

Cooley Landing

Description: Updated March 2016

After more than a decade of studies, research, and community discussion, improvements at Cooley Landing Park are underway. The first three phases of the project have been completed!



Phase I included capping contaminated soil (related to the site's former use as a burn-dump) and providing for safe public access. When the park was opened to the public in 2012, Cooley Landing added nine acres to the amount of public open space in East Palo Alto.

The early studies, as well as the design and construction of Phase I project, were almost entirely funded by grants from both public and private organizations, including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, CalRecycle, the Packard Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, the Stewardship Council, the Bay Trail Project and others. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District owns the Ravenswood Nature Preserve adjacent to Cooley Landing and, in addition to acting in partnership with the City on the project, provides an easement to the City to access the site from Bay Road. The City of East Palo Alto deeply appreciates the contributions of these agencies, because the realization of Cooley Landing as a public park could not be achieved without their support.



In March of 2012, the State of California Statewide Parks Program awarded \$5 million of Proposition 84 funds to the City of East Palo Alto for design and construction of Phases 2 – 5.

Construction of Phase II of the park - installing utilities, improving the access road, and installing native planting, started in September, 2013. The park was closed during this work and then upon completion it reopened to the public in February, 2014.

Phase III of the Cooley Landing Park improvements included the construction of the Education Center which will serve as a place for community meetings, and as an institution which preserves and enhances the area's cultural heritage, history, and traditions. Construction of the Education Center was completed in September, 2015.

Phase IV is expected to be implemented in 2016/2017, and will include interpretive site improvements around the Education Center building and outdoor amphitheater.

If you would like to be involved in the discussion about how we can make Cooley Landing Park a great destination for our community and for the region, please contact Kamal Fallaha, Public Works Director, at 650-853-3189.



This small building on a newly reclaimed landfill provides the first-ever opportunity for the under-served citizens of the city to access the natural wonders of the San Francisco Bay. FOG Studio was selected to guide the design process, which included 8 community meetings to decide upon programmatic elements, building form, materials and aesthetics. There were significant challenges to the site, which is not only underlain with bay mud in a highly seismic area, but which served as a burn dump for several decades. In an earlier phase, the entire peninsula was remediated with two feet of clean fill to cap potential hazards – except for the building site area, which capped the site with structural slabs and landscape paving.



For more information about the Cooley Landing Park and Education Center Project, click on one of the following links.

Status: Join the City of East Palo Alto and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District for a free fun-filled spring festival and the grand opening of the new Education Center at Cooley Landing Park by Ravenswood Open Space Preserve.

The Grand Opening Ceremony begins at 11:00am with Mayor Donna Rutherford, Congresswoman Jackie Speier (District 14), Assemblymember Rich Gordon (District 24), Supervisor Warren Slocum (District 4), and Midpen Director Nonette Hanco (Ward 5).

Tour East Palo Alto's new 3,000-square foot Education Center on the bay. The Center was funded by a Prop 84 grant that the City was awarded in 2011. The Center will host partner-based education programs and is available for rental by the public for certain uses. For more information please contact Karla Prince-Cheng at kprince@cityofepa.org or call (650) 853-3132.

Schedule: Completed. Phase I was completed in FY 2012-13 and included environmental remediation of the site and the creation of public access infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists and automobiles.

- Phase II was completed in FY 2013-14 and included access road improvements and community-based design and public outreach/input for Phase III.
- Phase III was completed and includes the construction of a Community Facility and Education Center Building, which will serve as a place for community meetings and as an institution, which preserves and enhances the area's cultural heritage, history, and traditions.
- Phase IV will consist of additional an Outdoor Classroom, Picnic Areas, and interpretive site improvements around the Education Center.
- Phase V will consist of additional Trails and Interpretive Areas.
- Phase VI will include Viewing Piers/Water Access.

Schedule:

[illegible]