



Heritage County Park Improvement Project

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Last updated: Dec. 15, 2021

COMMUNICATION AND OVERVIEW

Where is the park located?

Heritage County Park is a 7.8-acre urban park located at 2454 Heritage Park Road just off Juan Street in the heart of Old Town.

What is the history of the park?

In 1971, the County purchased the site at the corner of Juan and Harney Streets for the purpose of creating an 1880s-style Victorian Preserve. Heritage County Park highlights this era and serves as a monument to the transition between the Spanish-Mexican-early American periods and the modern City of San Diego.

Why is the County doing this project?

On June 29, 2021, the County Board of Supervisors directed the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to launch a project to add overnight accommodations to Heritage County Park by restoring the interiors of the historic homes, and to explore other recreational enhancements for public use.

Where can I get more information on, and stay informed about, the project?

Information on the project is currently available on the DPR website: sdparks.org/publicmeetings, in addition to the park page: [Heritage County Park](#). You may also contact Park Project Manager, David Suls, at david.suls@sdcounty.ca.gov, to inquire about the project or request to be added to the project distribution list. Individuals who are added to this list will receive announcements for future meetings and other project updates.

PROJECT SCOPE AND CONSTRUCTION

What is the scope of this project?

The project will renovate the interiors of four of the existing buildings in the park to provide overnight accommodations. These buildings include the Sherman-Gilbert House, Bushyhead House, Christian House and Burton House. Public restrooms will be renovated, along with the interpretive center in the Senlis Cottage. Outside, the project will improve existing, and add new recreational amenities.

What is the projected cost of the project?

The total budget for design, environmental analysis, and construction is \$13M.

Will any new buildings be added to the park?

No new buildings will be added. However, there will be improvements to the existing buildings to allow for overnight accommodations in the future.

How many overnight rooms will be created as part of this project?

The project is in the early design phase, but the current estimate is that the project will create between 18 and 24 rooms in total (four to six rooms per building).



Heritage County Park Improvement Project FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Last updated: Dec. 15, 2021

What amenities will be built at the park?

New amenities are still being determined through the public review process. With regard to existing buildings, four currently unused historic homes will be updated to allow for overnight accommodations. The public restrooms in Senlis Cottage will also be updated.

What is the schedule?

The outreach, design, and environmental analysis phase of this project take place fall 2021 to fall 2022. Construction is expected to begin in 2023 with a completion date of 2024.

Are the buildings protected under historic preservation?

The exterior of the Sherman Gilbert house is designated as a historic resource by the City of San Diego. The County does not intend to make significant changes to the exteriors of the buildings other than changes required to meet current regulations.

How will the interior of the buildings be changed?

This will be determined during the design process. The initial idea is to respect the original style and aesthetic of the buildings while using modern materials that are readily available and safe, along with layouts that are more accessible.

Didn't the County start to renovate these buildings years ago?

There was a past effort to renovate these buildings by a third party. The County is now managing and leading the process to provide overnight accommodations at Heritage County Park.

What have you done for public outreach in this process?

The County held a first set of public meetings, both virtual and in-person, at the beginning of design process in November 2021 to introduce the project and gather initial feedback. An online survey was also posted to gather additional feedback. A second set of public meetings is tentatively scheduled for February 2022 where concept drawings will be presented. An announcement of the public meeting dates will be sent with a minimum of 10 days' notice via the County DPR website, mailed flyers, social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), and emails to past meeting participants.

Will there be restrooms?

There are existing public restrooms in Senlis Cottage, and they will be upgraded as part of this project.

Will this project include improvements to the trails within the park boundaries?

No, this project's scope does not include improvements to the trails. DPR is interested in hearing from the community about the desire for a future trails project for this park.

PARK MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

Who will operate the overnight accommodations?

The County will issue a Request For Proposals (RFP) for operations and evaluate the responses along with considering an option for the County to directly manage the operations.



Heritage County Park Improvement Project

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Last updated: Dec. 15, 2021

How will noise be monitored in the park?

Park staff currently monitor and meter noise during events, and actively enforce the City's noise restrictions. This practice will be continued once the project is complete.

Is amplified noise permitted for events or regular park operations?

The County follows the City's Noise Ordinance that has set decibel levels between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Park staff actively take noise measurements currently, to ensure these levels are not exceeded. If there is a violation, park staff address the issue. Restrictions will continue to be enforced.

Is the County intending to increase the number of events or bring new types of events to the park?

DPR is looking into adding various types of community gathering spaces based on public preferences. Feedback from public meetings and online surveys in 2021 and 2022 will help shape the selection of amenities, and the design of the public spaces.

How will parking be affected?

There are currently two lots with 64 spaces for the park. Parking demand – within and outside of the park – will be evaluated during project design through time-based observations and via input from residents and businesses.

What types of education and outreach programs will be offered?

We are looking for input from the community about what type of programs would be of interest. Currently, the park hosts occasional historical walking tours, and Summer Movies in the Park events.

Will we have to pay to use the park?

DPR does not charge day-use fees at this park. All outdoor spaces, Temple Beth Israel, and the public restrooms in Senlis Cottage will remain open to the public as they are today. Guests who wish to book overnight accommodations (once available) will be able to do so for a reservation fee. Details are not yet determined but will be posted to sdparks.org. The Coral Tree Teahouse has a lease with the County for the McConaughy House, so this building is operated as a separate business.