

6. SITE-SPECIFIC CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Site-specific conditions, issues, and recommendations for the 31 Natural Areas are presented in the following subsections. Each of these subsections first presents the results of the resource inventory and analysis performed for the 31 Natural Areas. This discussion focuses on each Natural Area's geology, hydrology, and trails, and on its vegetation and wildlife, including sensitive plant and animal species (methodology is presented in Section 3). Data related to the geologic features and trails, vegetation, and sensitive species is presented in figures at the end of each subsection. The compilation of this information allowed delineation of Management Area(s) within each Natural Area. This Final Draft defines and delineates Management Areas, which represent differing levels of sensitivity, species presence, and habitat complexity. Three levels of Management Areas have been defined: MA-1, MA-2, and MA-3. All Natural Areas are categorized into one of these three categories. Throughout the Natural Areas MA-1 areas account for a total of approximately 193 acres, MA-2 for approximately 429, and MA-3 for approximately 477 acres (Table 6.0-1). In terms of percentage of the overall acreage of the Natural Areas, Management Areas account for 18, 39, and 43 percent for MA-1, MA-2, and MA-3 areas respectively. In general, MA-1 represents the priority areas for conservation and management activities. Management of these areas will provide the greatest conservation benefit and therefore restoration and enhancement in these areas is prioritized over activities in MA-2 or MA-3. As additional resources such as grants, volunteer groups, capital funds, etc., become available, management activities may shift to MA-2 or MA-3 areas.

Delineation of Management Areas and mapping of natural resources also allowed identification of issues affecting these resources. Recommendations were then developed that, when implemented, will improve the quality of plant and animal communities within the Natural Areas. There are two levels of issues and recommendations for each Natural Area. Presented first within in each major issue heading (vegetation, wildlife, etc) are the system-wide (general) issues and recommendations. These are the issues and associated recommendations that apply to many Natural Areas. These elements are discussed in detail in Section 5.2, System-wide Management Actions and Practices. Site-specific issues and recommendations follow the general ones within each of the following subsections (6.1-6.26).

Table 6.0-1. Acreage of management areas within the 31 Natural Areas by management area classification.

Significant Natural Area	Management Area (MA)			Total ⁽¹⁾
	MA-1	MA-2	MA-3	
15th Avenue Steps	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
Balboa Natural Area	1.1	0.7	0.0	1.8
Bayview Park	8.2	15.8	19.7	43.7
Bernal Hill	7.6	5.8	10.7	3.3
Billy Goat Hill	0.6	1.1	1.6	3.4
Brooks Park	0.8	0.9	0.3	2.0
Buena Vista Park	0.0	6.1	0.0	6.1
Corona Heights	2.9	2.5	4.2	9.6
Dorothy Erskine Park	0.2	0.3	1.0	1.5
Duncan/Castro	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.5
Edgehill Mountain	0.0	0.9	1.4	2.3
Fairmount Park	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7
Glen Canyon Park	7.4	30.1	22.4	59.9
Golden Gate Heights	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.8
Golden Gate Park (Oak woodland, Strawberry Hill, and Whiskey Hill)	0.7	25.5	0.0	26.2
Grandview Park	0.9	2.4	0.7	4.0
Hawk Hill	1.4	3.0	0.0	4.4
India Basin Shoreline Park	3.2	2.8	0.0	6.0
Interior Green Belt	0.0	1.8	14.7	16.5
Kite Hill	0.4	0.5	1.6	2.5
Lake Merced	60.8	101.8	231.5	394.1
Lakeview/Ashton Mini Park	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5
McLaren Park	34.9	68.3	61.4	164.6
Mt. Davidson	8.8	11.0	20.1	39.9
O'Shaughnessy Hollow	0.7	2.9	0.0	3.6
Palou/Phelps	0.8	0.4	0.8	2.0
Pine Lake	1.0	3.8	3.6	8.4
Rock Outcrop	0.8	0.7	0.0	1.6
Sharp Park	35.0	125.1	76.5	236.6
Tank Hill	1.5	0.6	0.7	2.8
Twin Peaks	12.6	14.3	3.8	30.7
Total	192.8	430.2	478.0	1080.4
	18%	40%	44%	

Note:

Total acreages do not exactly match total acreages presented in Table 1 -1. Acreages in Table 1 -1 are based on vegetation series within each Natural Area where the data was precisely clipped in the GIS to the Natural Area boundary. Management areas were created by mapping management area boundaries in the field with a GPS unit. This data was then edited by Natural Areas staff within the GIS to match Natural Areas boundaries. This process created minor errors when the management area appeared to line up with the Natural Areas boundary but in fact was off by a small amount. The average error is about 0.1 acre and never more than 0.8 acre. As would be expected, the error is largest in the larger Natural Areas because they have relatively longer boundaries.