



San Francisco Maritime FAQ

Aquatic Park Rehabilitation Projects

BACKGROUND

- The Aquatic Park National Historic Landmark District, part of San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SFMNHP), was a 1930s Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. It was designed in the *Streamline Moderne* style to create a public aquatic recreation area.
- The District includes: Municipal Pier, the Bathhouse (Museum) Building, two speaker towers, the amphitheatre structures (east, central, and west bleachers – including underground workspaces), grassy open space, the plaza near the Cable Car Turnaround, and the beach.

THE PROJECTS

- The first project, completed in October 2008, repaired the Bathhouse Building's roof, replaced the stainless steel windows and doors, replaced the second floor glass block wall, conserved a portion of the WPA murals, and extended elevator service to the third floor.
- The second project, now ongoing, will structurally repair the entire bleacher complex (amphitheatre) including the underground spaces and eight skylights. The work will increase accessibility, bring mechanical and electrical systems up to building codes, and install a new underground drainage system.
- The rehabilitation projects were funded from the National Park Service's Line Item Construction program, an appropriation that provides for the construction, rehabilitation, and replacement of facilities. This funding is separate from the cost of supporting the Park's day-to-day operations.

SOME QUESTIONS

How does this rehabilitation work impact visitors?

The Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building is open from 10am-4pm daily. Park Rangers lead free tours of the lobby murals at 3pm daily. While permanent exhibits are being designed/produced, look for changing, temporary exhibits on the lobby/veranda level. The Senior Center is open. The bleachers are closed to the public, adjacent areas are closed for project staging, equipment, etc., and construction may close other areas surrounding the project for short periods. Pedestrian walkways remain open (a temporary path has been created around the construction on the west side of the Bathhouse Building). Bicycles may be walked along the promenade. Segways, and other types of tours, are not permitted through the District for the duration of the project.

How will the construction affect the July 4th celebration and Fleet Week/Blue Angels special events in Aquatic Park?

The District will continue to host public events, and visits by the general public, but some areas (including the bleachers) will be closed for the duration of the project. Special Park Use permits are

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required for all events and may be obtained by contacting John Cunnane at 415-561-7049, or john_cunnane@nps.gov.

How long will the project last?

The project is scheduled to be complete in late spring, 2010.

What sort of work will be taking place?

Most of the east (largest) bleacher structure has been demolished and is being rebuilt. Significant portions of the center bleachers have been removed and are being rebuilt. The west bleachers were in the best shape, but they are also being repaired. To reach the underground portions of the amphitheater, approximately one foot of sod was removed from an area extending from the top of the bleachers south, toward Beach Street. New skylights are being installed in this area.

What will the District look like when the rehabilitation project is done?

Pretty much the same as when it started – but strong enough to last another 70 years. All of the staging will be removed, and pathways will be returned to their original location and size. The park is completing a Cultural Landscape Report, and will begin implementing some changes to return the area to its as-designed appearance. One obvious change will be that the obtrusive metal rails which once ringed the skylights will be gone; the new skylights will be surrounded by low hedges, as originally designed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please call (415) 561-7006; or write to Park Planning, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, Building E, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA 94123; or e-mail SAFR_Planning@nps.gov

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