

San Diego Canyonlands

3552 Bancroft Street, San Diego, CA 92104

Dear Neighbor,

Did you know there is hidden treasure in your backyard?

Of the dozens of canyons in San Diego, **Maple Canyon is one of the most precious**, an urban oasis for many beautiful plants and creatures, including endangered species! It's an incredible place to visit and feel renewed by a peaceful slice of nature in the middle of our bustling city.

Canyons serve many vital functions for San Diego. They provide habitat for wildlife, filter our air, protect our beaches from storm water pollution, and offer priceless natural places of escape for families and residents like you.

In 2003, a "**Friends of Maple Canyon**" group was established to care for your neighborhood canyon. Since then, our work at San Diego Canyonlands, a non-profit organization, has expanded to protect and restore canyons all over the city. We have four key initiatives:

Open Space Protection. As a result of our work, City Council has dedicated over 13,200 acres as protected open space, an area 12 times the size of Balboa Park! We are still working towards protecting thousands more acres around the city.

Sustainable Stewardship. We have organized "friends groups" to care for 45 canyons. Last year, we mobilized over 5000 adult and youth volunteers to help clean up garbage, install signs, repair trails, and restore native vegetation and wildlife habitat.

Youth Programs. Through partnerships with Girls Scouts of America, Jackie Robinson Family YMCA, the Ocean Discovery Institute, and many others, we offer nature education and hands-on stewardship training to thousands of young people throughout San Diego each year.

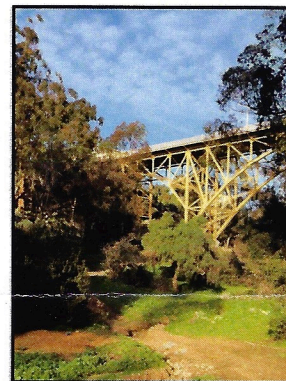
Canyon Enhancement. Alongside science and policy experts, we developed a method of enhancement planning that can be used to restore San Diego's green spaces step-by-step. We recently won \$365,000 from the California Strategic Growth Council to carry out action plans in four City Heights canyons. Now we are working to strengthen sustainable stewardship and begin the **Canyon Enhancement Planning Process** for **Maple Canyon**.

Our successes protecting open space, mobilizing volunteers, and restoring canyons are only the beginning. **We need your help to continue our work.** Your generous **tax-deductible donation** provides essential tools, habitat plants, supplies, and other needs not met by grant funds. Please consider giving today.

With gratitude,

Eric Bowlby
Executive Director, San Diego Canyonlands

P.S. Even if you can't contribute today, I hope you will consider joining Maple Canyon Friends (see enclosed form), or at least take a stroll in the canyon with one of our upcoming events. I'm certain you'll enjoy it!



Majestic Maple Canyon



Maple Canyon Friends celebrate a successful cleanup