

**Talking Points**  
**Fiesta Island General Plan Update**  
**San Diego Park and Recreation Department**  
**July 1, 2010**

1. Existing Approved General Development Plan dates from 1994
2. Current development plans for Fiesta Island arise from the 2002 Master Plan Update which also serves as the Coastal Commission LCP (Local Coastal Program) for Mission Bay Park.
  - a. Estimated development cost \$300M
3. To secure Coastal Commission approval of the Master Plan City agreed to begin spending Sludge Mitigation Funds for recreational development of Fiesta Island and South Shores.
  - a. Current GDP effort is being funded through funds.
  - b. Approximately \$1.9M available
4. The proposed GDP revision received approval from the Mission Bay Park Committee on Sept. 11, 2007. Various approvals were obtained in February 2008 from the Design Review Subcommittee of the Park and Recreation Board.
5. The Department presented an amendment to the consultant agreement to Council for additional services in 2008 to finish the planning effort and to start the environmental review process.
6. FIDO requested Council offices have Department include consultant work to re-evaluate design to improve off-leash use, pedestrian circulation and parking layout.
7. In re-considering those elements the plan further evolved and was improved upon in several important ways.
8. Revisions are being brought back to Mission Bay Park Committee for consideration.
9. The more notable changes in the detail of the plan include:
  - a. The campground was relocated closer to the entrance to the island.
    1. Improves access, improves security
    2. Allows the "back" part of the island to be closed at night while still allowing campers to travel to and from the island 24/7.
    3. Integrates day use picnic for groups and other special permit social events in the same facilities as overnight camping and is next to other regional park facilities.
  - b. Circulation around the island was reversed from counter-clockwise to clockwise.
    1. Can now isolate parts of the island from general traffic so special events can occur on island without need to close the entire island down to general public as is now the case. The outer loop remains one way in a clockwise pattern but all cross connecting roads are two way, with the ability to block off the north half to be vehicular free while the south half of the roadway can remain open (with candlesticks between the lanes).
    2. Traffic flow more controllable and will allow more options for holding events on island.

- c. The sand management area has been relocated to the north end of the island,
    - 1. Now away from the more intensive public use areas and closer to the new wetland.
    - 2. Environmental consultants recommended because of synergy between the regularly disturbed sand areas, which provide a food source for foraging shore birds, and the wetland area.
    - 3. The majority of the central part of the island will be converted to natural dune habitats with public trails and interpretive facilities.
  - d. New circulation pattern will improve access to the leash free area at the southwest corner
    - 1. Provides a more direct route when entering the island.
    - 2. Provides better access to the new public beach as well.
  - e. The leash free area at the southwest corner is improved to allow unrestricted shoreline perimeter access – which was FIDO’s major concern at the outset.
10. Changes made plan more responsive to primary stakeholder groups and general public needs. Coordination with various recreational activity groups (paddlers- various dragon boat, kayak and outrigger clubs), (dog users-FIDO), (various linear sports clubs such as the San Diego Bike Coalition, San Diego Running & Track Club, San Diego Triathlon Club) and various environmental groups (Audubon Society, California Native Plants Society and the Sierra Club), all helped to make the plan more refined and responsive to these organizations goals and concerns.
11. Examples of refinements include
- a. Off leash uses
    - 1. Provides single consolidated off leash area of 85 acres.
    - 2. Provides for unobstructed beach access around the off-leash area.
    - 3. Defines off-leash improvements more specifically.
    - 4. Limited general public recreation facilities in the leash free area to avoid over use of this area / future conflicts
  - b. Bicycling, running, triathlon linear recreation uses
    - 1. Provides grade separations
    - 2. Provides measured distances
    - 3. Provides competitive courses
    - 4. Improved safety at entry area
    - 5. Road barriers and circulation patterns will allow for segmented portions of the island to accommodate weekly and special events more often with less impact on other users
  - c. Paddling uses
    - 1. Delineates identifiable facilities / area
    - 2. Provides vessel launch points
    - 3. Provides shared support facilities (parking, restrooms, kiosks)
    - 4. Provides storage location (small storage buildings / beach storage)
    - 5. Provides proximity to adjacent water use areas ideal for paddling
  - d. Environmental / habitat improvements
    - 1. Environmental areas more well defined and protected.
    - 2. Existing resources are protected in place
    - 3. Extensive coastal dune and maritime scrub vegetation added

12. Together these represent major improvement to the overall plan.

13. Tentative Next Steps

- a. Mission Bay Park Committee Action Item – September 2010
- b. Park and Recreation Design Review Committee Review – September / October 2010
- c. Complete Environmental Documents / Process– October 2010 /March 2011
- d. Park and Recreation Board Approval – April 2011
- e. City Council Natural Resources and Culture Committee Review / Recommendation May 2011
- f. City Council Review - June 2011