

The TBWA greatly appreciates the investments made by the City for improvements to Coes Reservoir and surrounding areas, and fully supports the construction of an accessible walkway in Columbus Park.

We believe that this project can be successfully completed without replicating wetlands at the site of Hillside Beach. If replicated wetlands are required as part of this project, there are a number of sites around Coes Reservoir more suitable for manmade wetlands.

The TBWA encourages city officials to engage in a dialogue with its citizens in order to come to a consensus about the future of Hillside Beach. The TBWA can envision a Hillside Beach that resembles its former glorious self when on hot summer days hundreds of people would enjoy the beach and Columbus Park.

The TBWA acknowledges that there will be challenges and a financial cost to restoring and making the beach safe for all. There are only a small number of public swimming spots within the city. Hillside Beach is a scarce natural resource that should be restored as a public beach so that neighborhood residents may enjoy summer days at the beach as has been done since at least the 1930's.