

### **Summary of 4 alternate sites for the proposed ropes course at McLaren Park**

Except for site 2, the below sites were visited on October 1, 2018 by Outward Bound California (Nettie Pardue and Maggie Weller) and Rec Park (Daniel Choi and Jackie Suen) to see if these sites could meet Outward Bound's program needs for a natural area to provide outdoors team building and leadership training programs. Alexis Ward and Mike Degregorio with Rec Park Capital Planning Division were consulted on the McLaren Park Vision Plan and related projects. These sites were also shared with Lisa Wayne to discuss the impact, if any, on the natural resource management areas. A map with the sites is attached.

#### **Alternate site 1 – West of parking lot at 21 John F. Shelley Dr.**

- Observations
  - There were approximately 12 vehicles in the parking lot and several dog walkers with multiple dogs in the area with about six dogs off leash in the wooded area and the area adjacent to the parking lot.
- Advantages
  - Close to parking lot
  - Proximity to Visitacion Valley Middle School. Visitacion Valley Middle School and Outward Bound have partnered on over 30 student programs over the last ten years.
- Disadvantages
  - Dog walkers and dogs are familiar with this site as an off-leash area. The off-leash dogs may frighten Outward Bound students and/or distract the students from participating in the Outward Bound programs.
  - There is also the concern of dog feces and urine in the area since part of the Outward Bound programs include sitting on the ground in small group circles.

#### **Alternate site 2 – Sunnydale Ave. and Persia Ave.**

- Observations
  - This site is in a natural resource area and cannot be used for a ropes course. Please see the map on page 31 of the Natural Resource Management Plan for McLaren Park: [http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/SNRAMP\\_Final\\_Draft/6\\_Site-Specific/619McLarenPark.pdf](http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/SNRAMP_Final_Draft/6_Site-Specific/619McLarenPark.pdf)
  - There are no nearby restrooms

#### **Alternate site 3 – John F. Shelley Dr. and Mansell St.**

- Observations
  - Open area partially surrounded by trees.
  - There were three off-leash dogs in the open area during the visit.
  - Active area for the neighborhood. There were about 12 people walking along the path.
  - Proposed location for the down low elements would be within the low trees along the walking path that is north of the site.
- Advantages
  - Open area is close to parking lot at 21 John F. Shelley Dr. and the restrooms
  - The area is protected from winds and vehicle sounds from Mansell St.
  - Away from residential area

- Proximity to Visitacion Valley Middle School. Visitacion Valley Middle School and Outward Bound have partnered on over 30 student programs over the last ten years.
- Disadvantages
  - This site is in the McLaren Park Vision Plan as a part of the Mansell East Gateway. A planned multi-use court will be designed and constructed for this site. Please see the diagram on page 70 of the McLaren Park Vision Plan: [http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/180402\\_McLarenParkVisionPlan.compressed.pdf](http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/180402_McLarenParkVisionPlan.compressed.pdf)
  - The site is partially exposed. The ropes course participants would not have a complete experience within the trees and the ropes course would be fully visible from the walking path.
  - If this site is used for a ropes course, the use of the down low elements would interfere with the tai chi plaza users.
  - The open areas for ropes course participants to sit in small group circles and work on team building skills may interfere with the public's use of the picnic tables, dog walkers, and tai chi
  - Concern that the noise from the ropes course participants would interfere with the tennis courts

**Alternate site 4 – University St. and Olmstead St.**

- Observations
  - Residential homes are across the street to this site
  - Many eucalyptus trees at this site
  - Active area for the neighborhood. There were about 12 people walking along the path.
  - Proposed location for the down low elements would be within the low trees along the walking path that is north of the site.
- Advantages
  - The circle of eucalyptus would give the feeling of being amongst the trees for ropes course participants
  - Close to the restrooms and street parking
  - The area is protected from winds and vehicle sounds from Mansell St.
  - Proximity to Visitacion Valley Middle School. Visitacion Valley Middle School and Outward Bound have partnered on over 30 student programs over the last ten years.
- Disadvantages
  - This site is in the McLaren Park Vision Plan as a part of the Mansell East Gateway. A planned neighborhood garden buffer will be designed and constructed for this site. Please see the diagram on page 70 of the McLaren Park Vision Plan: [http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/180402\\_McLarenParkVisionPlan.compressed.pdf](http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/180402_McLarenParkVisionPlan.compressed.pdf)
  - Eucalyptus trees shed bark and have falling limbs that pose maintenance and safety issues for the ropes course
  - The high elements would be visible from the walking path because of the open area within the circle of eucalyptus trees
  - There would be no views from the high elements.

- If this site is used for a ropes course, the use of the down low elements would interfere with the tai chi plaza users.
- The open areas for ropes course participants to sit in small group circles and work on team building skills may interfere with the public's use of the picnic tables, dog walkers, and tai chi
- Concern that the ropes course participants would make noise that would bother the residents across the street and would be highly visible to the neighbors

**Proposed Location – Wooded area near the Wilde Overlook Tower at Mansell St. and Visitacion Ave.**

- Observations
  - Wooded area near the tower for the high elements with an open field area for the low elements
- Advantages
  - Close to parking lot on Visitacion Ave.
  - SF MUNI #29 bus stops on Mansell St. directly in front of the site
  - Activation of this area will discourage negative activity in the parking lot and at the tower
  - Proposed high elements would be within the trees and disguised from view from the walking path and street
  - Views of the bay
  - Proximity to Visitacion Valley Middle School. Visitacion Valley Middle School and Outward Bound have partnered on over 30 student programs over the last ten years.
  - Open areas for groups to sit in small group circles and work on team building skills
  - This site does not conflict with other planned improvements identified in the McLaren Park Vision Plan
  - While the site is not within a natural resource area, it is near a natural resource area and being in the vicinity will increase visitors' awareness of the natural resource areas in the park
  - The ropes course will address goals and principles of the [McLaren Park Vision Plan](#):
    - Balance neighborhood and City use while protecting natural features (page 19)
    - Maintain the natural landscape of McLaren Park (page 21)
    - Enhance McLaren Park's panoramic views (page 21)
    - Create and building on the diverse play opportunities in McLaren Park (page 21)
  - Already an active area so not impacting quiet contemplative areas of the park
- Disadvantages
  - Must cross two streets to get to the restrooms by the tennis courts
  - Traffic noise from the vehicles on Mansell St. and Visitacion Ave.
  - Some picnic tables will be relocated
  - Area can get cold and windy as it is on top of a hill



Three red circles are the proposed locations for the tai chi plaza.

1

4

3

2

Proposed Location

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