



ReWild Mission Bay

Summary of Town Hall Meeting #1

Workshop was held:
Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Mission Bay High School – Library
2475 Grand Ave, San Diego, CA 92109

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

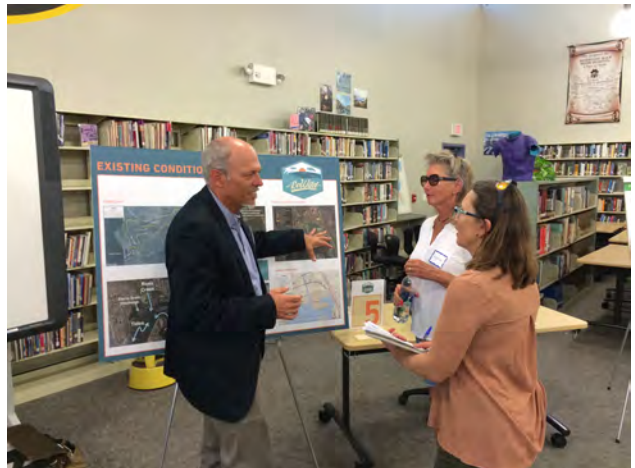
MEETING OVERVIEW

Town Hall Meeting #1 was the first of four planned workshops for the ReWild Mission Bay Restoration Plan (Restoration Plan). The Restoration Plan is a project of San Diego Audubon (SDAS), funded by the California State Coastal Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Approximately 70 people attended the meeting. The purpose of Public Workshop #1 was to provide information about the project and solicit input on key project considerations in order to guide development of the three wetland restoration alternatives.

Public Workshop #1 consisted of an open-house style format with seven stations:

- Station #1: Registration
- Station #2: What is ReWild Mission Bay?
- Station #3: Project Timeline
- Station #4: Historical Conditions
- Station #5: Existing Conditions
- Station #6: Key Considerations Feedback
- Station #7: De Anza Special Study Area





Appendix A contains the station boards displayed at the meeting. Appendix B contains the comments recorded on flip charts during the workshop. Appendix C contains completed comment cards. Appendix D contains the sign-in sheet from the meeting. Appendix E 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 half of participants became aware of the workshop through email (either from SDAS or a community group), and close to 20% heard about the workshop from a friend or through word of mouth.

How did you hear about the workshop?

Postcard (direct mail)	Flier seen in community	Email from SDAS	Email from community group	Friend/word of mouth	Presentation by SDAS staff	Newspaper	Other
6%	8%	18%	28%	18%	9%	6%	6%

KEY DISCUSSION THEMES

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

- Theme 1: Envisioning ReWild
- Theme 2: Access and Recreation
- Theme 3: Land Use and Public Facilities
- Theme 4: Restoration Details
- Theme 5: Long Term Considerations
- Theme 6: Process Suggestions

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 meeting provided in Appendices B, C, and D. Furthermore, the themes are not listed in any order of priority or importance.

Theme 1: Envisioning ReWild

- There was overwhelming support for more natural areas within the Planning Area and some would like to see a beautiful, natural, iconic setting within the Planning Area that provides a sense of place at the marsh.
- The Planning Area was identified as a backyard resource and it was noted that increased trails and connections to adjacent neighborhoods would provide more community access to natural areas and open space in this portion of Mission Bay.
- Some mentioned a desire to see educational components featured in the overall design for the Planning Area, such as signage, educational kiosks, nature center, etc.

Theme 2: Access and Recreation

- Many participants suggested creating paths, trails or boardwalks for walking, cycling and observation. Some of these suggestions included requests for mileage markers or exercise courses.
- Many attendees mentioned the importance of kayaking opportunities in/around restored wetlands.
- Some attendees suggested the creation of an outdoor establishment, such as a restaurant/café/snack bar/wine bar. And some noted the revenue generating opportunity associated with such a retail area.
- Many commenters felt the area would be more welcoming with colorful, accessible signs and amenities such as a visitor's center or kiosk.
- Some participants noted they would not like to see motorized boats adjacent to restored areas.
- Some attendees suggested limiting human access to the marsh to the perimeter and small areas, and concentrating recreation in pockets.
- A concentrated swimming area, protected from boats, in De Anza Cove was suggested.
- A number of recreation opportunities were suggested for the planning area, including a dog park, playground, community garden, marina or ski boat launch. However, some expressed concern that these amenities could negatively affect restored areas.
- It was suggested that removing the existing chain-link fence would improve the visual quality of the marsh.
- Recreation opportunities that would provide revenue were also suggested, such as charging a fee for recreational use, allowing camping for a fee, and incorporating retail uses into the restoration design.
- Some attendees voiced preferences for no recreation in the planning area.



Theme 3: Land Use and Public Facilities

- Many participants suggested removal of the golf course and/or modifications to the golf course to improve habitat and water quality.
- There were mixed opinions on existing sports facilities, such as the golf course, tennis courts and ball fields. Some suggested moving athletic facilities (such as ballfields or tennis courts) to a more appropriate location while still supporting youth recreation. Others noted the importance of these facilities to the local community and advocated for the continued availability of these facilities in the same location.
- Some participants mentioned the idea of moving the existing recreation facilities to a location outside the planning area and restoring the current sites to wetland.
- Some attendees noted that Campland had been an important part of the community and should be preserved. A comment was also made asserting that Campland provides protected areas for recreation, low-cost recreation and overnight accommodations, and revenue for the City. Representing opposing perspectives, many noted that they would like to see restoration throughout the Planning Area, including the area currently occupied by Campland.
- Some participants expressed a desire for improved public transit access to the Planning Area.
- Some attendees suggested considering potential relationships to Mission Bay High School in public use and restoration decisions.
- It was suggested that the DeAnza area be used as park space for active recreation.
- It was also noted that mobile homes and RVs within the Planning Area may not be aesthetically pleasing. Suggestions were made to eliminate these uses, and if elimination is not possible it was suggested that these uses occur only in Campland because views into Campland are shielded somewhat by trees.

Theme 4: Restoration Details

- Many participants noted that water quality in the bay could be improved by filtering water through the golf course and/or vegetation established through the restoration process.
- Many attendees stated that they would like to maximize the area restored to wetlands, and that habitat restoration should be prioritized over active, developed recreation areas.
- Some participants stated that resilience to sea level rise must be incorporated into restoration design in order to protect adjacent properties, such as Mission Bay High School, and maintain recreational access in the future.
- Many participants suggested prioritizing improvements in hydrology, including tidal influence and cross-current exchange.
- Some participants suggested reducing and/or eliminating hardscape within the planning area and implementing bioswales/green streets in the upland areas.
- A few attendees advocated for the idea of redirecting Rose Creek as needed to connect wetlands.
- A suggestion was made to emphasize open water in the restoration design for visual reasons.



- Some attendees felt that restoration should focus on native and special-status species.
- Some commenters noted that breaking up existing landforms, presumably to form channels, in the planning area could increase tidal influence.
- Many participants suggested focusing on restoring upstream habitats, removing non-native species and reducing transient occupation of Rose Creek corridor.
- Some attendees liked the idea of working with the Native American community to create a cultural education center.
- It was also noted that wetlands provide carbon sequestration and it was also suggested that the team take the City of San Diego Climate Action Plan into consideration.
- Some would like to see restored habitat in place of ball fields or tennis courts, or in place of a portion of these facilities.

Theme 5: Long Term Considerations

- Some commenters noted the need to consider long-term maintenance issues, such as graffiti, potential transient use of the Planning Area, and trash/recycling. An on-site caretaker and office was also suggested.
- Many participants noted that funding availability and maintenance costs should be a factor in restoration design.

Theme 6: Process Suggestions

- Maps showing current landforms and contours in relation to historic conditions and potential future sea level rise conditions were suggested
- Some commenters suggested using volunteers, including MBHS biology classes, to assist with restoration efforts.
- Some meeting attendees noted that having more maps of the Planning Area, as well as computers to access the ReWild website, at future meetings would improve participant feedback.
- A request was also made to provide the public with access to historical ecology reports relevant to the Planning Area.

NEXT STEPS

The timeline below depicts the steps involved in creation of the Wetland Restoration Conceptual Plan. Public input provided at Town Hall Meeting #1 will be considered as the project team refines draft restoration goals and objectives, and ultimately, as the project team develops draft restoration alternatives. As depicted in the timeline, Town Hall Meeting #2 is tentatively scheduled for Summer 2016. Details regarding the time and location of Town Hall Meeting #2 will be posted at www.rewildmissionbay.org.

