

Restoration of Bothin Marsh

For many years Almonte residents and neighboring communities have held dear the long term goal of restoring the Almonte District's Tam Junction Business Section on the East Side of Shoreline Blvd. back into Marsh. The Almonte District Improvement Club supports this effort.

Ninety-seven percent (97%) of the Bay Area Wetlands have been destroyed. Almonte's treasured Bothin Marsh is part of the remaining 3%.

The Importance and Value of Wetlands

Wetlands are important and valued environments for the following reasons:

- They are highly productive ecosystems, and are able to capture energy and provide food for fauna.
- They provide important refuges for wildlife in drought.
- They have intrinsic natural beauty and provide opportunities for recreation activities such as boating, swimming, bushwalking and bird watching.
- They provide a natural hydrological balance in the landscape and help to provide protection against floods.
- They have a role in providing water quality protection in the catchment by filtering pollutants such as sediments, nutrients, organic and inorganic matter and pathogens.
- They support a wide variety of flora and fauna and provide different ecological functions.
- They provide nursery areas for fish, and breeding grounds for wildlife, particularly water birds.
- Wetlands provide vital habitat for some species of threatened fauna and endangered wildlife. The California Clapper Rail and the Salt-Marsh Harvest Mouse are two endangered species that live in Bothin Marsh.
- They provide refuge for migratory water birds.
- Many wetlands, such as gnamma holes, are of cultural significance.
- They provide opportunities for scientific research and are a source of education for the community.



We wish to highlight two particular virtues of restoring the Almonte Business Section on the East Side of Shoreline back into pristine Marsh.

1) Visual Improvement: Such restoration would greatly enhance the appearance of Tam Junction. An unobstructed view of a lush pristine marsh would be a tremendous improvement over the dilapidated buildings, vehicles, and debris that currently occupy the space.

2) Protection against Floods: Marshland provides a natural hydrological balance in the landscape and helps to provide protection against floods. This is particularly important in our area that routinely suffers from flooding. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, the Bay Area tides will rise by three feet (3 ft.) in the next 100 years. This means a rise of 9 inches in the next 25 years. Obviously, flooding in our area is destined to only get worse.

A Wonderful Opportunity:

To achieve the restoration of Bothin Marsh, a strong and sustained effort will be needed over decades. Multi million dollar funding will be required. No eminent domain process will be used. The parcels will be bought as the owners, at their own discretion, place them on the market. It could easily take ten to twenty years for the full restoration project to reach fruition.

Supervisor Charles McGlashan has expressed an interest in restoring Bothin Marsh. He has made initial inquiries into funding sources. However, we sense that if he and other Supervisors are to place their full energy behind this endeavor, they need to know that the local residents are in full support. Please show your support and take the following three actions:

- 1) Write to Supervisor McGlashan directly:
Charles McGlashan
Marin County Supervisor, District 3
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903
- 2) Download the "Restoration of Bothin Marsh Petition". Sign the petition. If you are so inclined, ask friends, associates and neighbors to also sign the petition. Then send the signed petition to:
Almonte District Improvement Club
105 Wisteria Way
Mill Valley, CA 94941
- 3) Spread the news! Email works quite well. Please direct whoever you feel would be interested to this website and ask them to also take action.