

ReWild Mission Bay

Summary of Public Workshop #2

Workshop was held:
Tuesday, June 14, 2016, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Mission Bay High School – Cafeteria
2475 Grand Ave, San Diego, CA 92109

Next Workshop Anticipated in Fall 2016
Stay Tuned! Go to: <http://rewildmissionbay.org/>

MEETING OVERVIEW

Public Workshop #2 was the second of four planned workshops for ReWild Mission Bay. ReWild Mission Bay is a project of San Diego Audubon (SDAS) and its partners, funded by the California State Coastal Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program.

Approximately 80 people attended the meeting. The purpose of Public Workshop #2 was to summarize previous input, explain how public input informs the process, and solicit public feedback on draft restoration goals.

Public Workshop #2 consisted of an open-house style format with six stations:

- Station #1: Introduction to ReWild Mission Bay
- Station #2: Existing Conditions / Historical Conditions / Key Considerations (previously presented content)
- Station #3: Summary of Public Workshop #1
- Station #4: Relationship to De Anza Revitalization Plan
- Station #5: Student's Concepts
- Station #6: Draft Restoration Goals

Appendix A contains the station boards displayed at the workshop. Appendix B contains the sign in sheets documenting workshop attendees. Appendix C includes comment cards, goals worksheets, and maps of the study area showing concepts and ideas for how restoration and other uses can be incorporated. Appendix D contains additional comments received online or via email.



The sign-in sheets included a box for attendees to note how they heard about the workshop. The table below provides a rough approximation of how participants responded. This information is useful in focusing notification and publicity efforts for future ReWild Mission Bay workshops. Importantly, roughly two-thirds of participants became aware of the workshop through email (either from SDAS or a community group), and more than 20% heard about the workshop from a friend or through word of mouth.

How did you hear about Public Workshop 2?

Flier seen in community	Email from SDAS	Email from community group	Friend/word of mouth	Presentation by SDAS staff	Newspaper
2%	25%	42%	23%	4%	4%

KEY DISCUSSION THEMES

This section summarizes input that was provided during the workshop. The following key discussion themes emerged during the workshop:

Theme 1: Modifications to Goals

Theme 2: Suggestions/Ideas for Restoration of Wetlands

Theme 3: Location-Specific Suggestions/Ideas

Theme 4: Suggestions/Ideas for Access

Theme 5: Suggestions/Ideas for Education and Interpretation

Theme 6: Process Suggestions/Ideas

Points raised in association with each of these discussion themes are provided below. For each discussion theme, majority and minority opinions are summarized. However, for a comprehensive understanding of the richness of input, the discussion presented here should be reviewed in concert with detailed input from the workshop provided in Appendix B and Appendix C. Furthermore, the themes are not listed in any order of priority or importance.

Theme 1: Modifications to Goals

General Comments

- Some participants suggested that the language of the goals is too technical for the general public to provide feedback.
- Other ideas for improving the draft goals were also shared, including recommendations for changing the wording and grammar of the goals.

Goal 1

- Some commenters emphasized the importance of water quality improvement and the ability of wetlands to filter runoff and pollutants.
- Some commenters suggested the creation of islands in the created wetlands to improve bird habitat.
- Some commenters recommended that Goal 1 focus more on restoration of previously-existing ecosystem functions, such as flood control.
- Many commenters suggested restoring Rose Creek to a more natural system with a more natural course and/or a delta at its mouth.

Goal 2

- Many commenters noted the need to balance protection of habitat with opportunities for access and education. Some suggested kayak access would be a low-impact way to balance both goals.
- Some commenters recommended that sea-level rise resilience studies consider habitats and access/educational facilities within the study area.

Goal 3

- Many commenters suggested incorporating a nature center and/or boardwalks with interpretive materials as a way to improve access.
- Some participants recommended focusing on interactive educational opportunities that would appeal to children.
- Some commenters preferred for educational activities to include a discussion of Native American culture and history.

Theme 2: Suggestions/Ideas for Restoration of Wetlands

- Some commenters recommended an increased focus on water quality in the bay.
- Many attendees suggested increased trail maintenance and trash removal along Rose Creek.
- Some participants noted potential ecological benefits that would result from enhancing Rose Creek's functionality as a wildlife corridor.
- Some workshop attendees recommended that wetlands be designed to help minimize impacts from any pollution, accidental chemical releases, or spills upstream.
- It was suggested that restoration include evaluation of substrate chemistry within the bay and removal of contaminated sediment if needed.

Theme 3: Location-Specific Suggestions/Ideas

De Anza

- Many commenters liked the idea of implementing restoration opportunities, camping opportunities, and trails within the De Anza Cove property, while some commenters instead favored restoring the entire area to wetlands.
- Some meeting attendees suggested that a nature center could be located on this property.
- Some commenters preferred to restore this area entirely to wetlands.

Campland

- Many attendees noted that they would prefer to see the Campland property restored entirely to wetlands.
- Some commenters emphasized the importance of creating another camping area nearby if Campland is restored to wetlands.
- A concern was voiced about potential loss of employment from the closing of Campland.

Golf Course

- Some commenters emphasized filtering runoff from the golf course through wetlands within the study area in order to reduce pollutants entering the bay.
- Some commenters preferred that the golf course also be restored to native vegetation or channels from Rose Creek.
- A suggestion was made that the golf course be converted into housing.

- Others noted that the golf course already provides some benefit as an open space to birds and other wildlife and suggested it should be left in place.

Theme 4: Suggestions/Ideas for Access and Recreation

- Many commenters emphasized that habitat areas need to be protected from human disturbance, particularly motorized watercraft.
- Many participants suggested non-intrusive modes of access that would allow the public to get “up close and personal” with wildlife in restored wetlands areas. Frequent suggestions included kayak routes and elevated boardwalks around the perimeter of wildlife areas.
- Some participants noted the importance of maintaining both protected habitat areas and human uses such as sports fields and camping opportunities within the study area. The relocation of existing sports and camping facilities to less environmentally sensitive areas was suggested by some as a way to maintain both uses.
- Some participants suggested leaving the golf course in place, but assessing how it could be made more integrated into the surrounding habitat network (by incorporating areas of native habitat or reducing runoff).
- Some commenters noted that the project should address traffic and transportation challenges in the area and consider facilitating access to the study area via public transit and local trails/bikeways.
- A recommendation was made that any potential pollution sources (RVs, commercial uses) be located inland, away from the bay.

Theme 5: Suggestions/Ideas for Education and Interpretation

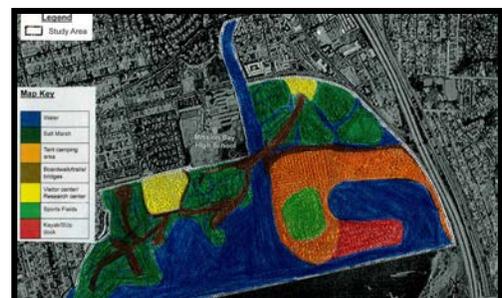
- Many participants mentioned the importance of interactive learning opportunities for the community, particularly children, within the study area, including a nature center, interactive viewpoints around the lagoon, and frequent educational signage.
- Many commenters suggested different types of activities and programs to increase public engagement with the lagoon, including “demo projects” highlighting the implementation of the restoration itself.
- Other suggested locations for a visitor’s center/nature center included the golf course property and parcels closer to SeaWorld.
- It was suggested that any structures within the study area be designed in a sustainable way.

Theme 6: Process Suggestions/Ideas

- Some workshop attendees requested that project proponents improve collaboration with interested groups in the vicinity of the project and applicable government entities.
- A recommendation was made that local students and youth organizations be included as volunteers in project implementation.

STUDENT CONCEPTS FOR REWILD MISSION BAY

Students from High Tech Elementary 5th grade class also participated in the public workshop by presenting concepts that they developed as part of a class project. Students were asked to draw their suggested designs for ReWild Mission Bay and write opinion-editorials to describe why their concepts were important. The students’ work is included in Appendix E.



NEXT STEPS

The timeline below depicts the steps involved in creation of the ReWild MB Wetland Restoration Conceptual Plan. Public input provided at Public Workshop #2 will be considered as the project team refines draft restoration goals and ultimately develops draft restoration alternatives. As depicted in the timeline, Public Workshop #3 is tentatively scheduled for Fall 2016. Details regarding the time and location of Public Workshop #3 will be posted at www.rewildmissionbay.org.

