ReWild Mission Bay
PUBLIC WORKSHOP
What is ReWild Mission Bay?

With ReWild Mission Bay, San Diego Audubon is facilitating a three-year planning process that includes collecting community input and exploring options to restore wetlands along Pacific Beach Drive on both sides of Rose Creek.

By May 2017, this process will yield at least three versions of a community-informed, scientifically defensible wetlands restoration plan for the northeast corner of Mission Bay.

Next steps will include preliminary design, environmental review, final engineering, permitting, and, ultimately, restoration of the area’s wetlands.
This project of San Diego Audubon is funded by CA State Coastal Conservancy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wetland Restoration</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Restoration Design</td>
<td>Final Engineering</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Restoration Monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conceptual Plan</td>
<td>Approvals *</td>
<td>and CEQA/NEPA</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Approvals could include San Diego City Council Approval & Coastal Commission Approval of the Mission Bay Park Master Plan Update.

**Key Project Considerations**

- Winter/Spring 2016
  - Winter/Spring 2016
    - Key Project Considerations
      - Public Input

- Summer 2016
  - Summer 2016
    - Restoration Goals and Objectives
      - Public Input

- Fall 2016
  - Fall 2016
    - 8 Initial Draft Restoration Alternatives
      - Public Input
      - Refine Initial Draft Restoration Alternatives

- Early 2017
  - Early 2017
    - 3 Final Draft Restoration Alternatives
      - Public Input
      - Analysis and Evaluation of 3 Final Restoration Alternatives
      - Final Report

**Analysis and Evaluation**
- Development of construction methods, construction quantities, cost estimates, habitat analyses, tidal modeling, flood modeling, etc.
- Comparison of each final restoration alternative to the restoration goals and objectives.
HISTORICAL CONDITIONS

PREDEVELOPMENT ECOLOGY – historical conditions help guide restoration.

Project Vicinity: 1857

1. San Diego River had multiple courses
2. Rose Creek followed more sinuous path to Mission (False) Bay
3. Mosaic of subtidal, mudflat, salt marsh, transition, and riparian habitats
4. Substantial open water, subtidal habitat

Planning Area Habitats: mid to late 1800s

PROJECT VICINITY FROM 1800s TO PRESENT DAY

1857
› Both Mission Bay and Rose Creek looked very different than they do today.
› Development in the area was minimal.

1928
› Development, such as housing and roads, was beginning to occur.
› Rose Creek was channelized into a straight path, and its mouth moved to its present location.
› Substantial subtidal and open water habitats were present within the bay.

2016
› Extensive development in the 1900s changed the shape of Mission Bay and its surroundings.
› Mission Bay Park was created through the dredging of wetlands and creation of islands.
› Development, including urbanization in marshes around the bay, reduced subtidal and open water habitat.
EXISTING CONDITIONS

HYDROLOGY

BIOLOGY/ECOLOGY

• Data from Zembal et al. 2015
• Light-footed Ridgway’s rail is federally-listed as an endangered species and Belding’s savannah sparrow is state-listed.

PUBLIC ACCESS/LAND USES

INFRASTRUCTURE

Tecolote Creek
Rose Creek
Storm Drain Discharge
Tides

Salt marsh habitat (Shenando Prat) is important for light-footed Ridgway’s rail and Belding’s savannah sparrow.

Wetlands need a variety of habitats (including upland and transitional) in order to function properly. Transitional habitats provide habitat variety and serve as a refuge from events like extreme tides.

Subtidal habitats are important for fish, invertebrates, and birds, including endangered California least tern.

Rose Creek is important as a wildlife corridor in an urban environment.

Source: SanGIS

Tecolote Creek
Rose Creek
Storm Drain Discharge
Tides

Source: SanGIS
KEY CONSIDERATIONS

OWNERSHIP & LAND USE
› Existing lease for De Anza Special Study Area has expired and existing lease for Campland will expire soon.
› Restoration must occur within applicable regulations, such as Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and Coastal Act.
› The Mission Bay Park Master Plan calls for and provides opportunities for habitat restoration across study area:
  - De Anza SSA: “...additional wetlands creation must be considered as part of the SSA...” (Page 53, MBPMP)
  - Campland: “an 80-acre saltwater marsh is proposed west of Rose Creek ...This recommendation requires the relocation of the Recreational Vehicle Park (Campland of the Bay)” (page 10, MBPMP)

TOPOGRAPHY
› Current California Coastal Commission sea level rise guidance assumes up to 2 feet of sea level rise by 2050 and up to 5.5 feet by 2100.
› Existing elevations do not support salt marsh, but excavation could allow creation of salt marsh habitat under current sea level conditions.
› Some existing elevations could support salt marsh under projected sea level rise conditions. Grading could be designed to allow for additional habitats that would shift to wetlands as sea level rises (known as wetland migration).

HYDROLOGY
› Availability of Campland and De Anza Special Study Area provide opportunity to reconnect historical marsh plains to mouth of Rose Creek.
› Existing ground elevations limit the ability to provide tidal exchange to majority of Campland and De Anza Special Study Area.
› Flood risk must be maintained at current levels under existing sea level conditions.
› Replacing development with habitat means that development would not be at risk of flooding under existing or future sea level conditions.
› Tidal influence within the planning area allows for restoration of tidally influenced coastal salt marsh.
› Dredging planned by the City of San Diego at the mouth of Rose Creek reduces flood and navigation risks and improves water quality, though with some impact to wildlife habitat.

BIOLOGY/ECOLOGY
› Creating more salt marsh adjacent to the existing Kendall Frost Reserve would create a larger continuous block of habitat, increasing ecological function. Connected habitats allow wildlife to move from place to place to look for food and shelter.
› Landforms and topography constrain the ability to achieve full connectivity between habitats.
› Greater habitat diversity provides homes for more species. Large planning area means restoration can incorporate a number of habitats, such as transitional and upland habitats, that can support rare species and provide adaptation to sea level rise in the future.
› Restoration is an opportunity to expand populations of endangered species and recover diminished plant diversity.
› Existing habitats and species will need to be protected during and after restoration.
› Coastal wetlands provide nursery habitat for many fish species, including the commercially important California halibut.

PUBLIC ACCESS/USES
› Current public access entries to the site are limited.
› Current wetland system is isolated, but edges are exposed to adjacent urban impacts.
› Habitat restoration would include consideration for public access to the project area (e.g. trails).
› Restoration would include consideration to enhance opportunities for local education on wildlife habitat (e.g. nature center).

INFRASTRUCTURE
› Some existing infrastructure would be removed to improve habitat, open space, visitor amenities, aesthetics, water quality and water flow.
› Some existing infrastructure, such as trails or building pads, could be reused or repurposed.
› Infrastructure outside project boundary must be protected and maintained (e.g., utilities, flood protection).

EXISTING TOPOGRAPHY
EXAMPLES OF TYPES OF RECREATION AND HABITATS

MEDIUM TO HIGH INTENSITY RECREATION USES

LOW TO MEDIUM INTENSITY RECREATIONAL USE

UPLAND

TRANSITIONAL

MUDFLAT

INTERTIDAL VEGETATED

SUBTIDAL
De Anza Revitalization Plan

How are ReWild Mission Bay and the City of San Diego Working Together?

WHAT IS THE DE ANZA REVITALIZATION PLAN?
› An effort of the City of San Diego to amend the Mission Bay Park Master Plan.
› The De Anza Revitalization Plan will provide guidance for the development of De Anza Point and adjacent recreational facilities.

WHAT DOES THE MISSION BAY PARK MASTER PLAN CURRENTLY RECOMMEND FOR DE ANZA POINT?
› Before now, the Master Plan didn’t provide detailed guidance for development of De Anza Point, but did include specific recommendations for how the area should be used. (It is referred to as a “special study area” or SSA in the Master Plan.)
› The Master Plan says:
  › The area should be developed to enhance public use,
  › Wetlands creation “must be considered as part of the SSA” and improvements to Mission Bay’s water quality must be “foremost in consideration”,
  › Up to 60 acres of De Anza Point can be developed as guest housing and RV facilities should “remain as an integral part of the Park’s diverse recreation matrix”;
  › Campland on the Bay, in its current location, is incompatible with the environmental objectives for the park. Accordingly, this facility could be relocated to De Anza Cove.

HOW ARE REWILD MISSION BAY AND THE DE ANZA REVITALIZATION PLAN RELATED?
› All of the plans for the northeast corner of Mission Bay (the existing Mission Bay Park Master Plan, the De Anza Revitalization Plan, and several community-generated plans) call for some degree of wetlands restoration in the area for the benefit of wildlife, water quality, and getting people into nature.
› The purpose of ReWild Mission Bay is to answer the question: How can wetlands be restored in the northeast corner of Mission Bay? This answer will inform other planning processes in the area.
› How to restore wetlands is a very technical question requiring engineering plans, hydrologic studies, wildlife expertise, and landscape architects.
› ReWild Mission Bay is providing the technical expertise and robust wetlands restoration conceptual plans to the City for them to integrate into their larger land use plan for De Anza.

HOW ARE THE PLANS WORKING TOGETHER?
› All of the technical reports and plans produced by ReWild Mission Bay are shared with the City as they become available in order to provide information that can inform the De Anza Revitalization Plan.
› City of San Diego staff members (including the project manager for the De Anza Revitalization Plan) sit on ReWild Mission Bay’s Science & Technical Advisory Committee.
› The project manager for ReWild Mission Bay serves as the Vice Chair of the City’s De Anza Revitalization Plan Ad-Hoc Committee to ensure robust cross-project coordination.

COMPARISON OF REWILD MISSION BAY AND DE ANZA REVITALIZATION PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>Broader geography - whole northeast corner of Mission Bay.</th>
<th>Narrower geography - just De Anza Point and the adjacent facilities.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>Narrower scope - wetlands restoration and public access for the benefit of wildlife and the community.</td>
<td>Broader scope - full land use plan for habitat restoration, guest housing, and updates to nearby recreational facilities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>