



Eastshore State Park - Albany Beach Habitat Restoration and Public Access Feasibility Study

Comment Cards from Community Workshop, February 17, 2011

Card #001:

I would like to see continued small hand launched boat access, including kayak, windsurfers and kite boards. There are too few places that are still accessible.

Card #002:

- Clarify for comment – concern about any improvements that increase continuing costs, e.g. boardwalk maintenance, picnic ground maintenance, sand recharge, etc.
- Clarify – no restricted access (including denying/restricting access to sand dunes).

Card #003:

Please include areas for off-leash dog access in this plan. Regardless of the current law, there is a large percentage of people (around 42% according to Voices to Vision Albany poll), who would like off-leash for dogs to be allowed at the bulb. There is a clear desire to change the current law, and this plan should allow for areas that could be specifically used for off-leash access in the future.

Card #004:

- Ongoing costs maintenance
- Stages – inevitable?
- Dune enhancements a plus
- Article 38!!!
- Purchase of sand shoals
- Need grass for shoals
- Where is the money? Not another line item on my property tax bill.

Card #005:

Plan A please

Card #006:

- Preserve eucalyptus grove
- Dog access on beach (add users without displacing current users).
- Shoreline tot lot on small south beach
- Early morning or early afternoon hours for dogs?
- Split beach
- Oyster balls very important (clean the Bay!)

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- This is public access – not habitat restoration. (This is “toy habitat”).
- Pt. Isabel -style toilets a must even in plan A

Card #007:

I have been using the Bulb with my dog every day and am concerned that there is talk about requiring dogs to be leashed or prohibiting dogs.

This workshop process has informed me that although I have been using the park and the beach daily I am not by policy even included in this discussion.

Card #008:

I am one of many resident dog owners who have come to depend upon the Albany Waterfront Trail/Bulb for off leash recreation for our dogs. We have been frequenting this area for many years. We appreciate the rustic landfill and freedom of artistic expression and off leash dog recreation will be threatened or severely hampered.

Card #009:

Alternate A does not provide enough access to the beach area.

The Bay Trail is a high priority for the Albany Strollers and Rollers (ped. and bike advocacy group) to improve access to this wonderful area of Albany. Thanks for this opportunity to speak to you.

Card #010:

I support plan C – The most comprehensive long-term protection of the beach and creating a wetland for helping to filter storm runoff, and improving the water quality of the Bay.

Card #011:

What if nothing is done (preferable as far as we’re concerned)?

A poll would show that the people who go there strongly affirmatively say the place needs **NO** changes.

Given it would serve in its present state for decades, as it would with the changes, there’s no crying need to change it – except to spend money doing it; in particular to give designers jobs – and contractors – the operators of big machinery – and others.

People like not smoothing out access. People like the challenge of the walk.

Drop – improvement; debris; develop; make it easier; worse; erode-erosion; add facilities.

Police patrol will not halt or reduce vandalism in the parking lot.

Card #012:

- Keep the eucalyptus (hawks, falcons!)
- Keep the beach simple and sweet, windswept and wild
- Add users but don’t disenfranchise current users or dogs – find a way to share the beach. (Hours for dogs, early and late? Middle of the day for kids?)

Card #013:

- Support sand/beach dune enhancement



- Support as much habitat restoration as possible
- Absolutely need: public amenities – bathrooms, picnic benches, bike racks, trash cans
- You don't lock up Point Isabel bathrooms/park – so why need to worry about it here?
- Oppose parking adjacent to beach
- Will pulling out creosote timbers destabilize the beach?
- Need water there (check out old lines that could exist).
- Fix erosion issues

Card #014:

Please limit any development at Albany Beach to the essential minimum and acknowledge that park users with dogs are entitled to consideration in any plans for the beach. I'm not saying that things ought to go on exactly as they are, but some plan for shared/mixed use that satisfies all constituents should be possible, and it should be a priority to reach such a plan.

Meeting notes from Community Workshop, February 17, 2011

Group I Comments

General Questions

- What about doing nothing?
- Wild spontaneous area?
- Police access?
- Paving... extent?
- Funding – Caltrans, Restoration Funds, Oil Spill \$...?
- Costs don't include purchase of land in B&C (2.8 acres)?
- Environmental review?
- Phasing?

General Comments

- Boardwalk – like it
- Like beach the way it is now – wild, unique, add Alt.
- Can project succeed without surroundings being developed?
- Development or improvements at Albany Beach not dependent on adjacent areas –
- Can't necessarily leave alone to give wider access for families, etc.
- Minimize paving
- Problems with erosion & habitat, need stabilization without other improvements
- Like some improvements like restrooms –

Alternative C Comments

- Pocket beach at neck – possible for sandy, gravelly beach.
- Main beach is a priority



- Favor more parking
- Existing parking belongs to Golden Gate Fields
- Where is waterline? – in Buchanan but private
- EBRPD land department talking to Golden Gate Fields
- Albany Beach accessible for nearby residents for watercraft
- Alternative C too developed – paving
- Like wetlands, dunes – enhancements for more wildlife
- In water improvements with sand would enhance habitat
- Like oyster enhancements – reef balls
- Quality of sand, where is it coming from?
- Safety for watercraft with reef balls?
- Sand would be dredged from Bay at Port or Golden Gate
- Like idea of cleaning beach
- Lot of runoff comes from Golden Gate Fields area
- Debris comes in daily from Bay – ongoing cleaning
- Intent for less trash –
- Favor restrooms – need maintenance, e.g. Pt. Isabel.
- Sanitation issue – restrooms likely locked at night
- El Cerrito key rental for restrooms
- Existing restrooms not good
- Proposed restroom 2 vaults, solar, +/- \$85,000
- Point Isabel maintained 3 times daily
- Picnic areas – 1st come, need parking and restrooms
- Families, make sense with Bay Trail?
- Or no picnic tables? – Keep area unique.
- Shoreline stabilization important, need to address erosion
- Elevated boardwalk would need shoreline protection
- Eucalyptus require selective pruning
- High priority for creosote timber removal
- Alternative to stabilize what is there but minimize other improvements
- Mitigate hazards, e.g. rebar
- Value of enhancing wetlands?
- Would like to focus on habitat enhancement
- Like phased approach with amenities
- Need stabilization to preserve shoreline then with money add amenities

Group 2 Comments

General Comments

- History of debris and concrete? How old is it? (Freeway? – 60's to 80's).



- Love the gypsies – art work... uses now are ideal
- Pocket beach – major permit issues to bring sand
- Are there isolated dog areas?
- Could it seem overdeveloped at the parking lot?
- The random casualness – appreciate the charm
- Like the eucalyptus there – hawks like the trees.
- Non-motorized watercraft – good
- Heat the water!!!
- Potential “tot” beach (or other uses) between Fleming Pier and beach
- Dog walkers – keep area safe by being a visual presence
- Divide beach if problems with uses versus groups
- It won't be safe for mothers without dog walkers
- Access points – are they simply walking access?
- Not happy having parking lot/cement on the shoreline
- Is the creosote still toxic?
- Resistance to the restrooms by the Park District – they are still needed!
- How close to the water will boat drop off get?
- Eucalyptus drop on cars
- There may be sewer lines buried out there... and other utilities
- What is the use of the fence?
- What kind of access through here (the fence)?
- Define reasonable access through the fence?
- How will signage be tied to existing signs (Albany)?
- Creosote removal is an ongoing process
- Preference for Option A, but like reef balls – could we get grants?
- Add the ramps for boats...
- Why have *pure* options?
- Concern about dogs being out of the picture
- This is *toy* habitat restoration. It's constrained by other uses...
- There are larger (restoration) sites.
- Add users rather than preclude the existing ones.
- This is the only site for kayaks in the area
- We need parking - for easy boat access. Trade off with environment okay.
- There might not be enough beach nourishment versus the sea level rise
- Softer access surfaces
- Support sand importation
- Support restrooms
- Support Bay Trail
- Culture at the Bulb – not recognized. Artists, homeless, dogs – development may curtail these activities.
- No government implemented change



- Distinguish between what needs to happen and what is wanted to happen
- Preserve rectangular concrete slab.
- Not too much development
- Dirt parking area loved
- Money could be used elsewhere.
- In support of ADA accessibility
- Put in minimally intrusive ADA pathway
- Preserve the character of park- this is an adventure area
- Curiosity about hazardous water... some people want to swim

Group 3 Comments

General Comments

- Are the alternatives progressive?
- Stabilization – upland and what is it in general?
- What is the extent of storm water treatment?
- Can additional funds be found to help with storm water treatment costs?
- Flooding and stream, creeks, sloughs, etc. at beach. Ponding at Golden Gate Fields...
- Special needs users – dogs, pet area used by many
- Protect artistic expression
- Is this funded?
- Will changes prohibit beach swimming?
- Sand capture along south shoreline reduce maintenance by capturing sand
- Stabilizing shoreline helps limit liability of old dump
- Bay Trail connection important
- Concerned about dune presentation- fence may obstruct access to dunes. Maintain access to dunes.
- What types – sand, habitat preservation
- Spending a great deal and must remember disabled access to not exclude users.
- Worried about maintenance costs of improvements including boardwalks, etc.
- Boardwalk accessible?
- No parking lot – or limited size (would like more park space).
- Need parking – trade off
- Parking limits users – no pay for parking
- Bike racks good.
- Restroom: closing doors nice. Possibly need a second restroom in location of portable toilet.
- Improvements should be un-manicured
- Siting of picnic area should be in a sunny area, protected from wind
- Picnic area too close to cove. Redundant if limited funds.
- Connection important at new and existing trail



- Careful signage to help avoid pedestrian, auto, bike conflicts. Potentially widen connection or trail alleviates issue.
- Do sand areas need to be maintained?
- Eucalyptus should be replaced with native species...

Group 4 Comments

General Comments

- Existing conditions okay... necessity?
- Under water sub-tidal changes
- Mobility access- balance between access and existing grade
- Parking for beach patrons
- Dog access- off leash activity
- Policies established through general plan
- Dogs currently allowed off-leash at Point Isabel
- Access point- likes enhanced access to beach
- Access from outside Bay Trail to beach, how will connection function?
- What is size of raised Bay Trail?
- Possible swim beach? - Currently there are no lifeguards.
- Improvements proposed – will this restrict dog recreation (off-leash amongst people)?
- Can we designate off-leash recreation area? –No, according to General Plan (adopted 2002).
- Concern general plan will take away dog recreation
- Concern of over-populated/accessed dog areas.
- Bathrooms!
- Picnic area compliments City of Albany improvements
- Access improvements for multiple uses better than current conditions
- Storm water runoff, how will this be mitigated?
- Porous material options? - Asphalt/concrete
- Lack of water recreation/access
- Concern of historical significance of creosote timbers
- Maintenance/cost concerns
- Restroom maintenance – currently cleaned daily
- Bathroom at Point Isabel = \$90,000
- Capacity similar to Point Isabel for proposed bathroom (vault)
- How bathroom location/capacity are determined
- Bathroom should be near recreation area
- Exact location of map survey
- Bike rentals at park
- Park changes include child interest



- Concern for exploitation of land
- Want to keep existing conditions – already adequate for all
- Current laws with respect to dogs to change
- Current patrons monitor use
- Concern with defacing of land (graffiti)
- Question of origin and how it will dictate future use
- What is “natural”?
- Consensus? –Expand size of beach with sand placement
- How will parks acquire additional land?
- Concern for vandalism at existing parking areas
- Park police don’t patrol park
- Appreciation for Parks Department!

Public Access Comments

- Expanded park – car usage limited to maximize the amount of open space for habitat and recreation uses
- Crown Beach parking as an example of good ratio of parking to park
- Define better dog control so that access for dogs can remain
- Dogs off leash? Possibly define a specific area where dogs may be off leash and have access to playing/swimming in the water.
- Design Albany Beach to remain safe for kite boarding/surfing
- Try and get utilities to site, would be ideal and allow for expanded programming at the site.
- Get kids to shore – but need drinking fountains and restroom
- Accommodate group use on sandy shoreline
- Integrate with Tiger Grant to connect East Bay Trail
- Need to improve kayaking access and parking
- Provide bike racks – this would promote alternative transportation to the site if there was a safe place to park bikes
- Boardwalk good idea through dunes
- Pedestrian pathway – shared, safe and clear
- Complete Bay Trail
- Formalize trail for better access
- Bike racks
- Dogs can inhibit use
- Enhance access for kite surfing-
 - Provide staging areas for access to water
 - Room for people among the restoration area (Hood River Sandbar in Oregon is a great example)
 - Reduce conflict by defining use areas – windsurfing/kite boarding (work with [users])
- Work more with waterfront commission to provide restroom/visitor center, classroom, and rules for dog owners



- Provide a place for officials to be in park. Possibly have a concession area. Maps, info on wildlife,
- Fleming Pier –
 - Rebuilding Pier
 - Access, fishing
 - Military history? WWII landing craft
 - Historical significance – material supply/launching
- Maintenance budget – C.C. dollars from Albany residents
- Historical books on Albany waterfront may assist in obtaining historical information for the area and Fleming Point. Author – U.C. Village
- Dog access/pedestrian assessment
- Define limited times for dogs off-leash
- Time limit for water access
- What's implementation process?
- Where does funding come from? Cost?
- Concerned about conflicts between users and habitat
- Dogs – already have facilities for dogs. Possibly dedicate the smaller beach by pier to become off-leash area to accommodate users. No other off-leash beach for miles.
- Water access – parking w/longer than 2 hour limit. Kayaking takes time. On-site storage for kayaks – potential.
- Kite surfers would like to recommend a non-profit club kite boarding concession for the site instead of commercial concessions.
- Better property/boundary definition
- Hard to implement controls to enforce regulations for such issues as dog control
- South access maintained
- Shortest distance from parking to beach is preferred by kite surfers and kayakers
- Bathrooms wanted
- Albany Rollers & Strollers (advocacy group) would like to see -
 - Parking for bikes with trailers
 - Better facilities for families
 - Emergency call box