

Coastal Area's Great Parks Offer Community Opportunity, Challenges



By Bruce Horton, Chair,
Recreation and Parks Committee

The coastal area of San Pedro has three great park complexes—Cabrillo, Angels Gate/Point Fermin, and Bogdanovich.

Cabrillo Beach / Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

The Cabrillo Beach / Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is the first pearl in the crown that Coastal San Pedro has to offer the city. The Cabrillo Beach section is one of only two public beaches in the City of Los Angeles.

It has an inner beach and an outer beach. There are designated areas for windsurfing and kite boarding, volleyball courts and a fishing area. The bathhouse has men's and women's showers, a rental meeting hall, and classes ranging from Baby and Me to pre-K.

It has an after school center for students from White Point and Point Fermin Elementary Schools. It is also the Home of the San Pedro Polar Bear Club. It receives assistance from the Cabrillo Beach Boosters Club.

The other part of this site is the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, which offers a range of classes, tours and public programs including seasonal whale watch trips and Meet the Grunion evenings, as well as special events for aquarium members. It has an ongoing program for elementary children who come by bus from all over the city to learn about ecology and the ocean.

Its major fundraiser is the Grunion Grand Gala, which will be held on Saturday May 10. For further information about Aquarium, call 310-548-7562 or visit the website: www.cabrilloaq.org.

Angels Gate Park / Point Fermin Park

The next pearl in the crown is the Angels Gate Park / Point Fermin complex. Point Fermin Park is actually a pocket park by city standards, but it

hosts some major events. The next big event is the Palos Verdes Marathon in May. This event starts and ends at Point Fermin, with major street closures in the Coastal San Pedro Area.

The recreation and parks committee of CSPNC would like to see this event start and end in Palos Verdes to eliminate the all-day street closure and the accompanying parking problem that has come to be associated with major events at this park.

Angels Gate Park facilities consist of unlighted outdoor basketball courts, a children's play area, and an unlighted soccer field. It is home to the Angels Gate Cultural Center, the Belmont Shores Railroad Club, Fort MacArthur Museum, Hi-Railers Railroad Club, Izaak Walton League, Hosting International, and Korean Friendship Bell. The Marine Bird Rescue Center and Marine Mammal Care Center are next door on the LAUSD portion of Angels Gate.

The park will be holding a spring day camp March 17-21 for children ages 5-12. They have an after school club for students from Point Fermin, Leland, and South Shores elementary schools.

The next ringing of the Korean Bell will be on Children's Day in April.

The Angels Gate Cultural Center is a private, nonprofit organization that is reaching out to the children of the city with art programs at their schools and it also has a number of resident artists located in some of the buildings.

They have an ongoing performance art group and their next big event will be the San Pedro Ballet, featuring original works by Patrick and Cynthia Bradley on April 11 and 12 at 8:00 p.m. and April 13 at 7:00 p.m.

The Angels Gate Master Plan Steering Committee has just approved a conceptual master plan for the 64-acre Angeles Gate Park (see below). For more information on this plan, visit angelsgate.org.

The third pearl in the crown is Bogdanovich Recreation Center. This park is truly a recreation center as it has two ball fields, a large area for several soccer fields, a children's play area, and a gymnasium.

They have started the spring baseball registration. This covers ages 5-15. They are having a signup for spring day camp at the present time. This camp will run March 17-21. The ages for the camp are 5-12.

They have an early childhood program that runs September 2007 to June 2008. They also have two Saturday programs called Crafty Children and E-Z Science Projects.

For information on these programs, call 310-548-7590. There is a woman's volleyball program and an adult aerobics class. The gym is open from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Other Rec and Parks Issues

The CSPNC has asked the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Citywide Parks Needs Assessment Group to do a study of the breakwater area of Cabrillo Beach with the thought of expanding the amount of beachfront, both inner and outer for use by the residents of the city.

We do have some problems with the clean up of the parks after long weekends, keeping the restroom clean and operating, and parking when we have big events. As a committee we are trying to address these problems and working toward solutions.

We are inviting the general manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks to attend a public forum to address and discuss with us these problems and the goals we have for the future. Alleviating the great shortage of parks and recreational areas in this city is crucial to the well being and health of our children and seniors.



ANGELS GATE PARK MASTER PLAN—Here's the latest version of the proposed master plan for Angels Gate Park. It was approved by the master plan steering committee at the end of January. Additional matters regarding parking and infrastructure remain to be worked out in detail. The Los Angeles Unified School District is planning on building an 810-seat high school on its property adjacent to the park. The city will be negotiating an agreement with the district regarding joint use of facilities.