Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Summary of the Baylands User Survey Responses
Administered by Baylands Rangers, April & May 2018

In April and May 2018 Baylands Rangers administered a six question survey questionnaire to Baylands visitors. The purpose of the survey was to provide additional input to development of the Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan, beyond the feedback received during focused stakeholder meetings. Approximately 73 people completed the survey, including a mix of adults and youth. The following summarized the responses received by all participants to each of the six questions.

Question 1: What issues do you think the BCCP should be focused on in the coming years? Tell us your top 3 priorities.

The majority of respondents said that the BCCP should focus on habitat/natural resources and recreation/access; the next most important issues include environmental education, park amenities, and sea level rise. Other responses included public art, parking, Byxbee Park, holistic management, and the former ITT property/Renzel wetlands.

Question 2: What features of the Baylands do you like most or use most?

The majority of respondents like or use the trails for walking, hiking, or biking. Many people said they also enjoy birdwatching and other wildlife observation opportunities. The sailing station parking lot is utilized by many different types of users including ham radio operators, kayakers/canoers, and a drum circle. Multiple respondents use and like the nature center and boardwalk. Some people said that they like to picnic, walk their dogs, or play at the Baylands Athletic Center. Multiple people said that they use and like the amenities such as restrooms, parking lots, drinking fountains/water stations, and benches.

Question 3: Which areas of the Baylands have potential for improvements? What would these improvements look like? (i.e., trails, benches, habitats, etc.)

Baylands users would like to see improvements to existing amenities such as better restrooms and trash cans particularly near the ranger station, more benches, more drinking fountains/water stations, shade structures, soccer fields, campground, and a fishing pier. Many respondents said that they would like to see improved trail surfaces, trails with connections to East Palo Alto and Mountain View, more trail access for dogs, and an improved Adobe Creek Trail for bikes. People would like easier launch access during low tide at the sailing station in addition to a hose to clean watercraft, more ties on the dock, and a place to rent kayaks/canoes. Many respondents said that they would like to see improved habitat at the Baylands including preserving existing wildlife habitat areas, and also a reduction in invasive species, and better vegetation control. A few respondents noted that safety and security could be improved through the addition of blue light emergency phones, defibrillators, or more park personnel. Other respondents mentioned that they would like to see the environmental education opportunities at the Baylands expanded through extended opening hours of the Lucy Evan Nature Center and the
Environmental Volunteers Ecocenter. One person would like to see an area for an outdoor classroom. Multiple people wanted to see the Geng Road parking lot improved.

**Question 4:** How often do you visit the Baylands? (i.e., daily, weekly, monthly, etc.) What do you do here? (i.e., paint, hike, run, windsurf, fish, kayak, birdwatch)

The majority of respondents said that they visit the Baylands weekly. Many people visit at least once a month. A few people visit two to five times a year, and a smaller number of people visit only occasionally or rarely. Three respondents said that they visit more than once per week.

**Question 5:** Do you have any additional suggestions for managing the Baylands, or ideas for what it should look like in the future?

Suggestions and opinions for the future of the Baylands were varied. Some people want more trails, more open space protection, and more ranger programming. Others wanted to see paved parking lots, shade structures, more picnic tables, more signage, and more restrooms. At the former ITT site, some people want to see the historic buildings restored and open for use, while others want to see the building removed and the area restored to natural habitat. Many respondents suggested more environmental education opportunities including tours, crafts, guided wildlife observation tours, and nature walks. Vegetation control and landscaping were mentioned by multiple respondents. Other suggestions included extended hours on full moon nights in summer, more park personnel, and additional soccer fields.

**Question 6:** What is your biggest concern with regards to the Baylands?

There were multiple concerns noted regarding the Baylands. The greatest concerns were pollution within the Baylands, urban expansion/development, and preservation of open space/habitat. Other concerns include sea level rise, public access, and parking.