

# Miramar Ranch North (MRN) Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) Review & Drive Around

**Date:** Saturday, August 2, 2014

**Locations:** Scripps Ranch/SRCA Community Center & drive around/onsite review of MAD

**Time:** 8:30am – 10:30am was the plan – but actually ended at 1:45pm (over 4 hours)

**Attendees:** Tom Meissner, Jan Kane, George Pecoraro, Lorayne Burley and Mike Rasmusson (Grounds Maintenance Manger, MRN-MAD)

## **PRESENTATION/ DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

MRN MAD committee members meet with Mike Rasmusson, Miramar Ranch North (MRN) MAD Grounds Maintenance Manager (GMM), to review current MAD issues, exchange feedback followed by a drive around of the MAD areas.

### **1. Background**

Mike has been with the MAD program for almost 3 years now and was assigned to the North Park, El Cajon, Hillcrest, Talmadge and University Heights MADs prior to being assigned to the Miramar Ranch North MAD. Previous to working in the MADs Mike was the Nursery Supervisor for the City's Kate Sessions Nursery in Balboa Park. He has been working for the City for 23 years. He started as a Grounds Maintenance Worker II in Mission Bay and has worked with Support Services and Park Forestry crews, in the Balboa Park Botanical Building and at the Kate Sessions Nursery. Mike has a very extensive background and knowledge in horticulture and will fit well in the Miramar Ranch North MAD.

Mike began his role as the MRN MAD GMM in May 2014 and has been evaluating the MAD areas for 3 months.

### **2. Irrigation times and reductions, areas of runoff.**

- Irrigation crew is checking, replacing and advising on all watering areas.
- Current irrigation assessment is underway .
- Count is being conducted for number of water controller in our MAD.
- Crew is replacing washer as needed.
- Purple pipe watering heads need special replacement due to water condition – hard, lots of minerals
- Sample review of some areas
  - a) Butterfly Park – 4 days a week for 25 mins. → changed to 4 days a week for 15 mins.
  - b) Dry Creek Park – 3 days a week for 25 mins. → changed to 3 days a week for 20 mins.
- Work to be an example of good water use for the community and other MADs.
- SD Water & Waste Water Services costs for water usage:
  - a) June 2014 = \$30,000
  - b) July 2014 = \$26,000
  - c) July 2013 (last year at this time) = \$40,000
- Mike has requested one person to hand water in designated/determined areas and plants.
- Currently there is one worker assigned as "Irrigation Technician."
- Storm drain count pending per request from City of San Diego
- Saving water is top on our MAD priority list.
- Use of mulch assists with this goal

### **3. Tree Maintenance**

- West Coast Tree Contractor is currently used.
- Mike recommends creating a mulch area from the MAD cut trees.

- Suitable storage area is north of the SRCA/SR Info Center in open space right-of-way just hidden from roadway. Off road along SSP and Cypress Canyon Road corner. Near utility road.
- West Coast can produce some mulch for storage and use.
- MAD has only a tree trimming budget of \$25,000 per year.
- \$25,000 amount can only address safety issues and dead tree removal.
- Need to increase the tree budget amount.
- MAD has many dead tree branches.
- MAD needs to prune due to weight of branches.
- Tree canopy along SPP needs to be reduced

#### **4. Mulch and Compost**

- Recommends mulch for banks/hills and flat landscaped areas.
- Mulch mats well - insulate soil - retains water - prevents weeds
- Recommends compost for gardens, brushes and trees areas.
- Group preference was for 2 inch mulch.
- Use of mulch helps to reduce watering
- Mulch can be produce from tree/cutting maintenance work & stored
- Cost of compost is \$4.00 per cubic foot.

#### **5. Trash cans in MAD park areas**

- Several need new coat of paint on doors and top covers.
- Tom suggests having "art work" painted on the doors and/or covers.

#### **6. Harvesting new planting materials for the MAD**

- Use existing plant cuttings from our MAD
- Use plant seeds and grow in a designated nursery area
- Outreach with San Diego Native Landscape groups for plantings
- Apply for grant money for new trees

#### **7. Butterfly Garden Park**

- No butterflies in the park
- Too much ground cover – Myoporum – over grown.
- Reduce Myoporum
- Need to define planter beds – feeder vs. nector beds.
- Add trees, scrubs, perinals to attract butterflies.
- Need to add or correct signage describing plants or plant areas
- Long Term Goals for Butterfly Garden
  - a) Planting improvements
  - b) Butterfly release event for the MRN community

#### **8. Canyon View Nature Park (next to Fire Station 37)**

- Need to add plants to match the signage – many in error or no plants to match signs.
- Can keep or remove current signs as needed - want plants to match signage
- Mulch
- Cut watering of areas past the fence posts and keep native CA plants that don't require water.

- Remove Myoporum
- Garden signs fixed or corrected
- Rehabilitation of areas in distress

### **9. Fire Station 37 landscaping**

- Remove over grown plants growing in river rock areas
- Mulch

### **10. Dry Creek Demonstration Garden (park at corner of SCR and Scripps Creek Drive)**

- Remove over dominate red apple ice plant - over grown in many areas.
- Correct and/or replace plant signage – many don't match plants.
- Add fire retardant planting
- Mulch
- Add plants as needed

### **11. Oak Glen Nature Garden (park along western side of SCR between SPP and SR Blvd)**

- Has non native plants.
- Remove high water demand plants.
- Park is not noticed, not currently maintained
- Want to make a nature garden again
- Can work w/ CA Native Society to provide plants
- Correct and/or replace plant signage – many don't match plants.
- Trim/maintenance of pine trees and soil improvements due to purple pipe/re-claimed water

### **12. Meadow area on SR Blvd and SCR intersection (north corner behind white fence posts)**

- Maintain only inside the fence post areas
- Reduce plants, go more native, past the fence post areas.
- Wasting too much water in back areas
- Add CA native plant seeds to back areas for spring color and natural regeneration

### **13. Scripps Poway Parkway – North Slopes**

- Manage the tree balls – make them flow and group together when possible and/or reduce
- 4 large sections along SPP
- Add color
- Save water
- Looking at optional trees to add
- Beginning to reduce some of the ball bushes asap

### **14. Stonedale Mini Park (neighborhood pocket park east of St. Gregory Church)**

- Has a large turf park area, needs water
- Plants along the perimeter of park need to be pruned.
- Many trees need to be pruned/maintained.
- Trees along west side of park next to house needs cutting now.

**Short Term Goals:**

Move out of the 80s style of landscaping

Do not water/irrigate the sidewalks and streets

Mulch – two types – 2 in wood chips (for landscape/bank areas) and compost (for garden, trees, scrubs)

Create mulch staging/storage area

Conserve more water

Sustainability

**Long Term Goals:**

Move out of the 80s style of landscaping

Conserve water

Resident tours

Phase out old techniques, utilize new sustainable techniques.

Understand purple pipe water impact on plantings.

Maintain cost effective assessment rates for residents

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**Check your calendars:**

Next meeting date for MRN MAD Ad Hoc subcommittee, 2 weeks prior to the December 2014 MRNPC meeting – **Tuesday, November 18, 2014**