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Middle Harbor Shoreline Park Master Plan/Management Plan Update Process Stakeholder Focus Groups Meeting Notes February 9 – 18, 2021

Access:

- Park is underutilized
- Access to park not clear or defined, people do not know it is there
- Container trucks block bike lane and access into park
- Access is and will be an ongoing challenge
- How do we activate the space/and connections?
- Accessibility and wayfinding is a challenge
- Access is challenged, but understands port and trade are paramount
- Roads into the park are damaged and uninviting with potholes and not bike friendly
- Park is more accessible after 4pm and on weekends when port activities are not as active
- Oakland is about to embark on update of general plan, interested in more feedback on connectivity and open space elements
- Easily accessible for locals
- Use of the bay trail makes access better
- Park access needs to be controlled for security. How to address to community? Security from domestic terrorism issue for Port.
- Public mostly comes on weekends
- Port workers use park often during weekdays
- Trucker passenger riders wait in park
- Had weekend shuttle service from Bart March – Oct
- Traffic can build up getting to the park
- Opportunity for different access to the Park (gondola)
- Traffic issues during big weekend events (1-2/year)
- Not enough parking for big events
- Dog access will attract more users (add a fenced dog area)
- Truckers do not use as cannot park these trucks
- Tunnel is a barrier to bike and pedestrian access
- How to make better access for bike users?
- Park needs better bike access. Needs to be looked at in “Go Port Project”
- Understand there is current Public transit to Port - maybe encourage more of this?
- Concerned that use is down – especially during COVID. User frequents East Shore State Park Albany Bowl and Cesar Chavez Park.
- Access to park is lacking. Hard to walk to park. How do people access park who don't have transportation?
- Water access – lacking. Lacks vehicle access to get boat/kayak in water
- Improve access to park, nearest neighborhoods do not have direct ped access to park



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- Long way to walk without a lot of reward when you get there. More inclined to ride bike to park.
- Park is underutilized, people do not realize the park is there

Communication:

- GET THE WORD OUT!
- No signage related to maritime activities
- Unclear how port advertises to schools and who gets to take advantage of student programs/field trips
- Lack of signage related to Vision 2000 – nothing to tell the story
- Educational signage is there but old and tired. Could be more.
- Address Wi-Fi connectivity issues
- Need update and add more educational panels; add videos via QR Codes

Maintenance/operations:

- Over developed, too intensive for operation and maintenance to maintain. Creates an unwelcoming feeling
- a lot of maintenance for the size of the park
- spaces defined and amount of turf requires a lot of work – considered high maintenance – 3-4 full time employees
- Potential of providing more trees for windbreak
- Need to address geese and droppings. Creates uninviting place / health issue
- Should be low maintenance
- Landscape needs to be sustainable and low maintenance
- Remove/ update bathroom equipment and material
- More waste receptacles
- Tidal beach trash
- Need to achieve long term sustainability for Park
- Potential for non-potable irrigation
- Bathrooms sometimes have homeless issues
- Planting is lacking – feels desolate
- Provide wind protection – wind rows?
- Not a fan of palms, more native plants/trees
- Would prefer additional events at park

Education:

- Port video from deconstruction – great for classroom video/educational video
- Public awareness of climate change and sea level rise should be the new focus – challenges we all face
- Opportunity to tell a story re: regional development of shoreline and existing industrial spaces
- Learning opportunities could be improved by are well established. EBParks has access to large user group for outreach and advertising. Beach wheelchair?



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- Port sponsors field trips and provides bus transportation. Mainly to Oakland schools but other districts take advantage as well
- Collaborate with grad schools
- Could be used as research grounds - Carbon draw down
- Science education reach could be increased
- park could serve more kids – could have better impact
- Educational visitors center with displays that celebrate the history, present and future of the port and west Oakland history (cargo containers or floating visitors center – redevelop area by the basketball courts) kayaks for rent, float lab visitors center
- Upgrade exhibits and signage. Audio tour? QR codes audio tour. Presidio visitor's center is well done. Rosie the riveter center is well done.
- Classroom settings
- Original educational goals is not fully achieved
- More educational opportunities
- Provided more fixed educational elements ie info boards like existing, container classrooms
- Provide self-guided education opportunities via QR code
- Highlight port operations for education
- Have educational program through schools for younger children, approx. 2,500 students / year
- Need update and add more educational panels; add videos via QR Codes
- Provide more seating opportunities (picnic tables and benches along shore)
- Better communication with local neighborhoods on happenings in park
- Served well as an outdoor lab for students, could probably serve a larger need
- Interpretive signage and art – more needed or different applications
- Park does not stand out on Port website – use it to advertise rentals, events, etc.

Programming:

- What are the current users using the park for?
- What do they want to use it for? Who are the target users?
- How do we activate the space for the current users and current needs?
- What is vision 2025? New message re: climate change
- positive connection to port
- potential for a lot more enhancement
- park is used by both community and terminal employees
- good synergy between community and port goals
- Open spaces allow for multi-use and not necessarily programmed for specific uses
- This is a more naturalistic park, may be appropriate to think about pollinators, sea level rise habitats, reduce formal areas. Adapt to changing uses
- Park should speak to its place.
- Park should embrace its past
- Brooklyn Basin park succeeds at embracing its industrial past
- Priority to address community needs
- Establish sustainable goals



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- Goals should address sea level rise
- Highlight Port operations and cranes (one of the world's largest)
- Must be non-disruptive to port operations
- Access to water via beach is not sustainable. Seatwalls to water ok
- Active park use incompatible with active industrial
- no beach
- no events/ less active space
- focus on bay views
- During Covid have seen a new user group who trash the park
- Add more receptacles though out park
- More bike racks
- Staff utilizes park and walking trails
- Sees park as asset; not a conflict with Maritime use is water polluted? No
- Staff uses park for walking and jogging
- Exercise area (similar to the marina green)
- Have big events during 'no-work' long-shore men holidays i.e. July 5th, labor day
- Go-to destination for City skyline views
- Opportunity to watch port operations
- More lunch tables throughout park especially at mole
- How to make beach more user friendly
- Sees park as an asset
- More lunch/ feeding options i.e. food trucks
- Current food truck locations create hazard
- Dog park would be beneficial
- Opportunity for kayak/ canoe launch
- Frisbee golf
- Big events only 1-2 times per year
- Big events try to schedule around port holidays
- Police attendance required at all park events
- How to address unplanned protests. Have been starting at the port/ park
- Need more bike racks
- See park as destination for solitude- ideal for passive uses
- Notes other dog parks in the vicinity (3rd street)- may not need to compromise this resource
- Would like to see some type of attraction for people to eat/ drink and enjoy sunset. Can be temporary. Notes parks in Alameda provide similar situation.
- The new MHSP can bring more post-industrial feel with environment integrated.
- Would like to see more ecological approach – grey water, capture storm water, plant palette
- Enjoys concerts and events at Park
- Audubon brings bird watchers to this wildlife showcase
- Design needs to protect / enhance this unique habitat; 90% of which has already been lost in Bay Area
- Dogs not compatible with mud flat habitat
- Dogs are viewed as predatory wild life. Feces run off an issue.



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- Not against active uses but need to greatly respect habitat restoration
- Dog area at park – could walk to park with dogs if better access. Dogs should be allowed, look at dogs on leash use and possibly fenced dog area. Build community around this user group
- Future use – if park foot traffic increases, possibility for concessions and services (dog washing, bike station, coffee shop) Mud puppies at Pt. Isabel
- Lots of wind, consider wind protection. More comfortable to linger and stay
- Dunes and dune grasses with pockets of protected areas for sitting/lingering
- Attended event at park and really opened her eyes to the park itself and how wonderful of a setting it is in
- Additional events? Opportunities to expand events.
- Open water swimming – ‘Aquatic Park of West Oakland’. is there a way to encourage open water swimming?
- More signage regarding connection to Port View Park and Port View fishing pier
- What about signage / physical and design connections to the "west Oakland Walk" to bring people to the waterfront? Also, sports fields, play structures for children
- repave the pier for roller-skating
- Weekday park use is mainly port staff/truckers. Weekend usage generally higher use by public
- Restricted to no more than 2 events per year. 2005 world jazz festival and 2011 railroad revival. One large event per year and one small festival. Coordination with port of events is important and on-going discussion.
- Vendors/concessions have not worked in past due to viability and low park use
- People don't know who to contact to have an event on the park
- SSA uses the park during the summer for personal events (baseball games, picnics)
- Walking paths are popular
- No dogs allowed – more people would use it more if they could bring their dogs on leash.
- Great spot with fantastic views, hidden gem
- Longshoreman use the park for lunch
- Needs some beatification – lacking appeal. Make things greener and more pleasurable to walk through
- If large events were held – would it impact SSA terminal? Main operations are Monday through Friday. Vessel operations on weekends only, no foreseeable issues with events and traffic. No drones, lasers, or fireworks near terminals.
- Safety issues 3y Port View park and fishing pier – users may not feel safe. Regular security presence may be useful
- More bike racks

Parks that could be better models – other waterfront parks we could model:

- Richmond Shoreline Port Pinole
- Albany Dunes – recently reconstructed
- Crown Beach – stack sand every year, 2 weeks of mechanical harvesting every year
- Gateway Park



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- Fort Mason
- Urban wharfs in New York
- Pier 94 by Yosemite Slough (for habitat restoration)