CONNECTIONS AT BAYVIEW HILL A SPUR VISIONING REPORT FOR THE PIERO N. PATRI FELLOWSHIP IN URBAN DESIGN BAYVIEW-HUNTERS POINT, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

A Professional Report

Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School

of Cornell University

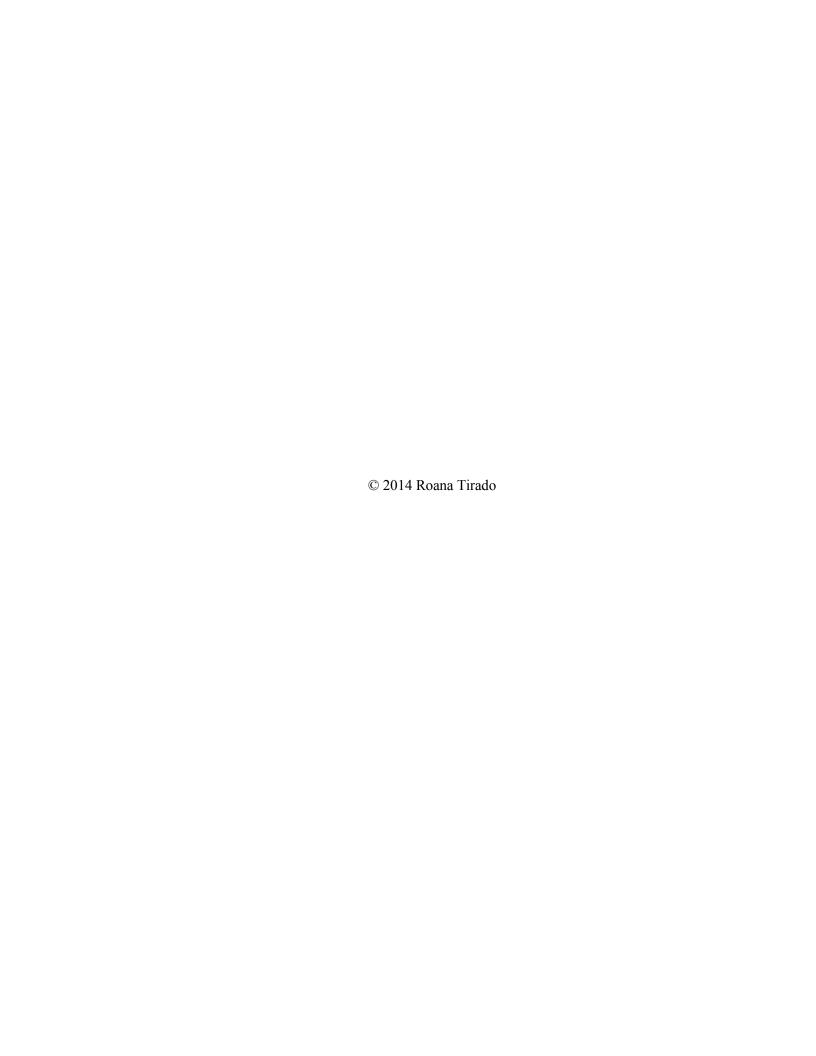
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Regional Planning

by

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ABSTRACT

This report is focused on an urban design vision for Bayview Hill in San Francisco. The report is an outcome of the work I produced as the seventh Piero N. Patri fellow in the summer of 2013. The vision I produced over the summer was a proposal focused on Bayview Hill at Bayview-Hunter's point in San Francisco. The hill is one of the only remaining original natural landscapes of San Francisco; therefore, it is an important cultural destination. In this proposal, I conceive of a long-range set of connections tying the hill into the surrounding community, including a 400-step stairway from the bay up the eastern slope and, looking ahead to 2040, an aerial tramway from neighborhoods below. The proposal also ties to a wider open space planning effort in the city and focuses on highlighting Bayview Hill as a grand terminus to the San Francisco Blue Greenway; an effort to connect underserved communities and mistreated environments to the vibrant Northern waterfront and to the rest of the City.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Roana Tirado holds a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning from Cornell University. During her time at Cornell she has worked for design and planning firms in the Bay Area and was the recipient of the 2013 Piero N. Patri Fellowship, which provided support for this report. Roana earned a B.A. in Landscape Architecture from the University of California Berkeley and has professional experience working in landscape architecture firms and in park and conservation planning in the Bay Area.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This document, an urban design proposal to positively impact the city of San Francisco and the Bay Area, is a product of the seventh Piero N. Patri Fellowship in Urban Design. I produced this report upon my return to Cornell University to accompany my fellowship work from the summer. The Piero N. Patri Fellowship is made possible by the generous support of the Patri family, San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), AECOM for hosting the fellow, and the SPUR/Piero N. Patri Fellowship Committee that provided their time, input and support throughout this process.

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To the planning department at Cornell, especially my advisor Professor Jennifer Minner, who provided her support, advice and attention in completing this report, and Professor John Forester for his support, guidance and enthusiasm for this San Francisco proposal

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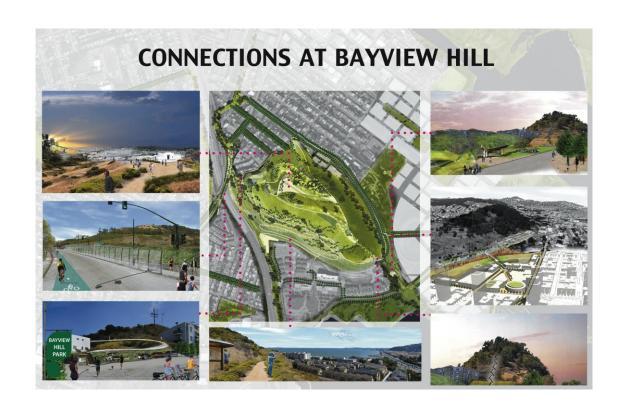
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INTRODUCTION

Bayview Hill is a beautiful, yet isolated, 44-acre Natural Areas Park tucked away in the southeast corner of San Francisco. Over the years, Bayview Hill and surrounding areas have seen a long history of dramatic and often destructive transformations both to the physical shape of the hill and its land uses. In fact, the entire southeastern portion of San Francisco, where Bayview Hill sits, is omitted from tourist maps of the city. While encompassing rich ecological and cultural aspects, current access to this hill is limited. In addition, major transformations are on the horizon for the areas surrounding Bayview Hill. With a 750-acre residential community proposed post-demolition of Candlestick Stadium, the time to address the potential of this hill and to work toward re-incorporating it into the community is now.

The goals that guided this proposal for *Connections at Bayview Hill* include keeping and improving important ecological connections, creating new physical connections and developing cultural connections that will transform this currently marginalized site into a key linkage in a regional network of open spaces. This vision is supported by multiple open space visions for San Francisco, making it an important case study for designers and planners for how a series of connections can transform a marginalized park into a vibrant and integral part of a post-industrial city's open space system.

Piero N Patri Fellowship Background

The Piero N. Patri Fellowship is a national 12-week fellowship offered every summer in San Francisco to a graduate student in the Planning, Landscape Architecture, Architecture and Urban Design fields. Piero N. Patri was an established architect, urban designer and planner in San Francisco and was one of the earliest supporters working closely with the founders of an urban planning think tank, which eventually became SPUR, the San Francisco Planning and

¹ Open Space plans such as Mayor Newsom's Open Space Task force Plan (2009), The Blue Greenway Plan (2009) and the San Francisco Planning Department's Green Connections Plan (2012).

Urban Research Association. The fellowship is a multi-partnership undertaking between the Patri family, SPUR, landscape architecture firm Bionic, the Port of San Francisco and AECOM where the fellow is given desk space and professional mentorship.

In Piero's honor, every year since 2007, a graduate student works on a project along the socially and ecologically neglected Southeast waterfront in San Francisco to gain firsthand experience working in urban design and planning on a relevant project that will positively impact San Francisco and the Bay Area. Projects provide career-related work experience that challenge graduate students to contribute to SPUR's mission, and reflect the values of Piero N. Patri.

The fellow is expected to create a work plan and come up with his or her own schedule; make contacts and meet with various government, private and community stakeholders; and generate a vision for the project. The fellow presents the project at the end of the summer at a public meeting and SPUR publishes the fellow's work.

Seventh Fellowship Project Scope

In the summer of 2013, the fellowship was focused on San Francisco's Natural Areas Park Bayview Hill. Sitting just north of the border of San Mateo County, Bayview Hill effectively acts as both the southern terminus of the city's Blue Greenway² and the southeast entrance to the San Francisco. As such, Bayview Hill Park should be considered one of San Francisco's signature spaces.

However, over the years this hill has been literally carved away to make room for development projects including Candlestick Park Stadium, which was built in the 1950s and sits on the hill's northern slope and Highway 101 on its western edge. It effectively makes this original San Francisco landscape an urban island that is cut off from surrounding areas.

² The Blue Greenway is the City of San Francisco's project to improve the City's southerly portion of the 500-mile, 9-county, region-wide Bay Trail, as well as the newly established Bay Area Water Trail and associated waterfront open space system.

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Today, history is repeating itself with Candlestick Stadium now set for demolition at the end of the 2013 season and the redevelopment of the Bayview-Hunters point neighborhood proposed by developer Lennar Urban as a 750-acre residential community and shopping center. With these proposed changes there have been few plans to incorporate Bayview Hill Park, despite the fact that it is perfectly located to connect to the existing San Francisco park network. With major redevelopment changes set to occur, this is a unique time and opportunity for various stakeholders to reinvest in the park for its potential positive effects on the rest of the area.



Figure 1: Bayview Hill Context Map

Fellowship Work Flow Chart

Throughout a three month long visioning process, this project went through multiple stages of review through the Patri Fellowship committee and outside stakeholder groups. Below is an overview of that process:

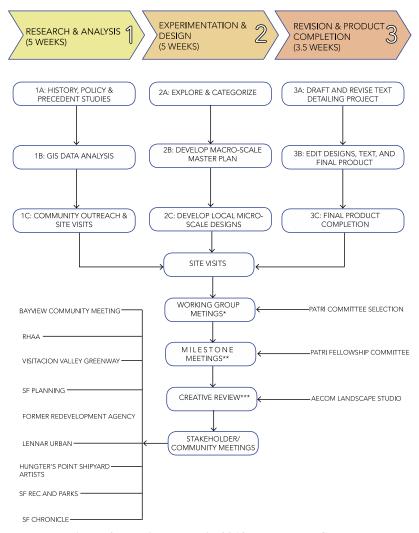


Figure 2: Patri Fellowship 2013 Work Flow Chart

Report Overview

The final product for the 2013 fellowship included a visioning presentation and pocket guide (see appendix). This professional report is the final product of this fellowship. It outlines the author's proposal *Connections at Bayview Hill*. This report was published by Cornell University

^{*}Working group meetings included a selection of two to three fellowship committee members and invited stakeholders or community members.

^{**} Milestone Meetings included all advisors on the Patri Fellowship Committee, as well as invited guests related to project topic and critique goals.

^{*** *} Creative Reviews took place in AECOM design studio with the entire landscape team for mid-process design critiques.

and posted to the Piero N. Patri Fellowship website.³ The report consists of relevant neighborhood history, current conditions and analysis, project proposal and "next steps" to implement the proposal. Non-profit organizations, government agencies, landscape architects, designers and neighborhood residents can use this visioning proposal as a starting point for reincorporating Bayview Hill back into the community.

³ sewsf.org

SECTION I: Bayview Hill History

Over the years, Bayview Hill and surrounding areas have seen a long history of dramatic transformations in the physical shape of the hill and its land uses. An early explorer of the San Francisco peninsula described the area around Bayview Hill as one of "inexpressible fertility." Grizzly bears, elk, and antelope roamed this area. Hill tree species consisted of coast live oaks and toyons, and native perennial grasses and low-growing coastal scrub plants dominated the hilltop landscape. Today only small pieces of San Francisco's original landscape remain, with some of the best remnants on Bayview Hill. Bayview Hill was the original edge of the bay, which is why Bayview Hill still has remnant coastal species like coast live oak and coastal larkspur among many other special species. The biodiversity of native plants and animals on Bayview Hill has led to its designation as a Significant Natural Resource Area (SNRA), now preserved and protected by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

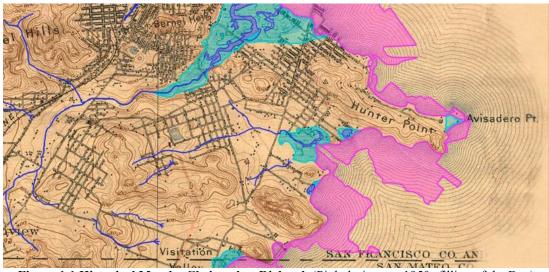


Figure 1.1 Historical Map by Christopher Richard. (Pink designates 1950s filling of the Bay). *Source: HISTOPO*

In historical maps dating back to the 1800s, Bayview Hill marks the historical edge of the southeast San Francisco Bay (Figure 1.1). The Bay Region itself was home to approximately ten

⁴ Captain la Perouse in early San Francisco exploration. Margolin Malcolm, <u>The Ohlone Way: Indian Life in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay Area.</u> Heyday Books, Berkeley, California,1978.

Other special species listed in Bayview Hill Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan 2006.

thousand Native Americans before European contact (Figure 1.2). A large number of Ohlone villages dotted the periphery of the San Francisco Bay with the Spanish arrival at the last end of the 18th century.⁶ The fresh water sources, warmer microclimate and proximity to tidal marshes made the areas surrounding Bayview Hill ideal for seasonal Ohlone settlements. Middens, or heaps of discarded shells sometimes containing human remains and artifacts, were known to have existed on the shoreline of the peninsula, giving the Hunters Point area its first European era name, Punta de la Concha, or "Point of the Shells." The Ohlones were hunter-gatherers, and Bayview Hill, which was home to deer, elk and other mammals, was a crucial hunting area.



Figure 1.2 Ohlone Paddling Skiff in the San Francisco Bay. Skiff made out of Tule reeds –a brackish water plant which may well have flourished in the shallows along the southeast shoreline (1776). *Source: foundsf.org.*

By the 1800s, uses of Bayview Hill consisted mainly of cattle ranching and grazing with surrounding homes belonging to ranchers or industrial workers for the growing meat processing district of San Francisco, Butchertown, located on modern day Third Street (Figure 1.3).

⁷ Gerald Robert Dow, Bay Fill in San Francisco: A History of Change (San Francisco: unpublished Master's Thesis submitted to the faculty of California State University, San Francisco, 1973), 188.

⁶ Malcolm Margolin, The Ohlone Way (San Francisco: Heyday Books, 1978), 1.



Figure 1.3 An Early Photograph Circa 1918 Looking South at Bayview Hill. Source: foundsf.org.

George Hearst, a wealthy American businessman and U.S Senator, proposed that Bayview Hill and surrounding area be transformed into an upscale residential district; however, the land was considered too far from downtown. In 1902, a large portion of Bayview Hill's crest was purchased by the city for the development of a "pest house," or isolation hospital that would house those with contagious illnesses. This plan never came to fruition, as neighboring resident Charles Crocker donated his portion of the ridge to the city on the condition that the pest house not get built. Therefore, in December 1914, the San Francisco Department of Parks and Recreation accepted a joint donation of 17 acres at the top of Candlestick Hill from the Bay View Land Company and the Crocker Estate Company on the condition that eight acres of adjoining City-owned land be added to the proposed park. Six months later the district's first public park, Bay View Park (Bayview Hill), was dedicated in a ceremony attended by approximately 500 local residents and city officials. Improvements to the land were minimal, but included the construction of an access drive at the end of Jamestown Avenue and the

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⁸ "Officials View Land Offered to the City". San Francisco Chronicle (December 12, 1914) 14

planting of several hundred eucalyptus saplings (Figure 1.4). The ceremony concluded with a concert by the City of San Francisco's band and dancing on the hill.⁹



Figure 1.4 Bay View Park, 1943.
Source: San Francisco Historical Society Photograph Collection, San Francisco Public Library

Bayview Hill benefitted from Franklin Roosevelt's first New Deal acts in 1933, with a work relief program project under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) that targeted several needed improvements. The project entailed laying 6,500 feet of oiled macadam and an equal amount of rock gutter, and building a stone rubble wall, and a water supply system.



Figure 1.5 WPA Work at Bayview Park, ca. 1938. Source: California New Deal Project

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⁹ Bay View Park is Opened to Public" SF Chronicle (May 24th 1915) 8

The project also resulted in the cultivation of 6,500 existing trees and the planting of 2,500 more. The WPA completed the project in 1938 (Figure 2.5).¹⁰

In 1937, KYA, one of the first radio stations in San Francisco, under the ownership of San Francisco Examiner's William Hearst (son of George Hearst), built a small transmitter building and large transmitter tower for his radio station. (Figure 1.6) ¹¹ It is the only building that sits on the hilltop today. Hearst commissioned famous bay area architect Julia Morgan to design the building. The building is a hidden gem; it is an original art deco design still in excellent condition. The eagle shield of the Examiner newspaper is still visible at its entrance. The transmitter building remained active well into the 1940s and is listed today as a potential historic resource status. ¹²

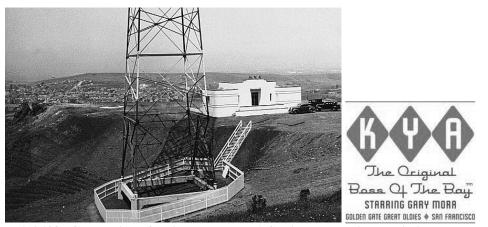


Figure 1.6 1937 Completion of Julia Morgan KYA Station Transmitter Building and Tower.

By the late 1940s, the Bayview Hunter's Point neighborhood never suffered from lack of transportation routes. One main road route hugged the western side of Bayview Hill, and was later designated the 101A Bypass Freeway. The stretch of road was the Bay Area's first freeway when it opened in 1947 (figure 1.7).

11 Bay Area Radio Museum Archives http://bayarearadio.org/kya/index.shtml#A.

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¹⁰ California's Living New Deal Project: http://livingnewdeal.berkeley.edu.

Potential resource status given because of the age of the building. Owner would have to apply to have this turned into an official historic resource status. Owner and parcel information listed at http://www.criis.com/webtemp/67.255.12.65/apn_list.html or by looking up Parcel 4991001C.

As an area with relatively large reserves of potentially developable land, good freeway access, and neighborhoods with little political power, Bayview-Hunters Point was often selected as an ideal site for major public works projects. In response, local critics claimed that Bayview Hunter's Point was merely a "dumping ground" for undesirable projects that would never be proposed for wealthier districts. Since Bayview Hill is mainly made up of chert bedrock and outcrops, it was an appropriate base rock for development. Due to private ownerships, large portions were carved away by quarry operations around the base of the hill. All sides were altered somewhat, but none more than the northern and eastern slopes to make room for the stadium built abutting the hill in the 1950s at Candlestick Point. Developer Charles P. Harney who owned the quarry and the stadium site at the time, sold to the City of San Francisco and then got the contract to build the ballpark, which ultimately spurred the extension of land into the bay.

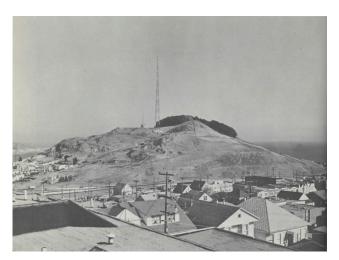


Figure 1.7 View of Highway Abutting Bayview Hill. Source: San Francisco Chronicle 1958.

The \$25 million bond-funded Candlestick Stadium was built in 1958 for the New York Giants.

The New York Giants had moved to San Francisco in the 1950s to become the West Coast's first major league baseball team. The Giants originally played in Seals Stadium in the Mission District, but by the late fifties, it was considered too small and inaccessible by private

automobile. (Figure 1.8). ¹³ Architect John Bolles designed the new stadium with assistance from the engineering firm of Chin & Hensolt.

A *San Francisco Chronicle's* 1958 series on the hills of San Francisco described the "carved crest" of Candlestick Point.¹⁴ The fill for the stadium was carved from the east side of Bayview Hill and used to expand the southeastern corner of San Francisco out into Yosemite Slough/South Basin. The fill was extended further out into the bay and was originally to be used as a shipyard during World War II. The shipyard was abandoned after the war ended. The land was named Candlestick Point State Recreation Area in the 1970s.



Figure 1.8 Completed Stadium at Bayview Hill 1960.

Source: foundsf.org

From 1960 onward, the City of San Francisco started to build around Bayview Hill instead of incorporating it. Developments such as Candlestick Stadium faced away from the hill effectively cutting it off from easy public access. The stadium became a central feature of Bayview Hunter's Point as it later became the home of the San Francisco 49ers. The team made a controversial move out of San Francisco at the end of the 2013 season, leaving San Francisco Parks and Recreation to deal with the abandoned stadium, which has been criticized for its

13 Chester Hartman, The Transformation of San Francisco (Totowa, NJ: Rowman & Allanheld, 1984), 209.

¹⁴ "Hills of San Francisco" A San Francisco Classic, 1958 with forward by Herb Caen. This series on the Hills of San Francisco is being revisited by urban design critic John King in his SF Gate "Urban Landscapes" blog http://blog.sfgate.com/johnking/

windy interior and crime-ridden surrounding neighborhoods. The stadium is due for demolition in 2014.

In 1997, the City of San Francisco acquired an additional 16 acres of the upper northeast slope to be used as open space. Redevelopment projects for the neighborhood became the dominant issue of the 1990s and 2000s. By 2009, there was a proposal for the stadium to be replaced by a mixed-use shopping center. 15

Over the years, Bayview Hill became more and more isolated from surrounding communities (Figure 1.9). Despite many plans to develop new neighborhoods and open space, none of the plans address the need to connect this last remaining piece of original San Francisco landscape to surrounding communities. Although the San Francisco Natural Areas Plan recommends improvements, the updates made to trails in the 1930s were among the last improvements made on this hill.



Figure 1.9 Modern Day View of Bayview Hill in 2012, with Highway 101 in the Foreground.

Source: Photo by Evan Reader.

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¹⁵ 2009 Candlestick Point/Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Redevelopment Plan.

City-scale context

The 44-acre Bayview Hill Park is located just west of Candlestick Point State Recreation Area. Highway 101 abuts the hill's western edge and the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood is just to the northeast. In overlaying a data visualization that maps the areas of San Francisco most photographed by locals and tourists, it is evident that people ignore Bayview Hill and the Southeast waterfront (Figure 2.1). The data demonstrates that people

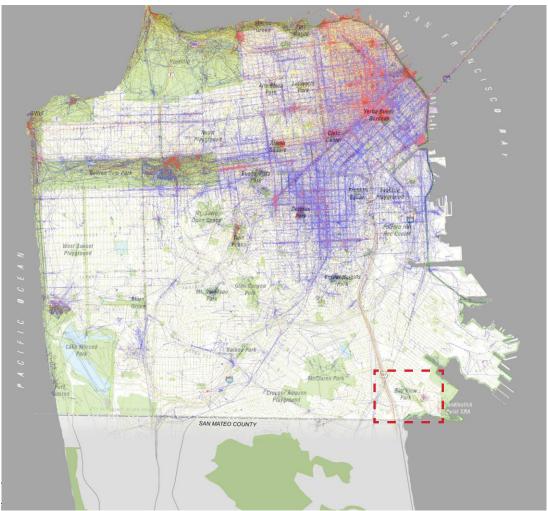


Figure 2.1 Data Visualization of Sites Where People Take the Most Photos. Source: Data visualization by Eric Fisher superimposed on map by author.

Despite the omission of the southeast neighborhoods and Bayview Hill from tourist maps in San Francisco, there are planning efforts to elevate the importance of this part of the city that make physical connections to Bayview Hill (see Figure 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4).

One such planning effort is to provide green connections to the southeast waterfront. Former Mayor Newsom's Open Space Task Force proposal in 2009 identified a cross-town open space trail for people and wildlife from the Presidio in north San Francisco to Bayview Hill in



Figure 2.2 Cross-Town Trail, Blue Greenway and Patri Projects.

the south. This proposed series of open spaces and green corridors would be connected to the already established Ridge Trail, supported by coordinated inter-agency open space corridor

management. The Blue Greenway is another proposed connection to the southeast waterfront. It is an effort by the City of San Francisco to improve the southerly portion of the 500-mile, 9-county, region-wide Bay Trail and the newly established Bay Area Water Trail with its associated waterfront open space system. The alignment of the Blue Greenway generally follows the alignment of the Bay Trail and Bay Area Water Trail from Mission Creek on the north to the County line on the south. Finally, the Piero N. Patri Fellowship projects represent another planning effort that connects to the southeast waterfront. All three planning efforts are mapped in Figure 2.2.

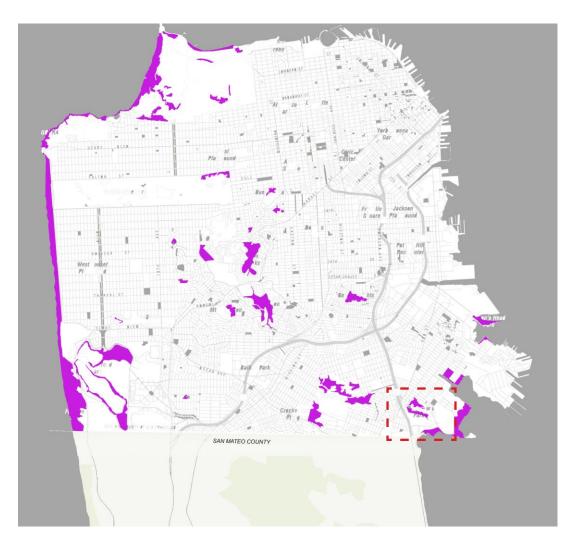


Figure 2.3 San Francisco Natural Areas

These planning proposals connect to the southeast waterfront stem from citywide ecological connections. In the map below, all of the areas in purple are San Francisco Natural Areas, which are managed for biological diversity and harbor native habitats. They are comprised of restored areas and original landscapes (Figure 2.3). Bayview Hill is also categorized as a Natural Area. A large majority of San Francisco's Natural Areas land is located on the southeast waterfront, particularly at Bayview Hill.

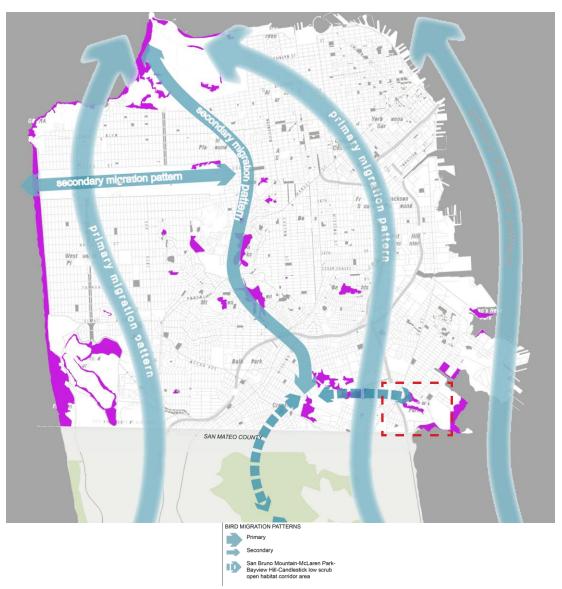


Figure 2.4 Bird Migration Patterns and San Francisco Low-Scrub Corridor.

Source: Migration patterns superimposed on map by author.

Bird migrations corridors, as delineated by the Audubon Society, run through Bayview Hill. These include both primary (major routes) and secondary patterns (minor routes). In addition, San Francisco's low-scrub habitat comes up from San Mateo County in the San Bruno McLaren Park, Bayview Hill, and Candlestick Low Scrub Habitat corridor area (Figure 2.4). All of these ecological connections elevate the importance of Bayview Hill.

Existing Conditions

Bayview Hill is one of the more diverse Natural Areas Parks in San Francisco, with vegetation that includes grasslands, shrub, and tree-dominated areas, and a large number of sensitive plant species. Primary public access is on the western side of the park at Key Avenue. Developed areas are limited to paved trails and the 1930s-era KYA building. The Natural Areas boundary encompasses the entire hilltop except for the KYA building land on the northwestern corner (Figure 2.5).

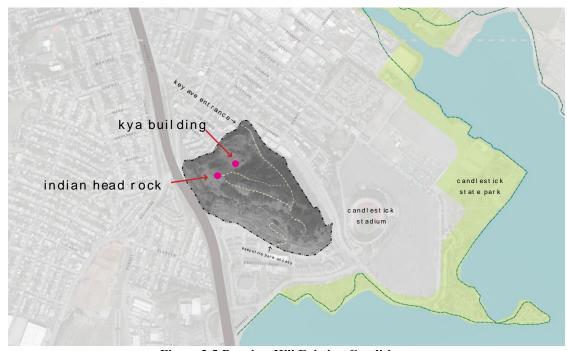


Figure 2.5 Bayview Hill Existing Conditions.

Bayview Hill Park is a highly visible focal point within the city that supports a diverse array of habitats, recreational trails, historic Works Project Administration (WPA) projects, and 180-degree views that include downtown San Francisco and the Bay. Indian Rock, one of the many chert outcrops at Bayview Hill has a 180-degree view of San Bruno Mountain (Figure 2.6). In addition to these features of interest, Bayview Hill is home to extensive grasslands providing habitat for butterflies and other insects, a variety of resident and migratory bird species, including raptors, reptiles, mammals, and amphibians. Bayview Hill contains special species such as coast live oaks and toyons, native perennial grasses and low-growing coastal scrub plants. A casual survey by the California Native Plant Society revealed three large populations of the rare and beautiful San Francisco collinsia, Islais cherry, shooting star, and the only known population of coast larkspur in San Francisco.¹⁶



Figure 2.6 View Looking West From Indian Rock.

While primary public access is at Key Avenue, another public entrance and trail was constructed on the southern side of the hill as a part of the privately owned executive park development in 2011. This executive park entrance and trail does not connect to the existing hilltop trails. According to San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department this was due to protection of sensitive species. In addition, the south side of the hill is privately owned by the

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¹⁶ Survey by northern California CNPS

executive park development. The hilltop is public and owned by San Francisco Recreation and Parks.

As seen in the Figure 2.7, ownership of Bayview Hill (outlined in a black dashed line) is complex. The natural areas management jurisdiction is outlined in a solid purple. The area shaded light green is under San Francisco Recreation and Parks management. The State-owned property, shaded in dark green, is located on the southwestern corner of the hill. City ownership is shaded in yellow. The pink parcels are privately owned.



Figure 2.7 Parcel Ownership Map of Bayview Hill.

Future conditions

There are many pending developments planned around Bayview Hill (Figure 2.8). Some of the major developments include the Schlage-Lock mixed-use development in Visitacion Valley, The Brisbane Baylands in San Mateo County, the Executive Park development directly to the south of Bayview Hill, and the 750-acre Candlestick Point Hunter's Point (CPHP) residential mixed-use development directly to the north of Bayview Hill. The residential mixed-use CPHP development is expected to increase population in Bayview-Hunter's Point by 20,000 residents and create about 80 acres of commercial space with over 7,500 new jobs promised.

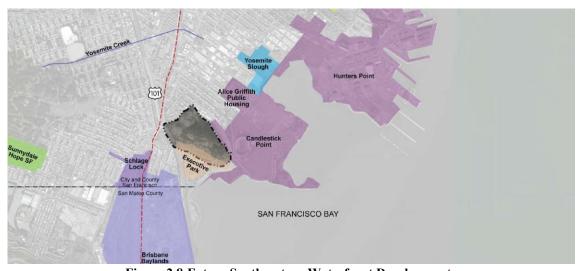


Figure 2.8 Future Southeastern Waterfront Developments
Sources: CPHP Urban Design Plan, Visitacion Valley Schlage Lock Plan, Brisbane Baylands Plan.

Most of the surrounding developments miss opportunities to incorporate Bayview Hill with little to no plans for access. This is especially the case for CPHP. The residential mixed use CPHP development, proposed by developer Lennar Urban and the City of San Francisco in 2009, encompasses Hunter's Point Shipyard, Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, Candlestick Stadium and Alice Griffith affordable housing. The CPHP development will require new infrastructure, particularly a roadway spanning the two neighborhoods of Candlestick Point and Hunter's Point along with the widening of Harney Way, the narrow road that connects Bayview to U.S. Route 101.

Original plans for the mega development included a new stadium for the San Francisco 49ers and plans to provide access to the hill. However, once the 49ers decided against this location, plans to incorporate the hill fell off of the Lennar Urban proposal.

The Brisbane Baylands project includes regeneration of a 684-acre former industrial property into a community, economic and ecological resource. Most of this project is located in San Mateo County to the south of San Francisco. However, the northern tip of the project is located in San Francisco County on the west side of the 101 freeway.

The neighboring Schlage Lock redevelopment project in Visitacion Valley is a proposed mixed-use community that includes retail, residential uses, and open space. This project is located at the southern border of San Francisco and is also on the west side of the 101 freeway, cut off from Bayview Hill.

Finally, the Executive Park Development located on the hill's southern slope, is a 25-acre built development that includes about 900 units of residential duplexes. A public access trail up the south side of Bayview Hill was incorporated as a part of this development.

The Yosemite Slough project is a restoration project located on the western shoreline of South San Francisco Bay. Candlestick Point State Recreation Area's Yosemite Slough was historically part of the biologically rich tidal marshes and mudflats of San Francisco Bay. As in many parts of the Bay, non-point source pollution has severely degraded the waters in Yosemite Slough. To be implemented on behalf of California State Parks, the Yosemite Slough Wetlands project will restore 12 acres (7 acres on the north side, 5 on the south) of seasonal wetlands.



Figure 2.9 Open Space Elements of Proposed Southeastern Waterfront Developments.

All of these surrounding developments, with the exception of Executive Park, have overlooked opportunities to connect to Bayview Hill. Each development has incorporated open space elements (shown in Figure 2.9); but they do not connect to the rich habitat of Bayview Hill. These developments effectively cut off the hill, creating an urban island.

A new football stadium for the San Francisco 49'ers and a shopping complex were proposed for Candlestick Point. The stadium was anticipated to reinvigorate the district; however, the 49ers changed their focus to Santa Clara in 2006. At the end of the 2014 season, the stadium will be demolished and replaced with the Candlestick Village development (Figure 2.10). This proposed 800,000 square feet shopping and entertainment district would replace the current stadium's pie-shaped parcel. A stairway between Bayview Hill and the retail center was proposed when the 49'ers planned to remain on site. Under the new scenario, there is no longer stairway access to the park.

Synthesis

This section recognizes the challenges of reincorporating Bayview Hill back into the community. The hill's topography, surrounding development, and lack of easy access are elements that contribute to its complexity. Despite complicated existing conditions, there are avenues to reconnect Bayview Hill to the ecology of the region and to surrounding neighborhoods. The following sections will synthesize the opportunities and constraints, proposals and implementation strategies for the site. Bayview Hill has stood disconnected and inaccessible to surrounding communities for decades. With the pending demolition of Candlestick Stadium, the time has come for Bayview Hill to come into its own.



Figure 2.10 Proposed Candlestick Village Center Plan. Source: Lennar Urban. Plan superimposed on map by author.

SECTION III: Site Opportunities and Constraints

Bayview Hill is a site with great potential. As one of the remaining original landscapes in San Francisco, it hosts a variety of special wildlife species. The Natural Areas Department of Recreation and Parks conducted a full habitat assessment of Bayview Hill, which provides a strong foundation for improvement opportunities.

Despite its special nature, for years, Bayview Hill has remained disconnected from its surroundings with a limited single-loop trail system accessed by an unmarked trail entrance. Improving connections has proved difficult with the varied ownership of the hill and a series of surrounding infrastructural and residential developments that have created barriers to access.

Site Constraints—Pedestrian Access

From the late 1950s onward, the communities surrounding Bayview Hill were physically separated from this valuable open space. The Bayview-Hunter's Point neighborhood, directly to the north of the hill, was barred from pedestrian access with the construction of Candlestick Stadium. With the construction of the stadium came a great number of parking lots and arterials built to satisfy traffic load on game days and highways to serve regional and interstate traffic surround Bayview Hill today. The western neighborhoods of Portola, Visitacion Valley, Little Hollywood and Sunnydale are all cut off from the hill due to the presence of Highway 101. This effectively cut off these communities from accessing Bayview Hill. The neighborhoods to the west of Highway 101 have pedestrian crossings at San Bruno Avenue but they all have limitations.

¹⁷ One Bayview resident recalled being able to freely access the hill as a boy before the stadium had been constructed.

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Figure 3.1 Pedestrian Access 1.

The first access point for a pedestrian coming from the Portola neighborhood is an existing underpass along San Bruno Avenue at Paul Avenue. This dark underpass is a heavy traffic area with few treatments for pedestrians. While there is a painted crosswalk, the area could benefit from a brightly painted zebra crossing (Figure 3.1).

The next access point is from the Visitacion Valley neighborhood. It is located along San Bruno at Harkness Avenue. This pedestrian overpass has been fenced off and is no longer in use. Its entrance point along San Bruno Avenue has been hidden from view with ivy growth and the abandoned space has become a homeless encampment (Figure 3.2).

The next crossing is further south along San Bruno Avenue at Bayshore Boulevard. While it is the most pedestrian friendly of all the crossings, it has limitations. A stairway takes pedestrians down to the freeway overpass that directly connects to Bayview Hill. However, the overpass has heavy traffic and an unsafe narrow sidewalk that crosses over the freeway (Figure 3.3).

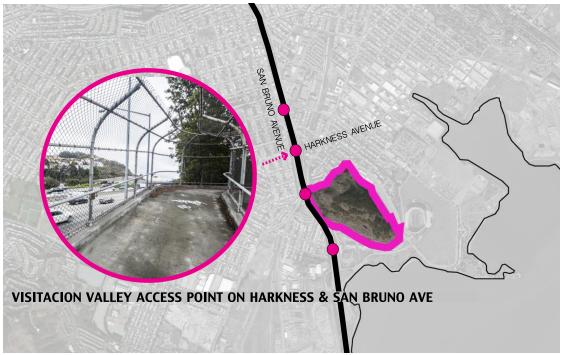


Figure 3.2 Pedestrian Access 2.



Figure 3.3 Pedestrian Access 3.

The last crossing is in the Little Hollywood neighborhood at the end of Blanken Avenue. This underpass is the most heavily used due to its proximity to Candlestick Stadium. However, in addition to being dark, the underpass is located on a blind corner making it difficult for cars to see pedestrians (Figure 3.4).

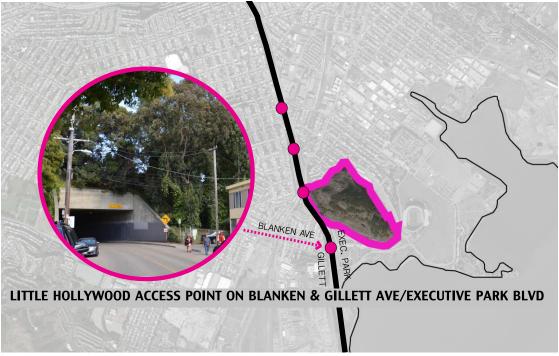


Figure 3.4 Pedestrian Access 4.

All of these crossings could be improved with minor adjustments. For example, simple wayfinding signage would make all these spaces easier to navigate.



Figure 3.5 Standing on the CPSRA Beach Looking West at Bayview Hill.

As mentioned in earlier chapters, Bayview Hill is one of the only original landscapes remaining in San Francisco. The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Natural Areas program completed a thorough analysis of this rich habitat in their Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan (SNRAMP) for Bayview Hill. The SNRAMP includes recommendations for various improvements for Bayview Hill. These include:

- Enhancement of native species including sensitive plants and native grasslands;
- Increase coast live oak forest;
- Mitigate habitat for the federally endangered mission blue butterfly;
- Improved wildlife habitat for a diversity of species, including a number of bird species
 of local concern;
- Creation of a seasonal wetland:
- Improved educational opportunities;
- Beautification of park entrance points with designed native plant gardens;
- Improved access on designated trails and potential new trails linking nearby neighborhoods.

All of these improvements support reincorporating Bayview Hill back into surrounding communities.

The SNRAMP also mapped the current vegetative cover on Bayview Hill.

The information covered in that plan is rendered in Figure 3.6. The plan only shows vegetative analysis for the part of the hill owned by San Francisco Recreation and Parks. As shown in figure 3.6, a significant portion of the vegetative cover is dedicated to annual and perennial grasslands. The includes coastal scrub, special species such as Islais Cherry, San Francisco Collinsia and habitat for the endangered Mission Blue Butterfly. Because Bayview Hill used to exist as the original coastline there are a few species of coast live oak.

There are a significant number of vegetative species on Bayview Hill. In total, twenty five percent of the area is grassland, 39% is forest, 20% is scrub, 2% is grassland mosaic, less than 1% is wetland, and 8% is classified as "other," which includes bare earth and rock outcrops.

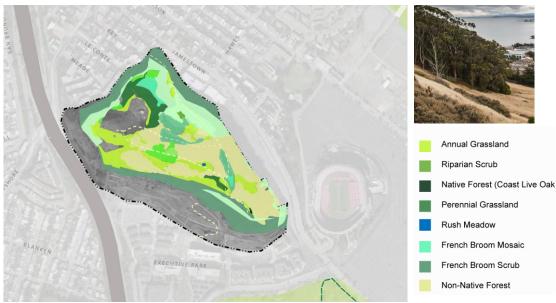


Figure 3.6 Vegetative Analysis of Existing Conditions at Bayview Hill.

Restoration recommendations make up a large portion of the SNRAMP. Most of the restoration recommendations are to maintain and enhance the urban forest on the northern slope, including the unique cherry woodlands and diverse grasslands. Other recommendations include augmenting butterfly habitat on the eastern slope and reintroducing sensitive plant populations.

Each vegetative cover has its own unique set of wildlife that is associated with each vegetative type (Figure 3.7). The section drawing of the hill below (sliced on the hill's northern side) showcases some of the special wildlife that can be seen on Bayview Hill.

Figure 3.7 also shows vegetative subgroups like coastal scrub and rush meadow. Birds of prey are regular visitors to the hill's grasslands, while species like the pacific ring snake and yellow salamander are more rarely found around the hill's chert outcrops. Special insects like the mission blue butterfly and pumpkin spider can also be found around those outcrops and scattered in the hill's grasslands. Other wildlife like jackrabbits and herons find sanctuary in Candlestick State Park Recreation Area.

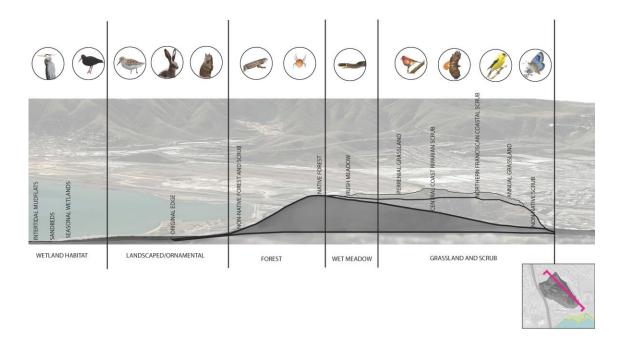


Figure 3.7 Ecological Transect of Bayview Hill.

Site Opportunities—1937 KYA Radio Station

As mentioned previously, Hearst Radio, Inc., constructed an attractive building for its station KYA (Figure 3.8). Designed by Julia Morgan, the modern art deco transmitter building housed a new 5000-watt transmitter. A 450-foot self-supporting tower completed the new installation. This facility, easily visible from the 101 Freeway near the city limits, went on the air June 1, 1937, and is currently used by KOIT, KYA's successor on 1260 AM. The building was active as a transmitter building well in to the 1940s. Currently, this hidden gem has been closed off to the public as it is under private ownership. However it should be considered a valuable historic resource despite that the city has listed the property as a "potential historic resource". ¹⁸ The opportunity for restoration should be considered.



Figure 3.8 1937 View of KYA Radio Station Building Designed by Julia Morgan.

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 18 See City of San Francisco Planning Department for "potential historic resource" status

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Hill Ownership

Ownership of the hill acts as both an opportunity and a constraint. While a good majority of the base of the hill is privately owned, there are key areas under public ownership where new entrances could occur. On the majority of western border for example, the hill is city owned, some of it by San Francisco Recreation and Parks and other tracts by Public Works. The western base corner at the end of Key Avenue is owned by the state. Each of these provides key opportunities to create new connections from the neighborhoods below.

SECTION IV: The Proposal

This proposal provides a vision for coordinating multidimensional connections for Bayview Hill. The goals that guided this proposal included to:

- Keep and improve important ecological connections;
- Create new physical connections; and
- Develop cultural connections.



Figure 4.1 Connections at Bayview Hill Proposal Plan.

Implementation of these connections will transform this currently isolated site into a key linkage in a regional network of open spaces. The vision outlined in this section addresses solutions for site constraints and capitalizes on site opportunities detailed in section III. This section outlines three connection types: ecological connections, physical connections and cultural connections (Figure 4.1). These three connections provide not only access to the hill, but elevate the importance of this hill at a city-wide scale. This section is a comprehensive

proposal for re-incorporating Bayview Hill back into the community and into the larger open space network of San Francisco.

Ecological Connections at Bayview Hill

Ecological connections at Bayview Hill include supporting the diversity of wildlife that exists at and around this hill. Proposed ecological strategies include: rehabilitating current biodiversity and replacing the underutilized gray infrastructure at the eastern tip of the hill with an evolving green corridor to make a critical wildlife connection to Candlestick Point State Recreation Area. Rehabilitated areas would be managed to maximize ecological processes and opportunities for education, including the promotion of low impact, nature-based recreation.

Bayview Hill's rich grasslands and rock outcrops support a great diversity of wildlife such as the Red-tailed hawk and the American kestrel, Pacific ring-neck snake and over an acre of Mission Blue butterfly habitat. This butterfly habitat exists due to the presence of silver lupine, the host plant for this endangered species. Proposed interpretive signage will provide information on this special habitat to promote awareness and sensitivity.

Ecological Connections: Rehabilitating Current Biodiversity

The goals of the Conceptual Habitat Plan for Bayview Hill that align with the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department's Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan (SNRAMP) are to:

- Beautify proposed park entrances with native plantings
- Rehabilitate Coast Live Oak populations
- Keep a corridor of diverse grassland and cherry tree woodland
- Re-establish sensitive plant populations like mission blue butterfly habitat
- Enhancing important scrub habitat.

The SNRMP provided a foundation for the Conceptual Habitat Plan included in this proposal (Figure 4.2). A main goal of the Conceptual Habitat Plan is to establish vital habitat connections that may not be physically apparent, such as those migratory bird and butterflies that flock to this improved habitat and expanding a vital scrub mosaic corridor. These enhancements reach several animal and plant populations.



Replacing Gray Infrastructure with a Green Corridor

Ecological connections at Bayview Hill also include replacing an underutilized parking lot at the eastern tip of the hill with a green corridor park. This evolving green corridor will pull the rich habitat down from the hill and create a critical wildlife connection to Candlestick State Recreation Area on the waterfront. This connection celebrates the remaining piece of San Francisco's original landscape by re-connecting it to the water's edge. The proposed name for this connection is Bay Edge Park (Figure 4.3).

This new wildlife artery will evolve over time to conform to the needs of the future Candlestick Point residential community. The corridor will be planted with a dense planting of natives to screen adjacent housing and provide habitat.

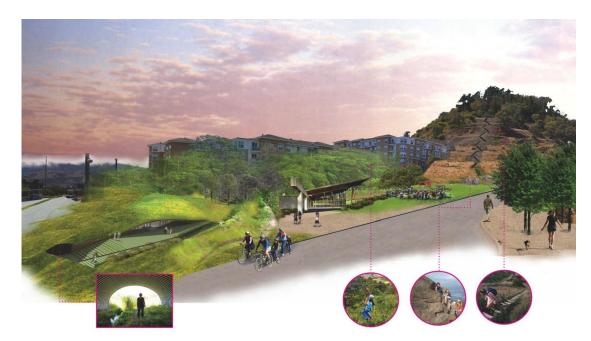


Figure 4.3 Proposed Bay Edge Park.

Other ecologically focused programmatic connections, such as zip-lining, would allow visitors to experience the wildlife corridor from above. A nature-based community center and a below grade wildlife tunnel at the end of the corridor would satisfy both wildlife connection and user access needs.

Physical connections include design strategies to modify surrounding street connections that link to the regional open space network and to create new hill experiences.

Modified street connections

Modified street connections would promote a pedestrian-friendly environment. This could be achieved through a series of improvements to existing streets, such as planting new trees and expanding the urban forest, and making wayfinding improvements to open space destinations

like Bayview Hill and the Blue Greenway. Proposed streetscape designs would be in-line with San Francisco's Green Connections program and provide a cross-town open space connection. Bayview Hill is also located along the City's emerging Blue Greenway and regional Bay Trail system. These sustainable corridors would not only increase access to Bayview Hill, but also promote the expansion of the urban forest to this area. The designs provide a host of benefits including safe routes for residents and the reduction of pollutants associated with stormwater runoff.

Each street connection would be enhanced with implementation of the strategies outlined in San Francisco's Green Connections program, which would create green complete streets throughout San Francisco. Each of the barrier points along Highway 101 could be modified with small improvements to create safer, more walkable connections (Figure 4.4). For example, underpass connections would be improved with lighting or community art and murals. The overpass connections, specifically the stairway at Visitacion Valley, would be improved by simply adding pedestrian fencing with wall planting, street trees and signage. These modified street connections and new access along the highway would link into a regional open space network.

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¹⁹ San Francisco Open Space Framework Memorandum http://www.sfport.com/ftp/uploadedfiles/meetings/supporting/2009/Item%209A%20Planning's%20Park%20Element %20May%202009.pdf

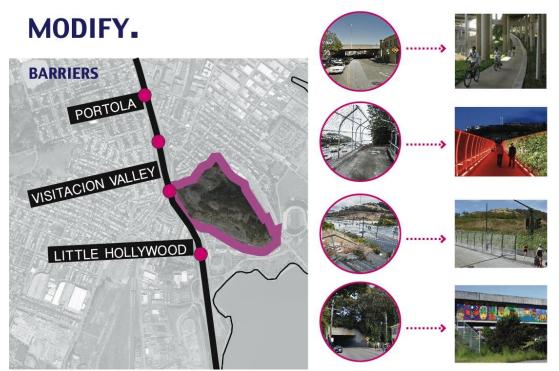


Figure 4.4 Street Modification Improvements.

In addition to modified streets, physical connections will include five phases of new experiences at Bayview Hill to connect diverse visitors, residents and other stakeholders. Each of the following five proposed phases provide a series of new experiences at Bayview Hill. Each phase outlined below addresses a specific user group, partnership and stakeholders and describes the creation of new hill experiences. Partnerships among stakeholder groups will aid in the implementation and maintenance of each connection.

Phase I The 1.5 mile loop

This proposed loop would give community members much needed access to the base of the hill. Parts of this trail connection fall within private ownership boundaries and thus the trail would be built through a public-private partnership. The loop trail would mainly utilize pre-existing trails, roads, and terraces. Figure 4.5 shows existing terraces and trail connections in yellow. If the new Candlestick Point development were to build the proposed access point D, the amount

of construction to complete the other parts would be minor, because much of the proposed loop already exists.

Partnerships: San Francisco Recreation and Parks, with Executive Park and Lennar Urban.

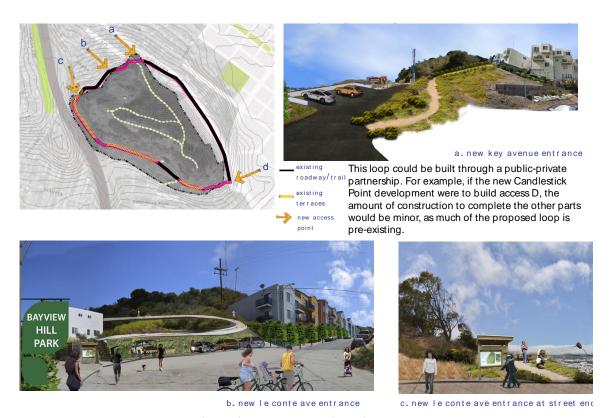


Figure 4.5 Phase I, The 1.5-Mile Loop.

Primary User Groups: Neighborhood residents of Bayview-Hunters Point

Potential Stakeholder groups: Bayview Hill Neighborhood association, Quesada Gardens,

Lennar Urban, Executive Park residents, tourists and visitors.

Phase II Bay Edge Park Stairs

This phase, located mainly on San Francisco Recreation and Parks land, would not only provide a direct connection to the peak, but also connect Bayview Hill to the proposed Blue Greenway. The construction of 400 stairs could provide fitness opportunities for athletic enthusiasts as well as a new challenge for the visiting tourist (Figure 4.6).

Partnerships: San Francisco Recreation and Parks, Lennar Urban

Potential User Groups: Neighborhood residents of Bayview-Hunters Point, Blue Greenway trail users, tourists

Potential stakeholder groups: Bayview Hill Neighborhood association, Quesada Gardens, Bayview Hill Stewards, Bayview Wellness







This phase, located mainly on Parks land, would not only provide a direct connection to the peak but connect Bayview Hill to the proposed Blue Greenway.

Figure 4.6 Phase II Bay Edge Park Stairs.

Phase III Candlestick Center Connection

This proposed pedestrian bridge would be located in the new Lennar Candlestick Village Center (Figure 4.7). The bridge would connect the proposed loop trail off of Jamestown Avenue to the parking garages proposed for Candlestick Village. This phase would include green rooftop parks for parking garages. These parking garages are associated with the Lennar Urban development. Creating green rooftop parks over these garages would draw more visitors, enhance their experience, and mitigate stormwater and urban heat effects.

Partnerships: San Francisco Recreation and Parks, Lennar Urban

Potential User Groups: Neighborhood residents of Bayview-Hunters Point

Potential Stakeholder groups: Candlestick Point residents and visitors, Bayview Hill Neighborhood Association







Figure 4.7 Phase III Candlestick Center Connection.

Phase IV Southside Interpretive Trail

By using existing terraces and promoting a public-private partnership, this interpretive trail could become a reality. This trail is mainly located in the Executive Park ownership area. Figure 4.8 illustrates how the route would begin in the Executive Park property and end at the historic KYA building. This interpretive trail would highlight historic terraces from excavations in the 1940s and allow viewing of Mission Blue Butterfly habitat. Interpretive signage will highlight these uses.

Partnerships: San Francisco Recreation and Parks, Executive Park

Potential User Groups: Neighborhood residents of Bayview-Hunters Point, visitors

Potential Stakeholder groups: San Francisco Hiking Club, The Bay Institute of San Francisco, California Native Plants Society, Save the Bay, Arc Ecology, SF Beautiful, San Francisco Travel Association





By using existing terraces and promoting a public-private partnership, this interpretive trail could become a reality. This trail is mainly located in the Executive Park ownership area.

Figure 4.8 Phase IV Southside Interpretive Trail.

Phase V 2040 Connection: The Aerial Tram

In 2040, after the construction of new residential waterfront communities, this aerial tramway would provide a direct connection to Bayview Hill and an accessible connection for communities to the west (Figure 4.9). It would also act as a new landmark for San Francisco and surrounding neighborhoods. For example, one could travel from downtown on the T-line muni bus to the Schlage Locke stop in Visitacion Valley, hop on the tramway at sunset and see 360-degree views of the city. After a stop at Bayview Hill to enjoy nature trails or visit the rehabilitated historic KYA building, the day could end with a dinner and a show at Candlestick Village Center. This final connection brings together economic opportunities by drawing customers for businesses in new and historic areas with an amenity that would serve new residents at Candlestick Point.

Potential User Groups: Neighborhood residents of Bayview-Hunters Point, regional visitors and tourists

Potential Stakeholder groups: San Francisco Hiking Club, The Bay Institute of San Francisco, California Native Plants Society, Save the Bay, Arc Ecology, San Francisco Beautiful, San Francisco Travel Association



Figure 4.9 Phase V 2040 Connection: the Aerial Tram.

Cultural Connections at Bayview Hill include strategies to grow new alliances for stewardship of the cultural landscape and to form a sense of place with activities and events.

Proposed Rehabilitation of 1937 KYA building

This proposal recommends rehabilitation of the KYA building (Figure 4.10). According to the National Park Service "Rehabilitation" encompasses the act or process that would make it possible to adapt a historical building for a compatible, contemporary use, while protecting its heritage value. This building could be re-opened to the public as a historic resource center that houses photographs of its time as an active radio station building under William Hearst. It could also highlight historic uses of the hill such as ranching and WPA projects. Today, adaptive reuse of buildings in San Francisco, such as Fort Baker's complex, has been an important element in land conservation and preserving heritage. In order to make steps toward rehabilitation, the current landowner would need to first submit the building for review by the San Francisco Planning Department for a historic resource survey to establish historic resource status. According to the Planning department, surveys allow communities to better plan for the preservation and development of areas that contain historic resources by understanding what type of resources make up that environment. With the cooperation of the land owner the KYA building could become a premier historic resource center for Bayview Hill.





Figure 4.10 Rehabilitation of the 1937 KYA Building.

²⁰ Dolan, Gilbert and Paige. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service. "Preparing a Cultural Landscape Report." Page 82.

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²¹ San Francisco Preservation Bulletin 11—Historic Resource Surveys http://www.sfplanning.org/modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=5085

Highlighting Works Progress Administration projects

WPA projects, from Franklin Roosevelt's first New Deal acts in 1933, could be highlighted with the installation of interpretive signs along the current loop trail. Interpretive signs would include historical photographs of the work and cover the history of WPA projects at Bayview Hill. The signs would be placed at the Key Avenue entrance, the stone rubble retention wall and by the stairs going up to the hill's highest point (Figure 4.11). The stairs are currently inaccessible as they are now overgrown with poison oak. The stairs once crossed the top of the hill and formed a route to a forest of Islais cherry trees. If overgrown vegetation could be cut back and stairs maintained, this part of the hill could once again become accessible to the public.



Figure 4.11 WPA Stairs Leading to the Top of the Hill.

Projects Goals

The planning goals that guided the creation of this implementation strategy include: 1) to identify solutions to planning and operational barriers to implementation; 2) to formulate design recommendations that meet the needs of each community; and 3) to plan and design several priority access points.

The completion of these connections is intended to achieve the overall goal to foster an appreciation and stewardship of natural resources of Bayview Hill. The implementation of additional city-wide connections, such as the cross-trail connections proposed by Mayor Newsom's Open Space Task Force, will also help California achieve several state goals, including greenhouse gas emissions reductions, the development of complete streets, and increased opportunities for active living.

Stakeholders and Partnerships

Several partner organizations will need to participate and contribute to this implementation effort. Community partnerships will be an essential step to accomplishing the various connections outlined in this report. Project partners included federal and state agencies, regional entities, local governments and organizations, and non-profit organizations. Each organization will contribute differently, depending upon their relationship, extent of related development area, and development interest and capacity. The most integrally involved partners will need to participate in technical advisory workshops and follow-up discussions for implementation actions. The integrally involved partners are discussed in the following section under ownership. The table below includes suggestions for potential stakeholder groups that may be interested in each connection type; Ecological, Physical and Cultural. The table is by no means a comprehensive list; however, it is a start toward naming groups that may take ownership over each prospective connection type. The involvement and support of any of the project partners

included below will be a crucial aspect of future efforts to funding, implementation and maintenance of the various connections to and at Bayview Hill.

Potential Partnership groups and Project Stakeholders

Table 1: Potential Partnership Groups and a Selection of Project Stakeholders by Connection

Ecological Connections	Physical Connections	Cultural Connections
San Francisco Recreation and Parks, Nature in the City, Recreation &	Local Community Groups: Bayview Hill Neighborhood	San Francisco Art Deco Society, Cultural Landscape Foundation,
Parks Natural Areas, Bayview Hill Stewards, Friends of McLaren Park, Bay Area Sierra Club, San Francisco Hiking Club, The Bay	Association, Quesada Gardens, Visitacion Valley Greenway, Bayview Wellness, Bayview- Hunter's Point Foundation for	California Historical Radio Society, California Historical Society
Institute of San Francisco, California Native Plants Society, Save the Bay, Arc Ecology, San	Community Improvement, Southeast Food Access, Bayview Merchants' Association, Bayview	
Francisco Beautiful, San Francisco Travel Association, Rec & Park Natural Areas, San Francisco Port Southern Waterfront Committee,	3rd Thursdays, Samoan Communities in Visitation Valley, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Task Force, Senior Action	
San Francisco Blue Greenway Committee	Group and Senior groups in Bayview, Southeast Jobs Coalition, Women for Genuine Security	
	Developers and right-of-way owners: Lennar Urban, Executive Park MUNI, San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency, Caltrain	

Key Planning Considerations

This implementation strategy directly addresses issues impacting connections at Bayview Hill and surrounding alignments, designs, and feasibility. Each of the planning considerations below should be discussed in detail with Bayview Hill stakeholders and approached with the best available planning techniques and analytical strategies. This could be spearheaded by a community-led effort or 'Friends of Bayview Hill' group.

Connecting Users and Demand

This proposal is intended to accommodate the widest possible range of potential users. It is expected to provide coastal recreation and transportation opportunities for pedestrians, cyclists, skaters, and joggers of all ages and abilities. Bayview Hill connection users will include

members of local communities as well as visitors. Anticipated future usage of Bayview Hill Connections by both local residents and visitors are critical to this proposal. Projections indicate that by the 2040, 20,000 new residents will move into Bayview-Hunters Point, including the new Candlestick Point neighborhood and shopping center directly to the north of Bayview Hill. Furthermore, in the event of a final skyway tram connection, visitors from outside the region can be expected to frequent this area as well. Not only will Bayview Hill trail users benefit from the implementation of these proposed connections, but also local communities and businesses, particularly in the new Candlestick Point neighborhood, will benefit from increased recreation and transportation opportunities afforded by these new connections. Public support is extensive for trail development such as the Blue Greenway and should be utilized to assist local jurisdictions in implementing each phase of connections.

Connections to a Regional Open Space Network

Access to the Southeastern waterfront is a key goal of Piero N. Patri Fellowship committee since its beginning in 2007. The Blue Greenway should provide connections between coastal amenities and local communities with Bayview Hill as its grand terminus. This implementation strategy identifies several locations where improving access to Bayview Hill will also connect to a wider planning effort for an open space network in the city.

Community Development

Implementation of new connections at Bayview Hill, especially the proposed Candlestick
Center connection and the proposed Bay Edge Park connection, will have direct economic
development benefits to the new Candlestick Point and Hunter's Point community. The
proposed physical connections align with a wider planning effort to create an open space
corridor throughout the city. This will have positive impacts for communities with a connected
trail system such as health benefits, and local business retention. Surrounding communities will
have significant opportunities to expand on businesses related to outdoor recreation and tourism

while offering attractive amenities for businesses looking to potentially relocate to this part of the city.

Ownership

All of the proposed physical connections, with the exception of the Bay Edge Park Stairs and the surrounding street connections, will require multiple owner partnerships. This type of partnership has precedents such as the Bay Trail and Blue Greenway trails. The design of various proposed trail connections and access points at Bayview Hill are all an amenity for the surrounding private development. This open space amenity could either be given freely or an amenity that the city will gain investment from the private sector. There is a big economic incentive for Lennar Urban to contribute to these connections, especially higher priority phases such as the loop at the base of the hill that would allow new residents to have a unique opportunity for outdoor recreation in their own backyard. Once the first set of connections become established and new populations inhabit this area—there will be a base and demand for more elaborate connections such as the aerial tramway. This connection could be funded through a private public partnership between the City, Caltrain or Caltrans and private developers of the area. In addition, many community groups like the Art Deco Society of California may have an interest in fundraising for this connection as it would directly connect users to the Julia Morgan building. The development and long-term success of the proposed connections is a process that will require sustained coordination amongst and between the public and private partners, some of which have been outlined in the following table:

Table 2: Public-Private Partnerships By Phase

Phase I 1.5 mile loop Parks, Public: San Francisco Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Caltrans Private: Executive Park Phase II Bay Edge Stairs Public: San Francisco Recreation & Current Stewardship groups, Lennar Urban Candlestick Point Public: San Francisco Recreation & Current Stewardship groups, Lennar Urban Hunter's Point Public: San Francisco Recreation & Candlestick Public Public: San Francisco Recreation & Candlestick Public Public: San Francisco Recreation & Candlestick Public Pu	it and lanning, reen nning, ike Plan it and lanning,
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Connection Connections Plan	nning,
Blue Greenway	_
Phase IV Public: San Francisco Recreation & Lennar Urban Candlestick Candlestick Poin	
Southside Parks Point Development Hunter's Point Parks	
Interpretive Private: Executive Park Nature in the Cit	y, Blue
Trail Greenway	
Phase V Public: San Francisco Recreation & Lennar Urban Candlestick Candlestick Poin	
Parks, Public Works Point Development, Hunter's Point P	
connection: Private: Schlage Locke Development Caltrain, Caltrains, Schlage Locke P	•
The Aerial (Visitacion Valley), Candlestick Executive Park, San Green Connection Tram Center/Candlestick Point Lennar Urban Francisco Art Deco Planning Blue	ns
21	
Development Society, San Francisco Greenway Radio Society, San	
Francisco Tourism	

As no one agency or project partner can be expected to lead the connection planning, design, funding, implementation or maintenance, individual champions will be necessary at every step forward. A lack of resources available for long-term operations and management of trail segments will be a significant barrier. A recommended strategy would be in the formation of a 'Friends of Bayview Hill' group, which may help mitigate these issues. The group could lead an effort to prioritize connections based on the recommendations outlined in the following section and promote the economic value of these connections to private developers as a funding strategy. The group could also work to get connections included in local planning documents and processes to ensure policies supportive of the connections, allow for streamlining the permitting process, and clarify compatibility with future development.

Bayview Hill Connection Recommendations

Physical connections to Bayview Hill and within the natural area should accommodate the widest range of user types. The methods for determining preferred connections included review of the natural areas recommendations, San Francisco trail and transportation planning documents, fieldwork, geographic information systems analysis, and past public polling documents (see references). This analysis was informed by previous planning efforts that established guiding goals/principles for development of these connections, which include:

- A scenic waterfront experience
- Maximum access for a variety of non-motorized uses
- Connectivity to destinations and amenities along the coast and local communities
- Trail connections at Bayview Hill that will minimize impacts to natural habitats, cultural and archeological resources
- Shared Roadways/SF Green Connections Planning

Implementation Actions

Implementation of each connection and phase requires the assignment of near and long-term priorities and actions. The most significant barrier to implementation is the identification of a lead agency with the capacity to develop and maintain each proposed phase. Overall, actions for local jurisdictions to lead trail development include:

- Identify project goals and priorities for designated phase
- Garner widespread support
- Identify potential challenges
- Form appropriate partnerships with stakeholders and funding mechanisms
- Consider options for long-term operations and maintenance
- Leverage fundraising opportunities

Although completion of all connections may be an extended process over several decades, progress can be made by individual partnerships focused on current readiness for development. The priority phases discussed below classify each phase based on readiness for implementation and overall connection goals. For example the high priority level phases only require small amounts of construction compared with other phases and are therefore more shovel ready. Phases are not dependent on each other; they are for a recommended outline for potential steps. These classifications can serve as a guide for partners to establish priorities for development:

Table 3: Phases with Priority Level

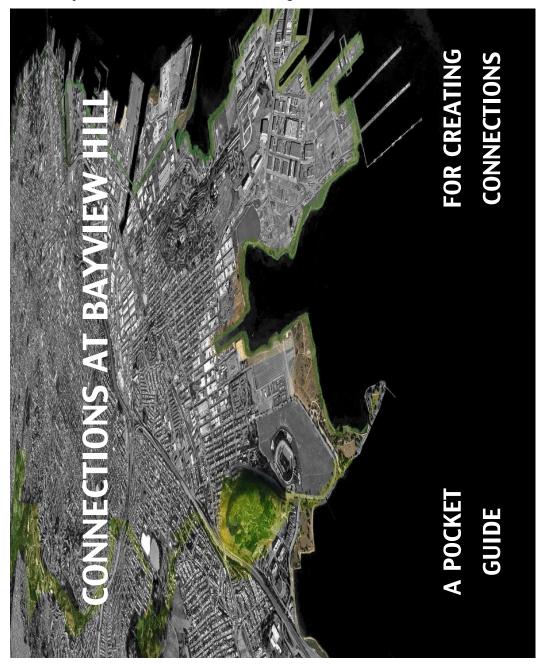
Table 3. I hases with I flority Level				
Phase	Ownership	Priority Level	Readiness and alignment with goals	
Phase I 1.5 mile loop	Public: San Francisco Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Caltrans Private: Executive Park	High	Only three small portions of this require extensive construction. The rest is in place.	
Phase II Bay Edge Stairs	Public: San Francisco Recreation & Parks	Medium	This connection is all in natural areas jurisdiction and listed as a recommended connection in their management plan.	
Phase III Candlestick Center Connection	Private: Lennar Urban Candlestick Point	High	With the Candlestick Center RFP recently out to bid this connection can be easily folded into the planning process.	
Phase IV Southside Interpretive Trail	Public: San Francisco Recreation & Parks Private: Executive Park	Medium	The connection is mainly in Executive park jurisdiction and could be folded into their future plans for development	
Phase V 2040 connection: The Aerial Tram	Public: San Francisco Recreation & Parks, Public Works Private: Schlage Locke Development (Visitacion Valley), Candlestick Center/Candlestick Point Lennar Urban Development	Low	Despite the multi-partnership effort for Phase V development, this connection is likely to elevate Bayview Hill as an icon of San Francisco and bring new economic opportunities to this area.	

CONCLUSION

The implementation of Connections at Bayview Hill will improve access to open space for nearby communities and connect to planned regional open space networks. It will increase recreation and transportation opportunities and provide community health benefits, while helping communities achieve their economic and development goals. This document can help to guide the implementation of connections of Bayview Hill, which includes new Bayview Hill Park entrances, hiking trails, walkways, bikeways and restoration efforts. The implementation of all the recommendations will occur in incremental steps, through the coordinated efforts of many stakeholders, over several decades. The implementation of local open space connections at Bayview Hill will promote the creation of a complete open space network in San Francisco. Each connection reflects the unique environment, culture, and identity of Bayview Hill communities while maintaining goals consistent with wider planning efforts, such as the Blue Greenway and open space planning in the city. Bayview Hill connections will link area attractions and communities as well as become a destination for residents and visitors alike who seek a unique connection to nature in San Francisco.

APPENDIX

Fellowship Pocket Guide available at sewsf.org



CONNECTIONS AT BAYVIEW HILL: A POCKET GUIDE

This pocket guide, an urban design proposal to positively impact the city of San Francisco and the bay area, is a product of the seventh Piero N. Patri Fellowship in Urban Design. The Piero N. Patri Fellowship

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have donated their time, input and support throughout this process.

The SPUR/Piero N. Patri Fellowship Committee

is made possible by the generous support of the Patri family, SPUR,



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INTRODUCTION

CONNECTION 1: **ECOLOGICAL**

CONNECTION 2: **PHYSICAL**

Hogan Edelberg, AECOM design + planning

Alma Du Solier, AECOM design + planning Scott Preston, AECOM design + planning David Beaupre, Port of San Francisco Marcel Wilson, Bionic Landscape

Johanna Patri, Land Use Planner Tito Patri, Landscape Architect

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> CONNECTION 3: CULTURAL

Special thanks to:

Sarah Moos, Bionic Landscape

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John King, Chronicle Urban Design Critic And my parents, sisters and fiancé for their steadfast encouragement and

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Ecological importance of Bayview Hill







Where people go in SF



While encompassing rich ecological and cultural aspects, current access to this hill and to its trails are

SAN FR

limited. In addition, major transformations are on

post-demolition of Candlestick Stadium, the time

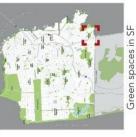
to address the potentials of this hill is long overdue.

With the mega-residential communities proposed

the horizon for the areas surrounding Bayview Hill.

Existing Conditions at Bayview Hill

Future Developments



Candlestick Point. The 44-acre Bayview hill is a beautiful, yet isolated, Natural Park tucked away in the Southeast corner of San Francisco. The park is Area. Highway 101 abuts the hill's westerns edge and the Bayview-Hunters neighborhood is just to the northeast. Over the years, Bayview Hill and surrounding

areas have seen a long history of dramatic and often destructive transformations in the both to the physical shape of the hill and its land uses.

located just west of Candlestick Point State Recreation

This pocket guide shares a vision for providing

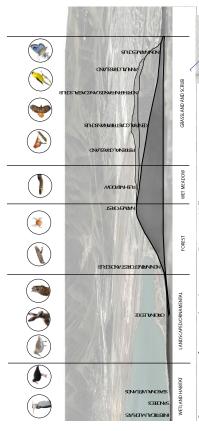
INTRODUCTION

multidimensional connections for Bayview Hill at

CONTEXT

(E)

REHABILITATE.



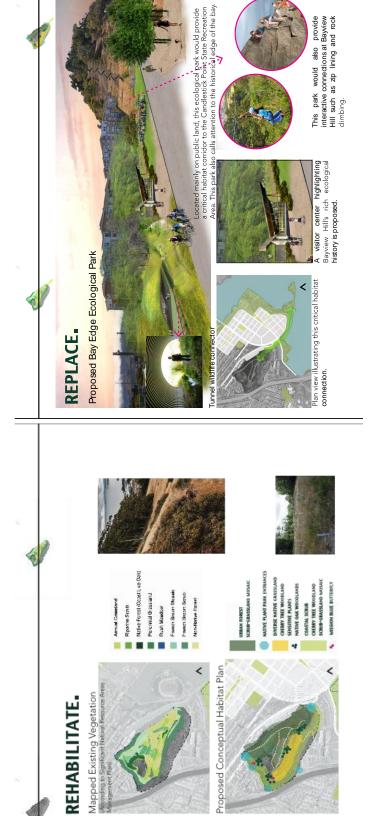
Cross-section of existing biodiversity at Bayview Hill.

ECOLOGICAL

Ecological connections at Bayview Hill include supporting the diversity of wildlife that exists at and around this hill. Proposed ecological strategies are to **REHABILITATE** current biodiversity and **REPLACE** the underutilized gray infrastructure at the eastern tip of the hill. This includes replacing areas such as the eastern parking lot, street and sidewalk with an evolving green corridor making a critical wildlife connection to Candlestick Point State Recreation Area.

Bayview Hill is rich inwildlife and contains special species such as coast live oaks and toyons, native perennial grasses and low-growing coastal scrub plants. A casual survey by the California Native Plant Society revealed three large populations of the rare and beautiful San Francisco collinsia, Islais cherry, shooting star, and the only known population of coast larkspur in San Francisco. Rehabilitated areas would be managed to maximize ecological processes and opportunities for education, including the promotion of low impact, nature-based recreation.

Bayview Hill's rich grasslands and rock outcrops support a great diversity of wildlife such as the Red-tailed hawk and the American kestrel, Pacific ring-neck snake and over an acre of Mission Blue butterfly habitat. This habitat butterfly exists due to the presence of silver lupine, the host plant for this endangered species. Proposed interpretive signage will provide information on this special habitat to promote awareness and sensitivity.



PHYSICAL

Physical connections at Bayview Hill include design strategies to MODIFY surrounding street connections that link to the regional open space network and to CREATE new hill experiences.

not only increase access to Bayview Hill, but also promote the expansion of urban forest to this area. The designs would also provide a host of benefits including safe routes for locals and the reduction of pollutants like stormwater runoff. town open space connection. Bayview Hill is also located along the City's emerging Blue Greenway and regional Bay Trail system. These sustainable corridors would Modified street connections would promote a pedestrian-friendly environment. Proposed streetscape designs would be in-line with the cities Green Connections program, and Mayor Newsom's 2009 Open Space task force proposal for a crossIn addition to modified streets, physical connections will include five phases of new experiences at Bayview Hill that will connect a variety of visitors, locals and stakeholders. Phase One is the 1.5-mile Loop Trail connection, Phase two the Edge Park Stairs, Phase Three is a pedestrian connection through the proposed Candlestick Village Center, Phase Four is the Southside Interpretive Trail, and finally Phase Five is the 2040 connection of an Aerial Tramway.









PROPOSED PHASE ONE 1.5 MILE LOOP

CREATE.





C, NEW LE CONTE AVE ENTRANCE AT STREET END



B. NEW LE CONTE AVE ENTRANCE



CREATE.

PROPOSED PHASE TWO BAY EDGE PARK STAIRS







This phase, located mainly on Parks land, would not only provide a direct connection to the peak but connect Bayview Hill to the proposed Blue Greenway.

PROPOSED PHASE THREE CANDLESTICK CENTER CONNECTION



This proposed pedestrian bridge would be located in the new Lennar Candlestick Village Center. The bridge would connect the proposed loop trail oif of Jannestown Arenue to the proposed parking garages proposed for Candlestick Village. This phase would include green rooftop parks for parking garages.

CREATE.

PROPOSED PHASE FOUR SOUTHSIDE INTERPRETIVE TRAIL





By using existing terraces and promoting a public-private partnership, this interpretive trail could become a reality. This trail is mainly located in the Executive Park ownership area.

PROPOSED PHASE FIVE 2040 CONNECTION - THE AERIAL TRAM





In 2040, post-construction of the residential waterfront communities, this serial transway would provide a direct connection to Bayview Hill and an accessible connection for comunities west of Bayview Hill. It would also act as a new tourist attraction. For example, one could travel from downtown on the Tline to the Schlage Locke stop in Vistacion Valley, hop on the transway at surrest and see 360 views of the city. After a stop at Bayview Hill to enjoy nature trails or visit the restored 1937 KYA historical building, the day could end with a bite to eat or a show at Candlestick Village Center.

ULTURAL

Cultural Connections at Bayview Hill include strategies to GROW new alliances for stewardship of cultural landscape and FORM asense of place with activities and events.

Early use of Bayview Hill included cattle nambing and grazing with surrounding homes belonging mainly to industrial workers in the area. By the late 1800's George Hearst proposed that the land be transformed into an upscale district but the land was considered too far from downtown. The hillkop was declared a park by1915 after plans were rejected to use the hill for a past house. By the mid 19 30's the hill became home to KYA radio station in a beautifully designed att deco building by Julia Morgan for station owner William Hearst and was active well into the late 1940's. Since the Bayview Hill is mainly made up of chert, it was seen as a resource for development, with large portions having been carved away by quarry operations around the base of the hill for development. All sides were altered somewhat, but none more than the northern and eastern slopes to make room for the stadium at Candlestick Point in the 1950's which ultimately spurred the extension of land into the bay.

While the KYA building remains one of the hills hidden gems of today, the hill is a gem in itself as one of the remaining pieces of San Francisco's original landscape, with the biodiversity of native plants and animals that still live on Bayview Hill making it a Significant Natural Resource Area (SNRA), now preserved and protected by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

GROW.

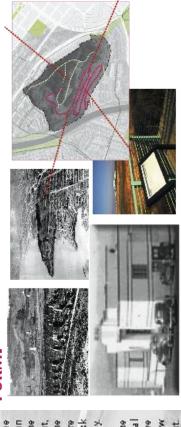


CALITORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

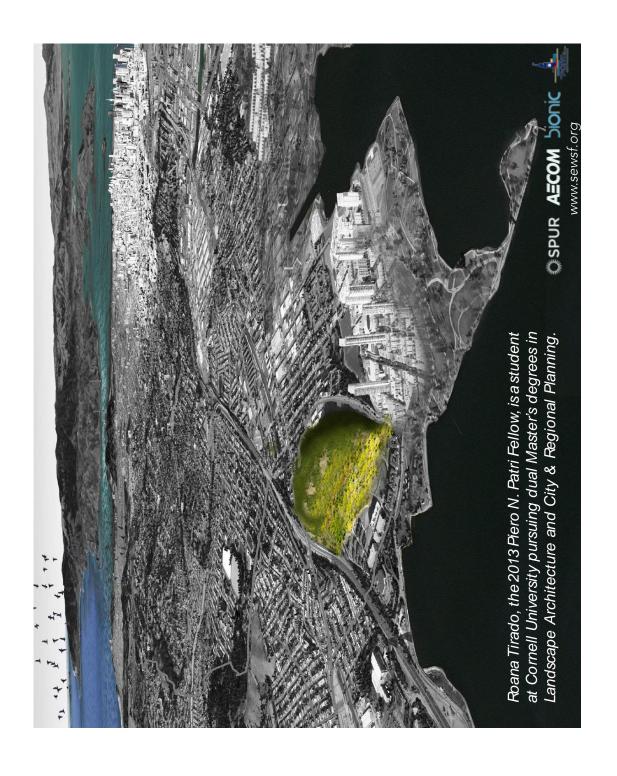
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POTENTIAL ALLIANCES FOR STEWARDSHIP

FORM.



FORM A SENSE OF PLACE BY HIGHLIGHTING HISTORIC USES



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