Chapter 5.8 Parks, Recreation, & Open Space

Most park and open space areas are local amenities. The implementation of projects to develop parkland or obtain open space areas then becomes a local decision intended to serve a focused, local population, often residing within a few miles of a given developed park or open space area. On the other hand, regional parks and open space areas tend to be larger, and serve a population coming miles away from the community where the facility is located. These facilities often provide more diverse amenities than those found in locally operated park facilities, and are managed to attract visitors from a wider area. Visitors come from within the Santa Ana River Watershed (Watershed) or from adjoining areas. The diversity of available facilities may enhance the region’s attractiveness to visitors and thereby provide economic growth through increased tourism. Most notably, parkland containing exceptional natural resources may attract eco-tourists looking for an opportunity to experience outdoor activities unavailable in the area in which they live. The wide variety of topography and natural resources within the Watershed provides excellent opportunities for the development of this type of tourism.

Regional park facilities also may serve an important role in the continued economic development of the region. Businesses interested in attracting highly skilled workers often use the proximity to well developed recreational resources in attracting and retaining talent. Among the amenities often considered by skilled professionals are culture and the arts, nightlife, and the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities. From the ocean to the mountains, the Watershed provides numerous opportunities for such a population.

Running through the Watershed is the Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway (SART), a regional recreational amenity linking open space areas throughout the Watershed. Models such as the SART also could be developed in other parts of the Watershed, such as in San Timoteo Canyon, along Lytle Creek, and within the San Jacinto Watershed. Completion of these linear park amenities and their connection with the existing trail backbone would create a world-class recreation system available to millions of residents and visitors. Trail and park amenities linked to the waterways within the Watershed are the focus of the following discussion.

Summary

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Pillar brought together park, recreation, and open space advocates from the three counties, including cities, other governmental agencies, and citizens who are interested in public access relative to water resources in the Watershed. This group focused attention on the larger “picture” of opportunities. However, they consider the development of the SART as a model for the development of additional regional amenities where close cooperation across many areas and jurisdictions is necessary.
The general findings included a survey of current regional park and open space offerings and conditions. While there have been many accomplishments, especially with regard to river access, more planning, management, and coordination need to occur and be sustained. Urban development patterns, high land prices, and low availability of land for recreation make expansion of opportunities difficult. Also, new parks or trails may impact habitat with limited land remaining for public access and recreation.

Possible future threats include uneven funding for new trails and parks within the Watershed, a shortage of on-going maintenance funds, and maintaining a high level of security and care for the parks and trails.

Strategies for addressing existing threats include: 1) seeking more stable funding through assessments; 2) increased public awareness of park, recreation and open space issues; 3) development of a plan to leverage existing resources and expertise; 4) forging and maintaining partnerships; 5) improving mapping of resources; 6) curtailing vandalism by increased patrol presence; and 7) ensuring regional park master plans include proper trail and open space protections. The most important regional strategy is to fund and complete the SART. It’s also imperative to help local agencies find support for their recreation needs radiating from the SART backbone. The model developed on the Mainstem of the Santa Ana River (SAR) to develop the SART can be adapted to tributaries such as San Timoteo Creek and the San Jacinto River.

**Current Conditions**

**Description of Resource (or Management of Resource) Include Geographic Patterns**

The SAR stretches approximately 100 miles from the crest of the San Bernardino Mountains to the coast of the Pacific Ocean. It is uniquely southern Californian in its beauty, hydrology, and utility. Dry in locations at certain times of the year and intermittent along its course, it long has been the focus of passionate citizens eager to see its potential realized as a destination for recreation, commerce, and the conservation of natural and scenic beauty.

The Watershed drains 1,082,540 acres from its headwaters in the San Bernardino Mountains to its terminus in the Pacific Ocean. Elevations range from 11,502 feet on the top of San Gorgonio Peak to sea level at the river’s end at Huntington Beach. The river is narrow and constrained in its upper reaches and naturally would form a delta in the lower portions of the valleys. However, flood control measures and dam construction have altered the natural hydrology and geography of the river. The river is interrupted by two major dams and contains numerous areas constrained by concrete flood control improvements.

On a glorious winter's day, the Watershed is arguably one of the most beautiful places on earth. Snow-capped peaks and azure skies provide the backdrop for velvety-green foothills and citrus groves laden with orange and yellow fruits. Much of this region is still wild and provides a refuge for those plants and animals that thrive in such unaltered conditions. The Watershed with its unique location between desert, mountains, and sea, encompasses a complex blend of terrain, climates, and habitats, and consequently contains a wealth of outdoor recreational opportunities.
Current recreation opportunities in the Watershed include bicycling, hiking, walking, rock climbing, geocaching, bird watching, horseback riding, and organized team and individual sports. The availability and level of participation in such activities is dictated by terrain, the location within the Watershed, and degree of urbanization. For example, approximately 20% of the Watershed is within the San Bernardino National Forest. Recreational opportunities in this area are much different than in highly urbanized areas such as the cities of San Bernardino and Huntington Beach. In the upper Watershed, hiking, rock climbing, and mountain biking are very popular on national forest lands. In the lower, more urbanized areas in the Watershed, jogging and cycling are more common as well as organized sports such as soccer and baseball. Sports fields are located adjacent to the river along its length.

The centerpiece of recreation in the Watershed is the SART, a 100-mile long trail currently under development, extending from the crest of the San Bernardino Mountains to the coast of the Pacific Ocean. The trail runs through three counties, 15 cities, and multiple special jurisdictions. The trail is approximately 65% complete with plans to complete the remaining portions over the next five years (Table 5.8-1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Completed (miles)</th>
<th>In Construction (miles*)</th>
<th>Planned (miles*)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Bernardino</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Miles</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Mileages are approximate and do not include earthen trail in San Bernardino National Forest.

The SART, shown below in Figure 5.8-1, is a common thread through each county, and Figure 5.8-2 lists the recreational opportunities available in the Watershed. Table 5.8-2 describes each county’s unique set of recreational resources.
Figure 5.8-1  Santa Ana River Trail Parkway

Figure 5.8-2  Recreational Opportunities within the Watershed
### Table 5.8-2  Regional Recreational Resources by County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Name and Location of Recreational Resource</th>
<th>Description of Resource and Available Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **San Bernardino County** | San Bernardino National Forest | Approximately 672,000 acres  
352 miles of trails  
Camping, fishing, hiking, equestrian, skiing, outdoor education, biking, target shooting and motorized sports |
|                 | Chino Hills State Park  
Chino Hills | 6,000 acre park  
Mostly open space  
Hiking, bird watching, mountain biking |
|                 | Wildwood Canyon State Park  
Yucaipa | Under development  
1,200 acres currently; plans to expand to 5,000 acres and to develop trails and campgrounds |
|                 | County Parks: Glen Helen, Prado Basin,  
Cucamonga Guasti, Lake Gregory, and Yucaipa | Approximately 4,500 acres total  
Camping, fishing, swimming and general day use |
|                 | City Parks: Cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Redlands,  
San Bernardino, Colton, Highland and Loma Linda  
City Parks: Cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Redlands,  
San Bernardino, Colton, Highland and Loma Linda | Various locations, facilities and acreages with mostly urban uses |
|                 | Rails to Trails  
Upland and Fontana | |
|                 | Wildlands Conservancy Los Rios Rancho, Oak Glen | 6,000 acres of open space with hiking and outdoor educational facilities |
| **Riverside County** | County Parks: Hidden Valley Wildlife Area,  
Martha McLean-Anza Narrows, Rancho Jurupa, and Louis Rubidoux Nature Center | Hiking, bird watching, equestrian, camping, and outdoor education |
|                 | City Parks: Norco River Trails, Mt. Rubidoux Park, Fairmount Park, and Butterfield | Various locations, facilities and acreages with mostly urban uses |
Regional Strengths, Threats, and Weaknesses

Physical

One of the great strengths of the region is that each county is geographically distinct, providing a variety of recreational opportunities. However, this diversity in topography also creates some threats and challenges. The biggest threat to recreation in the region is arguably patterns of urban development. The upper portion of the Watershed, in San Bernardino County, is mountainous and relatively less populated than other areas in the Watershed. The lower valleys are more urban with a discernible pattern of higher density near the coast. However, recently, relatively lower land values inland have resulted in increasing urbanization in these areas. Open space is being converted at a rapid pace, reducing opportunities to establish large parks and natural recreational amenities. The result most likely will be the development of more urban parks, which will support more urban recreational activities.

The upper portion of the Watershed being mountainous, results in a diversity of activities associated with forested environments. These include skiing, camping, hiking, rock climbing, and fishing. The middle portion of the Watershed is relatively flat, valley terrain and is more densely urbanized. Activities in these areas include walking, jogging, bike riding, and horseback riding. Also, activities associated with more urban environments such as organized team sports played on developed fields, are more common in these areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Name and Location of Recreational Resource</th>
<th>Description of Resource and Available Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>County Parks: 3 regional parks along SART</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>City Parks: 9 City parks along SART</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burris Basin currently under development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Existing equestrian facilities: Rancho Del Rio and Singletree Farms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SART bikeway: 27 miles complete</td>
<td>Multi-purpose trail on 25 acres. Bird watching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Riding and hiking trail: 23 miles complete</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Talbert Marsh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upper Newport Bay State Ecological Reserve/Interpretive Center</td>
<td>Bird watching, outdoor education, biking, and walking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Irvine Ranch Wildlands and Parks</td>
<td>Hiking, equestrian, outdoor education, and mountain biking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve</td>
<td>300 acres Outdoor education, hiking, biking, bird watching, and camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bolsa Chica State Beach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5.8-2   Regional Recreational Resources by County (continued...)
The proximity of the ocean in the lower parts of the Watershed is a draw for outdoor recreation in Orange County. The beach provides recreational opportunities found nowhere else in the Watershed. This is a strength, in that unique activities are available, but also a weakness in that the area is heavily used and requires additional maintenance and management. Facilities require greater upkeep and the potential for conflicts among users is higher here than elsewhere.

The presence of the Prado Dam in the center of the Watershed also creates some unique challenges and opportunities. The area behind the dam is a largely undisturbed wetland, habitat to a number of threatened and endangered bird species. Bird watching is popular in this area, but access is challenging. Additionally, the river below the dam has water year round, providing recreational opportunities such as boating and fishing. The river upstream of the dam is more intermittent and does not offer these same opportunities in the same way.

The presence of the SART and various state and regional parks adjacent to the river along its course, provide a ready-made infrastructure on which to build future trail linkages. There are few recreational trails adjacent to water in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, but opportunities exist to develop recreational amenities at flood control facilities.

**Institutional**

All counties and cities in the Watershed have some type of park and recreation management agency in place. These agencies provide an existing framework from which to plan and implement future projects. Several working groups currently exist to address specific issues that also provide forums from which to collaborate. Additionally, many agencies have developed management plans for various parks and resources under their purview. For example, most cities have master plans that reference recreation along the river. A major institutional strength is that most of the agencies currently cooperate and maintain good working relationships with each other as they endeavor to build trails.

Most all of the cities in the watershed have completed or are in the process of completing some type of vision document for the Santa Ana River Trail within their jurisdictions. Sponsored mainly by the Wildlands Conservancy, these “blue ribbon” committees have assembled stakeholders in each city to craft a vision for recreation adjacent to the river. Each city will have a document that can be used to guide future recreational development.

Private institutions, such as the Wildlands Conservancy, located in San Bernardino County, provide key private support and involvement. Wildlands Conservancy has provided critical and substantial funding and works effectively with government agencies to further outdoor recreational and educational programs. Other groups, such as the Crafton Hills, Yucaipa Valley, San Bernardino Mountain, and Riverside land conservancies are working with their own contacts and partners to acquire lands, build connecting trails, and encourage elected officials to make recreation and open space a priority.
The SART Partnership, a relatively new collaboration between public and private entities on the Watershed also has been effective in bringing about funding and planning in the Watershed. In 2006, the three counties, SAWPA, and the Wildlands Conservancy signed a Memorandum of Understanding to form the SART Collaborative Partnership. This group brings political will to bear and directs the agencies under its umbrella to coordinate, find funding, and leverage resources to finish building the SART. This group has developed the first regionally adopted plan for completing the unfinished segments of the trail.

Many of the group’s participants felt that lack of funding to implement management plans was a widespread problem. Much of the funding focused on non-native species removal, such as Arundo donax. The group also expressed that funding was available for new park development, but not for maintenance and operations. Many expressed the need for acquiring lands to expand or build new facilities.

**Identification and Implementation of Strategies to Improve Resources**

More collaboration is needed in all counties. Some strategies include reaching out to businesses and partnering with them to make trails their “front yard” and encourage them to take care of them. Businesses also should be courted to provide more services along the trails. Working with entities such as business councils, developers, and chambers of commerce will bring in new partners. Additionally, all participants voiced the need to work cooperatively to provide more trail linkages, staging areas, and access points including more links, loops, and crossings.

Security is a concern and is more problematic in some areas than others.

There are various strategies that the group developed to improve recreational resources in the Watershed is listed in Table 5.8-3.

Additionally, these strategies led to the identification of specific projects. Table 5.8-4 lists those projects that were identified as priorities in the workshop for each county.
### Table 5.8-3 Description of County Strategies to Improve Recreational Resources in the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>San Bernardino County</strong></td>
<td>Park and open-space assessment</td>
<td>Need to assess parks and trails for new growth and use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Facility expansion</td>
<td>Use existing easements or acquire new lands for new facilities. Provide linkages to other trails and connections. Use other agencies’ facilities (e.g., flood control) to provide recreational opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public relations and education effort</td>
<td>Develop marketing campaign to identify various resources within watershed. Host celebrations for agencies to share vision and progress. Develop a watershed “phone book” and update it annually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>Develop and exercise more collaborative partnerships (e.g., transportation agencies, developers, and land-use agencies).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Riverside County</strong></td>
<td>Interagency coordination</td>
<td>Establish a centralized clearinghouse for information to prevent duplicity, identify common agendas, and integrate watershed, recreation, planning and wildlife needs. Water districts and park agencies should partner. Water facilities should be used for recreation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State and Federal support</td>
<td>Hire regulatory lobbyist to influence State and Federal regulation development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public involvement</td>
<td>Establish “adopt-a” programs for trails and open space. Create a website for the integrated effort. Create and tend volunteer forces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Develop new funding sources. Provide more funds for operations and maintenance. Partner with other agencies to pursue grant opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mapping</td>
<td>Map all existing regional and community trails in unincorporated areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Illegal activity control</td>
<td>Develop and fund programs to control for vandalism, illegal dumping, and graffiti.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orange County</strong></td>
<td>Support from leaders</td>
<td>Get commitment from decision-makers and staff at all levels. Get partners (e.g., railroad, transportation, parks) to agree on priorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Development</td>
<td>Engage business councils and tourism groups to assist. Engage development and redevelopment agencies in all counties.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Table 5.8-4  Project Identification by County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Bernardino County</td>
<td>Pine Avenue Corridor</td>
<td>Develop wildlife corridor and trail connections at Pine Avenue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional Park</td>
<td>Develop a regional park and master plan with wildlife corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upper Santa Ana River Wash</td>
<td>Develop a park and trail for recreation in the Upper Santa Ana River Wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>San Timoteo Park</td>
<td>Acquire lands and complete park in San Timoteo Canyon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside County</td>
<td>Santa Ana River Trail</td>
<td>Complete the SART (include signage, linkages, and staging areas).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Louis Rubidoux Nature Center</td>
<td>Update nature center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional trail linkages</td>
<td>Improve regional trail linkages throughout county to connect to SART.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Riverside Canal Trail</td>
<td>Convert existing easement along Gage Canal to horse, bike, and pedestrian trail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>Santa Ana River Trail</td>
<td>Complete gaps in bikeway, riding, and hiking trail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burris Basin</td>
<td>Provide funding for development of park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Le Bard Park Access ramp</td>
<td>Provide ADA access ramp at OC River Park/LeBard Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trail linkages</td>
<td>Develop better connections to Chino Hills State Park from Green River Golf Course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anaheim Lakes</td>
<td>Improvements at Anaheim Lakes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Platinum Triangle and Anaheim Regional Transit Center</td>
<td>Improve economic development at the Platinum Triangle and provide linkages from the Anaheim Regional Transit Center commuter hub.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Orange Coast River Park</td>
<td>Multi-use river parkway at mouth of SAR.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Collaboration and Integration with other One Water One Watershed Pillars

Leveraging Funds
Parks, recreation, and open-space development are most often logically linked with species and habitat protection. Frequently, habitat preservation results in the availability of open space for recreation. Additionally, outdoor recreation programs offer opportunities to educate the public about threats to our environment, water quality, and quality of life. Preservation of open space often results in improved water quality because of the ability to control inputs and access. Therefore, programs that address water quality, species and habitat protections, and quality of life ideally should include funding for recreation. Economic development plans also should always address trails, open space and linkages, as entitlements can result in the dedication of open space. Climate change should include funding for trail and open-space development. Trail usage can result in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and open-space areas can result in reduction of carbon dioxide.

Leveraging Resources
Water quality and water supply programs identify the development of facilities such as above ground storage and treatment wetlands. These areas provide ideal opportunities for recreation and education. Additionally, linear water features such as canals can be used for recreational trails and provides linkages to other trails. Habitat reserves and related facilities present ideal opportunities for trail and outdoor recreation programs. Also, open-space areas are permeable, allowing groundwater recharge, enhancing water supplies. The establishment of trails also provides for alternative commuting, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Leveraging Expertise
Outdoor recreation planners are able to assess open space and park needs and assist in identifying the most critical trail linkage needs. Other experts can use this information as they plan for open-space development. Biologists can identify needs for habitat protections and work with park planners to develop outdoor educational programs. Likewise, water conservationists can work with park planners to develop outdoor educational programs to reduce water use through xeric landscaping and other methods. Park and open-space planners and managers provide expertise in education and interpretation and can assist in developing materials for other pillars.

Description of Data Collection Process
Many groups have worked to provide recreational opportunities in the Watershed over the years, but recently local leaders realized that a regional approach is necessary to achieve a unified vision. A regional approach would allow neighboring counties and cities to share resources and ideas and develop a common vision for the entire trail system. Several recent efforts, such as the development of integrated regional watershed management plans, have focused on cooperation and regional planning. SAWPA's One Water One Watershed effort is one such effort.
Over the course of several months in the summer of 2007, SAWPA convened large groups of stakeholders to develop an integrated plan for watershed management in the Watershed. SAWPA divided the effort into ten main subject areas or “pillars.” This report documents the efforts of one such pillar: The Parks, Recreation, and Open-Space group.

The Parks, Recreation, and Open-Space group was organized and convened by the Riverside County Parks and Open-Space District and led by Paul Frandsen, former General Manager. Three main groups were targeted for participation in the effort: 1) the SART Technical Advisory Group; 2) respondents from SAWPA’s offer to participate in the effort; and 3) personal invitations to interested individuals, interest groups, and other local, state, and federal agencies known to be stakeholders in the Watershed (see attached list of participants).

The group held a one-day focus workshop. Participants were divided into the three counties (Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino) and identified a vision for recreation in the Watershed. The group identified the assets and challenges currently in place that make the Watershed such a unique and valuable place to recreate. This list was used to identify a strategy for development of future opportunities.

Each group was asked to identify existing amenities, projects under development, challenges to implementing such projects, and plans in place to manage existing programs. This information was recorded on flip charts for each county. A plenary session with all groups followed. A summary of the meeting was distributed to all participants and comments were received. The results of those efforts are included here.

**Conclusion**

The Watershed is a stunning location with a wide variety of scenery and natural resources. It is a unique location, situated between the desert, mountains, and the sea. The Watershed combines a complex arrangement of terrain, climates, and habitats that extend from the San Bernardino Mountains down to the Pacific Ocean.

Taking advantage of the Watershed’s beautiful landscape, the SART links open space areas throughout the Watershed. Building the SART has been a highly successful collaborative effort and should be used as a model for other recreation projects in the future. The SART’s achievements only could have been accomplished through a variety of partnerships, combining the expertise and resources of multiple counties, cities and other groups.

The SART is only a single project; much more work within the Watershed still needs to be done. Future projects should include a San Timoteo Canyon Trail, Lytle Creek Trail and San Jacinto Trail, as well as linkages between a multitude of Orange County trails.

Future projects should involve collaborations between public and private entities to bring about funding and planning in the Watershed, similar to what the SART Partnership accomplished. This system would allow the group to organize, find funding, and leverage resources to complete the project.
References

One Water One Watershed Pillar 8
Parks, Recreation & Open Space
June 28, 2007
Report of Public Process
Riverside County Regional Park & Open-Space District
Carriage House
4600 Crestmore Road
Riverside, CA 92509-6858
San Bernardino County

1) Current Conditions
   a) Parks:
      i) Chino Hills State Parks: Chino Hills State Park, 6,000 acres in all three counties, mostly open space but few facilities
      ii) Wildwood Canyon State Park in Yucaipa, 1,200 acres in state ownership with a goal for a total of +/- 5,000 acres, land banked facility, rich in potential for camping and trails
      iii) Glen Helen, Prado, Cuc-Guasti, Yucaipa County Parks, 4-4,500 acres, camping, fishing, day use
      iv) Special Districts and cities have other parks
   b) Recreation/Trails
      i) SART&P: 6-8 miles open with a potential for 18 miles
      ii) San Timoteo
      iii) San Antonio Heights
      iv) City of Redlands-Emerald Necklace
      v) Rails to Trails in Upland and Fontana
      vi) SH 71 Wildlife corridor at Pine Ave
   c) Open Space
      i) Crafton Hills Conservancy
      ii) Yucaipa Valley Conservancy
      iii) The Wildlands Conservancy, Oak Glen, 6,000 acres
      iv) San Bernardino Mountain Conservancy
      v) Flood control property

2) Management Strategies:
   a) Parks/Trails:
      i) Potential partnerships
      ii) Need assessments for new growth in parks and trails
      iii) Blue Ribbon Committees
      iv) SART & Partnership
      v) Specific Plans
   b) Open Space:
      i) Additional acquisition needed

3) Problem Identification:
   a) Need acquisition for new or expanded facilities
   b) Use Edison easements, new/existing corridors
   c) O&M funding
   d) Communication between all agencies and private sector
   e) One voice for a commitment to meeting the needs for parks, trails, and open space
   f) Connections for continuous trail corridors
   g) Pine Ave trail connections
h) Rail Road, Glen Helen and SAR
i) Land Use Dept: coordination with all parties
j) New development connections and dealing with O&M
k) Illegal dumping and vandalism

4) Strategies for the Future:
   a) Education and awareness
   b) Provide public voice for a marketing campaign to tell the story of what the watershed has to offer
   c) Conduct more interpretive programs
   d) Host more celebrations for agencies to share vision and progress of the project
   e) Develop a watershed 'phone book' and update it annually

5) Opportunities for Collaboration and a Unified Vision:
   a) SART&P partnerships
   b) Cities, counties work with developers for parks, trails, and open space
   c) Host special events: Earth day for example
   d) Be aware of cities general plans
   e) Conduct ongoing media efforts
   f) Collaboration with transportation agencies and flood districts

6) Projects:
   a) Pine Avenue wildlife corridor and trail connections
   b) Develop a regional park and trail master plan with wildlife corridors
   c) Identifying needs/areas to meet standards of per capita needs as it relates to parks, trails, and open space
   d) Upper SAR wash development of park and trail for recreation
   e) San Timoteo Trail

Riverside County, Team A

1) Current Conditions:
   a) SAR Trail is not complete
   b) Rancho Jurupa-Master Plan done but lacks full funding
   c) Martha McLean park-complete
   d) Hidden Valley-complete
   e) Prado reach of river trail, on-going development with restrictions
   f) Open Bottom of riverbed, flood impacted with Arundo
   g) Chino Hills State Park: significant riparian area
2) **Management Strategies:**
   a) SART: multi-agency effort with cities, counties, and state and federal government.

3) **Problem Identification:**
   a) Jurisdictional concerns
   b) Perceived lack of coordination
   c) No integrated master plan
   d) Changing regulatory environment
   e) Illegal dumping enforcement, vandalism, graffiti on SAR Trail

4) **Strategies for the Future:**
   a) Interagency coordination
   b) Adequate Enforcement
   c) “Adopt-A” programs
   d) Education-public (i.e. signage)
   e) One Water website
   f) Expanded access
   g) Identify future needs-bring together multi-agency partners
   h) Develop a capital improvement plan

5) **Opportunities for Collaboration and a Unified Vision:**
   a) Centralized Clearing house
      i) prevents duplicity
      ii) identify common agendas
      iii) include watershed, recreation, planning, and wildlife needs
   b) Dialog between Water Districts and Park agencies
   c) Create habitat/recreation in wetlands vs. retention basins.
   d) Riverside County to take the lead with Flood Control involvement
   e) Have regulatory lobbyists
   f) Create MOUs and other agreements

6) **Projects:**
   a) Complete the river trail
      i) be aware of signage
      ii) crossovers where appropriate
      iii) be aware of connectivity and staging areas
      iv) link to transportation corridors
      v) update Louis Rubidoux Education Center
   b) Development of recreation areas with water activities
Riverside County, Team B

1) **Current Conditions:**
   a) Many operators and agencies dealing with parks and recreations: cities, counties, and special districts
   b) Coordination among groups needs improvements
   c) Underserved regional parks and community parks (sports fields needed)
   d) Few recreation trails near water sources, but have done some on Flood District property
   e) Regional trails mostly unbuilt
   f) The status of community trails varies widely among jurisdictions
   g) Poor regional-local trail connections
   h) Nations most aggressive habitat plan
   i) Opportunities exist to link trails, recreation, and water bodies
   j) Funding available for trail design and construction but not maintenance
   k) Lack of funding for new parks
   l) Narrow vision regarding parks and trails
   m) Need partnerships with water agencies
   n) Inventory of existing parks along the River: Prado Basin Park, Santa Ana River Regional Park (which includes the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area), Martha McLean/Anza Narrows Park, Norco River Trails Park, Mt. Rubidoux Park, Fairmount Park

2) **Management Strategies:**
   a) Streambed management oriented to removal of exotics
   b) SAR Mitigation bank
   c) MSHCP actions in SAR, San Jacinto River
   d) The SAR TAC is now working to develop management strategies for the SAR Trail

3) **Problem Identification:**
   a) Multiple agencies
   b) Lack of funding for maintenance
   c) Underserved populations
   d) Better coordination needed among players
   e) Lack of funding for new parks
   f) Incomplete trail network

4) **Strategies for the Future:**
   a) Expand the vision
   b) Develop new funding sources
   c) Develop better coordination with water agencies
   d) Better utilization of water agency facilities
   e) Better utilization of volunteer organizations
   f) Develop new trails in MSHCP reserves
   g) Focus on San Jacinto River opportunities
   h) Increase PR regarding benefits of recreation
i) Non-motorized thoroughfares are essential components of local circulation elements and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
j) Mapping all existing regional and community trails in unincorporated areas
k) Researching all approved developments having trail conditions
l) Aggressive pursuit of grant opportunities for trail projects

5) **Opportunities for Collaboration and a Unified Vision:**
   a) SAR MOU
   b) Use reclaimed water at parks
   c) Work with water districts and flood control agencies to use facilities for trails
   d) Enhance public education
   e) Have recreation facility part of every new water/flood structure if possible
   f) Improve connections with schools
   g) Improve working relationship with state and federal partners
   h) Develop joint-use agreements with schools for community use
   i) Expand the vision
   j) Ensure trail connectivity
   k) Trail planning with USFS and CAL State Parks

6) **Project Identification:**
   a) Lake Elsinore project: connecting trails with the county system
   b) Santa Ana River Trail
   c) Prado easement
   d) Corona-Norco reach
   e) West of Prado dam to OC line
   f) San Jacinto to River Parkway, state wildlife area and Mystic Lake
   g) Salt Creek Trail
   h) Temescal Trail
   i) Riverside Canal trail
   j) Whitewater river trail
   k) Regional Parks:
      i) Lakeview Nuevo
      ii) Menifee
      iii) French Valley
Orange County:

1) **Current Conditions:**
   a) Half of the SAR is paved from 17th Street to below MacArthur
      i) 1/3 concrete sides and bottoms
      ii) ½ concrete bottom
      iii) Top useable space is on levees and only width of levee is useable and only about ½ is on both sides of river
   b) Imperial Highway
      i) Above Imperial Highway: nice, green aesthetics
      ii) Below: more industrial
   c) Levees are narrow in most places; abuts development, limits options (would require acquisition beyond levees)
   d) Bikeway is completed for about 27 miles from OC line (east) to the ocean (HB)
   e) Riding and hiking trail almost complete with approximately 3-4 to do landscaping with drought resistant 2/3 of both sides of river
   f) Number of basins are options for recreation-Burris Pit for example 500k users/year throughout OC
   g) Stables such as Rancho Del Rio and Single tree farms-maybe be threatened by development
   h) Nine city parks, Anaheim has 3 and with Burris Pit, this would make four HB has 5 access points and 3 regional parks along river

2) **Management Strategies:**
   a) Most cities have some kind of master plan that references recreation along the river
   b) County has Master Plan of bikeways and riding trails
   c) OCTA has a master plan for bikeways
   d) Citizen's Regional Recreational Trails Advisory Committee: gives feedback; assists county in implementing trails
   e) Maintenance is shared between county, cities, Water District and Flood Control District and volunteer groups
   f) SAR Trail and Parkway Partnership provides forum for regional coordination
   g) SAR touches four supervisorial districts

3) **Problem Identification:**
   a) Money (lack thereof)
   b) Identifying funding opportunities and ability to collaborate
   c) BNSF: trail is close to the railroad and more collaboration is needed
   d) There are gaps in the trail
   e) Substandard sections of the bikeway
   f) Homeless issues
   g) Lacking linkages to open spaces
   h) Inadequate access
   i) Build out next to trails
   j) Lack of staging areas
   k) Security
l) Loops, links and crossings
m) Appropriate staffing for O&M and design
n) Graffiti and vandalism a serious problem
o) Illegal dumping
p) Theft (copper ‘mining’)

4) Strategies for the Future:
   a) Commitment by decision makers and staff at all levels
   b) Priority setting and collaboration and integration of all players: private, RR, CALTRANS, State Parks and locals
   c) Business council, tourism, developers
   d) Redevelopment

5) Opportunities for Collaboration and a Unified Vision:
   a) Reaching out to businesses
   b) Make the trail the businesses ‘front yard’
   c) Develop businesses along the trail to serve users
   d) Embracing the beauty and value of natural aspects of the river
   e) Opportunities include: planning, design and O&M
   f) Unified vision
   g) Uniform signage

6) Projects:
   a) Burris Pits: includes water retention, flood control, habitat, recreation, water quality, water recharge, and transportation
   b) Singletree Farms: acquire, provides for equestrian needs
   c) ADA access ramp LeBard Park OC River Park
   d) Improve linkages: gap in riding/hiking trail at Weir Canyon to Co. Line
   e) Bikeway gap from Coal Canyon to County line
   f) Connection from Green River Golf Course to Chino Hills
   g) Economic development at Platinum Triangle
   h) Anaheim Regional Transit Center (Commuter hub)
   i) Improve 15 undercrossings from HB to Yorba Linda
   j) Improve Anaheim Lakes at the 91 and 55 freeways, redevelopment, hotels and mixed use
   k) Imperial Highway. CALTRANS and OCWD
**List of Contributors**
Participants from the meeting June 28, 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Katie Parks</td>
<td>Army Corps of Engineers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Watts</td>
<td>California State Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Galera</td>
<td>City of Anaheim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luann Brunson</td>
<td>City of Huntington Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Kilroy</td>
<td>City of Lake Elsinore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Lock-Dawson</td>
<td>Consultant Co/City Riverside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Dawson</td>
<td>Dept of Fish &amp; Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Guerrero</td>
<td>Jurupa Area Recreation &amp; Park Dist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Dickman</td>
<td>RDMD/HBP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherri Miller</td>
<td>RDMD/HBP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charolette Fox</td>
<td>Riverside County DAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darrell Connerton</td>
<td>Riverside County DAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Field</td>
<td>Riverside County DAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Real</td>
<td>Riverside County DAC &amp; Trails Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Loew</td>
<td>Riverside County Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Nove</td>
<td>Riverside County Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Bangle</td>
<td>Riverside County Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Block</td>
<td>Riverside Land Conservancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Field</td>
<td>Riverside Public Utilities-Water Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maureen Snelgrove</td>
<td>San Bernardino County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Potter</td>
<td>San Bernardino County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eldona Arns</td>
<td>San Bernardino County Trails &amp; Greenways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert G. Taylor</td>
<td>San Bernardino Nat'l Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana Rocaht</td>
<td>The Wildlands Conservancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Meyer</td>
<td>Trails 4 All</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>