



Eastshore State Park - Albany Beach  
Habitat Restoration and Public Access Feasibility Study  
Meeting notes from Community Workshop, December 13, 2010

Natural Processes Comments

- Kids come to shore, allow them access to witness habitat
- Kite flying, provide access
- Trash build-up – organize E.B. park clean-up
- Too many dogs – dogs dig up plants
- Stopping non-native plant encroachment essential
- Coordinated efforts – scope needs to be greater to match needs of site
- Where will import sand come from?
- Can dredge material from elsewhere in the Bay be used to add sand to beach?
- Creosote logs seem to assist with sand catchment – is there an alternative to the logs?
- Will the dunes work adequately to filter the poor water quality from the (big) parking lot? The horse trailers that park on the lot must contribute a significant amount of pollution...
- Will the rock groins interrupt access for kite boarding, or otherwise interfere with their use? On the existing groins at Fleming Point, one side of each one has a small beach that makes a natural access ramp for water entry. A similar condition exists at Third Avenue beach in Foster City.
- Could we cede the remaining portion of the Bulb from the State to the East Bay Regional Park? It would help provide space for the habitat restoration.
- Also could use Measure WW funds to buy more land from Golden Gate Fields... We need to move from constraints to opportunities.
- Fleming Point Pier – they can incase the pilings in plastic /cement coating. This is a new technology that sequesters the creosote.
- Pier is a hazard to navigation for kite boarding.
- Who cleans up the beaches? We could potentially organize more volunteering efforts...?
- Provide dumpsters for organized or spontaneous trash gathering.
- Are dogs allowed in restores areas? Need to define dog areas...
- Coordination of interested parties (kite boarders, etc.) – to do beach cleanups.

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

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- 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

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- 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

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Comment Cards from Community Workshop, December 13, 2010

Card #001:

A number of us are here representing the Albany Strollers & Rollers. Founded in 2004, it was a fledgling the last time EBRPD engaged Albany regarding the Bay Trail in about 2005. Today Albany Strollers & Rollers is a 300-member service and advocacy organization that is a vibrant member and partner of the East Bay Bicycle Coalition. We are thrilled that EBRPD has allocated funds to complete the Bay Trail through the Albany waterfront. The Albany Strollers & Rollers looks forward to participating in the project at the appropriate time.

Card #002:

How about expanding location of beach restoration along south side of Bulb? Albany would probably agree & might help.

Card #003:

- 1) Parking should be moved away from beach. Expand existing parking away from the beach on land already owned by Park district. Car access ramps only for transport of Watercraft, after they were unload they can move car back to lot.
- 2) BATHROOMS!!!! Like at Point Isabel a vital amenity all users want.

Card #004:

Land the Albany Strollers & Rollers would like to see improved access for cyclists & pedestrians with separate paths for both (separate from vehicles) bicycle racks would encourage usage of the waterfront by riders as would facilities such as drinking water & restrooms.  
Dog control is important for the safety of cyclists.

Card #005:

- 1. The goal of 'multi-use' may overwhelm this small space. Consider limiting access seasonally, e.g. no access during bird nesting season, or during exceedingly muddy seasons, sensitive dry periods.
- 2. Dog access-allow it under strictly limited conditions – time, seasons, number of total dogs at any time – study impacts – adjust access based on evidence from studies.
- 3. Let the habitat 'rest' – no high-impact use for 6 wks 2 times/yr, for example.
- 4. Study use – make sure that management & use is evidence-based; any changes in use/access would be based on the studies & assessments that would be ongoing gathering of evidence, studies, and assessments.
- 5. Identify & include stakeholders – keep list updated.

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Card #006:

Great info – thanks!

For the future info discussions – it was almost impossible to hear much in the 2 breakouts – too many conversations.

Answer questions about presentation before breakouts.

Flipchart notes must be **MUCH LARGER** to be **READABLE**.

Park staff/presenters wear bades or some way to identify.

Card #007:

Please do not destroy the trees because they are a wind break.

The plants that are native to the California dunes will not stabilize sand. Do not plant them where erosion will result. Your plan predicts rising sea level which results from climate change. Therefore it must also predict the changing ranges of native plants. Plant plants that can survive rather than plants that are adapted to the past and won't survive the future.

Access is far more important than creating a native plant garden on landfill. This is an artificial place that is heavily used.

Card #008:

“Public Access Improvement” should not involve eliminating 80% of the people who go there now – those of us who recreate in the company of our dogs.

Card #009:

Hello, I stopped visiting Albany beach because I felt overwhelmed by all the off leash dogs. I could not walk anywhere without looking to avoid stepping in dog crap or being rushed by a barking dog. I feel that there should be a leash requirement and no dogs prohibition on the sandy beach. It is my understanding that in 2010 there has been 7 seven dog bites this year there. I would also like to see a regular law enforcement presence. And a sweep of the area homeless encampments.

Card #010:

Provide facilities for groups to facilitate walking field trips from Albany Schools, all of which are in walking distance of beach/mudflats.

e.g. – picnic tables that accommodate 35 people – should face water unlike “the Cove”. i.e. half circles of low seats water fountains & bathrooms.

Bike parking for large groups – 35 bikes at a time

Food – food draws people & provides human presence – encourages walking to beach.

Provide facilities that make people feel comfortable letting kids come to shore alone – a continuous human presence through a snack bar, bike repair shop, kayak club/rental. Encouraging recreational uses such as Kite surfing, windsurfing will provide human presence that will let kids gain autonomy by coming independently.

Non-motorized boating - if a kayak has to arrive by car, is it non-motorized? There should be storage for kayaks, stand-up paddleboards so that kids especially can walk & bike down to beach & get onto and into the water – essential to encouraging conservation & true understanding of bay.

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Card #011:

Restoration – don’t plant native plants unless they have a chance of success & there is guaranteed funding for maintenance. Volunteers have spent many hours planting native plants that are overtaken by invasives in one season. This is a waste of money & discouraging to volunteers.

The beach does fine without more groins – for swimmers, kite surfers open beach & water is better.

Card #012:

Beach access fine now – board walks and sand wall good. Rocky shore access for school classes 30-60 kids for intertidal studies – needs rest rooms & drinking water picnic areas. Shade or cover from rain for groups.

- Do it yourself beach cleanup stations – for impromptu cleanups

Keep roosting area on old pier IMPORTANT entrap toxins

Card #013:

Dogs The site is big enough to accommodate off-leash dogs. Suggest the smaller beach near the Fleming Pt. Pier. It is important to transfer ownership to State Parks – Perhaps as part of 2.8 acre parcel deal.

Access Non-profit clubs provide better & cheaper access than commercial concessions. Also better stewardship, much cheaper access to kayaking, windsurfing, kiteboarding, etc. than for-profit concessions.

On-Site Storage Critical for future access as transportation & housing becomes less conducive to at-home storage.

Card #014:

I strongly recommend the study to include the feasibility of bringing potable water to the study area (be it on the upland of the dune area, the parking lot, or close to the plateau). Also I think the boardwalk is a great idea, provided wooden type boardwalk & handrails are installed. I concur that safe access to water for non-motorized boats such as kayak, canoe, surfing board, kite surf, etc. important. However, approach should be considered to allow loading & unloading of non-motorized boats & facilities. Boardwalks should be low-level. I also recommend removing the creosote pier remains. The study should include the feasibility of creating an equivalent habitat to replace the pier remains as the latter is ugly looking & a navigational hazard.

Card #015:

1. To remove the constraints you mentioned about restoration plans –

- Would getting the Bulb make it easier to restore? How do we move the State & City of Albany to make this happen?

- Would buying more land from GGF?

2. Would rather not see more parking along shoreline

3. Regarding dogs – A. Why not post signs in a way/place can’t be ripped down

B. Why not video tape the vandals?

C. Why not have enforcement at park at least randomly so dog owners will be

‘discouraged’ to obey the law.

Card #016:

Maintain beach access for people & their dogs!!!

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Card #017:

Hi! I live in NW Berkeley. I use the area a lot for kiting & bike commute to Richmond. I've participated in beach cleanup here. Also brought kids here but it's not very kid friendly with so much trash.

So my suggestions are:

- 1) Keep in contact with kite surfing community re: water access
- 2) Bike commute thru here is ok, don't really need much improvement – except for potholes
- 3) Keep up w/volunteer trash cleanup & paid when there is budget.

Thanks!

Card #018:

- 1) Bike access/Bay Trail in lieu of/in addition to improved automobile parking, please.
- 2) What plans and resources are available for acquisition of the parking lot area from GGF?
- 3) What is the time-frame for sea-level rise?
- 4) Seems like the history of Fleming Point is readily available, so “ownership” issue (GGF??) should be pretty easy.
- 5) Current situation – ad hoc off-leash dog park is a hindrance to other users. (pedestrian, runners, cyclists; set aside portion for off-leash while creating a majority-space for everyone.)

Card #019:

Albany Beach is the only new launch point in the Eastshore State Park for the 13 miles of shoreline added to the State Park System. We have a real need for water craft launch access and staging. My specific interest, as a board member of the San Francisco Board Sailors Association, is wind surfing and kite boarding access to the water. Flat level ground, that doesn't conflict with habitat and others users is important. Hood River in Oregon has done a world class job of creating a natural resource and a world class recreational area. Managing the conflicts between conservation and current (and future) recreational usages.

I think there are huge opportunities for cooperation between different usage groups to improve and balance the usage and improvements.

There are very few places we can launch kites from on the east bay. Kite boarding is an emerging sport, and is likely to be in the Olympics. The Bay Area has world class wind & water.

Card #020:

- The missing connection of the Bay Trail is crucial to many cyclists - communities, families & recreational cyclists. We are looking forward to this getting implemented ASAP! Thanks! Albany Strollers & Rollers represents 300+ families who cycle & walk - [albanystrollroll.org](http://albanystrollroll.org)
- Please provide ample bike racks for all types of bikes, including those with trailers. People using the Bay Trail as well as those using the enhanced facilities (picnic tables, trails, etc) should be encouraged not to drive, to bicycle to the beach – need a place to safely secure their bikes! Thanks.

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Card #021:

Suggestion: Keeping access to all user groups is key in this scenario.

However, access to the Bay & it's waters is perhaps of the highest importance as the points of entry are already extremely limited in the East Bay.

Non motorized watersports, be it kiteboarding, kayaking or swimming not only promote health & well being but awareness & conservation of our park & resources.

Card #022:

Here's another voice for continued non-motorized access to the beach behind Golden Gate Fields. Specifically in terms of access to the water near the south end of the beach for kite surfing/kite boarding. (terms used interchangeably)

Addition of signage, lamp posts or any other vertical obstructions in the parking lot behind the beach is sub-optimal for wind powered kite boarding and other wind (non-motorized) water users. We need about 100'-150' of area to launch & land our kites, specifically at the south end of the beach/parking lot.

Card #023:

I'm the founder of the Bay Area kiteboarding.com, a community website dedicated to promoting safety, sharing information and access issues among the San Francisco Bay Area kite boarding community. Many of us in the East Bay are avid users of Albany Beach and are excited about future improvements to the area. The possible improvements as presented in the meeting are very exciting and we support all the public access improvements as well as habitat and shoreline improvements. If our input, feedback or comments are helpful, please let us know how we can help.

Card #024:

I question where will the EBRPD get the fund to purchase the 2.8 acre land parcel. Also, how many years will the District estimates for the fund allocation and to complete the design phase? What will be the EBRPD's plan of future facility maintenance, including funds for future operations & maintenance? Parking should be established such that it will provide 1. Easy and convenience access for non-motorized boats users so that they don't need to carry their gears a long way 2. A balance to those who don't want to feel walking through a parking lot & suffer from car exhaust. There are many waterfronts in the Bay Area (e.g. Berkeley, Southern California, San Francisco, etc.) that we can learn of the balance.

Card #025:

This concept plan is an excellent start to improving the Albany Waterfront.

What is needed to plan & improve the "jewel" of the Albany Waterfront – THE BULB?

Card #026:

1.\*Old piers may have had a military logistics use during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War – 1941-1945

2.\*Thanks for the excellent start for Albany Waterfront planning & improvements.

Planning usually leads to implementation. What are the sources of future funding? Measure WW? Other?

3. What is a concept implementation schedule?

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Card #027:

- Community should have a role in deciding if entire waterfront goes back to tidal marsh when sea level rises
- Dogs & owners have taken over beach. Albany community does not use it. We need to park to join us in addressing this. WFC is working on ordinance.
- Effort needs to encompass entire waterfront. Non-natives will return if not remove from entire waterfront.
- In favor of removing debris, bathroom, Bay Trail completion.

Card #028:

The south and west facing rocky rip rap configurations need to be accessible to the public for stewardship purposes – shoreline cleanups – existing rocks catch marine debris and trap it. Then highest tides redistribute it again. Shorelines need catchment areas for debris to be removed easily – 3 locations work there.

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