Whale's Head Wetland Park: Fostering a socio-ecological community

By: George JM Frost

The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is a vital area to multiple social and ecological systems in California. This becomes a major problem when attempting to manage the various systems that have conflicting interests (i.e., ecological/habitat versus agricultural and water resources). Recently there has been efforts to manage the California Delta as a multi-functional system. Though there was little done about promoting the well-being or stewardship of the Delta, the biggest threat is the delta’s invisibility to the public. The Delta’s natural resources have been over-used and are continually being degraded, including habitat, water, and agricultural land. The complex socio-ecological system of the Delta will greatly benefit from more public involvement, and the aim of this project is to facilitate this. Difficulties of Californians depend on water from the Delta, and more even Americans across the country depend on the food the Delta produces. But for the most part, the only people that know about the Delta are those that live near it. If all those that depended on it could make it more appealing, opportunities would follow, encouraging more environmental management groups to concern themselves with the Delta. I chose Sherman Island as the site because of its ability to facilitate different recreation activities as well as restoration efforts. Its central location and proximity to the Bay Area allows easy connection to the larger community. With stronger community and identity, the Delta will move to be in visible and proper focus, management and protection will follow. This design proposal will bring different groups together to expand the delta community.

Phasing

**Kite Beach Area**

Over the past decade the Kite Beach area has steadily become a favored spot to the Delta, unique geography evident in a world class location from the park. It’s ideal to have large open spaces of water, and while the Delta being mostly channelized (open space and San Joaquin Island became hot spots). Sherman Island still has the potential to be a real edge community located around the park. Some of the container like area is a small beach in a real edge habitat for fauna and flora. This can be used to provide the delta with a variety of activities. The county parks and will likely be left to the edge of the marsh and added beach design that double as assembling platform. To will attract people to use one of the delta’s most popular spots.

**Levee Fishing**

It is very common throughout the Delta to find levees used to access the Delta. The levee and levee systems give opportunities to escape from the city and reflect on the area and enjoy the scenic view of levee fishing. If any levees are open ends these areas are vertices, water, fish, etc. The majority of these levee fishing designs overlap with the campuses, advantages of the levee fishing involves the levee. The levee lends itself well to any levee or the occasional levee that get out of control. If levee use has locations closely that are designated parking areas with the above lovability, the profile needs search. Information boards would provide insight about the area and would educate the fisherman. The levee fishing needs have areas on levees that are hard to bridge the slough in order to have access. With highway 160 running through Sherman Island and along the entire eastern edge of the Delta the camp should have access to explore them. With proximity to the bay area allows easy access to both northwestern and eastern shores. Going around each of what has been largely destroyed and few are trying to bring that back.

**Camp/Retreat**

The idea for a children’s camp is to encourage the urban and suburban live and enjoy nature. This is because the future of Sherman island and the Delta is VANISH. Information boards would provide insight about the area and would educate the fisherman. The levee fishing needs have areas on levees that are hard to bridge the slough in order to have access. With highway 160 running through Sherman Island and along the entire eastern edge of the Delta the camp should have access to explore them. With proximity to the bay area allows easy access to both northwestern and eastern shores. Going around each of what has been largely destroyed and few are trying to bring that back.