

Tolay Lake Regional Park Master Plan: NOP Scoping Meeting July 21, 2015



Tonight's Agenda

- Provide a brief overview of the Tolay Lake Master Plan and process, so far
- Explain environmental review, scoping process, and estimated schedule
- Take written comments on the scope of the environmental review
- Answer questions

In Review

- Master Plan is a partnership between:
 - Sonoma County Regional Parks
 - Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
 - Sonoma Land Trust
 - State Coastal Conservancy



Project Purpose and Goals

- Provide a variety of recreation and educational uses while protecting natural and cultural resources
 - Habitat restoration
 - Compatible recreation uses
 - Resource management actions

Major Project Components

Existing & Proposed Park Center Infrastructure:

- 15 buildings
- Picnic area
- Proposed visitor center
- Farm infrastructure
- Access roads and parking areas
- Trails and signs



Natural & Cultural Resource Management:

- Aquatic and upland habitats
- Sensitive plants and animals
- Sacred prehistoric areas
- Cultural resources
- Tolay Lake
- Agricultural uses



Major Phases

- Phase 1: Discovery
- Phase 2: Visioning
- **Phase 3: Implementation**
 - Recreational and educational facilities
 - Compatible land uses
 - Changes in infrastructure
 - Lake restoration design
 - Resource management plan (natural and cultural)
 - CEQA document 

Major Tasks

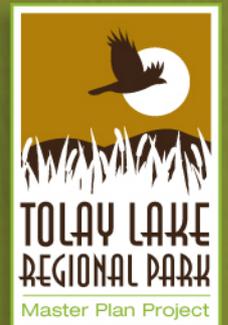
- Historic Structures Report
- Groundwater Report
- Waste disposal options
- Lake Design Element
- Public outreach and visioning
- Conceptual Site Plan alternatives and public input
- Resource Management Plan
- Master Plan (inclusive) and Public Input
- EIR preparation and public review



Project Status

Task	Status	Next Steps
1. Data Review	Completed	
2. Historic Structures Report	Completed	
3. Groundwater Report	Testing borings, in progress	Confirm groundwater supply
4. Wastewater Report	Completed	
5. Public outreach and visioning	Completed	
6. Conceptual plan alternatives	Completed	
7. Resource Management Plan	Completed	Finalize RMP
8. Master Plan	Completed	Finalize Master Plan
9. EIR	In progress	Public Review DEIR

Tolay Lake Master Plan Process



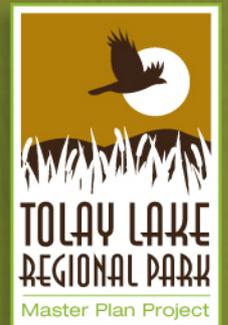
Process

1. Identified major park elements
 - Parking and circulation, restrooms
 - Visitor Center
 - Trails and places for interpretation
 - Viewpoints
 - Overnight facilities
 - Special facilities
2. Identified cultural and biological constraints
3. Located major park elements to avoid constraints

Process

- Solicited input from consultant team, Regional Parks and FIGR, funding partners, neighbors and general public
- Prepared 3 concept plans with varying levels of development, options screened against 6 criteria
- Created conceptual site plan with preferred elements

Tolay Lake Regional Park Master Plan



Master Plan Elements

- Includes lake restoration
- Interprets the landscape and site history
- Provides a variety of trails
- Overnight visitation
- Efficient use of park resources

Master Plan

- Focused at the concept level
- Has two major components:
 - Existing & Proposed Public Access & Ranch Infrastructure
 - Natural and Cultural Resource Management

Existing & Proposed Public Access & Ranch Infrastructure

- **Traffic and Circulation:**
 - Improves Park access roads (north, south)
 - Increases parking
 - Constructs new trails (multi-use, pedestrian)
- **Visitor Services:**
 - Constructs new visitor center & interpretive exhibits
 - Constructs new kitchen, overnight facilities
 - Establishes equestrian area

Existing & Proposed Public Access & Ranch Infrastructure

- **Park Operations:**

- Re-locates equipment shed
- Constructs new ranger residence
- Constructs environmentally friendly wastewater system
- Increases potable water supply

Cultural Resource Management

- Protects culturally focused areas
- Creates Tribal gathering area
- Restores historic ranch buildings

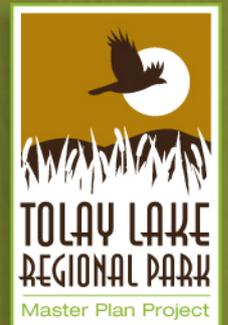


Natural Resource Management

- Restores Tolay Lake
- Restores and protects oak woodland, grassland, and riparian habitats
- Protects sensitive species



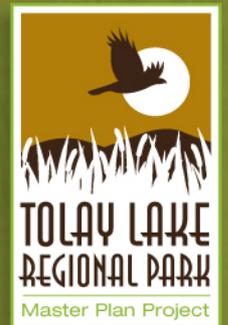
Lake Restoration



Lake Restoration

- 215 ft Lake Outlet Elevation with Enhanced Southeast Basin
 - Would provide adequate water to support seasonal wetland habitat and restore original hydrology within Lake
 - Would reduce potential for flooding of upstream properties

Next Steps



Next Steps

- Finalize Project Description
- CEQA review of the project (Environmental Impact Report)
 - All CEQA topics-EIR will analyze impacts to aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities.
 - EIR will analyze alternatives and cumulative impacts.

Next Steps

- Notice of Preparation (NOP)
 - NOP sent to interested parties mailing list, tribes, appropriate local and state agencies
 - Noticed in the Press-Democrat, Parks' website, Sonoma County Clerk's office, State Clearinghouse
 - Posted at Tolay Lake Regional Park
- 30-day public comment period
 - Comments can be mailed, emailed, or provided in person
 - Comments will be considered during preparation of EIR

Next Steps

- Issue Public Review Draft EIR (45-day review period)
 - Public Review Draft EIR Hearing
 - Comments can be mailed, emailed, or provided in person
- Issue Final EIR
 - Public Review Final EIR Hearing
 - EIR Certification by BOS
- Master Plan approval and adoption by BOS
- Start implementing Master Plan elements

Schedule

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May
Prepare EIR	Active						Completed				
EIR (45-day review)	Completed						Active	Completed			
Prepare Final EIR	Completed							Active			Completed
Certify EIR	Completed										Active
Adopt Master Plan	Completed										Active

Questions?

