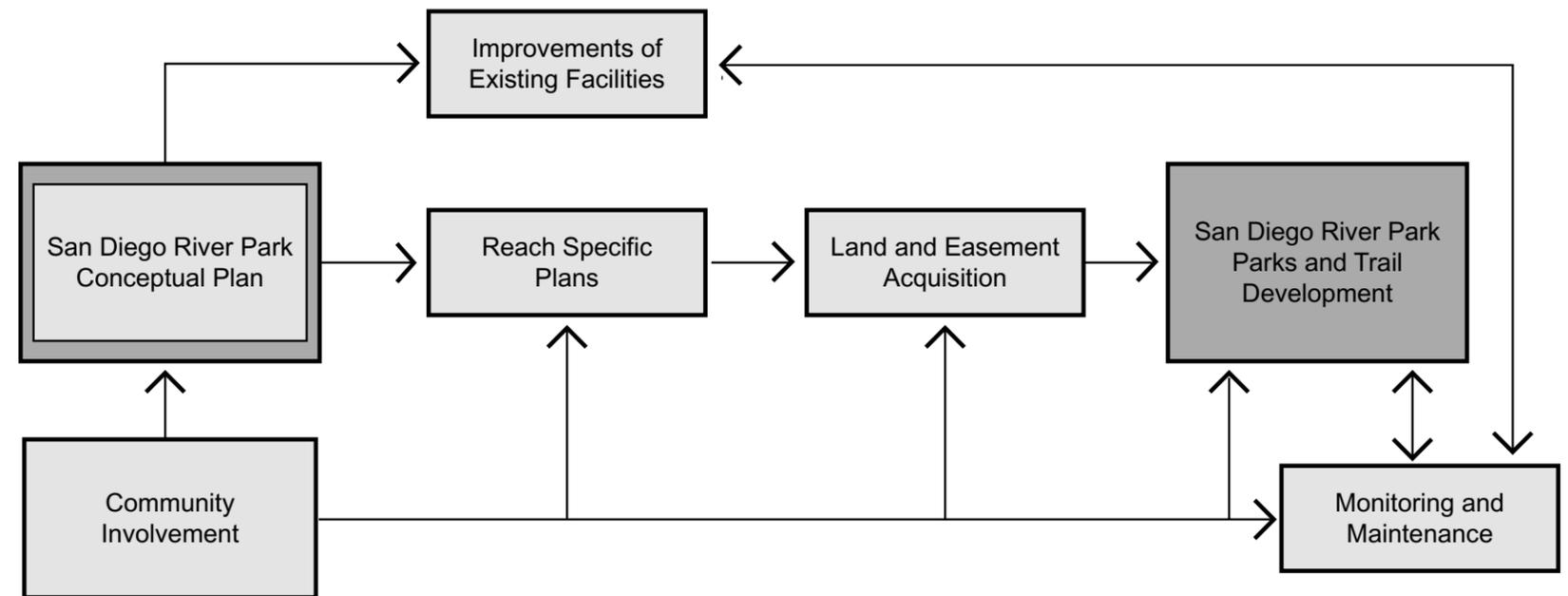




IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



Conceptual plan implementation process flowchart

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The process of building the San Diego River Park will occur over many years and with the combined efforts of many individuals, public agencies and private organizations. This document represents only a first step in a long process of implementation. It is necessary to understand the process as a whole to understand the actions that need to be taken now to move the park project forward. The implementation plan for the San Diego River Park has been divided into three distinct phases, with each subsequent phase following upon the completion of the previous phase.

PHASE ONE

Phase one involves the development of Reach Specific Plans, improvements of existing facilities, and community outreach.

Reach Specific Plans

The next step in the design process of the San Diego River Park is the development of specific plans for the reaches of the river park. Working within the framework of the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan, the specific plans for each reach will develop planning goals and objec-

tives, a plan illustrating the aims for this particular section of the river park, and specific recommendations for funding and land and easement acquisition. Following a similar process to the one presented in this document at a smaller and more detailed scale, the specific planning process will involve extensive community involvement and incorporate project goals and recommendations from the conceptual plan.

To facilitate the development of the Reach Specific Plans, the following studies should be undertaken to gain a better understanding of the context of each reach:

1. Conduct a trail and bikeway feasibility study to address the specific planning issues of developing continuous trails throughout the proposed river park. Focus on opportunities for increased public access to the river.
2. Analyze possible funding opportunities, including federal, state, local, and private sources, and strategies to best secure funding options.
3. Examine opportunities for the San Diego River Park to take advantage of restoration and land acquisition necessitated by mitigation requirements. Develop strategies so design is compatible with mitigation needs. Options for setting up a mitigation bank for the river park should be considered.
4. Coordinate with local universities, colleges or high schools to conduct a thorough historical inventory of all resources within the proposed river park. A clear understanding of the locations of historical resources is necessary before park construction can take place to avoid inadvertent damage to irreplaceable resources.
5. Coordinate with local universities, colleges or high schools for ongoing habitat research. Begin collecting base data about sensitive species occurrences and begin monitoring potential habitat choke points and degraded areas. Continue monitoring throughout the establishment of the river park and beyond to guide

management decisions and gain the greater understanding of the habitat-benefits of urban riparian parks.

6. Develop a better understanding of water quality issues along the river and its tributaries, especially in Mission Valley and other areas with known contamination problems. Include an understanding of the effects of golf courses, locally applied herbicides and pesticides and contamination from underground storage tanks on habitat and wildlife.

Existing Facilities Improvements

Improvements to existing facilities and publicly owned land can begin the process of creating the San Diego River Park:

1. Develop a coordinated habitat restoration and exotic species eradication plan for the entire proposed park. Work with existing groups, organizations and agencies currently performing this work, and conduct outreach to gather more support and volunteers.
2. Improve existing parks and trails within the river park by installing coordinating kiosks and signage relating the river and river park. Develop and implement interpretive signage programs for existing facilities. Implement the recommended designs for Robb Field and Dusty Rhodes Park, improving connections to and recognition of the river's resources.
3. Develop the proposed Mission City River Park and Cottonwood Grove Park on publicly owned land, inspiring the community with possibilities for the future of the river park.

Community Outreach

Community outreach is essential to the planning and development of the river park. Increased recognition for the river and the proposed river park can help generate increased support for the park. The river park will belong to the community and it is their involvement and visions for the park that must guide the process:

1. Install San Diego River identification signage at all river crossings including roads, freeways and trolleys to help increase public recognition of the river.
2. Develop and implement educational signage about the San Diego River and the proposed river park for use in San Diego trolleys and at trolley stops and on other public transportation lines.
3. Continue working with the local community through public meetings, seminars and participation at festival and events.

PHASE TWO

Phase Two follows from the specific planning process and community outreach in phase one. This phase involves land and easement acquisition, parks and trail development and ongoing community outreach.

Land and Easement Acquisition

With the completion of Reach Specific Plans, providing reach specific recommendations for funding and land and easement acquisition, acquisition for sites to be incorporated into the river park can begin:



1. Implement recommended funding strategies to raise money for acquisition.
2. Purchase or otherwise acquire land and easements according to the specific planning recommendations.

Parks and Trail Development

As land and easements are acquired, the development of new parks and trails within the river park can begin:

1. Design and construct river park facilities for acquired sites based on the Reach Specific Plans. Use the design process detailed in Chapter Five, Site Design, from this document, the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan, to guide the selection of goals and objectives, elements and character for each site.
2. Construct the portions of the San Diego River Park Trail as opportunities arise; it will serve as the backbone of the park and link existing and future facilities together. Construct local connected trails including spur trails and horse trails. Design with respect to habitat needs and include access spots, public transit access, parking, bike facilities, horse facilities, signage programs

and other applicable design patterns as described in the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan.

3. Design a comprehensive maintenance program for all park facilities before the completion of construction. Ensure that adequate funding and/or volunteer labor is available for the ongoing care of river park facilities.

Ongoing Community Outreach

Public outreach is ongoing during the implementation process of the river park. Strategies in Phase Two build from the outreach in Phase One:

1. Continue strategies for community outreach detailed in Phase One.
2. Hold a public celebration at the opening of the San Diego River Park Trail. Host a bicycle ride along the length of the river and walks in each reach. Make it a quarterly event to watch the seasonal changes along the river.
3. Develop a yearly festival to involve the public in caring for the river park. Events can be held at sites along the park where people can help with restoration, clean up and park maintenance.

PHASE THREE

Phase Three will involve monitoring and maintenance of the established San Diego River Park, as well as ongoing community outreach.

Monitoring and Maintenance

Monitoring and maintenance are essential to the long-term viability of the river park. Strategies must be developed to ensure that these activities can continue as long as the park does:

1. Continue monitoring park resources after park establishment. Monitor historic resources, wildlife and habitat quality, as well as water quality, quantity and sedimentation issues. Adjust maintenance practices as necessary.
2. Monitor park usage and community needs, develop strategies to ensure that the river park continues to serve the needs of a changing public.
3. Continue to maintain park facilities in a proactive and timely way. Maintain the park as a highly valuable community resource. Ensure that funding and labor strategies developed in Phase Two are adequate to meet the needs of the established park.

Ongoing Community Support

Ongoing community support will benefit and enhance the established river park:

1. Continue the community outreach strategies from Phases One and Two.
2. Develop new strategies reflecting the changing desires and needs of the local community.