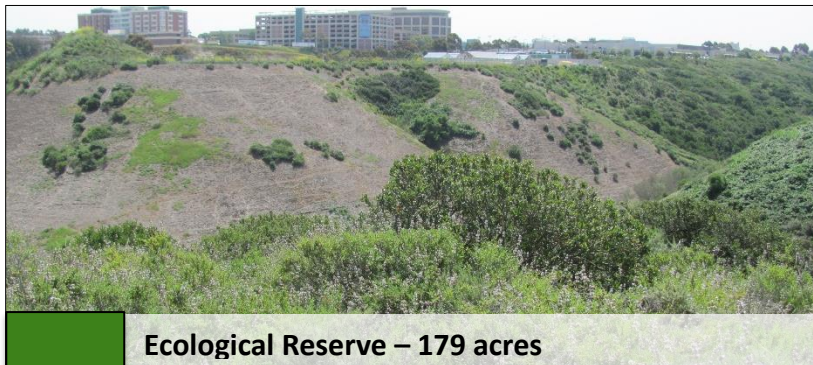


I. BACKGROUND

336 of UC San Diego's 1,158-acre campus is devoted to protected open space, these areas include natural chaparral-filled canyons, eucalyptus groves and other undeveloped wildlands. These areas are a resource and amenity, and contribute to UC San Diego's campus identity.

The 2018 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) identifies an integrated system of four open spaces with distinct vegetation, topography, and geography as the Open Space Preserve (Figure 1). The four open space designations total 336-acres and include: Ecological Reserve, Historic Grove, Restoration Lands, and Urban Forest (an increase of 26-acres from the 2004 LRDP's "Park"). Development activities within the Open Space Preserve (OSP) are restricted and in some cases are prohibited.



The Ecological Reserve areas of the OSP contribute to UC San

Diego's unique setting and include the canyons north and south of Voigt Drive on the West Campus, Skeleton Canyon and the sloped areas adjacent to La Jolla Shores Drive at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and the Central and North Canyons on East Campus. The Ecological Reserve resources within the OSP land use category are biologically sensitive and boundary adjustments may only be considered on a case-by-case basis if compelling circumstances warrant such consideration. No buildings, roads or driveways will be permitted in this area of the OSP. Essential utility infrastructure improvements may be considered, but may be implemented only with appropriate mitigation of potential biological impacts. Implementation of a pedestrian trail (or campus meander) along perimeters of the Ecological Reserve will be allowed. Further, because the Ecological Reserve lands include most of UC San Diego's stands of native vegetation, this area, when appropriate and sensitive to the Ecological Reserve function, can serve as an important resource for teaching and research.

The UC San Diego Open Space Management Program is intended to maintain and enhance the existing biological values within the OSP Ecological Reserve. The program is focused in this area of the OSP due to the higher level of sensitivity of those habitats. Key components of the program

include mitigation management, maintenance, and monitoring activities.



Restoration Lands – 59 acres

The Restoration Lands include slopes along the west frontage of Interstate 5 and the South Canyon on East Campus, between the Ecological Reserve and Urban Forest south of Genesee Ave, slopes north of La Jolla Village Drive, north of La Jolla Shores Drive and the coastal bluffs west of Scripps Institution of Oceanography. These areas have been disturbed by erosion and invasive vegetation. Efforts to restore these lands are defined in the EIR for the 2018 LRDP and generally include the restoration of these lands to a native or Ecological Reserve condition. Development in these areas is restricted but may

move forward if the proposed improvements have a net benefit to the OSP.



Historic Grove – 42 acres

The Historic Grove areas of the OSP include the eucalyptus stands, stretching south from the intersection of Hopkins and Voigt Drive through the core of the campus to the intersection of North Torrey Pines and Revelle College Drive. These areas were identified as a significant historic resource as part of the 2018 LRDP. The mature eucalyptus groves are a valuable cultural landscape and aesthetic resource to the campus. These trees have defined much of the landscape character of UC San Diego over the past 50 years. The “campus within the grove” is a defining aesthetic character to many who have studied and worked at UC San Diego over the years. The Historic

Grove provides a rustic landscape character that creates an important sense of place for the campus. Sustainable management of this resource is fundamental to its long term success. Future expansion of existing and new facilities will be restricted in these areas and efforts should be made to reduce building footprints and restore the eucalyptus groves to enhance the integrity of this open space. Development of suitable bicycle and pedestrian paths in the Historic Grove is encouraged but tree health and location should be paramount in the design and implementation of these projects.

The Historic Grove has been impacted by prior development, drought, disease, and aging of the original stands of eucalyptus, many of which were planted around the turn of the last century. To provide a sustainable approach to the management of the campus landscape, it must be understood that campus utility needs, public safety, and fire management require that care and thoughtful planning provide for the replenishment, proper care, and reforestation of these areas as required to provide an attractive, healthy, and at times, flexible environment.



Urban Forest – 56 acres

The Urban Forest consists of portions of areas previously identified as “Park Grove Reserve” and includes the large stands of eucalyptus trees adjacent to Hopkins Drive, east of Geisel Library, within Pepper Canyon, south of Scholars Drive and the Central Utility Plant, and westward from the intersection of Expedition Way and North Torrey Pines Road to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the coast. In these areas, the University seeks to introduce a diversity of tree species. Torrey Pines would be most appropriate at more prominent public entries where space allows but other trees native to the Mediterranean, Australia and California should also be planted. Future expansion of existing facilities and new facilities will be restricted in these areas and efforts should be made to reduce

building footprints and replenish the Urban Forest to enhance the integrity of this open space. Development of suitable bicycle and pedestrian paths in the Urban Forest is allowed but tree health and location should be paramount in the design and implementation of these projects.



The 2018 LRDP estimates that total development could increase by 8.9 million square feet by 2035. The anticipated growth presents potential challenges to the protection of these natural campus resources as the campus continues to urbanize. As the campus continues to grow, campus stewards" must continue to review existing, and alternative development guidelines. The three planning policies discussed in this document include: 1)

No Net Loss, 2) 2:1 Tree Replacement, and 3) Urban Park Overlay Zone

II. EXISTING POLICY

The 1994 approved language for "No Net Loss" to the Park states: *In the event that minor adjustments must be made to the boundaries of the Park to accommodate campus improvements, "no net loss" to the Park should occur. This goal should be accomplished by adding comparable acreage into the Park to compensate for loss. The land added to the Park should be adjacent to the Park boundaries and in proximity to the area removed from the Park.*

The 2002 approved language for tree replacement within the Grove states: *Trees removed from the Grove should be replaced at a ratio of 2:1 (two new trees for every one tree removed) with appropriate irrigation improvements. Replacement of previously damaged or missing trees does not fulfill the 2:1 replacement ratio. Trees should be replaced where appropriate per the Grove maintenance and management plan.*

III. RECOMMENDED POLICY

The proposed updated language to these policies reads as follows: *In the event that minor adjustments must be made to*

the boundaries of the Open Space Preserve to accommodate campus improvements, "No Net Loss" to the Open Space Preserve should occur. This goal should be accomplished by adding comparable acreage into the Open Space Preserve to compensate for loss. Ideally the land added to the Open Space Preserve should be adjacent to the Open Space Preserve boundaries and in proximity to the area removed from the Open Space Preserve. It is only appropriate to use less proximate and noncontiguous lands when no contiguous options exist.

Campus trees are exposed to difficult growing environments with constricted growing spaces, compacted soils, contamination, disease, storms, poor maintenance, and pest infestation. Tree removals within the Urban Forest and Historic Grove should be replaced at a 2:1 ratio (two new trees for every one tree removed) along with required irrigation improvements. Replacement of previously damaged or missing trees does not fulfill the 2:1 replacement ratio.

Within The Open Space Preserve, trees, alive or dead, that negatively affect the health and safety of the public, threaten campus property and or impact vehicle, bike and pedestrian traffic should be reviewed for replacement purposes. Campus

staff will review each tree replacement case and recommend needed actions if required.

Through development concurrent with the completion of the 2018 LRDP a need has arisen to identify an overlay zone in portions of the Urban Forest adjacent to active public space. Creating an Urban Park Overlay Zone (UPOZ) offers a method to improve the health and safety of all campus community and visitors within the Urban Forest. The UPOZ would allow paths for enhanced accessibility, lighting and design appropriate for these urban and public locations while still protecting and enhancing the protected open space.

In areas within the UPOZ that have an existing steep topography, accessible paths can be provided. Path design and alignment shall be determined by existing adjacent trees if applicable.

The UPOZ recognizes the public character of these spaces and therefore would additionally allow for lighting levels that provide safe circulation through these spaces. Planting in these areas should be arranged to maximize safety while minimizing dense foliage and maximizing sightlines. The UPOZ will provide a safe accessible natural environment. Development Guidelines for these portions of the Urban Forest are otherwise unchanged and all other policies still apply.



All images: UC San Diego Campus Planning, and UC San Diego Open Space Master Planning Study