



City of
OAKLAND
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News from: Oakland Public Works

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Recognizing Excellence in Oakland Public Works

Oakland, CA – The City of Oakland Public Works Department took home honors from the American Public Works Association (APWA) Northern California Chapter at its recent annual award ceremony: The Sailboat House Shoreline Improvement Project was awarded “**Project of the Year**” in the Structures Category: \$5-\$25 million. The Chapter represents over 70 agencies from throughout Northern California and serves to bring public recognition of the role of public works throughout our communities.

The **Sailboat House Shoreline Improvement** Project was essential to the ongoing protection of Oakland’s Lake Merritt, which is a salt-water tidal estuary with a direct connection to San Francisco Bay. It is one of the Bay Area’s most heavily used recreation venues for boating and shoreline activities. This Measure DD project addressed several needs, including safety hazards and water quality within Lake Merritt, flooding problems and the fragmented pedestrian pathway circling the Lake.



New plaza for community gathering with the Sailboat House

Project improvements included moving the parking lot further away from the water’s edge, reducing its size and removing portions of the deteriorating shoreline armoring to create publicly accessible natural habitat and educational spaces. The parking lot was re-graded so runoff drains into a new vegetated bio-swale to improve water quality. The boat launch ramp was renovated to improve entry for water vehicles and the beautiful and multi-use plaza was constructed to provide an attractive approach to the Sailboat House and to serve as a community gathering space. New pathways completed a pedestrian link along with ADA upgrades. Site amenities such as benches, renovated restrooms and boat work areas, boat hoists replacement and lighting improvements were all completed in this project to extend the life, and the use, of this highly beneficial public space.

The total cost was \$7,370,000 and was funded by the voter-approved Measure DD Bond (\$7,070,000) and the State Coastal Conservancy (\$300,000). Another essential element that helped build the success was the collaboration among the many partners, including: Measure DD Coalition, Lake Merritt Women’s Rowing Club, Lake Merritt



Newly created shoreline and public access to Lake Merritt

Institute, Lake Merritt Sailing Club, Lake Merritt Joggers and Striders, Oakland Unified School District Environmental Science Academy and Oakland Parks & Recreation Department.

The project team included: Designer/Dillingham Associates Landscape Architects; Contractor/ Gordon N. Ball, Inc.; Oakland Public Works Project Manager: Denise Louie; Oakland Public Works Resident Engineer Henry Choi; and Oakland Public Works Measure DD Program Manager Lesley Estes.



Voter-approved Measure DD is Oakland's 20 year, \$198.25 million bond approved by 85% of voters in 2002 in support of better parks and cleaner water. Funded projects include parks, trails, bridges, a recreation center, historic building renovations, land acquisition and creek restoration. Many projects have been completed, like the Sailboat Restoration and many others are in progress.

Oakland Public Works is the 2nd city in California and the 35th in North America to have achieved the highly regarded APWA Accreditation, which formally recognizes public works organizations for compliance with recommended practices established within the industry.

For more information about the people and projects for Oakland's infrastructure, visit the Oakland Public Works website at oaklandpw.com.

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