Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Key Themes from the December 5, 2017 Community/Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting

The December 5, 2017 community/stakeholder advisory committee meeting focused on Byxbee Park and the Renzel Wetlands/former ITT Property.

Hydrologic Connectivity

Stakeholders would like to see more natural hydrologic connectivity to the Renzel Wetlands and the marsh remnant south of Byxbee Park.

Trails

Stakeholder would like to retain or reduce the number of trails at Byxbee Park. Stakeholders would like a trail atop the levee that circles the freshwater pond in the Renzel Wetland. Some commenters noted that they would like to see trail connections to the Embarcardero Way and to the pedestrian bridge over Hwy 101. Others noted that trails should be sensitive to existing habitat patches and wildlife corridors.

Wildlife

Stakeholders would like to see additional habitat for burrowing owl at Byxbee Park. Commenters noted the importance of ground squirrels to burrowing owl habitat. One commenter was concerned regarding impacts to fox habitat from expansion and maintenance of the freshwater pond in the Renzel Wetlands. It was suggested that the fence at the former ITT property remain in place to restrict human access, and thus increase wildlife habitat. It was suggested that the planning team obtain a copy of the San Francisco Wildlife Refuge November/December 2017 regarding burrowing owls and ground squirrels.

Parking

Stakeholders noted that they would like no new parking at the former ITT property. Commenters said that the parking lots at Byxbee Park should be striped to allow more capacity.

Benches

Stakeholder would like more benches at Byxbee Park.

10-Acres

Stakeholder would like the 10 acres (Measure E site) at Byxbee Park, currently set-aside for a compost facility, to be re-dedicated as parkland as soon as it is possible (2021).
Potentially Historic Buildings

Stakeholders would like to remove the potentially historic buildings at the former ITT property. Some suggested that parts of the building/artifacts from the building could be repurposed elsewhere in Palo Alto in a historic display, or as part of a new airport terminal.

Habitat Enhancement/Restoration

Stakeholders would like to retain and restore habitat in the Renzel Wetlands/former ITT property and suggested looking at historical landscapes and maps. Some stakeholders suggested the addition of willow groves/sausals. Commenters would like see trails that do not bisect habitat, but occur along the edges of habitat. Some commenters would like to see an expansion of the vegetative islands in Byxbee Park. One commenter suggested that the Baylands do a land swap with the Airport as an opportunity to restore more marshland near San Francisquito Creek.

Planning

It was suggested that the BCCP process coordinate and collaborate with other projects in the area such as the JPA SAFER project.

Sea Level Rise/Climate Change

Stakeholders noted that sea level rise and climate change should be accounted for in the BCCP.

Terminology

It was suggested that the terms “active recreation” and “development” be changed during the planning process. Following this suggestion “active recreation” has been changed to “recreation” and “development” has been changed to “projects” in prior workshop themes summary and project materials.