



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: City of Oakland

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Oakland Celebrates Completion of Lake Merritt Sailboat House Shoreline Project Funded by Measure DD

Oakland, CA – The **Lake Merritt Sailboat House Shoreline** project, funded by voter-approved Measure DD, continues the water quality, wildlife habitat, pedestrian and cycling improvements that have transformed the lake in recent years. The public is invited to experience these latest lakefront improvements during an Open House at the Lake Merritt Boating Center, 568 Bellevue Avenue, on **Saturday, July 25**, from 1 to 3 p.m. During the Open House marking National Park & Recreation Month, the public can enjoy free boat rentals and learn about water safety.

“Lake Merritt is our City’s crown jewel,” said Mayor Libby Schaaf. “Recognizing the need to restore and protect this precious asset, voters approved Measure DD. Those dollars have been wisely invested to refurbish and enhance the Lake for broader and more sustainable public use. These improvements to our lakefront have brought Oaklanders closer together, helping to revitalize our City and create an even more vibrant community.”

While joggers, strollers and cyclists are familiar with the pathway around Lake Merritt, the lake itself is an important site for the Oakland Parks & Recreation (OPR) Lake Merritt Boating Center Programs.

Specific components of the \$7.37 million Sailboat House Shoreline project included:

- Constructing a new plaza for large public and private events that welcomes visitors to the Sailboat House and Lake Merritt Boating Center with fabulous views
- Upgrading the outdoor public restrooms to meet today’s ADA access standards
- Installing a new boat launch ramp and new boat hoists to improve everyone’s boating experience
- Moving the parking lot inland and moving the pathway around the lake closer to the shoreline which also creates access for educational opportunities
- Upgrading ADA access from Bellevue Avenue which provides easier access to the boating center, shoreline and pathway
- Replacing aging infrastructure with a new seawall to improve safety
- Removing the old and failing timber retaining walls and constructing a new marsh habitat
- Installing two bioswales to help protect the lake’s water quality from storm water runoff

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This Measure DD project was designed by Dillingham Associates Landscape Architect and built by contractor, Gordon N. Ball, Inc. The Public Works project team included Lily Soo Hoo, Denise Louie, Henry Choi and others working closely with Parks & Recreation's Sarah Herbelin and Dana Riley.

Project Funding

The Lake Merritt Sailboat House Shoreline project construction began in 2014 and was managed by Oakland Public Works. The project cost \$7.37 million, with \$300,000 coming from the California State Coastal Conservancy and the balance from Measure DD bond funds.

In November 2002, Oakland voters approved Measure DD – the Oakland Trust for Clean Water and Safe Parks – a \$198 million bond measure to fund parks, trails, bridges, a recreation center, historic building renovations, land acquisition and creek restoration.

Measure DD work at Lake Merritt includes a variety of projects to expand parkland, renovate buildings, enhance Children's Fairyland, improve water quality and wildlife habitat, calm traffic and improve pedestrian and bicycle access around the lake and down the channel.

With oversight by the Measure DD Community Coalition, proceeds from the DD bonds fund projects throughout Oakland, including those at Lake Merritt, the nation's largest saltwater tidal lake and the nation's oldest wildlife preserve.

Completed Measure DD Projects

Other Measure DD-funded projects which have already been completed include:

- Numerous water quality projects such as fountain upgrades and underground trash collection devices, and rain gardens to improve water quality in Lake Merritt
- Transformation of the south end of the Lake Merritt with a new amphitheater, pedestrian bridge, parkland and reconfigured roadway as well as the opening of a 750-foot section of the channel
- Renovation of the historic Municipal Boathouse (now home to the Lake Chalet Seafood Bar & Grill, Lake Merritt Rowing Club and Gondola Servizio)
- Renovation of the Lake Merritt Pergola
- The Lakeshore/El Embarcadero project, which calmed street traffic, improved pathways and renovated landscaping along the eastern shore of Lake Merritt
- Restoration of the historic East 18th Street Pier
- The 66th Avenue Gateway project, a restful pocket park on the Oakland Waterfront Trail
- Union Point Park, a new nine-acre waterfront park
- Two new sections of waterfront trail connecting High Street and Fruitvale Avenue
- A new section of waterfront trail connecting Derby Avenue and Lancaster Street
- Renovation of Studio One Art Center

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- Construction of a new indoor pool and fitness center in East Oakland
- Creek restorations on Sausal Creek, Lion and Arroyo Viejo
- Acquisition of over 65 acres of open space to protect watersheds
- Several projects at Children's Fairyland, including a new attraction called Fairy Music Farm, a new children's theater called Aesop's Playhouse, renovation of the puppet theater and improvements to the entryway and Chapel of Peace.

Other Measure DD Projects Underway at Lake Merritt

Three other Measure DD projects at Lake Merritt are currently in the design phase or under construction include:

The **Snow Park/Lakeside project** will reconfigure the intersection of 20th and Harrison streets to provide more parkland along the Lake and at Snow Park, and will renovate the shoreline pathway and landscaping from 19th Street to Grand Avenue.

The **Bellevue Avenue project** will improve parking, provide a safer pedestrian crossing at the Lakeside Park entry, and enhance the entrance to the Gardens at Lake Merritt.

The **Lake Merritt Channel Improvements at 10th Street** will replace restrictive culverts with a clear-span bridge, matching the improvements already completed at 12th Street.

For more details and updates on Measure DD progress, visit www.oaklandnet.com/measuredd. For more information on Oakland Parks & Recreation, visit www.oaklandnet.com/parks.

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