

Ballona Ecosystems Rejuvenation “Seven Guiding Principles”

1. 21st century, incremental, community involved ecosystem rejuvenation that is in harmony with natural laws . We are opposed to industrial-scale habitat conversion, including major bulldozing, which destroys existing ecosystems.
2. In appreciation of what is there now, recognize the resiliency of the ecosystems and identify areas that require no more than observation for the foreseeable future.
3. In recognition of the importance of gaining control of more acreage before it is built on, or otherwise negatively impacted, give priority to acquisition/addition of additional unprotected parcels of land at a reasonable price to the Ballona Wildlife Refuge, over restoration activities. Such land protection will increase habitat enhancing buffer zones for wildlife and plants, and decrease car trips in the area, which lead to animal road fatalities.
4. Utilize existing opportunities to access the refuge, such as the Ballona Creek bike path, and south earthen levy along Ballona Creek and install a walking/biking path around as much of the perimeter of the refuge as is ecologically feasible.
5. Utilizing existing infrastructure such as the old Pacific Railway bridge supports and other man made structures, along with materials that have the deepest sustainability, create wildlife, bicycle, and walking linkages that connect all areas of the ecosystems in a fashion that allow homo sapiens and animals alike, to safely go over or under all roads and waterways that divide the refuge.
6. In recognition of the importance of enhancing the beauty of the refuge, safety of birds and other mammals, and the reduction of light pollution, move all power, telephone, and cable lines underground, and remove the majority of street lighting.
7. Endangered, threatened, and imperiled species must be given priority for protection in any refuge alteration considerations.

Supported by numerous environmental and community groups, including Ballona Wetlands Land Trust, Sierra Club, Ballona Institute, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project, Grassroots Coalition and Wetlands Defense Fund

1/19/2012