



## Pepper Park Community Workshop

May 7, 2021

Q&A

**Is this meeting being recorded for individuals who are unable to attend live, so they can watch the meeting later?**

Yes, the meeting was recorded in English, Spanish, and Tagalog. All videos are available at [portofsandiego.org/nationalcitybayfront](http://portofsandiego.org/nationalcitybayfront).

**Will the bikeway improvements tie into the one in Chula Vista?**

Yes. The proposed Segment 5 of the Bayshore Bikeway will tie into the Bayshore Bikeway connection that currently ends adjacent to Pier 32 Marina and extends south across Sweetwater Channel and into Chula Vista.

**Is there a potential to have a ferry boat shuttle service from Pepper Park to Coronado area?**

The City of National City is currently exploring this idea.

**Will the future pedestrian bridge expand over I-5?**

The City of National City is currently exploring this idea.

**There is currently a project to install charging stations in Pepper Park. Will they remain after they are installed? Are they in the right location with the redevelopment of the park?**

The Port is installing 11 charging stations in Pepper Park through SDG&E's Power Your Drive Program. We anticipate installing them later this year near the Aquatic Center and will relocate them within the parking area, if needed, as part of the future park expansion.

**Is there a way to get the gates closed at 8 p.m. to decrease the nightly drag races?**

Consistent with the Port Code, the park is open from 6 a.m.-10:30 p.m. and the gates are closed between 10:30 p.m. and 6 a.m.

**What's a way to take part in art for the park?**

The Port of San Diego's Parks & Recreation Department oversees the inclusion of artwork into public spaces on Port tidelands and there are many ways that individuals can get involved in a variety of arts and cultural initiatives at the Port.

There are over 70 original works of public art on Port tidelands, mostly situated in the waterfront parks, piers or promenades, which are readily accessible to the general public. These works include sculpture, murals, mosaics, and multi-media works of contemporary art. In many instances these artworks are prominent focal points of interest in the parks, and they can be enjoyed as visual enhancements to the waterfront experience, while some are functional artworks providing seating or shade, for instance. Others reveal aspects of our unique culture and history and inform us about amazing stories about our community and past. In all cases, these artworks can be the objects of discovery and fun for those who visit and explore the parks, whether for enjoyable self-guided art walks or destinations for scavenger hunts.

The Port's parks are regular venues for arts and cultural performances sponsored by the Port or by other cultural organizations year-round. Such events and festivals often feature performances by music groups, dance troops, circus performers, and other forms of theatrical entertainment. These events provide opportunities for the community to join in interactive games and crafts for children and adults alike and some events include special opportunities for the public to work directly with artists by inspiring ideas and even helping make art.

For artists of the visual or performing arts, from time-to-time the Port releases opportunities for artists to create both permanent or temporary pop-up artworks. These opportunities are announced on the Port's website. Artists interested in future art commission opportunities are encouraged to visit the Port's website to learn more about how to become involved: <https://www.portofsandiego.org/experiences/parks-recreation/opportunities>.

Additional questions can be directed via email at [arts@portofsandiego.org](mailto:arts@portofsandiego.org).

### **Will there be a First Aid Section during events?**

These details are not known at this time.

### **Can Port staff discuss next steps and what they will do with the info this evening with respect to CEQA?**

The park expansion (and potential reconfiguration) has not been designed and the feedback received during this workshop will be considered as the design effort moves forward. Preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is underway for the proposed Balanced Plan land use changes and the expansion of Pepper Park and will include the concepts listed below. As mentioned at the May 6<sup>th</sup> workshop, these preliminary park concepts include:

- Reconfiguration of the existing park layout, which may include a mixture of hardscape (e.g., paved plazas, shade structures) and new landscaping (e.g., landscaped berms, open lawn).
- A small amphitheater (e.g., gazebo, kiosk).
- An interactive fountain/splashground.
- Possible relocation of Granger Hall to Pepper Park and used for special event space.
- No revisions to the boat launch ramp facility are proposed.

The Draft EIR is anticipated to be available for public review this summer.

### **Can we expand the park beyond the proposed expansion that was shown in the beginning?**

The boundaries of the park expansion were agreed upon by the public and stakeholders in 2016 as part of the National City Marina District Balanced Land Use Plan (Balanced Plan) process. The Balanced Plan process took a close look at determining the right mixture of park, maritime, and commercial uses in the Marina District.

### **Is that rowing center a privately owned building? What is currently housed in there?**

The Aquatic Center in Pepper Park is owned and operated by the Port of San Diego. The Port has partnered with five local organizations to program and promote the Aquatic Center, to provide recreational access to the bay, educate youth on environmental stewardship and aquatic activities, and promote public access to the bay. The five organizations include Sweetwater Union High School District and E3 Civic High, which both use the facility for high school rowing teams; Paradise Creek Educational Park, a non-profit organization which focuses on environmental stewardship education and uses the facility for kayaking to encourage community engagement with the bay; YMCA of San Diego County, which offers low-cost and no-cost kayak camps for area youth; and Community Rowing of San Diego (CRSD), a public benefit organization, which uses the facility to offer low-cost youth camps to promote healthy and active lifestyles

and engagement with the bay. CRSD offers 'learn to row' classes for youth and adults and is a partner with US Rowing's 'Freedom Rows' project, which supports wounded veterans and provides military veterans and active-duty families the opportunity to take advantage of aquatic activities on the Bay. CRSD also participates in annual bay cleanup activities. The Aquatic Center is also utilized for public and private events and is available for event rental. Rental inquiries can be directed via email to [aquaticcenter@portofsandiego.org](mailto:aquaticcenter@portofsandiego.org).

**Where did the name of the park come from? Allow the community to rename it?**

Pepper Park was named after Leonard Pepper, who was a National City businessman and civic leader. The Port is open to exploring renaming the park as the design progresses.

**Wondering if there is a way of written comment cards?**

Comments can be emailed to [ncbayfront@portofsandiego.org](mailto:ncbayfront@portofsandiego.org) or mailed to the Port Planning Department: Planning Department, Port of San Diego, Attn: Anna Buzaitis, 3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101.