

Stow Lake

Special Area Plans

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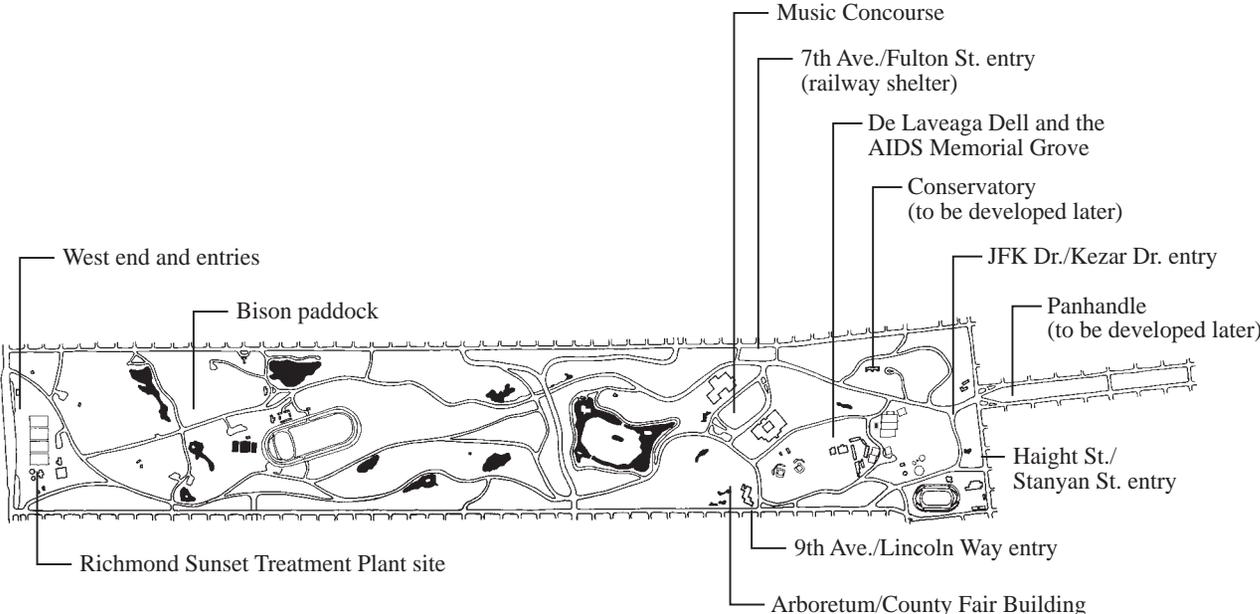
Most of Golden Gate Park will continue to function in its current design. Some areas in the park will have land use changes or significant rehabilitation that requires a redesign of these spaces. The Master Plan has identified several areas that will have design changes, some minor, some more substantial. Special area plans have been developed for these areas to provide concept plans for the improvements. The concept plans were developed within the context of the park's historic design framework.

Special area plans for priority areas are contained on the following pages. Other special area plans will be completed in the future and become amendments to this master plan.

Future Special Area Plans

- A separate planning process is underway to develop a plan for **Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens** and the **County Fair Building**.
- The **Panhandle** was originally designed as a winding access road to Golden Gate Park that was protected from the winds. The Avenue, as the roadway was known, is now gone, but its path can still be traced by examining the layout of the older trees. Today the Panhandle serves as an open space and neighborhood park. A future special area plan will examine its design, uses, and landscape.

- **The Conservatory of Flowers and Conservatory Valley** is the most significant and recognizable area of Golden Gate Park. A special area plan will plan for the preservation and restoration of the Conservatory and its ancillary structures.



Music Concourse

Note: The Music Concourse Special Area Plan has been deferred pending actions to be taken by the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority.

The Music Concourse is a civic space within Golden Gate Park that provides a setting for cultural institutions and events. The Music Concourse was created for the Mid-Winter Fair of 1894. The layout, several monuments, the deYoung Museum, and the role of concourse as a cultural center are remnants of the fair's legacy.

Several elements in the Music concourse have recently undergone renovation. The Spreckels Temple of Music, damaged during the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, was rededicated in 1994 after a complete seismic reconstruction. The four fountains in the concourse, which were turned off during the recent drought and fell into disuse, have been restored.

Other elements are still in need of restoration. Several of the concourse's distinctive pollarded trees have been lost due to their age. The existing food concessions, with trucks and trailers parked in strategic locations, have detracted from the aesthetic qualities of the concourse.

The proposed plan for the Music Concourse addresses restoration of existing elements and redesigning of others. Restoration of the Music Concourse should be planned and implemented as a cooperative effort between the Recreation and Park Department, the Asian and deYoung museums, and the Academy of Sciences.

Existing elements for restoration include the statues and monuments, paths and stairways, benches, lighting, flower, turf and shrub areas, replacement of trees, and more appropriate trash receptacles. When restoration is completed, adequate maintenance will be necessary to keep the area in good appearance. To maintain the Music Concourse properly, it is recommended that an additional gardener position be assigned to the area.

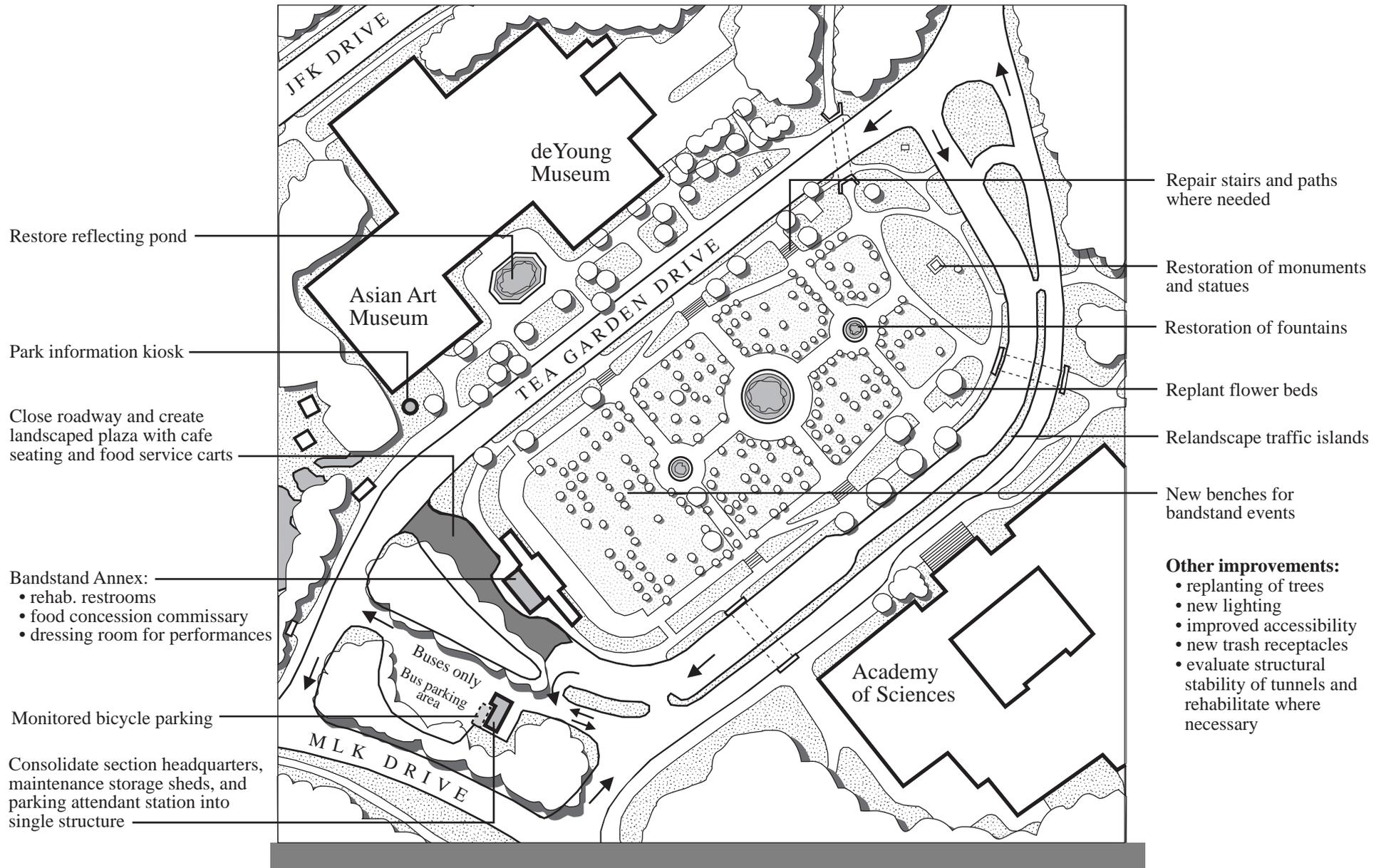
An opportunity exists to improve the food concession in the concourse area that would be an amenity to park visitors and provide an enhanced revenue-generating concession. Improving the variety of food offered in an attractive setting may be successful in this high traffic area that is frequented by both residents and tourists. The proposed plan involves closing the road area behind the bandstand and creating a landscaped plaza with cafe seating and improved food and beverage service from a new structure or from carts (north/west end of the plaza). The food carts can be serviced from a commissary located in a portion of the bandstand annex. The plaza would also be available as a staging area for events (south/east end of the plaza).

A small park information kiosk is proposed between the tea garden and the Asian Art Museum. It could be operated and staffed by a park association or conservancy, and provide a visible presence for the organization.

Another proposed improvement is the consolidation of the gardener's section headquarters

(Section 2), maintenance containers, and the parking attendant station into a single structure in the bus parking area. The existing section headquarters is located in the bandstand annex, space that would serve better as a commissary for the food concession and/or dressing room for performances. There are two existing storage containers and a parking attendant station in the bus parking lot. Consolidating these structures should be accomplished with a permanent replacement structure consisting of approximately 1,000 square feet, or by moving the existing structures together and adding an architectural screen.

Secure, monitored bicycle parking is proposed to be added in the bus parking area and become a part of the concession contract. The bicycle parking could be placed in a fenced area with access controlled by the parking lot attendant.



Restore reflecting pond

Park information kiosk

Close roadway and create landscaped plaza with cafe seating and food service carts

Bandstand Annex:
 • rehab. restrooms
 • food concession commissary
 • dressing room for performances

Monitored bicycle parking

Consolidate section headquarters, maintenance storage sheds, and parking attendant station into single structure

Repair stairs and paths where needed

Restoration of monuments and statues

Restoration of fountains

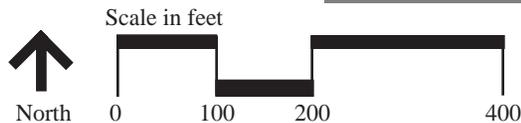
Replant flower beds

Relandscape traffic islands

New benches for bandstand events

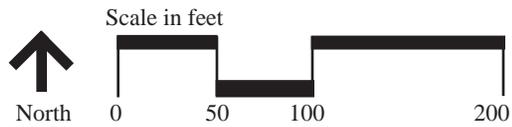
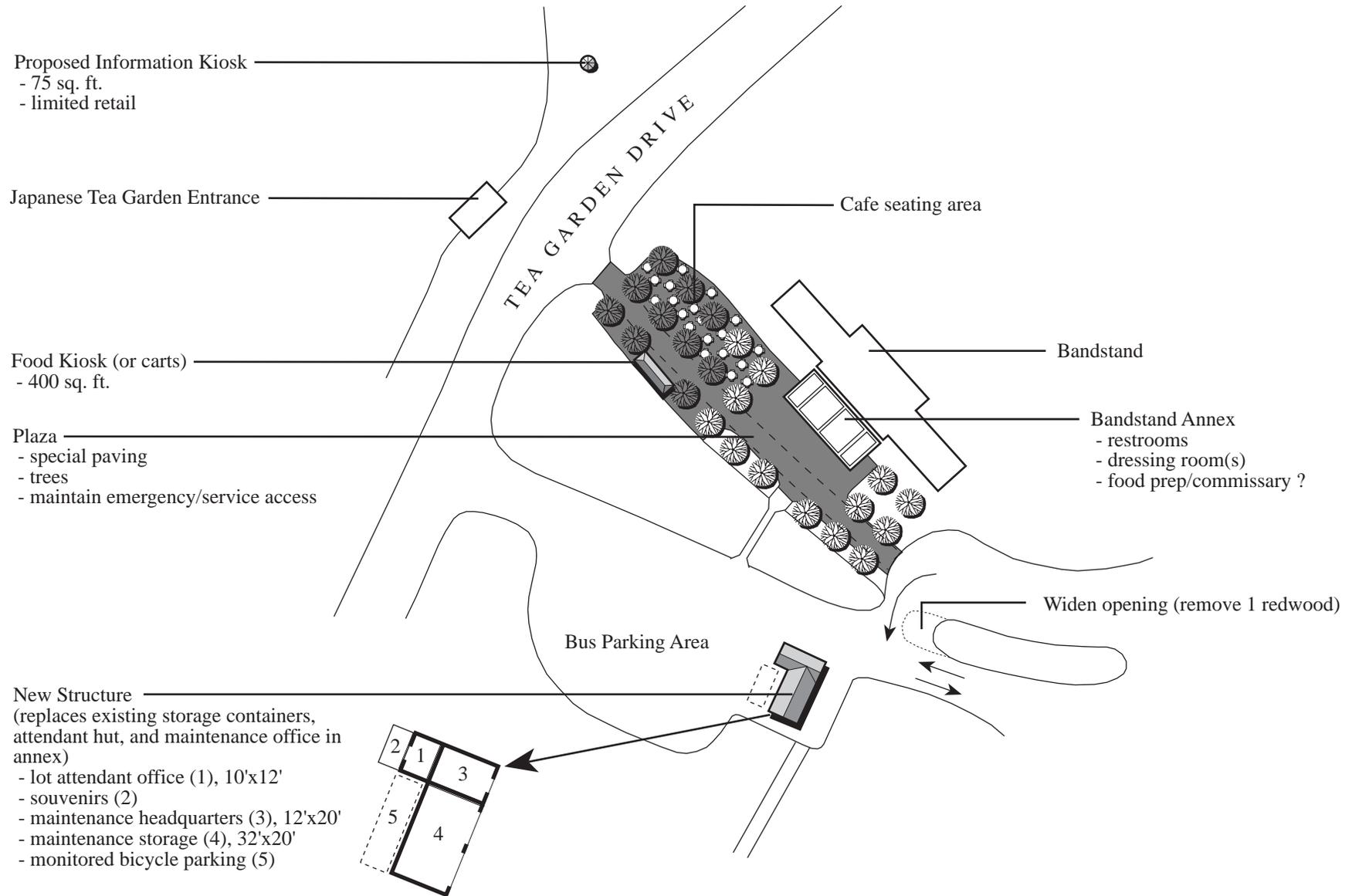
Other improvements:

- replanting of trees
- new lighting
- improved accessibility
- new trash receptacles
- evaluate structural stability of tunnels and rehabilitate where necessary



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Music Concourse Cafe Plaza

West End Plan

The western edge of Golden Gate Park has lacked activity centers to draw people to use it. With the exception of the Queen Wilhelmina Garden and the soccer fields, most of the west end is little visited and is not an inviting area. Undesirable uses such as camping and sexual activity have filled the void, aided by dense growing shrubs. The goal of this area plan is to increase legitimate activities and transform this part of the park. Rehabilitation activities will include the following:

Beach Chalet. The major improvement will be the restoration of the Beach Chalet as a western park visitor center, with a cafe and environmental retail area upstairs. The Beach Chalet will become a destination for park visitors, attracted in part by the spectacular WPA-era murals on the first floor. (rehabilitation has been approved)

Western Park Frontage. The western park frontage along the Great Highway has been long neglected. The important role as the first line of the park's windbreak has taken priority over landscape design in this area. With completion of sewer construction and the redesign of the Great Highway and its landscaped path, the park's western frontage is in need of attention. The relocated edge of the Great Highway has defined a new edge for the park. Asphalt areas within the curb will be removed, leaving expanded landscape areas that will allow new landscape treatments at the two western entries. The existing Great Highway multi-use trail, which runs from Lincoln Way to the zoo, will be extended along the park frontage to Fulton Street.

Old Railroad Trail. The old railroad trail cuts across the western end of the park and passes through the dense growth of shrubs between the Great Highway and the soccer fields. Many of the undesirable activities occur along this trail, and park users avoid the area. This plan calls for improving the visibility and security of the trail by opening the corridor along the trail and creating a series of linear turf meadows. The meadows will attract more users and the turf areas will increase the presence of gardeners and other employees. With increased activities at the Beach Chalet, at both windmills, and in the general area, the trail will see much greater use which will discourage the undesirable activities.

Western Windbreak. The vegetation in the western edge of the park serves the vital role of acting as a windbreak, making the rest of the park more suitable for activities and able to support a wider variety of trees and shrubs. The western windbreak is being reforested, and will eventually replace some of the dense shrub areas with forest trees.

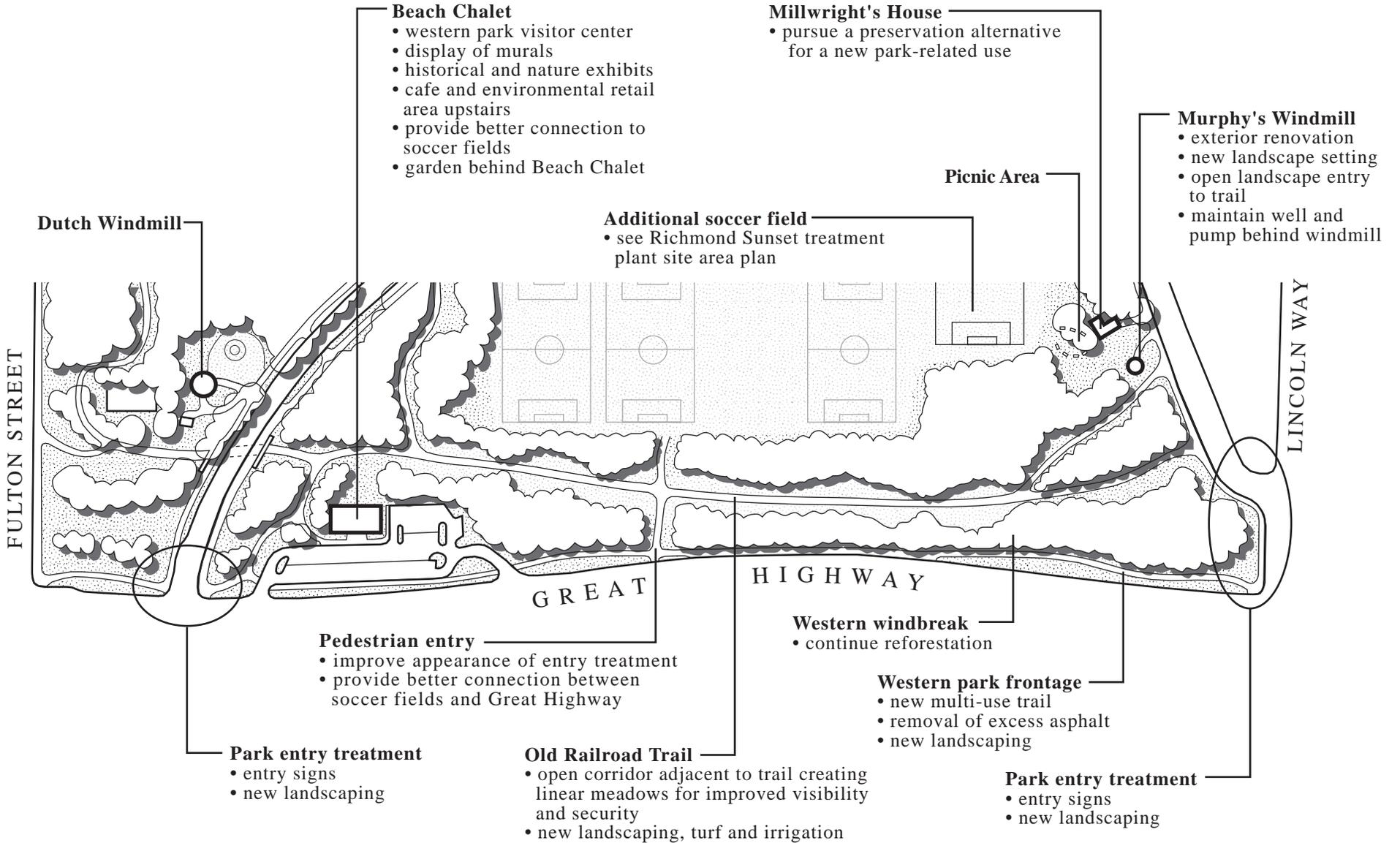
Murphy's Windmill and Millwright's House. The historic south windmill was built in 1906 to pump well water to other areas of the park. It has fallen into disrepair, its sails have been removed and the structure is deteriorating. This plan calls for its restoration similar to that of the north windmill. Both windmills are highly visible features of the west end and their condition reflects on the condition of the park. The millwright's house, adjacent to the south windmill, dates from 1909 and is currently used as a caretaker's residence. The building requires

structural and accessibility improvements to make it usable for a new park use. Funding for renovation and a new permanent use should be sought due to the structure's historic significance and relationship to the windmill. A preservation alternative may include a west end pavilion as part of the area improvements (approved for 2,500 sf)

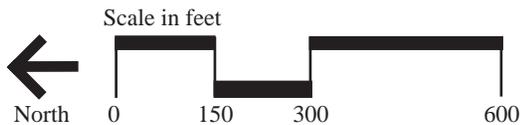
West End Pavilion. A site near the windmill has been identified as the location for a new pavilion structure with visitor services for this area of the park. The structure would include space for public meetings, a kitchen, restrooms, a food concession, and a skate/bike rental or other concession.

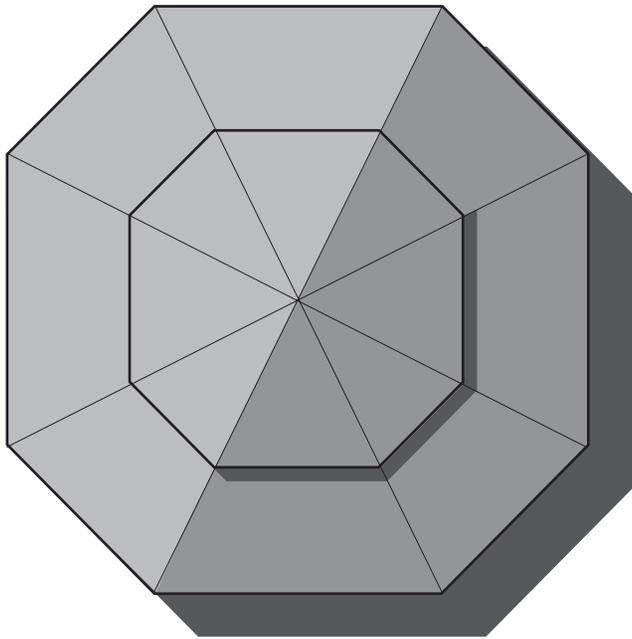
Western Park Entries. The two major entries in the western end, at the Great Highway and at Lincoln Way, have received new entry signs and landscape treatment with funding from the 1992 Golden Gate Park Infrastructure Bond. The appearance of the pedestrian entry from the Great Highway will be improved and will provide a better connection between the Great Highway and the soccer fields.

Richmond Sunset Treatment Plant Site. The site of the sewage treatment plant will be cleared of the existing buildings and structures and it will be available for redevelopment as parkland. See the special area plan for this site for plan recommendations.

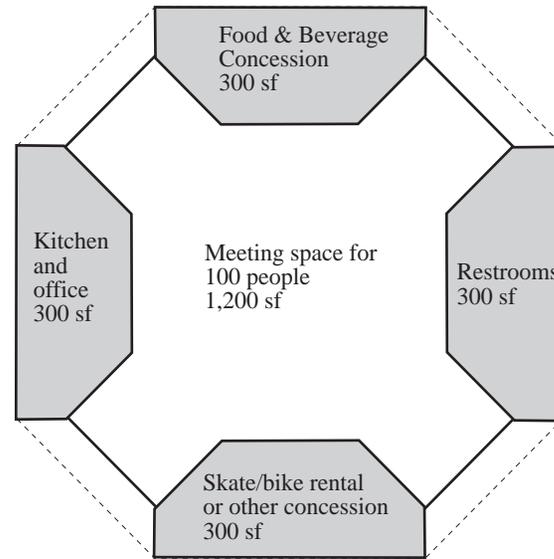


West End Plan





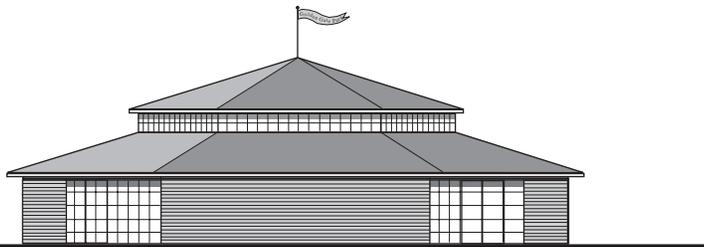
Roof Plan



Floor Plan

A structure of 2,500 sf
has been approved

Scale: 1" = 20'



Elevation

West End Pavilion Concept

Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

San Francisco's Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens has one of the most important plant collections in the United States, growing plants from six continents outdoors in San Francisco's unique microclimate. In 1994, the Strybing Arboretum Society, with the approval of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission, commissioned a new master plan for the gardens. The objective of this planning effort was to increase public access to the richness of this scientific and cultural institution by:

- Providing a distinctive visual identity for the botanical gardens within Golden Gate Park. Many San Franciscans are unaware of the gardens' existence.
- Creating new educational opportunities to interest children and adults in the world of plants and to awaken in the public an awareness of the importance of conserving our environment.

Major components of the plan are as follows:

Orientation/Exhibition Center and Renovation of County Fair Building. The County Fair Building at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way will be renovated to provide an orientation center to introduce visitors to the gardens' collections and educational programs, and to provide general park information. It will also house a horticultural bookstore, a cafe, and an enhanced public rental facility. The redesigned facility will be attractive and visually harmonious with its garden setting.

Redesign of Garden Entrances and Creation of New Western Entrance. The main entrance plaza and gate will be redesigned to provide a more vibrant and attractive entrance to the gardens. The Friend Entrance will be renovated to provide a garden overlook and improve accessibility. A new entrance will be created near the 19th Avenue end of the gardens to permit easy access from the west.

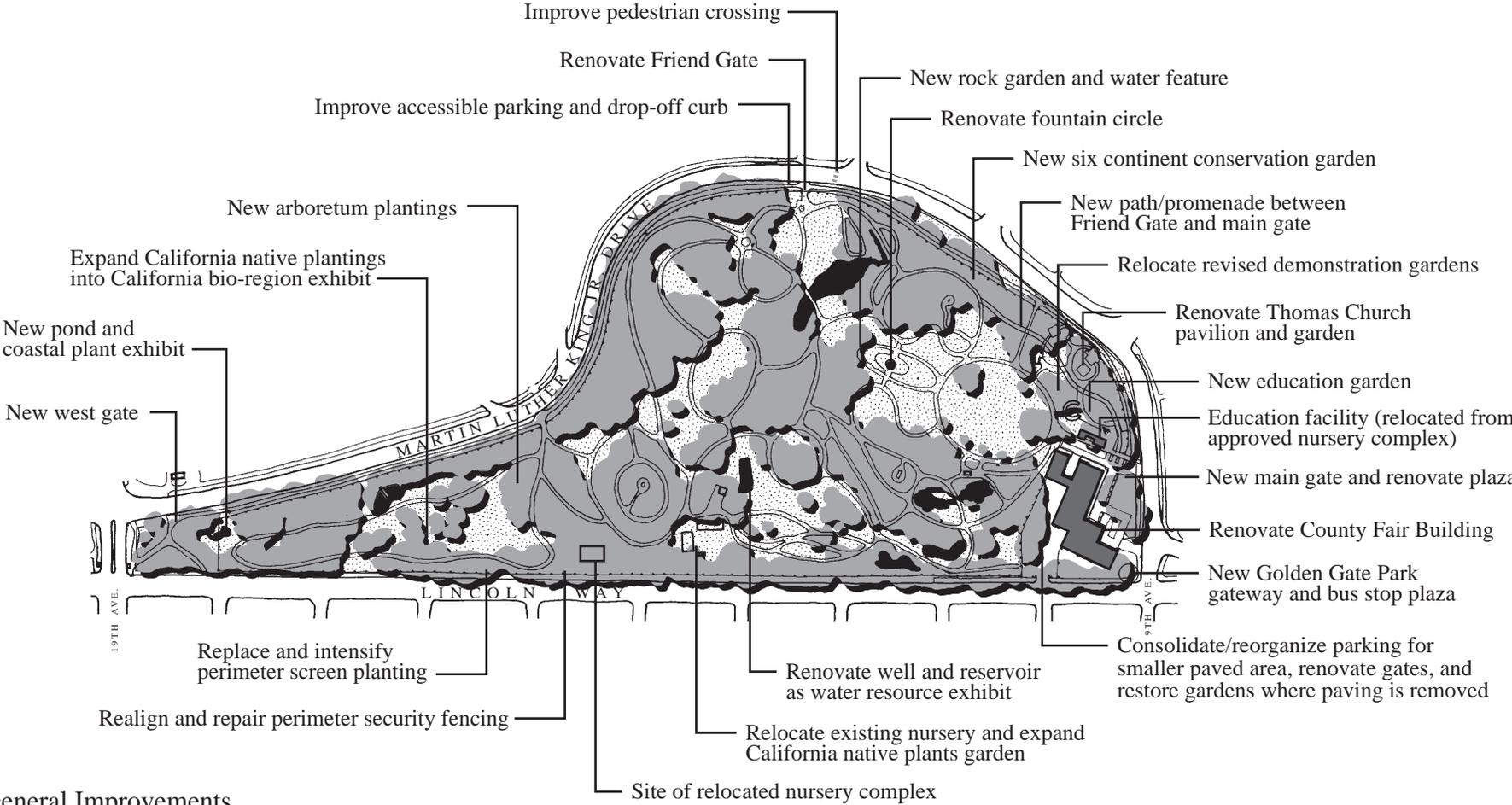
Creation of Conservation Garden Promenade and Redesign of Demonstration Gardens. An arc of gardens, each representing one of the world's continents and illustrating plant conservation issues, will curve between the main and Friend gates. This promenade is intended to serve as a visitor's "table of contents" to Strybing's extensive collections. The outmoded Demonstration Gardens will be completely redesigned.

Relocation of Strybing Nursery Complex. The current nursery facility is dilapidated and in the coldest spot in the park. It will be relocated and its area will become part of the California native plant collection. The new nursery will be located in a more favorable growing area to the west. This project received environmental review (9.437R, Sept. 10, 1990) and included an education center.

Relocation of Public Education Facility/New Children's Garden. The education classroom approved for the proposed nursery complex will be relocated to the main entrance esplanade and will provide a dedicated space for all public education programs. The education building

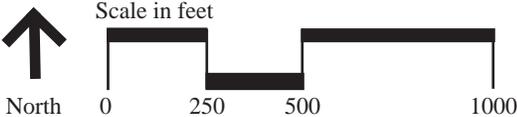
will open onto gardens which will provide hands-on gardening experience for children and adults. The building will be approximately 2,500 square feet and include public restrooms and support areas.

Increase Stack Space at the Helen Crocker Russell Library. An underground expansion of the library for stack space (approx. 1,500 sq. ft.) is proposed underneath the existing courtyard. An elevator within the existing library is included in the plan for access to the proposed lower level and to the library's existing mezzanine.



General Improvements

- Continue reforestation of canopy and windbreak trees
- Renovate pathways for accessibility
- Improve collection identification



Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

Richmond Sunset Treatment Plant Site

Built in 1937, the Richmond Sunset sewage treatment plant occupies a 4.4-acre site in the southwest corner of the park. The plant was deactivated in 1994. All buildings and structures on the site will be demolished in the near future. How to use the site has been the subject of much discussion during the master plan process. The potential uses must be recreational or recreation serving and judged for their appropriateness to the site and the park.

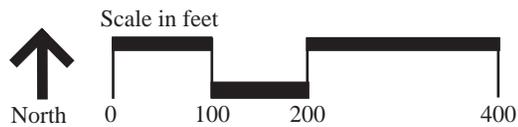
The recommended plan proposes expansion of the existing uses surrounding the site. One additional soccer/multipurpose sports field, a picnic area, reforestation areas, and a parking area are proposed. A portion of the site may also be used for log storage (if needed, to be relocated from behind the bison paddock). The south windmill is proposed for restoration, with a new garden setting that would make it appropriate for wedding and other event rentals.

Among the alternatives considered for the site but not included in the recommended plan were additional forest and meadow areas, relocating the Urban Forestry Center to the site (restoring the existing center to parkland), and a dune restoration area. The site was also under consideration by the Department of Public Works as the location for a tertiary water treatment plant (the Recreation and Park Department required that the facility be completely underground with a recreational use on top).

Opportunities for generating revenue at this site were also examined. Several ideas for recreation-related commercial activities were studied,

but were determined to have low potential to generate revenue for the park, and potential negative impacts on the park. The concepts studied included a rental facility for picnics and weddings, an ice skating rink, a family entertainment center (miniature golf, batting cages, arcades, etc.), a destination restaurant, a recreational vehicle park, and a soccer complex (including food concession, pro shop, and training center). Of these options, the family entertainment center and the recreational vehicle park had the highest potential to generate revenue (\$125,000 and \$100,000 per year, respectively), but raised serious questions as to appropriateness in Golden Gate Park. There was also an idea for a multi-use pavilion that could include food concession, other concessions such as skate and bike rentals, restrooms, and table seating area. The structure would serve the soccer fields, the proposed picnic areas, and the restored south windmill, and would be available for rental for weddings and parties. The multi-use pavilion could be considered for implementation in the future as use in the western park grows.

Demolition of the facility and structures has been approved as part of construction of the Oceanside treatment plant project. The site will be used for construction staging activities during park infrastructure reconstruction to minimize impacts on other park areas.



Richmond Sunset Treatment Plant Site

Bison Paddock

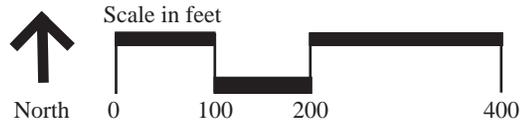
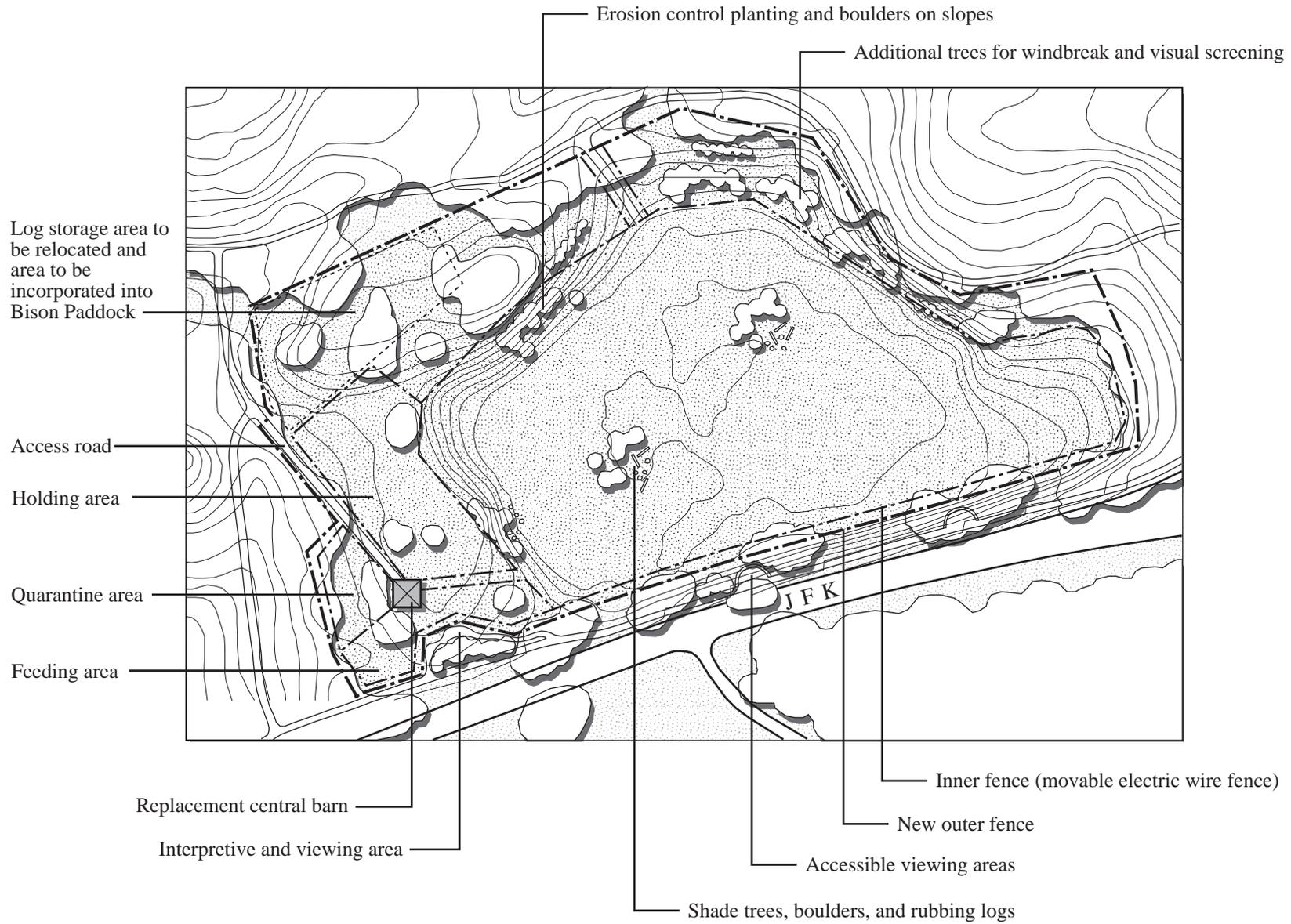
The bison have been an attraction in Golden Gate Park since 1891, and they have been in their present site since 1900. The herd was established when San Francisco became the first city in the western United States to begin a captive breeding program to prevent extinction of the American Bison (Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, and Washington, D.C. had previously established captive breeding programs).

The paddock has been in need of renovation for some time. The fencing is in need of reconstruction to improve safety and security. The landscape is degraded within and around the paddock. The configuration of the paddock and its facilities could be enhanced to improve care and management of the bison. Maintenance of the bison paddock has unique requirements and will require coordination between park and zoo staff. The proposed improvements to the bison paddock have the following goals:

- to provide for efficient care and management of the herd including feeding, quarantine, isolation, shipping, receiving, and breeding
- to provide double fencing for safety and security of visitors and the bison, and meets applicable codes and regulations
- to improve viewing and interpretive opportunities for visitors
- to restore the landscape within and around the paddock to be consistent with the park landscape.

Proposed Improvements

- Replacement fencing will be installed as needed around the paddock. The inner fencing will consist of an electrical wire fence in prime viewing areas, and in areas where the interior fencing will be adjustable to rotate grazing areas. Separate holding, quarantine, and feeding areas will be established with new fencing.
- A replacement barn is proposed to facilitate feeding. It will be centrally located to serve the quarantine, holding, and feeding areas. Improved access corridors from outside and from within the paddock will facilitate herding of bison when necessary.
- Visitor viewing opportunities will be improved with accessible overlooks and a viewing area adjacent to the feeding area and barn. Interpretive panels will provide information about the bison, their ecological role, and their history in Golden Gate Park.
- Within the paddock, the landscape will be renovated with an improved irrigation system that will support meadow vegetation. Clusters of trees will provide shelter and shade for the bison, and erosion control on slopes. The tree clusters and irrigation fixtures will be protected from direct contact with the bison. Boulders and rubbing logs will be grouped with the trees to enrich the bison's' environment.
- Around the paddock, trees and shrubs will be planted to provide a windbreak and visual screen.



Bison Paddock Improvements

De Laveaga Dell and the AIDS Memorial Grove

The de Laveaga Dell is the site of the former Deer Glen where deer and elk were kept in this fenced ravine. In 1898 a gift was received from the estate of Jose Vicente de Laveaga to fund improvement of the area. A fern dell with a cascading stream and rockery was created and planted with ferns, rhododendrons, camellias, irises and other plants.

In recent decades the dell suffered from a lack of maintenance and became overgrown and neglected. In 1992 a plan was approved for restoration of the historic features of the de Laveaga Dell and the creation of an AIDS memorial grove at the dell. The project strives to "provide a positive focus for grief and promote peace of heart; to provide a means for the community to recognize the enormity of the AIDS crisis; to create a place for remembrance, hope and renewal; and to restore, through community participation and public-private partnership, an historic site of outstanding beauty in Golden Gate Park."

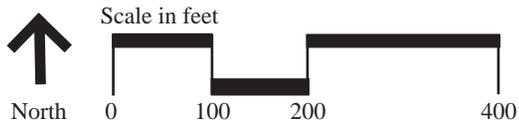
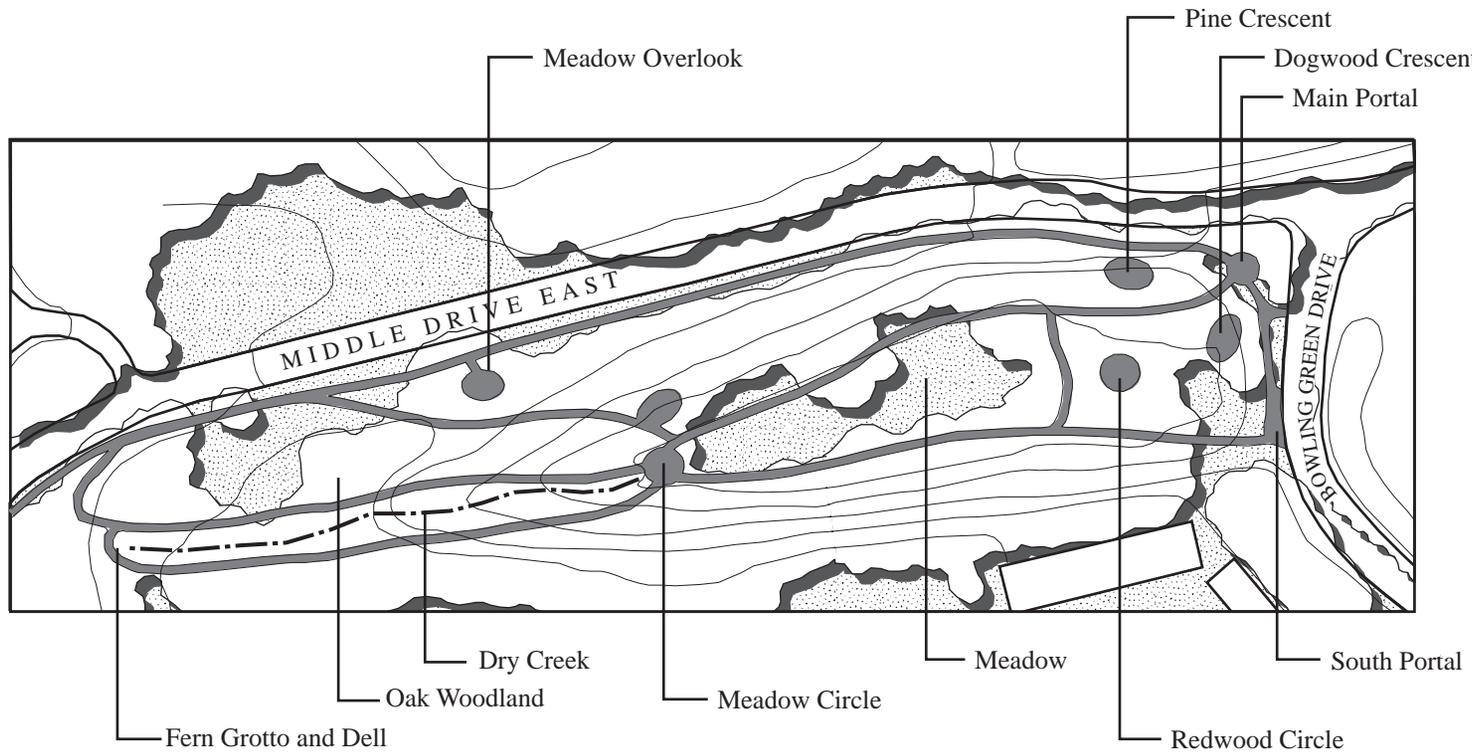
A non-profit group was established to raise funds and organize volunteer workdays. An agreement was reached with the Recreation and Park Commission for acceptance of the gift to construct and maintain the project. The agreement will provide funds for construction and maintenance with a full-time gardener.

The goal of the plan is to retain the peaceful, pastoral nature of the de Laveaga Dell while creating a powerful memorial. Entrances will be emphasized with planting and markers. Existing landscape features such as the redwood grove,

the oak woodland, the fern grotto, the dry stream bed, and the meadow will be renovated. Four gathering areas— the Dogwood Crescent, the Redwood Circle, the Meadow Overlook, and the Fern Grotto— will provide opportunities for individual and group remembrance.

This project is an important model for restoration of other parts of Golden Gate Park. This is a public-private partnership that will restore and maintain a part of the park that could not be accomplished with City funds. The AIDS Memorial Grove is a project of the Tides Foundation.

In 1996, Congress designated the grove as the National AIDS Memorial Grove.



DeLaveaga Dell and the AIDS Memorial Grove

Park Entries

The entries to Golden Gate Park should be well designed transitions between the city and the park. They should be inviting, providing vistas into the park, and should provide a sample of what is inside the park. The landscape treatment at entries should include more highly maintained landscape elements such as turf, flowering shrubs, accent trees, and seasonal color planting. The major entries usually include an architectural or landscape treatment to highlight the entry.

There are forty-five official entries to Golden Gate Park (not including the Panhandle). Of these entries, fifteen are considered major entries, and all include pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles except the Haight Street and 6th Avenue at Fulton entries which are pedestrian only. Several entries will receive accessibility improvements. Comprehensive entry signs are proposed for all entries. Pedestrian and bicycle signs will provide park information, maps, park regulations, and emergency information. Vehicle entry signs will announce entry to the park and request that drivers obey regulations, including the speed limit.

Recommendations for Key Entries

JFK Drive/Kezar Drive. This entry is recommended for redesign to alter the traffic flow into the park by creating a “T” intersection. Currently, two lanes of traffic flow directly into the park from Fell Street, often at high speed. The proposed design would require vehicles to slow down to negotiate the single right turn lane. The

design greatly reduces the amount of asphalt at the entry, providing an opportunity for a landscaped entry and entry sign. The entry treatment should be a landscape statement, framing the view into the park. A simple treatment with accent trees and color planting is recommended.

9th Avenue/Lincoln Way. This entry is a major park entry adjacent to the 9th Avenue commercial district and is also a major entry for visitors arriving by public transit. It also serves the adjacent botanical gardens and the County Fair Building. The entry lacks signs or treatment to reflect its status as a major park entry. Pedestrian circulation is poorly laid out in front of the County Fair Building. Recommended improvements include a new landscape treatment, pedestrian circulation, and signs.

Haight Street/Stanyan Street. This is a major pedestrian entry for the eastern end of the park. The area’s landscape suffers from overuse which has caused turf problems, erosion, litter and a generally run-down appearance. The existing design of paths and turf is designed for circulation through the area, but the space has developed as a social gathering space. It is recommended to redesign the area to accommodate the existing uses. Additional paved areas, controlling circulation with barriers between paths and turf areas, and re-establishing Alvord Lake as the area’s focal point should be explored. Barriers can consist of low fence railings or continuous benches lining the paths. These techniques are used extensively in high-use areas of New York’s Central Park.

7th Avenue/Fulton Street (railway shelter).

The railway shelter on Fulton Street at 7th Avenue was built in 1889 and was once a major entrance for visitors arriving by steam trains and later by cable cars. It is recommended to refurbish the railway shelter as a transit portal and pedestrian entrance. This will require designing a new path into the park and opening a visual corridor between the railway shelter and JFK Drive. The path design should include an appropriate landscape treatment with turf borders.

Western Park Entries (Great Highway and Lincoln Way at MLK Drive).

The entries at the Great Highway and Lincoln Way at MLK Drive are recommended to receive new landscape treatments along with entire western frontage. Excess asphalt will be removed inside the relocated curbs of the Great Highway. Appropriate landscape treatments should be designed to announce the entries and include accent plantings and entry signs. The landscape planting must be appropriate to the extreme conditions of the coastal environment.

Park Entries

Entry Location	Class	High			Comments and Recommendations:
		Ped.	Veh.	Priority	
Stanyan & Fulton	Intermediate	●			
Stanyan & Hayes	Minor	●		●	remove step for accessibility
Stanyan/Kezar/JFK Drive	Major	●	●	●	the park's "front door", new landscaping and entry statement
Stanyan & Page St.	Minor	●			
Stanyan & Haight St.	Major	●		●	new landscaping and entry statement, improve image
Stanyan & Waller St.	Intermediate	●	●		possible road closure
Kezar Stadium entries	Intermediate	●			
Kezar Dr. at Children's Playground	Minor	●			
Kezar Dr. & MLK Dr.	Major	●	●		
Lincoln & 5th Ave.	Minor	●			new landscaping, including turf border
Lincoln & 7th Ave.	Intermediate	●	●		possible road closure, new landscaping, pedestrian entry
Lincoln & 9th Ave.	Major	●	●	●	major transit entry, entry statement, landscaping, new paths & curbs, new visitor center
Lincoln & 19th Ave.	Major	●	●	●	Breon Gates; new landscaping (trees & understory), paths & accessibility improvements
Lincoln & 20th Ave.	Minor	●			bicycle route
Lincoln & 25th Ave.	Intermediate	●	●		access to Crossover Drive (Highway 1/GG Bridge)
Lincoln & 30th Ave.	Minor	●			pedestrian access to Polo Field
Lincoln & 34th Ave.	Minor	●			
Sunset Blvd.	Major	●	●		grade-separated from Lincoln Way
Lincoln & 41st Ave. (Chain of Lakes Dr.)	Intermediate	●	●		high volume of north/south through traffic
Lincoln & 45th Ave.	Minor	●			pedestrian access to play area, improve irrigation & landscaping
Lincoln & 47th Ave.	Minor	●			
Lincoln & MLK Dr. (La Playa)	Major	●	●	●	improve pathway & bike path connections, new irrigation & landscaping, remove excess asphalt
Great Highway (soccer fields)	Minor	●			
Great Highway at Beach Chalet	Intermediate	●		●	new parking and pathway improvements, irrigation & landscaping
Great Highway & JFK Dr.	Major	●	●	●	improve pathway & bike path connections, new irrigation & landscaping, remove excess asphalt

Continued

Entry Location	Class	Ped.	Veh.	Priority	Comments and Recommendations:
Fulton & La Playa	Minor	●			trail along former streetcar line, new irrigation and landscaping
Fulton & 47th Ave.	Intermediate	●	●		
Fulton & 43rd Ave. (Chain of Lakes Dr.)	Major	●	●		high volume of north/south through traffic
Fulton & 36th Ave.	Major	●	●		access to Spreckles Lake
Fulton & 32nd Ave.	Minor	●			
Fulton & 30th Ave.	Intermediate	●	●		new landscaping and irrigation
Fulton & 26th Ave.	Minor	●			
Fulton & 25th Ave. (Crossover Dr.)	Major	●	●		access to/from Park Presidio Bypass (Hwy. 1- to/from S.)
Fulton & 22nd Ave.	Minor	●			bicycle route
Fulton & 17th Ave.	Minor	●			
Fulton & Park Presidio Blvd.	Major	●	●		access to/from Park Presidio Bypass (Highway 1/GG Br.)
Fulton & 10th Ave.	Intermediate	●	●		
Fulton & 9th Ave.	Minor	●			
Fulton & 8th Ave.	Major	●	●		access to Music Concourse, bus entry, Brown Gate
Fulton & 7th Ave. (Powell St. Rwy. Sta.)	Intermediate	●		●	historic structure, improve path connection to JFK Dr., landscape along path
Fulton & 6th Ave.	Intermediate	●			redesigned from former road
Fulton & 5th Ave.	Minor	●			
Fulton & 3rd Ave.	Minor	●			
Fulton & Arguello Blvd.	Major	●	●	●	bike route (to/from Presidio, GG Br.), Clarke Mem. Gate; rebuild wood steps, landscape road
Fulton & Willard North	Minor	●			