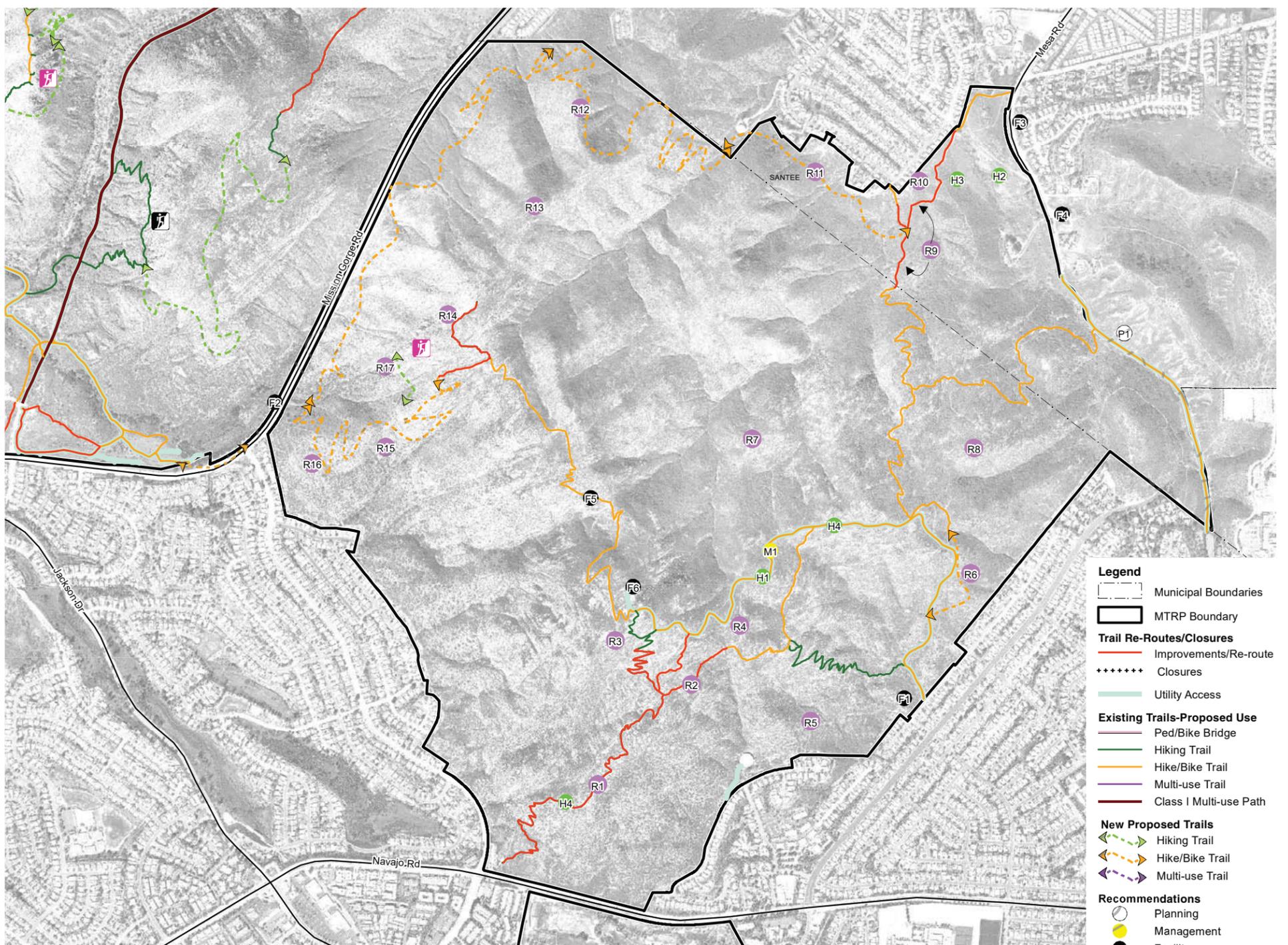


Recreation Recommendations	
R1	Implement localized trail improvements to create a more accessible, maintainable and environmentally sensitive trail from the existing Cowles Mountain staging area to the summit. If localized improvements prove inadequate, then a full trail reroute should be evaluated.
R2	Assess a section of the Barker Way trail for localized improvements to address trail steepness and erosion issues. If localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible, then this section of trail should be rerouted.
R3	Develop and implement a public access boundary with fencing and signage at the top of Cowles Mountain to reduce habitat impacts. Restore native habitats outside the defined boundary.
R4	Close and restore the existing hike/bike and unauthorized user created trails extending from the Cowles Mountain service road to the Barker Way Trail.
R5	Close and restore the hike/bike trail extending from Wingspan Drive to the Barker Way Trail.
R6	Construct a new trail alternative to avoid a particularly steep section of the Cowles Mountain service road.
R7	Close and restore the existing hiking and unauthorized user created trail on the eastern slope of Pyles Peak.
R8	Close and restore a series of interconnected existing hiking trails on the eastern slope of Cowles Mountain. A portion of these trails are within the California gnatcatcher Critical Habitat designated by the USFWS.
R9	Assess a section of the Big Rock trail for localized improvements to address trail steepness and erosion issues. If localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible, then this section of trail should be rerouted.
R10	Close and restore the existing hiking trail located immediately behind the homes along Big Rock Road.
R11	Construct a new trail connection from the Padre Dam water tank to Big Rock to create a portion of a large loop on the east side of Pyles Peak and north side of Cowles Mountain.
R12	Construct a new trail connection from the Padre Dam water tank to the staging area in CM-F2 to create a portion of a large loop on the east side of Pyles Peak and north side of Cowles Mountain.
R13	Close and restore an existing hiking trail along the ridge north of Pyles Peak.
R14	Assess a section of the existing Pyles Peak trail for localized improvements to address trail steepness and erosion issues. In-trail grade reversals and reestablishment of outslope should be adequate solutions.
R15	Close and restore the existing hiking trail from Pyles Peak down to Golf Crest Drive.
R16	If the staging area in CM-F2 is implemented, construct a new connector trail from it up to the existing Pyles Peak trail.
R17	If the staging area in CM-F2 and the trail in CM-R12 are implemented, evaluate providing rock climbing access to the western face of Pyles Peak by constructing a new trail from the existing Pyles Peak trail. Impacts to bat roosts will need to be evaluated; signage and access controls will be required at the top of the climbing faces to control unauthorized access to the top of Pyles Peak; and an emergency response plan will need to be coordinated with San Diego Fire and Rescue.

Facility Recommendations	
F1	Plan, design and implement an off-street gravel or decomposed granite surfaced parking area with street improvements that comply with public road standards as applicable, at the Barker Way entrance to reduce some of the parking demand on the local residential streets and provide a more formal trailhead and potential for a maintainable comfort station. Ensure that temporary construction impacts associated with parking lot improvements do not affect adjacent neighbors and park users.
F2	Collaborate with SDCWA to plan, design and implement an off-street gravel or decomposed granite surfaced parking area just north of Golfcrest Drive off Mission Gorge Road adjacent to the SDCWA pipeline access portal. This will provide northerly access (CM-R15) to the Pyles Peak trail and a potential rock climbing area (CM-R17). Access from Mission Gorge Road would be a right turn in and right turn out only. Ensure that temporary construction impacts associated with parking lot improvements do not affect adjacent neighbors and park users.
F3	Plan, design and implement improvements in collaboration with the City of Santee to the disturbed shoulder within the public right of way along Mesa Road near Big Rock Park to provide additional parking spaces and a linear bike skills area. Ensure that temporary construction impacts associated with parking lot improvements do not affect adjacent neighbors and park users.
F4	Relocate the parking at the south end of Mesa Road as part of CM-F3 and revegetate the existing parking area while maintaining the trailhead kiosk and gate.
F5	Add interpretive signage along the ridgeline trail from Cowles to Pyles Peak, orienting the public to the visual panorama and explain how a view can be interpreted from different "perspectives" – for example, as an active city full of different uses, nodes, and landmarks linked by circulation; as a landmark resulting from long-term geological and hydrological processes; and as the historical accumulation of artifacts tracing man's interaction with his environment.
F6	When funds are available, and technological advances allow for minimization of equipment, the City and County antennas should be modified for a less visible profile, or be removed. Any modifications to the facilities will be coordinated through the City's Deputy Director of Communication and Networks and the County's Manager of Microwave/Radio Communications.

Habitat/Species Recommendations	
H1	Reduce the width of sections of the Cowles Mountain service road that have become excessively wide down to 14 feet per City Trail standards.
H2	Restore coastal sage scrub and riparian habitats with the area disturbed by former mineral extraction activities along Mesa Road.
H3	Allow the transplant of San Diego ambrosia from areas outside MTRP to the identified restoration site. Construct and maintain wildlife compatible exclusionary fencing and signage as required.
H4	Conduct habitat restoration or revegetation activities within disturbed areas.



Planning Recommendation	
P1	Incorporate pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities and landscape the edge of Mesa Road bordering the park with native plantings if it is extended south to connect with Lake Murray Boulevard. Existing park improvements within the area should be replaced if impacted by the project.

Management Recommendation	
M1	Continue to periodically maintain the Cowles Mountain service road. Look for opportunities for localized re-grading to remove inside drainage swales and remove berms at the outside edge to promote sheet flow of run-off.

*The City of San Diego will be responsible for all improvements within the Cowles Mountain area as identified in the Master Plan and per the Joint Powers Agreement with the County of San Diego Regarding the Operation and Maintenance of Tijuana River Valley Park and Mission Trails Regional Park. Any recreational amenity and its management, or subsequent projects proposed within the County owned Cowles Mountain area will require analysis and review by the County on a project by project basis.

Legend

- Municipal Boundaries
- MTRP Boundary
- Trail Re-Routes/Closures**
 - Improvements/Re-route
 - Closures
 - Utility Access
- Existing Trails-Proposed Use**
 - Ped/Bike Bridge
 - Hiking Trail
 - Hike/Bike Trail
 - Multi-use Trail
 - Class I Multi-use Path
- New Proposed Trails**
 - Hiking Trail
 - Hike/Bike Trail
 - Multi-use Trail
- Recommendations**
 - Planning
 - Management
 - Facility
 - Habitat/Species
 - Recreation
- Rock Climbing**
 - Existing
 - Proposed

0 Feet 2000

FIGURE 3-5
Cowles Mountain Area Planning Recommendations