

APPENDIX

F

Everson/Digby Natural Area Description

6.27 EVERSON/DIGBY

GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

Everson/Digby (E/D) is a 1.2-acre Natural Area located between Everson Street and Digby Street in the Diamond Heights area of San Francisco, east of Glen Canyon Park. Elevations range from 415 to 515 feet above sea level (Figure 6.27-1). The vegetation of E/D is composed primarily of grasslands with shrubs and trees along its lower boundary (Figure 6.27-1). E/D provides important habitat for native plants; grassland habitat; regionally significant City views; and suitable habitat for a variety of bird species.

GEOLOGY, HYDROLOGY, AND TRAILS

This Natural Area is an undeveloped open space comprised mostly of a steep hill rising up from Everson Street to Digby Street. Soil in this Natural Area is relatively shallow, typically less than one foot deep, and is underlain by Franciscan bedrock. The bedrock outcrops in the middle of the site, in a steep slope area (Figure 6.27-2).

There is no surface water at the site. Drainage of the area is by overland flow. Some rainfall percolates into fissures in the rock, but runoff generally is rapid.

No primary or secondary trails were observed in the E/D Natural Area. A paved sidewalk runs along Digby Street at the upper boundary of the natural area.

VEGETATION

The vegetation of E/D is classified into five series (Table 6.27-1; Figure 6.27-3). These series are within four sub-formations: approximately 79 percent of the area is grassland; 9 percent is forest; 7 percent is scrub; and 4 percent is classified as “other herb” (fennel). None of these series are dominated by native species.

Forest

One forest series was mapped at E/D: acacia forest. Within the Natural Area, only a small amount of land is covered by this species (0.11 acres).

Grassland

Two herbaceous series were mapped at E/D: wild oat grassland (0.95 acres) and fennel (0.05 acres). Wild oat grassland dominates the Natural Area.

Scrub

Two non-native scrub series were mapped at E/D: cottoneaster scrub (0.04 acres) and mixed exotic scrub which contains Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) (0.05 acres).

Sensitive Plant Species

No sensitive plant species have been observed at E/D. The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) does not report the occurrence of any sensitive plant species at E/D (CNDDB 2009). It also does not provide potential habitat for sensitive plant species. Several native species were identified at E/D, including sky lupine (*Lupinus nanus*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and California melica (*Melica californica*).

Invasive Plant Species

All of the vegetation series at E/D are dominated by invasive species. As previously mentioned, wild oat grassland dominates the site. Acacia trees are encroaching into the Natural Area from the residential development that abuts E/D on the southern edge. Cottoneaster scrub, mixed exotic scrub and fennel occur in the eastern portion of E/D. Additional invasive species within the grassland include Bermuda buttercup (*Oxalis pes-caprae*), English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), and wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*).

WILDLIFE

Birds

The multi-storied complex habitat found within E/D and below the Natural Area may provide some nesting and roosting habitat for a wide variety of species. The grassland habitats of E/D provide foraging habitat for raptors such as red-tailed (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and red-shouldered (*Buteo lineatus*) hawks, while the Acacia forest edge provides potential nesting habitat for these species. Habitat for smaller birds (songbirds) is available in the scrub and forest habitats in and below the Natural Area. No areas of important bird habitat were delineated for this Natural Area.

Mammals, Reptiles, and Amphibians

No animal surveys were conducted at E/D; however, common animals are likely to occur here. Small mammals such as the California meadow vole (*Microtus californicus*), house mouse (*Mus musculus*), and pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) are likely to be found in this habitat. Large mammals such as raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*) and Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) are typical of urbanized parks in general and are expected to occur within E/D. Reptiles typical of grassland habitats, such as garter snakes, are suspected to occur here, but have not been reported. The CNDDB does not report any sensitive species as

occurring within the area (CNDDDB 2009), and the area does not provide potential suitable habitat for sensitive species.

Invertebrates

Sensitive Invertebrate Species

At least three special-status species of butterflies potentially occur within the City of San Francisco: mission blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides missionensis*), San Bruno elfin butterfly (*Incisalia mossii bayensis*), and bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*). The CNDDDB does not report the occurrence of any special-status species of invertebrates at E/D (CNDDDB 2009), and the site does not provide potential habitat for these species.

MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Management Areas (MAs) at E/D have been delineated based on the presence of diverse native grasslands. The MA-1a area supports a rich array of species including California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), purple needle grass (*Nassella pulchra*), and California melica (*Melica californica*), and is more intact habitat than the MA-2a area which borders Digby Street. The MA-3a areas include tree and shrub communities (Figure 6.27-4).

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Several conservation and recreation-related issues have been identified for E/D. Recommendations developed for each of these issues will guide restoration, enhancement, and maintenance work. In the following discussion, system-wide issues and recommendations (GR-1 for example; see Chapter 5) that apply to the entire Natural Area at E/D are presented first within each topical area, followed by site-specific issues and recommendations. Site-specific recommendations are keyed to the Management Area in which they should occur.

Site Improvements – Implementation of management recommendations at E/D would not change significantly the overall look of the park and would result in:

- improved wildlife habitat;
- enhancement of native grasslands.

Careful management and restoration of the grasslands at E/D will create a native grassland that is rich in plant species and offers habitat for sensitive species of butterflies. This grassland may be comparable to that found on the northern slope of Bayview Park (Section 6.17) or on San Bruno Mountain.

Vegetation

Issues relating to vegetation management at E/D involve the protection of habitats, typically through the control of invasive plants (GR-1). Specific actions to take in managing grasslands such as those present at E/D should be implemented (GR-3). No trees will be removed at E/D. Issues relating to the general safety of visitors and surrounding homes, fire hazards posed by vegetation and trees, and illicit activities must be considered during management of the Natural Areas (GR-13). In addition to these general recommendations, the following site-specific issues should be addressed.

Issue ED-1: Invasive species occur throughout E/D and pose a threat to the grasslands

Recommendation ED-1a: Reduce and contain herbaceous and woody invasive species, including radish, fennel, and annual grasses in all Management Areas. Prevent the establishment of invasive trees in grasslands.

Recommendation ED-1b: Areas where invasive species have been removed shall be revegetated using appropriate native plants. Existing grasslands will be enhanced and diversified as appropriate (MA-1a and MA-2a). Specifically, within MA-1a, efforts shall be taken to augment the existing uncommon grassland plant species such as silver lupine (*Lupinus albifrons* var. *collinus*). Within MA-2a, the existing non-native grassland should be slowly replaced with a native grassland including California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), purple needle grass (*Nassella pulchra*), and California melica (*Melica californica*). Using diversity, cover, and density targets generated from reference sites within and around San Francisco, plant native grassland species in the appropriate areas (see Appendix B).

Recommendation ED-1c: Contain and/or reduce acacia, broom, cotoneaster, and fennel in MA-3a and diversify the grassland interface with wildlife-enhancing species and design.

Wildlife

Implementation of system-wide recommendations that relate to vegetation management and nesting birds (GR-4), predation (GR-7), increasing cover for small mammals and birds (GR-9) and installation of host plants for native insects (GR-10) would all serve to enhance the wildlife habitat at E/D.

Soils, Erosion, and Public Use

No primary or secondary trails were observed in the E/D Natural Area. The issue of erosion and habitat impacts related to social trails that may develop is addressed through implementation of GR-11 and GR-12.

Table xx. Vegetation series mapped at Everson/Digby.

	Vegetation Series	Total Acreage
Forest	acacia forest	0.11
	Subtotal	0.11
Scrub	cottoneaster scrub	0.04
	Scotch broom	0.05
	Subtotal	0.09
Grassland	wild oat grassland	0.95
	fennel	0.05
	Subtotal	1.00
Grand Total		1.20



Source: Orthophoto - SFD, 2007; Street Data - SFD, 2009;
Contour Data - HJW, 2001; Property Data REIS, 2005;
Significant Natural Area Data created by RPD Planning from
information provided by RPD Natural Area Program, 2010;
All Data are NAD 1983 StatePlane California III FIPS 0403 Feet

Created by Sean Stasio, SFRPD Planning Division
for SFRPD Significant Natural Areas Program, November 2010



0 25 50 75 100
Feet

FIGURE 6.27-1
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH,
PROPERTY BOUNDARIES,
AND NATURAL AREAS

Everson/Digby
Significant Natural Resource Areas
Management Plan
San Francisco, California



Soils and Land Features

- 1A slopes
- 14 Thin rocky soils over bedrock
- Natural Area boundary



Source: Orthophoto - SFDT, 2007; Street Data - SFDPW, 2009;
All Data are NAD 1983 StatePlane California III FIPS 0403 Feet

Created by Yashekia Evans, Tetra Tech, for SFRPD Significant
Natural Areas Program, April 2011.

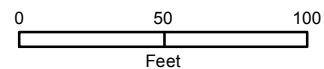


FIGURE 6.27-2

SOILS AND LAND FEATURES

Everson/Digby

Significant Natural Resource Areas
Management Plan

San Francisco, California



Source: Orthophoto - SFDT, 2007; Street Data - SFDPW, 2009;
Significant Natural Area Data created by RPD Planning from
information provided by RPD Natural Area Program, 2010;
All Data are NAD 1983 StatePlane California III FIPS 0403 Feet

Created by Sean Stasio, SFRPD Planning Division
for SFRPD Significant Natural Areas Program, November 2010

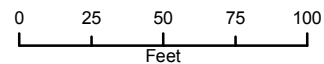


FIGURE 6.27-3
VEGETATION

Everson/Digby

Significant Natural Resource Areas
Management Plan

San Francisco, California



Source: Orthophoto - SFDT, 2007; Street Data - SFDPW, 2009;
Significant Natural Area Data created by RPD Planning from
information provided by RPD Natural Area Program, 2010;
All Data are NAD 1983 StatePlane California III FIPS 0403 Feet

Created by Sean Stasio, SFRPD Planning Division
for SFRPD Significant Natural Areas Program, NOVEMBER 2010

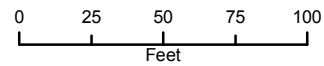


FIGURE 6.27-4
MANAGEMENT AREAS

Everson/Digby
Significant Natural Resource Areas
Management Plan
San Francisco, California