ReWild Mission Bay
PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2
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.
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

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

BIOLGY/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

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

Wetlands need a variety of habitats, including upland and transitional surrounding areas, in order to function properly. Upland and transitional habitats provide food for wildlife 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

Rose Creek

Storm Drain Discharge

Tides

Tecolote Creek

Tecolote Creek

Project Boundary

Storm Drain Outlet

Other Drain Structure

Green Conveyance

Street Line

Water Main

Bike Route on Bridge

Railroad

Mission Bay

De Anza Blvd

San Diego State University

Mission Bay

Mission Bay

San Diego State University
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).

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.

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.

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).
### TIMELINE

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wetland Restoration Conceptual Plan</td>
<td>2018 Approvals*</td>
<td>Restoration Design and CEQA/NEPA</td>
<td>Final Engineering Design</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Restoration Monitoring</td>
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**Winter/Spring 2015/2016**
- Key Project Considerations
- Public Workshop #1

**Summer 2016**
- Restoration Goals and Objectives
- Public Workshop #2

**Fall 2016**
- Draft Restoration Alternatives
- Public Workshop #3

**Winter 2017**
- Final Restoration Alternatives
- Public Workshop #4

* Approvals could include San Diego City Council Approval & Coastal Commission Approval of the Mission Bay Park Master Plan Update.
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1

Public Workshop #1 was held on March 16, 2016 and approximately 70 people attended the meeting.

First of four planned workshops for the ReWild Mission Bay Restoration Plan.

The purpose was to provide information about the project and solicit input on key project considerations.

A summary of major discussion themes raised at Public Workshop #1 is shown below.

A full summary report can be downloaded by visiting https://rewildmissionbay.org.

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 the DeAnza area be used as park space for active recreation.
- 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.

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 site 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 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: PROJECT 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.
GOAL 1

RESTORE

Summary: Restore wetlands (aka “estuarine habitats”) so they can help improve water quality, reduce flooding, adapt to climate change, and support fish, birds, and other animals & plants that live there.

Complete Draft Text: Restore, enhance and/or create estuarine habitats (intertidal mudflat, salt marsh, tidal channels, & marsh/upland ecotone) to provide ecosystem functions and services, such as water quality improvement, shoreline stabilization, carbon sequestration, resistance and resilience to climate change and associated effects, and fish & wildlife support.
**Summary:** Protect the wetlands from negative impacts of human activity.

**Complete Draft Text:** Protect the existing and restored estuarine habitat and associated wildlife from detrimental anthropogenic impacts (direct and indirect) associated with surrounding development.
GOAL 3

**Summary:** Provide ways for the community to engage with natural resources through access, recreation, and education.

**Complete Draft Text:** Provide new and/or improve opportunities for public access, education, research, and recreation in ways that improve understanding and stewardship while protecting the existing and restored estuarine habitats and associated wildlife.
What other goals should be considered as part of ReWild Mission Bay?

› Share any other ideas, comments, or suggestions.

How can the draft restoration goals be improved?

› Tell us how you would change each of the goals.
› Make edits, provide additions, or suggest removing parts of a goal.

How can the draft restoration goals be implemented?

› Share examples, best-practices, ideas, and other ways of making these goals a reality in Mission Bay.

What other goals should be considered as part of ReWild Mission Bay?

› Share any other ideas, comments, or suggestions.

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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 DeAnza 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.”
› The Master Plan says up to 60 acres of DeAnza Point can be developed as guest housing and developments in the area should include hydrologic improvements that safeguard nearby marsh areas.

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 conceptual plans to the City for them to integrate into their larger land use plan for De Anza as well as for Campland by the Bay (whose restoration the City is prepping for but has not yet begun designing).

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 influence the outcome of the DeAnza 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 DeAnza 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>
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<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>
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