

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress has been made in the following areas:

Continued Restoration:

- Non-native removal: Over 9 truckloads of invasive, non-native species, including grasses, chrysanthemum, Russian thistle, and sea rocket, were removed from the site. Non-native plants were cleared from additional upland areas in preparation for planting and hydroseeding.
- Trash removal: One truckload of trash was removed from the site.
- Demonstration garden: The number of trails was reduced through the garden area and the remaining trails were enhanced with rock parameters.
- Revegetated areas: The newly planted species in the demonstration garden and upland area were cared for through watering and non-native plant removal.
- Planting: Six hundred native plants and 0.5 acres of hydroseed materials were purchased for revegetating the upland area. Use of the hydroseed truck was provided in-kind.

Interpretive Signs:

- Interpretive signs: An interpretive panel was created to be part of an interpretive “pop-out” off of the bike path. The “pop-out” will also include benches and a view of the demonstration garden and wetland site.
- Pamphlet: Pamphlets for a self-guided tour for visitors to the wetland were restocked during each project.

Community Involvement/Education Element:

- Friends of San Diego River Mouth: The Friends of San Diego River Mouth has met in August, September, and October to complete various projects at the wetland site. The Friends group targets youth between the ages of 12 and 18 every other month. On the alternating months, a wide range of volunteers from youth to adults participate in the restoration activities.
- Adult Education: Informational tours and materials are provided at each event describing the benefits of wetlands, local species, and threats to the area.
- Youth Education: During the projects and during field trips, youth groups have participated in wetland tours and educational activities. During tours, youth use binoculars, refractometers, and other scientific equipment to learn about wetlands and why they are important. Youth also participate in restoration efforts.

Accomplishments during contract period:

- Over 33 truckloads of invasive, non-native species were removed during the contract period.
- Seven truckloads of trash were removed during the contract period.
- Over 2,500 native plants were put into the salt marsh, demonstration garden, and upland areas.
- In total, 380 volunteers have participated in Friends of San Diego River Mouth projects this year.
- Several youth groups participated in wetland education tours and restoration projects.
- The sensitive marsh area was protected by adding fencing and rerouting visitors to alternative paths.
- The interpretive trail was enhanced through the installation of species identification signs, removal of unnecessary trails, improvements on remaining trails, and creation and distribution of an informational pamphlet entitled “Your Living Museum.”
- A demonstration garden was created to educate visitors about native plant species and to build a vision of a river mouth restored.

Upcoming projects include:

- Friends of San Diego River Mouth projects aimed at removing non-native species and planting native species.
- Educational tours and activities for youth groups at each project.
- Installation of interpretive signs in the demonstration garden. Several signs will be added to help visitors identify native plant and animal species.
- The installation of signs clearly marking trail heads throughout the site to help visitors stay on trails.
- The interpretive “pop-out” area off of the bike path is in the planning stages. Meetings have been held with Urban Corps, San Diego Park and Recreation, and San Diego River Park Foundation to develop the plans for the area. This is to be the first of several similar “pop-outs” along the San Diego River.