego River finally meets the Ocean, is a popular recreation area with abundant yet impacted wildlife, poor water quality and obscured historical resources. Recommendations focus on improving recreational areas, reducing impacts on wildlife, managing to improve water quality and highlighting historical significance.

1. Enhance the recognition of the Kumeyaay village sites of Paulpa
2. Increase public awareness about the changes to the river by illustrating the river's historic water route to the San Diego Bay and the estuary's historic landscape
3. Facilitate public education about the history of the river corridor as the first transcontinental mail route and its role in supplying the infrastructure materials for the building of early San Diego
4. Prevent increased runoff and decreased groundwater infiltration by maintaining and promoting the use of permeable surfaces and facilitating public education about the impacts of runoff
5. Prevent further development within the flood plain
6. Prevent deterioration of water quality by maintaining riparian habitat, promoting good management practices for recreational facilities utilizing vegetative filters and stormwater treatment areas for runoff flowing

into the river or tributaries from developed areas, and educating the public about how their actions affect water quality downstream

7. Enhance the existing native habitat by encouraging habitat protection and native habitat restoration, and by implementing management strategies to counteract the effects of flood suppression
8. Maintain habitat connectivity along the San Diego River corridor
9. Promote appropriate integration of recreation and wildlife by designing to prevent impacts to sensitive species, especially at the sensitive estuary
10. Educate the public about the plants and animals of the region and their potential impacts on them
11. Encourage local schools, colleges and universities to utilize the river corridor as a natural outdoor laboratory
12. Coordinate connections with Robb Field Recreation Center, Dusty Rhodes Park, Famosa Slough and Dog Beach, enhancing these recreational areas to better reflect their riverside locations
13. Create a continuous trail along the San Diego River connecting with trails in adjoining reaches
14. Create opportunities for connections to existing local trails
15. Provide additional opportunities for recreational areas and trails, and preserve open space for public access, designing for a sense of safety within the river park
16. Provide signage at all river crossings and where river park trails cross streets and roads



Pattern Recommendations

Process

Recommendations for the application of Design Patterns in each reach are generated through an analysis of each pattern's suitability within each reach. The Pattern Recommendations complement the Design Recommendations, helping to form the detailed designs of specific areas within the river park. These recommendations are meant to provide general guidance as to the range of possibilities for pattern application in each reach. These recommendations are summarized in the accompanying matrix, which also shows existing similar facilities in each reach. A description of how these recommendations can be used in the design of parks within the river park is provided in Chapter Five, Site Design.

Headwaters

The headwaters, although not part of the river park itself, can benefit from the applications of design patterns within the river corridor and surrounding areas. Most portions of the river in this reach are proposed for Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Designation, meaning protected areas would remain roadless and off-limits to mechanized vehicles. Stormwater treatment was not recommended because no urban areas are adjacent to the river in this reach. Phytoremediation was thought to be incompatible with the natural character of Wilderness Designation. Wildlife underpasses are not necessary in roadless areas. Bicycles are considered mechanized vehicles and are not allowed in wilderness areas, making bicycle facilities unnecessary. Lighting and emergency phones, playgrounds, amphitheaters, recreational fields, golf courses and commercial edges were all deemed inappropriate in the river's protected natural areas.

Reservoir to 67 Freeway

Reservoir to 67 Freeway offers opportunities for application of almost all of the design patterns. Golf courses have serious impacts on both water and habitat, and new golf courses are not recommended in the river park. Commercial edges are not recommended due to the rural character of this reach.

Lakeside and Santee

Lakeside currently has few river park facilities while Santee has many, but both offer opportunities for the application of almost all of the patterns. New golf courses are not recommended for the river park.

Mission Trails Regional Park

Mission Trails Regional Park is a well-developed park facility, but the incorporation of design patterns could enhance its function and help to integrate it into the river park system. Phytoremediation is not recommended within this park because it would not be compatible with its natural character. Recreational fields and commercial edges, again, are incompatible, and golf courses are not recommended for the river park.

Mission Valley

The river becomes very urbanized in Mission Valley and this effects the pattern recommendations. Bobcat corridors are no longer recommended, because bobcats are very unlikely to pass so far into urban areas, and they would likely be harmed on busy streets and roads. Horse facilities are currently not provided in this reach, and due to the urban nature are not recommended. New golf courses are not recommended within the river park.

Estuary

The estuary provides the opportunity for the application of many of the patterns. Phytoremediation is not recommended because of the groundwater's proximity to the salty ocean. Horse facilities are not currently provided and are not recommended for this already heavily used portion of the river. New golf courses are not recommended within the river park.

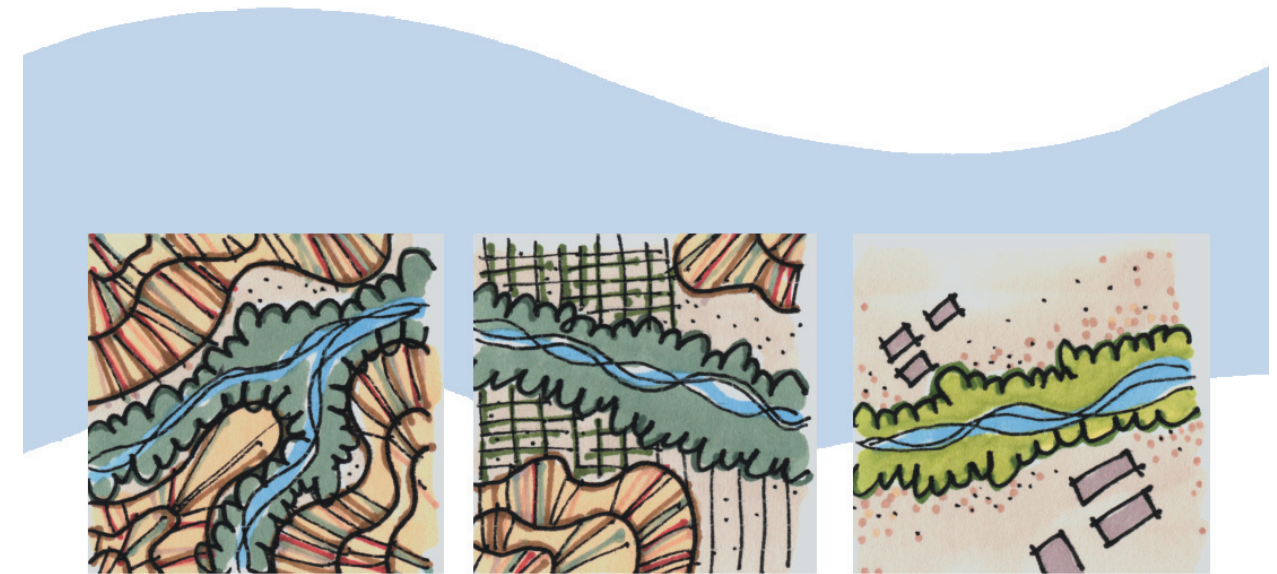
	Headwaters	Reservoir - 67	Lakeside	Santee	MTRP	Mission Valley	Estuary
W-1 Stream Meanders	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
W-2 Bank Restoration	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
W-3 Infiltration Zones	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
W-4 Vegetative Swales	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
W-5 Detention Basins	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
W-6 Retention Basins	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
W-7 Stormwater Treatment		•	•	•	•	•	•
W-8 Phytoremediation		•	•	•		•	
H-1 Habitat Restoration	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
H-2 Habitat Corridor	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
H-3 Bobcat Corridor	•	•	•	•	•		
H-4 Wildlife Underpasses		•	•	•	•	•	
H-5 Sensitive Species Area	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
H-6 Native Landscaping	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-1 Access Points	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-2 Bicycle Facilities		•	•	•	•	•	•
P-3 Public Transit Access	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-4 Parking	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-5 Horse Facilities	•	•	•	•	•		
P-6a SDRP Trail	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-6b Spur Trails	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-6c Horse Trails	•	•	•	•	•		
P-7 Road Crossings	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-8 View Spots	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-9 Water Access	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-10 Kiosks	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-11a River Signage	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-11b Directional Signage	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-11c Interpretive Signage	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-11d Regulatory Signage	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-12 Lighting /Phones		•	•	•	•	•	•
P-13 Benches	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-14 Restrooms	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-15 Maintenance Centers	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-16 Playgrounds		•	•	•	•	•	•
P-17 Picnic Areas	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-18 Amphitheaters		•	•	•	•	•	•
P-19 Art	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
P-20 Recreational Fields		•	•	•		•	•
P-21 Golf Courses							
P-22 Commercial Edges			•	•		•	

Existing • Recommended

Character Recommendations

Process

Character Recommendations provide guidance for the design aesthetics in each reach of the river park. These recommendations are formed based on an understanding of the project context. Each reach has distinctive natural and cultural characters that fuse together to create regional patterns. The layering of time, processes and events has engrained the landscape with elements that are slowly ebbing as development and sprawl increases. The river park has the opportunity to capture these engrained qualities, express and preserve them. The character of each reach provides seeds for design and reinforces the river's uniqueness and individuality. The natural and cultural forces that have evolved in each reach through time influence materials, form and color. The river park is a living landscape and is inherently meant to evolve and not to be frozen in time. Exploring the layering process that adapts the landscape deepens the meaning of design and describes the evolution. By identifying elements that suggest each reach's character, the community will perceive natural and cultural character in addition to the historic architectural landmarks. While it is important to embody the characteristics of each reach, the identity of the whole river park is just as important as the accumulation of its parts. Materials, form and color of each reach should be individualized while maintaining design consistency for regional identity. These characteristics can be applied to design patterns such as signage, benches, playgrounds, art, etc to create unique yet integrated identities for each reach of the river park.



Headwaters

The abundance of native landscape and dramatic scale influence the design character.

Material:

- Craggy rocks in higher elevations
- River rocks in lower elevations

Form:

- Natural, simple curves
- Blend in with the surroundings by keeping the elements unobtrusive

Color:

- Oak green
- Manzanita blue
- Deep rust



Reservoir to 67 Freeway

The native landscape as well as the introduction of agriculture influence the design character.

Material:

- River rocks
- Sand
- Wood

Form:

- Rustic, not refined
- Play off elements of agriculture

Color:

- Sky blue
- Sand
- Oak green



Lakeside

The rock outcrops on distant hillsides, subdued colors of the earth and the historic presence of agriculture influence the design character.

Material:

- Smooth boulders
- Metal
- Sand

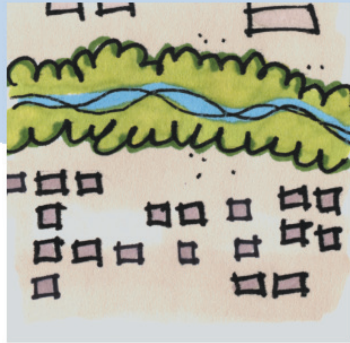
Form:

- Historic grid of agriculture
- Organic cottonwood and sycamore shapes
- Unrefined

Color:

- Dusty pink
- Rust
- Sycamore yellow
- Cottonwood green





Santee

The native valley landscape as well as the encroaching development influence the design character.

Material:

- Boulders
- Sand
- Metal

Form:

- More refined
- Play off the geometry of development

Color:

- Sky blue
- Sand
- Sycamore yellow
- Cottonwood green



MTRP

The gorge and its striking natural surroundings influence the design character.

Material:

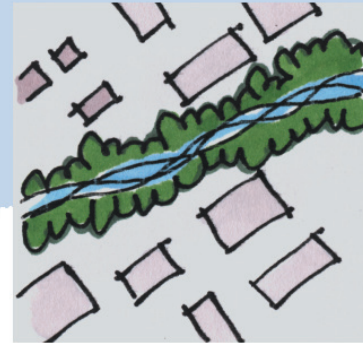
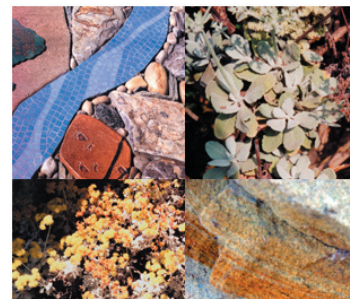
- Sandstone
- River rocks

Form:

- Layered
- Organic
- Upright forms

Color:

- Deep and light rusts
- Cottonwood green
- Saffron yellow
- Buckwheat silver



Mission Valley

The oversized scales of natural and built forms and the historical changes that have been made to the river influence the design character.

Material:

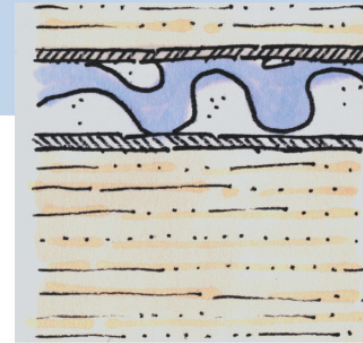
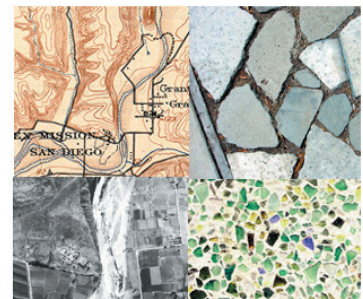
- Sand
- Metal
- Ceramic tile
- Glass
- Small rocks

Form:

- Historic meander and flood of the river
- Organic forms for the historic reference
- Grid forms for the contemporary structure

Color:

- Clear blue
- Willow green
- Cottonwood green



Estuary

The strong coastal and beach lifestyle influence the design character.

Material:

- Sand
- Ceramic tile
- Glass
- Driftwood
- Small rocks

Form:

- Alluvial flow

Color:

- Washed colors

