

# MEEA Meeting Notes - 6/3/2020

## ***Meeting Participants:***

Genie Moore, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Don Edwards SF Bay NWR  
Kym Teppo: Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks  
Deb Kramer, Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful  
Serena Flores from Youth Science Institute  
Nina Vuoso, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Vanessa Wyns, Canopy  
Kathleen Tarlow, Grassroots Ecology  
Donya Foley from The HEAL Project :)  
Toby Goldberg, Environmental Volunteers  
Colter Cook, Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful & Walden West  
Ellen Tjosvold, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Interpretive Specialist  
Hope Presley (Watershed Watchers), San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society at Don Edwards SF Bay NWR  
Aja Yee, Stay at home mom - Formerly from Don Edwards, YSI, and part time MSI.  
Laurie Alexander, Friends of Edgewood Junior Explorers and Education Center.  
Renee Fitzsimons, Interpretation & Education Program Mgr - Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Barbara Banfield, City of Cupertino

*(Did I miss anyone?)*

---

## ***Status Updates: Plans and Challenges for the Summer (and Beyond)***

City of Cupertino Parks/Rec (Barbara): Outdoor only summer camps (no indoor facilities)

- Starting June 22nd
- 3-week sessions (with same kids registered for each session)
- Not hiring any additional summer staff - concerned about having enough dedicated summer program staff

City of Sunnyvale: Summer camps in 4-week-long cohorts

City of San Jose: Using Library and Community Center spaces for summer camp

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful (Deb):

- Virtual Creek Tours
- Netflix Parties (e.g. A Plastic Ocean)
- No in-person creek clean-ups - trying to shift to trail clean-ups instead
- Weekly "Meet Your Nature Neighborhood" programs - self-guided with prompts, using iNaturalist:  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/meet-your-nature-neighbors>

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Renee, Nina, Ellen): Don't really fit any one activity category well for county health orders and regulations

- Running scenarios from doing nothing to being completely virtual

- Working through ideas for making virtual field trips as a resource to teachers

Friends of Edgewood Junior Explorers and Education Center (Laurie): Really struggling with safety protocols and ideas for “no touch” activities

- How to share touchable specimens, scopes and displays (chopsticks?)
- Have cancelled docent training and docent-led walks for 2020 altogether - focusing more on family-based activities
- Education Center closed (likely through remainder of 2020) b/c of struggles with cleaning/disinfecting protocols

Don Edwards SFBWR and Wildlife Society (Genie and Hope): Working through a lot of bureaucracy...

- Limited field work, and small cohorts only
- Virtual summer camp for grades 1-6 in August via 1 hour zoom programs; materials for art/crafts being mailed to families who register; able to reach farther afield (Alviso and Castroville)
- Working toward live programs online - using YouTube channel
- Collecting videos and photos
- Working towards self-guided home activities (native dyes, home-based games, etc.)
- Sent a video “Thank You” to teachers
- One of biggest challenges is trying to create video content without being able to be at site

HEAL Project (Donya):

- Eliminating summer camp altogether (too restrictive, staff didn’t feel comfortable)
- Looking to create online summer content that is very local/community based

Grassroots Ecology (Kathleen): Looking at program-based cohorts

- College intern program becoming larger focus (not doing large volunteer-based restoration activities or programs)
- Creating no-cross cohorts of 8 interns
- Continuing/expanding high school intern programs - meeting once a week, 10 kids per site, same interns and staff each week (limiting crossing) - which has had lots of interest
- Working on extensive safety protocols

Canopy (Vanessa):

- Tree program has been put on pause b/c still trying to work through safety protocols
- Working through different Educational Programs modalities - trying to prep for the Fall

EV (Toby):

- Also working through different Ed Program modalities and scenarios (especially streaming content)
- Trying to focus on not just “new” all the time - can we use these programs for other scenarios in the future

Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks (Kym):

- Loss of volunteers b/c of COVID-19 situation and docent reengagement are biggest challenges right now - everyone wants to get out hiking again - they don’t want to do virtual programs...