

## **Waterfront Park Active Recreation**

### **Frequently Asked Questions – Updated February 2022**

#### **LAND AND LOCATION**

##### **Where will the active recreation be located?**

The active recreation will be developed within the existing Waterfront Park at the corner of Pacific Highway and Grape Street in a 1.5-acre area. This area currently features a decorative plant garden with meandering paths and art sculpture.

##### **Why was this site selected?**

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors directed the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to assess active recreation opportunities for the San Diego metropolitan area. See the Communication and Outreach section for more information.

##### **Why wasn't the Port of San Diego area selected?**

Because of the limitations on the Port of San Diego land, it was determined that more active recreation could be provided in Waterfront Park. Limitations for Port of San Diego land include the inability to have amenities such as dog parks, pickleball, and basketball courts. The Port site may still feature passive park areas in the future.

##### **How many people currently use the park?**

The 12-acre Waterfront Park currently attracts an average of 200,000 visitors a year.

##### **Where can I get information on the park?**

Information on the Waterfront Park can be found on the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation website at [www.sdparks.org](http://www.sdparks.org)

#### **PROJECT FUNDING AND TIMELINE**

##### **Will there be a fee for entry or use?**

The active recreation space, in addition to all of Waterfront Park, is open to the public for general use free of charge.

## Where are we right now, in terms of project timeline?

- First Public Meeting – January 29, 2020
- Online Survey #1 - Winter 2019/20
- Draft Concept Designs - Spring 2020
- Second Public Meeting – October 19, 2020
- Online Survey #2 - Fall 2020
- Synthesize Feedback - Draft Final Designs  
Winter 2020/21
- Third Public Meeting - April 15, 2021
- Environmental Review/Construction  
Documents/CDP  
Spring 2021
- Fourth Public Meeting – January 5, 2022
- Board of Supervisors Hearing  
January 26, 2022
- Bid + Award Contractor  
Spring 2022
- Award Construction Contract  
Summer 2022
- Construction  
Summer 2022 – Winter 22/23
- Ribbon Cutting  
Winter 22/23

## COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

### Where can I get information on the park?

Information on the Waterfront Park Active Recreation project can be found on the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation website at:

<https://www.sdparcs.org/content/sdparcs/en/AboutUs/Plans/ParksImprovementPlan.html>

### What public outreach have you done for this park?

Staff from the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) facilitated a bilingual (English/Spanish), community-driven design process to shape the new park. Outreach included four public meetings and ongoing collaboration with local community groups.

- On January 29, 2020, DPR hosted its first public meeting from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Hampton Inn, Pacific Room on Pacific Highway in San Diego to gain a better understanding of community preferences and desires for the northeast corner of Waterfront Park and surrounding areas. A total of 23 community members participated and the first survey was issued, which received a total of 159 responses.
- DPR held its second public meeting on October 19, 2020, from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom regarding the Waterfront Park Active Recreation Feasibility Study and to receive feedback on four concept designs, including possible amenities. A total of 50 individuals from 36 households tuned in to the virtual event, and DPR staff addressed 40 comments during the meeting. The second survey was issued at this time and received a total of 206 responses.
- On April 15, 2021, DPR hosted its third public meeting from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom to present a final concept plan to the community for review and feedback. A total of 57 community members from 50 households participated in the event, and County staff addressed a total of 52 comments.

- DPR held its fourth public meeting on January 5, 2022, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. via Zoom regarding the project and next steps through construction. A total of 36 households participated in the event, and County staff addressed a total of 41 comments.
- For more information, please see the Waterfront Park Active Recreation project: <https://www.sdparks.org/content/sdparks/en/AboutUs/Plans/ParksImprovementPlan.html>

### **How does this project address equity?**

The proposed project will expand active recreation opportunities in an area that does not currently have sufficient access to those opportunities. Based on the available data from the 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates, there is an estimated 16 percent of the residents in the 92101 zip code that live below the poverty level. The addition of the active recreation at Waterfront Park would increase access opportunities for these individuals by providing a free venue to exercise and improve health outcomes. The project would attract residents to spend time near the bay to access nature as well as the proposed recreational opportunities.

### **Who is on the Waterfront subcommittee?**

The Waterfront subcommittee is comprised of members of the D1, D3 and D4 board offices.

## **PARK MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS**

### **What are the hours for the new amenities?**

This additional active recreation area will follow the established hours of operation for Waterfront Park from 6:00 a.m. – 10 p.m. Gates for the off-leash dog zone will be locked when not in operation.

### **Who can use the park?**

Parks are for everyone, and Waterfront Park Active Recreation is no exception. Amenities have been selected to match the priorities of residents of all ages, abilities and interests. Park visitors are expected to adhere to park guidelines and County policies, which will be posted on signs throughout the park. Rules are essential to maintain order at the park, to promote safety and security, and to sustain the land.

This Waterfront Park Active Recreation will likely be used by local residents and residents of neighboring communities. DPR does not anticipate the park addition will have significant visitor change to the current use of Waterfront Park.

### **How will you maintain the park?**

DPR staff and associated staff work before, during, and after park hours, and they receive additional support from volunteers. Maintenance projects include but are not limited to emptying trash, cleaning restrooms, mowing and irrigating lawns, tree and shrub maintenance, stormwater management and erosion control, debris removal, graffiti abatement, protection of natural and cultural resources, and the enforcement of all San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation codes and policies.

### **Where is the parking?**

Metered street parking is always available. Parking is available Monday through Friday after 5pm, and weekends and holidays. Metered and underground parking is available. Ridesharing and public transit are highly encouraged. The nearest MTS Trolley stop is located one block away from the park at the County Center/Little Italy Station and the MTS bus route 923 stops at Waterfront Park.

## **PARK AMENITIES**

### **Please list all park amenities.**

Waterfront Park will include an off-leash dog zone, pickleball court, basketball court, t-ball baseball field, table tennis, fitness equipment and preservation to some of the existing garden, benches and art sculpture.

### **How did you decide on these park amenities?**

Community requests catalyzed the development of the amenities to include in the Waterfront Park Active Recreation project and input from local residents has and will continue to guide all phases of the design process. The initial idea for the park has origins in the San Diego County Board of Supervisors direction to assess active recreation opportunities in the San Diego metropolitan area.

Additional ideas and amenity requests were collected during the public meetings, online surveys and comments directly submitted to DPR staff via phone calls, email, in person or mail.

DPR used the priorities and potential amenities expressed by the community to develop four concept plans to help residents visualize how different features could be laid out on site. The concept plans were shared with the community via public meetings. See the Communication and Outreach section for more information.

### **How big is the off-leash dog zone?**

The final size of the off-leash dog zone is 7,580 SF (.17 acres) and the space will feature decomposed granite surfacing and trees.

### **Will the courts be lit at night?**

We will be looking into lighting options. The site will have security lighting, and we will determine if the courts have night lighting as we get into construction documents. All lighting will follow the guidelines set by the California Coastal Commission to limit light pollution for the surrounding area.

### **What about an outdoor roller-skating rink?**

Due to the limited space available and the current rules and regulation of the site, it was determined this was not the best location. DPR is currently looking for suitable locations for an outdoor roller-skating rink.

### **How can you protect against fly balls breaking windows or hurting people?**

Fencing and enforcement will assist in the containment of fly balls. Only whiffle balls are allowed at the t-ball field. Fencing and strategic landscaping will be placed around the sport court and t-ball field to contain fly balls.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

**Will the project comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)?**

Yes, the project will comply with CEQA and all applicable environmental regulations. The type of CEQA document that was prepared for the Waterfront Park Active Recreation is an addendum to the previous Environmental Impact Report for Waterfront Park and Master Plan.

**Will you be obtaining a Coastal Commission Development Permit?**

Yes, this project will obtain a development permit through the Coastal Commission. We have submitted this application in January 2022.

**What updated technical studies were conducted and when?**

An air quality analysis and greenhouse gas assessment, including analysis of proposed construction, was conducted in September 2021. A noise and vibration impact study, including analysis of proposed construction and daily use of amenities, was conducted in September 2021. In addition, visual simulations were conducted in November 2021 to analyze potential aesthetic impacts and in compliance with the guidelines of the Coastal Commission.

**Did we rely on previous environmental documents?**

The previously adopted Environmental Impact Report for Waterfront Park and Master Plan was used as the established environmental document for the area. From that report, a supplemental analysis (an addendum) was prepared with new technical studies to specifically analyze the newly proposed active recreation amenities. New air quality, greenhouse gas, noise and vibration technical studies were conducted for this proposed project in 2021. Data was cross analyzed with existing technical studies to provide a complete understanding of each study. The additional analysis that was conducted for the active recreation amenities determined that there will be no new significant impacts beyond those already analyzed and mitigated for in the previous Environmental Impact Report.

**What are the next steps for the Environmental Analysis?**

The Waterfront Park Active Recreation addendum was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 26, 2022. This document is posted on the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors' website (<https://bosagenda.sandiegocounty.gov/cob/cosd/cob/doc?id=0901127e80e0f650>).

DPR will implement all environmental restrictions as identified in the Waterfront Park Active Recreation Addendum to ensure there are no significant impacts to the environment as a result of the project.

**How many trees will be removed from the project area?**

DPR's goal is to have a net zero tree removal for the Waterfront Park Active Recreation project if possible. Landscape architect, design consultants and contractors are working together to get as close to this goal as possible. Currently, design has been altered to preserve (at minimum) 22 trees within the project area (at maximum) remove 11 trees to accommodate the new amenities. All perimeter trees will remain protected in place.

**Did DPR consider how the proposed changes to the park could affect local pollinators and migrating animals?**

Yes, DPR did consider potential impacts to local species and habitat as part of the proposed active recreation amenities. Many of the plants that are being removed or impacted as part of this project are non-native ornamental plants that are not suitable habitat for native species. While the project is not anticipated to impact local species, the project includes the addition of native plants that are known to provide habitat and refuge for species. Therefore, the project is anticipated to provide an overall benefit to local species within the preserved garden by including additional native plant species to the project space.