

EGRET/Mark Liolios' Input
APIP Phase I/II Interpretive Features
Discussion with Staff/LMA April 2007

In General:

1. Overlooks and seating preferred rather than isolated signs
2. Need uniform Park map/orientation/regulations information to be part of multiple signs
3. Entrance signs at Addison, Bancroft, South Entrance seems right
4. Regulations re. dogs, not feeding ducks, etc. should be included
5. Need sign survey – decide what to remove. Some obsolete
6. RTP signs should be part of later phase

North End:

Highest Priority; set of desired interpretive/sign changes at north end
Seating terraces at lagoon edge of Touchdown Plaza
Strawberry connection deck/sign would provide viewing opportunity
Area under bridge to west another opportunity – prime viewing spot

Westside:

Upland planting sign at north end – low priority b/c too many demonstration gardens to keep up with as it is.
Bird Island overlook interpretive seating area/sign – **High Priority**
New Wetland overlook/interpretive area/sign at top of bulb out – Lower priority

MYB:

MYB/ML Bridged Opening Interpretive seating/signage here – **High Priority**
Terraced seating/deck at northwest corner
Terraced seating/deck at southwest corner
Park orientation sign at southeast corner
EGRET Cabin signage
History of Park/orientation sign

RTP:

Northwest corner of RTP – Overlook/seating/signage – but in later phase
Southeast corner as overlook/seating/signage – but in later stage
Night-Roosting Heron habitat sign at northeast corner

Eastside:

Bayer Dock – End of dock as viewing opportunity for Bird Island/new wetland
Park Orient. Sign by Parking lot/Playground
Park Entrance Sign at Bancroft

1990 Plan/2000 AP Master Plan Update - Excerpts Interpretive/Signage Strategies

- (1) Strategy 1.2: (partial) Establish the southern portion of the Park as a sanctuary for birds and other wildlife.... Restrict full shoreline access south of Potter Street but establish small overlooks around the edges of the lagoons within the sanctuary.
- (2) Strategy 1.4: Establish an interpretive nature trail within the Park which will educate Park users about the natural history and features of the Park.
- (3) Strategy 2.10: Create an informational and interpretive program for the Park to educate and orient visitors. Potential features include:
 - Improved directional signs related to the Park, particularly at Park entrances.
 - Interpretive and informational signage that would highlight the Park's natural resources, history, uses, connections to nearby Parks and trails, public transit information and upcoming events.
 - A set of informational Park kiosks to be potentially located:
 - (1) at the northern end, near the bridge touchdown plaza and Park entrance;
 - (2) near the Channing Street parking area and entrance to the disk golf course (and Playground); and
 - (3) at the southern end of the Park, near the Bird Sanctuary and parking area.The kiosks might include a Park map to orient visitors, interpretive information about the Park's natural resources, current announcements related to use of and environmental conditions in the Park.
 - A brochure for the Park...
 - Historical information to be included on the kiosks and in the brochure include...original Bay shoreline, prehistoric use of the shoreline, development of West Berkeley neighborhoods, WPA projects in general and at the Park.
 - Broadening community awareness of Aquatic Park and its recreational and educational opportunities through programs, events, publicity and signage in surrounding areas.

APIP Signage/Interpretive Element Overview (All Phases):

Based on AP Master Plan, staff and stakeholder input ... Entrance signs (or possibly kiosks) would be established at each entrance (North Entrance at Addison, Middle Entrance at Bancroft and/or Channing, and South Entrance). A uniform Park map and Park orientation, regulation (e.g., dogs on leash, don't feed ducks) and operation (e.g., hours) information would be included at each major entrance and on other signs within the Park. A uniform style and logo would be established for these signs. Interpretive and informational signage would highlight the Park's natural resources (original shoreline, hydrology and habitat restoration activities, how users can help), prehistory, history, uses, connections to nearby Parks and trails, public transit information, etc. Smaller directional signs, bike and walking trail signs, etc. would be established. Interpretive trail signs could be incorporated when the Parks trail system is planned under Phase III. Some wildlife overlooks will be included under Phases I and II, others can be added under Phase III (e.g., at RTP once freeway access is eliminated). Obsolete signs would be removed from the Park. The 2000 Update of the Aquatic Park Master Plan offers guidance toward development of a signage and interpretive features plan.

Proposed Phase I & II Wildlife Overlooks:

Vallier Design Associates (VDA) will identify potential locations and size/type for 2-3 wildlife overlooks with interpretive signage within the Park. These overlooks are in addition to one that would be part of the Bridge Touchdown Project. Overlooks at RTP can be deferred until freeway access is removed at the Park, though VDA can make recommendations for future siting of these as well. Below are staff's recommendations for wildlife overlooks under Phase I and II of APIP:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Content</u>
North End	BTD Project	Incorporate water quality, habitat restoration issues, improvements.
Between MYB/ML	Proposition 50	Same, but with more detail.
View of new wetlands & Bird Island (from east or west side). Bayer Dock?	Proposition 50	Wetland and bird habitat focused. Would not want too near wetlands.

Phase I & II Interpretive Signs:

VDA will also identify locations, size/type, and rough content for 4-6 separate interpretive signs focusing on hydrology and habitat within the Park. All the signs could be designed to also incorporate habitat protection regulations and guidelines and other uniform elements of Park signs (map, etc.). Staff recommends consideration of the following potential sites (listed north to south):

1. Sign at new Strawberry connection re. watershed, improvements (or maybe part of BTP Project?)
2. Sign along shoreline about plants providing food, cover and need to protect birds from disturbance.
3. Sign at five tide tubes (about tidal water, bird use, etc.)
4. Sign/s re. eelgrass, oysters if habitat established (at location)
5. Sign re. freshwater wetlands on Eastside
6. Small sign at created wetland
7. Sign at RTP re. Night Roosting Heron Habitat and RTP

APIP Phase I & II Interpretive Features Design Hydrology and Habitat Restoration

At our APSC [Aquatic Park Sub-Committee] meeting May 10th, we have limited time to cover a hefty Agenda, so I [Heather McMillan] have outlined below some of the background the Subcommittee needs to consider to provide input (priorities, ideas) on what interpretive features should be included under APIP Phases I & II (focus on hydrology and habitat restoration).

Phase I & II Interpretive Features Planning Process:

Completed:

- Check in with staff, EGRET
- Check in with Bridge Touchdown, Addison Entrance project planners
- Identify Planning Context

To Complete:

- Gather ideas from APSC/Stakeholders
- Forward information to Vallier Design Associates (VDA)
- VDA will identify overlook and sign locations, type, and size; identify rough content
- Bridge, Addison, APIP projects will jointly identify sign styles, colors, logos, some content

Planning Context :

Review APMP 2000 Update on Interpretive Features	See attached (pg. 3)
Consider EGRET/Mark Liolios input	See attached (pg. 4)
Consider Bridge Touchdown Plaza Project	See below
Consider Addison Entrance Project	See below

Bridge Touchdown Plaza Project:

Some desired interpretive signage and a lagoon overlook can be covered by the Bridge Touchdown Plaza project. DC&E is the design consultant, carrying on earlier work by Wolfe-Mason (now part of DC&E). DC&E is currently meeting with stakeholders. A Public Workshop to review the originally approved plan, discuss new conditions, consider stakeholder input and discuss how to modify design will be held May 17th at North Berkeley Senior Center (7-9 p.m.). Likely elements include plaza, bike trail and parking, seating, boardwalk/overlook along edge connecting Addison entrance with plaza, signage to include bike and Park maps, Park info (including hydrology and habitat restoration), Bike Bridge history, etc.

Addison Entrance (Aquatic Park Connection) Project:

The Berkeley Redevelopment Agency (BRA) and the West Berkeley Project Area Committee (PAC) have developed a series of streetscape improvements to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle access from the Fourth Street Shopping District and the Berkeley Rail Station to the Bike Bridge at the north end of Aquatic Park. Improvements near the Park include an entry sign for Aquatic Park that is to be installed on Addison Street at Second Street and streetscape improvements along the north side of Addison in the block leading up to the Park (a widened sidewalk with benches, planters and lighting, a bike lane, etc.). The foot of Addison, where the bike path will cross over to the Touchdown Plaza, requires close coordination with the Bridge Touchdown designers in terms of circulation, pavement treatments, Park signage, etc.