

East Bay Regional Park District

Acceptance of Grant Funding for the South Bailey Road Public Access Project at Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50

Katy Hornbeck, Grants Manager
Grants Department - Finance & Management Services
Board of Directors Meeting on November 15, 2022



Today's presentation topics:

- **Project Location**
- **Funding Request**
- **Project Overview: goals and timeline**
- **Staff Recommendation**

Project Location



Port Chicago Naval Magazine
National Memorial



Funding Request

TIMOTHY S. GRAYSON
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

420 VIRGINIA STREET, SUITE 1C
VALLEJO, CA 94580
(707) 642-0314
FAX (707) 642-0111



February 22, 2022

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
California State Assembly
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: 2022-23 Budget Request for Thurgood Marshall Regional Park Access Point

Dear Chairman Ting:

I am writing to respectfully request your consideration of a state allocation of \$3 million in the 2022-23 budget to provide funding to the East Bay Regional Park District for creating the first public access site at Thurgood Marshall Regional Park –Home of the Port Chicago 50.

Thurgood Marshall Regional Park is located at the site of the former Concord Naval Weapons Station. After 20 years of community support and advocacy, in 2019 the Navy formally granted over 2,600 acres of land to the Park District. The Park District subsequently renamed the area to honor former U.S. Supreme Court Justice and renowned civil rights advocate Thurgood Marshall, and the Black sailors, known as the Port Chicago 50, that he defended in court in a case that inspired the desegregation of the U.S. Navy. Currently the land has no public access option.

The requested \$3 million will create the first public access point to the Thurgood Marshall Regional Park, integrating the area's beautiful golden hills, mature oak trees, and water views with the decades-old bunkers that represent the area's past as part of the former Concord Naval Weapons Station. The park will provide outdoor recreation activities including hiking and biking, as well as visitor amenities such as ADA-compliant all-gender restrooms, bike racks, and educational panels that highlight the park's important history. State funding will allow the park to be opened in 2023, honoring a groundbreaking Supreme Court Justice and the 50 Port Chicago sailors that helped shape our nation's history.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact myself or my staff, Madison Vander Klay (madison.vanderklay@asm.ca.gov) if there are any questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Timothy S. Grayson

Project Overview - Goals

1. **STAGING AREA:** primary staging area will accommodate autos, buses and equestrian trailers, restrooms, bicycle parking, drinking fountains (potable water), trash and recycling receptacles, dog courtesy stations, benches, and shade structures or shade trees.
2. **PICNIC:** Provide picnic areas with and without parking, near magazines.
3. **INTERPRETIVE ELEMENTS:** Implement rail and grassland ecology interpretation elements. One magazine will be identified for ADA access renovations so that the public may access its loading dock and associated exhibits.
4. **TRAILS:** Convert some existing roadways and rail lines to create trail loops.
**Removed rail lines are provide restored habitat corridors for special status species.
This restoration serves as mitigation for City of Concord's development.*

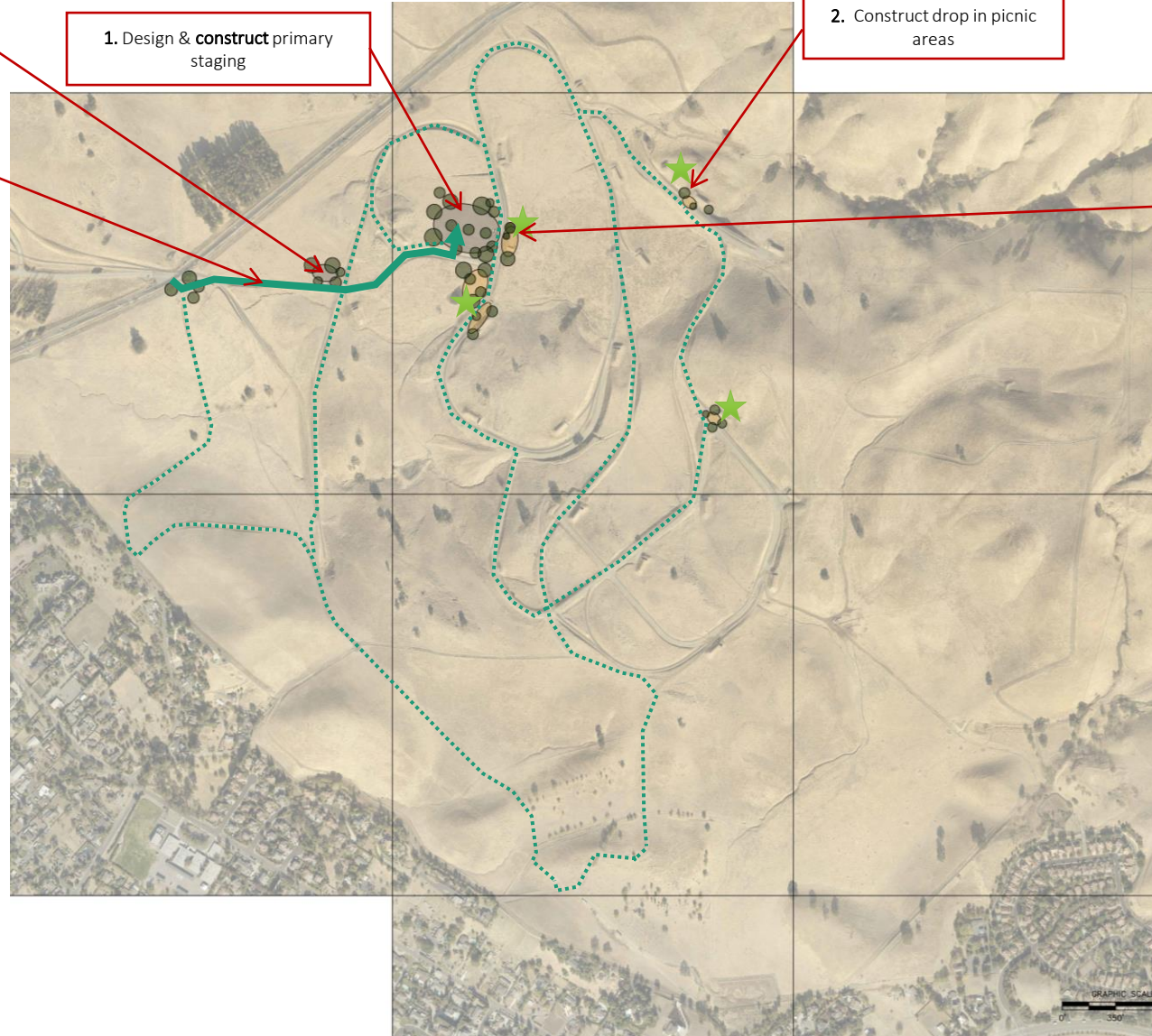
1. Design secondary Staging

1. Design & **construct** primary staging

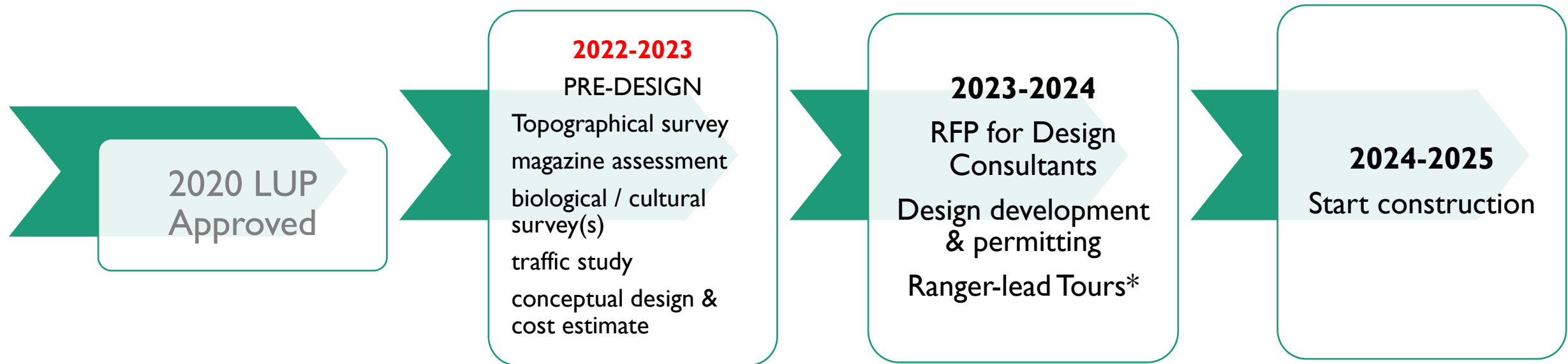
2. Construct drop in picnic areas

4. Roads & Trails

3. Interpretive Elements



Project Overview - Timeline



*Link to register for Christmas Bird Count!

<https://www.ebparks.org/parks/thurgood-marshall>

Staff Recommendation:

Authorization Approving Application for Specified Grant Funds from the Budget Act of 2022, item 3790-101-0001 as Amended by AB 179, Section 19.56 Item #(9)(b)(1)(AL) \$3,000,000 for the East Bay Regional Park District for the Creation of the First Public Thurgood Marshall Regional Park Access Point at Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50



Thank you!



Questions?

