

Innes Avenue View by Cab Covay, 1998

## India Basin Shoreline *Dream* Park

Submitted to San Francisco Recreation and Park Department  
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## India Basin Shoreline *Dream* Park

Opportunity and location combine on India Basin to make a community's dream come true. With stunning bay view and available land, the right time is right *now* for the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department to create the India Basin Shoreline *Dream* Park. This combination of open space, play areas, community gardens, bike and walking trails, recreational boating facilities, and Bay Interpretive Center will become a community center as well as a showplace of our beautiful city.

Completed in five phases over the next six years, the India Basin Shoreline *Dream* Park wraps around one of the most historic waterways on San Francisco Bay. It combines an existing park, Recreation and Park Department planned uses, and the conversion of adjacent sites into a facility that will serve the nearby community and become a tourist destination. In addition, as a small-boat launch and ferry dock, this facility will ease parking for 3COM and Pacific Bell Parks.

India Basin is located in the southeast corner of San Francisco in its Hunters Point neighborhood. Historically, this basin is significant, the site of indigenous people's habitation and early American settlers' encampments. It is on the migrant bird flyway and affords stunning views of San Francisco Bay, Treasure Island, and the East Bay.

Within one of the city's most economically disadvantaged areas, the construction of this dream park will provide much-needed jobs, both during construction and after it opens. Upon completion, this showplace will give the youth of the neighborhood -- and beyond --- a safe place to play, a fun place to learn the history and science of the city, and a beautiful place to appreciate the cultural and natural significance of India Basin and the bay beyond. As a link on the Bay Trail, this open space will protect the natural wonder that makes San Francisco so special. Finally, India Basin Shoreline *Dream* Park will become a recreational center that will bring people into its neighborhood. These visitors will contribute socially and economically to the area.

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### ***Among the populations served by this new park are:***

**San Francisco School Children** who will have a place to learn, play, and picnic right on the bay. Accessible by existing public transportation, this *dream* park combines beautifully with the Port's new wetlands project at Pier 98, producing a fabulous destination for both school groups and family outings.

**Descendants of Indigenous Peoples** who will share an interpretive center with one on the natural wonders that make up San Francisco bay.

**Local Community Members** who will participate in the youth programs and benefit from the jobs generated by the new facilities as well as enjoy the trails, community gardens, and play areas of the new park.

**San Francisco Visitors** who will have an opportunity to learn about the bay, its plants, and its original inhabitants, while enjoying some of the best views and greatest weather this city has to offer its guests.

**Recreational Boaters** who will gain access to the bay for small-boats as well as boat storage and parking facilities.

**Fishing Enthusiasts** who will have shore access while enjoying the amenities of a recreational center and legal parking. While adults fish, children can play, making for wonderful family outings.

**Sports Fans** who will be able to park and ferry, bike, walk, or boat to events at both 3COM and Pacific Bell Parks.

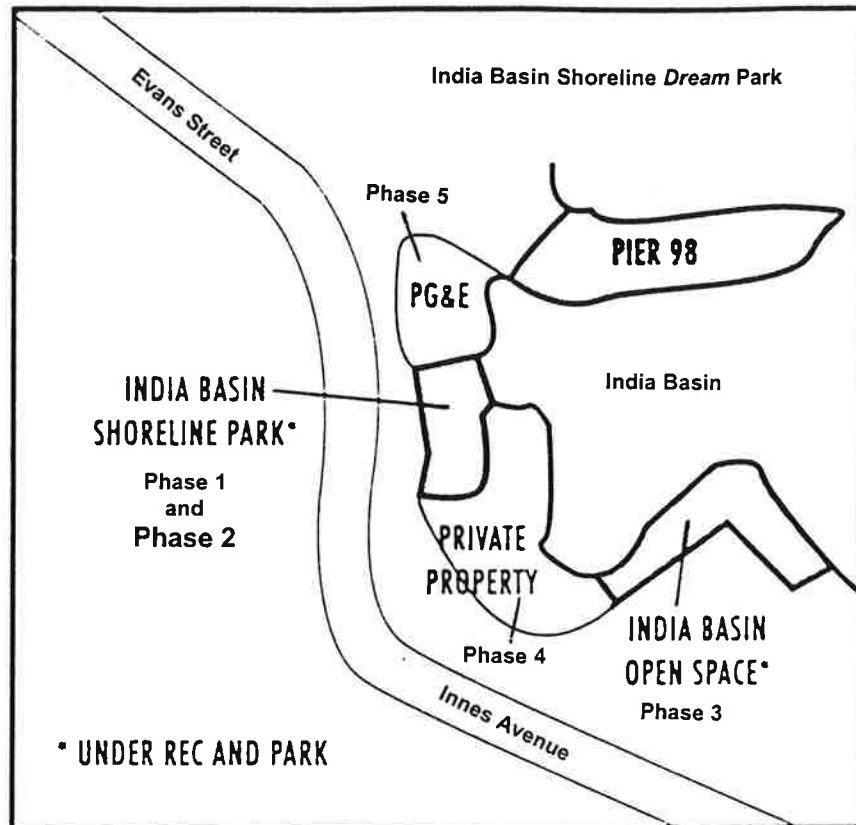
**Dog Owners** who will be able to enjoy walking trails and a dog run in a beautiful environment that is designed for cohabitation between people and pets.

**Picnickers and Event Givers** who will have both indoor facilities with stunning views available to rent for private parties and community events as well as an outdoor group picnic area that is ideal for family gatherings and children's parties.

**Hikers and Bikers** who will find this link a significant asset to their enjoyment of the Bay Trail.

## India Basin Shoreline *Dream* Park

*The dream park will be constructed in 5 phases:*



### **PHASE 1: Existing India Basin Shoreline Park**

Blessed with beautiful views and better-than-average San Francisco weather, this park has been a popular community destination since its 1996 opening. Walking, fishing, picnicking, and open play areas are its prime uses. Because of problems with the irrigation system and portable toilet maintenance, the aesthetics at this site are not all they could be. Despite these problems, the park has become a center of India Basin community life and its expansion is much desired.

**Time Frame:** Project Completed!

## India Basin Shoreline *Dream* Park

### **PHASE 2: Expanded India Basin Shoreline Park**

Recently approved by the Rec and Park's Planning Commission, this community-designed park expansion will increase the landscaped area to 11 acres. The expansion includes the following recreational facilities:

- Group Picnic Area
- Drinking Fountains
- Full Basketball Court
- Semi-permanent Portable Toilet
- Expansion of Grass Area and Pathways
- Toddler and Elementary Playground
- SLUG Community Garden

The goal of this park expansion is to fill a huge need in the community for children's activity areas. Combined with Heron's Head Park at Pier 98, this park will become a wonderful family and school-trip destination. The group picnic area and playground serving the practical needs for play and lunch after the use of the educational facilities of the wetlands. Recreation and Park funds are in place for the infrastructure improvements. CSBG and The Trust for Public Land donated generously for park improvements.

**Time Frame:** Construction begins September 2000. Completed: June 2001.

## India Basin Shoreline *Dream* Park

### **PHASE 3: Waterfront Open Space @ Fitch Street Site**

This 4.5 acre parcel, obtained through open-space mitigation, will wrap around a planned commercial and residential site desired by the community and the SF Redevelopment Agency. Desired park facilities include:

- Pathways and Bike Paths
- Seating Areas

Eventually, this section of the Bay Trail will link the wetlands planned just inside the Hunters Point Shipyard (known as Parcel B1) and the India Basin Shoreline Park. This waterfront area affords wonderful views and bay access much desired by walkers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts.

**Time Frame:** Construction begins November 2000. Completed June 2001.

## India Basin Shoreline *Dream* Park

### **PHASE 4: India Basin Recreational Boating Center @ 894 Innes Avenue Site**

Along with serving as a link between the separated pieces of the India Basin Shoreline Park Phases 2 and 3, the development of a recreational center in this area will bring much-desired boating facilities to the southern side of San Francisco. Small-boat owners can park their cars at this facility and boat (or ferry) to the games at either 3COM or Pacific Bell Parks, easing car traffic on Third Street. Because it has been used as a boat yard for many years, the infrastructure is in place (water, power, sewers, buildings, paved parking areas), making the conversion much less costly than installing all new facilities. Revenue from concessionaires will help defray the cost of this conversion and upkeep. Desired facilities include:

- Small-boat Ramp
- Storage Facility for Small Boats
- Ferry Dock
- Car Parking Area for Boaters and Park Guests
- Sea Scouts Training Center
- Rowing Club
- Concession Facilities such as Restaurants, Bait Shop, Boat and Bike Rental
- Permanent Public Restrooms

The history of this property has not been community-friendly. Currently, the ownership of this controversial site is in litigation with the SF City Attorney's Office. Once a boat yard known as Donco, the then owners were convicted in Federal Court of polluting our bay. Noise and additional pollution complaints from the community continued for several years. After the yard finally closed, it became a homeless encampment. Since community pressure finally ended that use, it has been used for other controversial operations and as a boat dumping ground. The US EPA recently completed a toxic cleanup of the site. The community hopes that the transformation of a closed business into a recreation center will turn a neighborhood blight into a community asset.

**Time Frame:** Arrangements would have to be made with private owner of property.

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### **PHASE 5: San Francisco Bay Interpretive Center @ PG&E Power Plant Site**

When the Hunters Point Power Plant is phased out of use in 2001, the City of San Francisco has first right of refusal on the 30-acres of land. Obtaining some of this land for Recreation and Park use will put the finishing touch on the India Basin dream. Revenues from the development and sale of the remaining land can support the building of this much-desired center as can moneys from foundations and corporate grants. Using existing infrastructure, the Bay Interpretive Center will bring a much-needed educational resource to the people of San Francisco. Set up with permanent and touring displays, this facility could include the following:

- Museum of the Bay Plants and Animals
- Indigenous Peoples Facility
- Community Rooms with Bay Views, Available for Meetings and Events
- Public Restrooms
- After-school Youth Facility

Despite being nearly surrounded by water, there is no water-front natural interpretive center located within San Francisco! Evidence that Ohlone Indians once lived near India Basin makes this a natural choice for an indigenous peoples facility. This location -- between the Port's Pier 98 Wetlands Project and India Basin Shoreline Park -- is ideal for both San Franciscans and visitors to enjoy all that this portion of the bay has to offer. Located on the Bay Trail, India Basin is surrounded by ample parking and served by several existing public transportation lines.

**Time Frame:** The power plant is scheduled to close at the end of 2001.



## **India Basin Shoreline *Dream* Park**

Proposal conceived and written by Jill Fox.

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Cover design by Cab Covay

Cover illustration © Cab Covay

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