

Block 3 Community Meeting #2: September 9th 2020
Question and Answer

Topic	Question	Response
Policy	If you can't clean up the hazardous camps on main and mission how can we make sure this park will be clean?	The park is planned to be owned and maintained by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, which will manage this park as it does others throughout the City. Sleeping in parks is forbidden under Park Code and Rec Park rangers enforce this by patrolling City parks and preventing encampments from being established. Rec Park also works with the City's Homeless Services team and non-profits to keep our parks clean and safe while offering assistance and support to people experiencing homelessness. Rec Park custodians regularly clean our parks and make sure they are safe to use. Additional cleaning and other support services will be offered by the East Cut CBD. An active design for the Park and programming that activates the space can be instrumental in creating safer environments. Design measures will include good sight lines.
Policy	Is the park available to everyone or exclusive to the two communities flanking the park? I am referencing the outdoor area at 333 Harrison (behind gates)	This will be a public park - owned and maintained by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, and as such it will be publicly accessible at all operating hours.
Policy	Eating places were identified as a high priority from the survey. They aren't illustrated in any of the plans. How will they be incorporated?	Yes, in our survey, food was shown as a desired program. Given the small site, high demands of other programs, and the planned retail space at the corner of Beale and Tehama of the Block 4 project, we would not provide a fixed building site within the park. However, this does not preclude small mobile food vendors that could be granted thru Recreation and Park permits.
Policy	What would the name of the park be?	We have not considered any names for the park yet, but sometime in the future there will be a community engagement process to help name the park. Please follow our website and come to Community Meeting 3 to participate! http://sfpublicworks.org/Block3Park



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Policy	You mentioned there is a childcare center and retail in block 2 can you talk more about how those public uses influenced the park design?	Public parks' designs are usually influenced by community and City needs, both at the time of design and forecasted in the future, and this park is no different. For years now, community members have been expressing to Rec Park and other City Staff a growing need for a children's play area in this neighborhood. Of all planned future parks in this area, this site is most suitable for a children's play area. Children's play areas also help activate parks and make them safer and more pleasant. The future childcare center planned on Block 2 will likely influence where within the park the children's play area will be located.
Policy	Why such an emphasis on kids, when 4 out of 5 respondents don't have children?	Hundreds of family affordable housing units have either recently been completed or are still proposed for the Transbay Redevelopment Project Area, and a children's playground has been a regular request from Rec Park, the East Cut CBD and Transbay Citizens Advisory Committee for years now. Therefore, we've planned to have a children's playground as an element within the Block Park project for a long time.
Policy	Are we to assume that since there is space for dogs in the other parks, that this park will not have space for pets?	Pets are welcome in all City parks. However, since this is not a very large site, and given the future one-acre long dog run planned at nearby Under Ramp Park, this park will not include a designated dog play area. We are hoping to include some dog friendly amenities such as drinking fountains with dog bowls and a small, dog relief area.
Policy	I've read that some of the proposals for these blocks are 50+ story towers. Is that true?	No, neither of the bordering development sites - Transbay Block 2 and Transbay Block 4 - will include 50+ story towers. As proposed, the Block 4 tower would be a 47-story building and the midrise building would rise to 16 stories. The tallest building at Block 2 is zoned for approximately 16 stories.

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Design: General	The Commons design appears to have little to no grassy areas? Is that true?	Correct, this concept does not have a traditional lawn.
Design: General	Please have wind breaks wherever you have tables. The worst weather in the area is not really seasonal but is almost each evening around 5pm	Yes, we will take this into consideration.
Design: General	Why would you shade the sunniest part of the park?	All three schemes provide a mix of sunny and shaded spaces. In the Ripple we proposed a trellis structure to bring immediate filtered sun, as it will take time for the trees to mature and provide shade. The trellis structure could be designed in such a way as the trees grew into maturity the shade slats could be removed - letting nature take over.
Design: General	What's the thinking for lighting at night? Street lamps along the pathways? String lights?	Lighting will be included in the park and alley ways. Park projects typically use lamp posts, step lights, and lower (bollard) lighting. It will be a part of all three schemes.
Design: General	Are you taking in consideration the angles in which the sun will hit the park, we are losing a lot of sun in the neighborhood due to large towers, thank you, vitamin D helps fight covid :) thanks!	The sun study accounts for existing and future buildings.
Design: General	Can the JC Decaux be placed on any of the streets?	The JC Decaux restroom is best suited for the sidewalk along Main Street due to the planned bike lane along Beale Street.
Design: General	Can you combine elements from the alternatives?	Yes, of course! And we would love everyone's feedback on which elements they like best in the post meeting survey.

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Design: General	Can you blend all three? The windy benches with wood seating instead of red would be nice. Keeping the park as natural as possible with as many seating areas that encourage engagement would also be nice. The more trees and wood, the better. The Ripple is my favorite but all three are winners.	Yes, these schemes are a starting point. Community input and maintenance considerations will drive the direction that is selected and features from different schemes can be combined.
Design: General	Please no more hardscape! How about the same material as in Prospect park on Indiana or Mission Creek along the water?	We will consider paving materials that are durable and natural.
Design: Program	Is the Ripple design the only design with seating with backs. Comfortable Seating is most important to our family and an area to have a family picnic, and relax in a clean environment?	Specific seating has not been selected, but there will be seating with backs in the final refined design.
Design: Program	Will the new park include a perimeter fence?	Fencing is a design and operations consideration that will continue to be explored as the design moves forward.
Design: Program	How about incorporating a small putting green?	Fun idea, but generally all active program spaces will be located at Under Ramp Park, as this is such a small site. To be clear though, while Under Ramp Park's design does include active program spaces it does not include a putting green.

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Design: Program	Water fountain? And fountain?	Drinking fountains and bottle filling stations are standard amenities in parks and will be included here. Ornamental fountains and play fountains undermine the City's focus on minimizing water usage and are also very challenging and costly to maintain.
Design: Landscape	Given the seriousness of global warming, can we consider more green areas?	All schemes take an ecological approach and include large planting areas. Between the 3 schemes, the Clearing probably has the more generous landscape zones.
Design: Landscape	What will happen to the palm trees if design Commons isn't selected?	The palms will be reused elsewhere in the City if not included in the park design, unless they are too damaged/diseased to be reused.
Design: Landscape	Since we are talking about green area, what is the thought behind the green plastic covering/fake grass at the corner of Howard and Main? that little area on the corner?	Artificial turf is not being considered at this time. However, it may be incorporated into the play space or small dog relief area.
Design: Landscape	Native grasses for the meadows?	Specific plants have not been selected, but native plants and climate-adapted ones that support native wildlife are part of all the design concepts.
Design: Dogs	What measures will be put in place with each design to prevent damage by dogs and protect children from pets?	The Children's Play Area will be distinct from the rest of the park and may be fenced. Dogs are not permitted in a Children's Play Area. Dogs will be welcome on leash throughout the rest of the park. The design will likely include raised planters to protect plants from dogs.

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Design: Dogs	Can a small, or two smallish areas be dedicated to dogs? Many dogs in the neighborhood!	We can explore small/relief elements for dogs - similar to the one in the new Guy Place Park. Under Ramp Park will offer a large dog play & relief area that is nearly 1 block long and there is the existing dog run at Rincon Park at the Embarcadero.
Design: Dogs	A longish narrow strip along the edge(s) would work for dogs, won't it?	Yes, in the Clearing for example, we developed a narrow strip off the Clementina edge. However, this would require a considerable space commitment and fencing, if it is a true "dog run". Given plans for a large dog run at the nearby future Under Ramp park, giving up that much space at Transbay Park for another dog run seems like too large a price to pay.

Topic	Public Comments during Q&A
Design: Feedback	Dog relief area is a great idea!
Design: Feedback	Homeless response: I think so too—an active park will be the best solution
Design: Feedback	Yay for minimal grassy areas - dog owners would just cannabalize the grassy areas and allow their dog to pee and poop freely - enough of the irresponsible dog owners - they already are killing the landscaping up and down Main Street and Spear Street. Lots of kids in daycare centers and YMCA summer camp - they need this play space.
Design: Feedback	Really love the tree grove in the moodboard for The Ripple. I love the idea of the feel of immersion in trees where the urban setting falls away.
Design: Feedback	Really like the Ripple. Provides a little of everything.
Design: Feedback	I appreciate The Commons design the most as it scatters seating around entry corners.
Design: Feedback	Commons pattern seems the least appealing, while both the ripple and the clearance look good—minus the underfoot hardscape.

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Schedule/Budget	What is the timeline for under ramp park?	Under Ramp Park is currently on hold. OCII is the developer and sponsor of the park. There is a schematic design that the community supports. However, the underlying land owner and eventual operator of Under Ramp Park is the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA). The park's Operations Plan shows an annual operating deficit, and the TJPA needs to resolve this budget issue before the project can proceed. Once the operating budget is resolved, OCII needs to approve the design with its commission and then proceed with developing the project's construction documents, permitting the project, and constructing it. This will take several years. The East Cut CBD is looking for ways to help close the operating deficit.
Schedule/Budget	Just checking, the "block 2" and "block 4" development is TBD, correct? I don't see anything there now.	OCII is working with a developer on Block 4. OCII recently received responses to its Request for Proposals for the development of Block 2, which it will begin evaluating and then recommend a development team to its Commission. Each park design scheme provides connections to Blocks 2 & 4. The park is public.
Schedule/Budget	Are there any delays to the original timeline because of COVID? The last meeting when the timeline was presented was right before shelter-in-place.	Currently we are slightly (2 months) behind schedule in the concept development stage. However, once the community decides on a preferred concept for the park, we intend to make up these 2 months in the next design phase.
Schedule/Budget	Is there much difference in the cost of executing the three designs?	Costs have not been developed for any of these schemes yet. When a concept design is selected by the community and then developed into a final schematic design, we will begin pricing the project.