

A Concept for Veterans Park on Navy Pier

FAQ

Why a Veterans Park?

San Diegans deserve greater access to their waterfront. This proposal would create an accessible park on Navy Pier that would represent San Diego's unique heritage, ongoing support of the military, and would be emblematic of the city's standing as the birthplace of naval aviation.

What would comprise the park?

Natural and artificial landscaping, family recreation areas, and a performing arts and community event venue. This could become the permanent annual location for the San Diego Symphony's Summer Pops (which once performed on Navy Pier). There also would be public restrooms. The entire second-deck park would be universally accessible.

How tall would the second-deck park be?

The landscaped park is designed to subtly transition with a gentle slope from Harbor Drive towards the bay and then back down again. The crest of the landscaped park will reach a maximum height of 20 feet. It will be lower than Midway's flight deck.

Who would own the park? What about unsavory elements?

This would be another park under Port of San Diego jurisdiction, similar to the north and south Embarcadero parks, Spanish Landing, and others. The Port would have the same public safety responsibilities as it does in other tideland parks.

How would parking be managed on the lower deck?

Today the Port operates the paid parking program on Navy Pier, through a contract with ACE Parking. Paid parking would presumably remain in place on the lower deck.

How many parking spaces?

The lower deck would accommodate approximately 500 parking spaces, more than what exists on the pier now. There would be a net increase of 100+ parking spaces at a time when the North Embarcadero is losing critically needed parking.

Is Navy Pier capable of supporting a second deck?

While engineering studies are ongoing, detailed analysis to date by independent experts indicates that with some reinforcement the pier's infrastructure will be adequate. Navy Pier underwent a significant strengthening project about four years ago.

What about the iconic architectural element at the end of the pier?

Entrepreneur Malin Burnham, San Diego architect Hal Sadler and San Diego sculptor Malcolm Leland have worked for more than 20 years on an iconic architectural element concept for San Diego. The result is a vision calling for a pair of dramatic sails at the head of Navy Pier, representing the unique community fabric of San Diego. A signature architectural element that could be seen from many points in San Diego Bay and become the defining image of San Diego's downtown skyline. The sails would become internationally recognizable as the defining image of San Diego.

What is the public review/approval process?

It is anticipated this project will be added to the Port District's Port Master Plan Amendment (PMPA) process now under way. Further, this project would be included in the Environmental Impact Review that will issue as a result of the PMPA process. In that way the public will have several opportunities for comment as part of the master plan amendment, input, and evaluation process. The USS Midway Museum also will host three public outreach sessions (Nov. 29, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 6, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 10, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.) at the Port for additional input.

How will this impact the USS Midway Museum?

Navy Pier parking is critical to the continued operation and community contributions made by the USS Midway Museum, the most-visited floating naval ship museum in America. The proposed double-deck design will enable the USS Midway Museum to continue as San Diego's top-rated visitor destination and major San Diego education community resource. Summer evening events may curtail some of the private events now held on Midway, but the museum is willing to forego those events in light of the overall contribution that Veterans Park will generate for all of San Diego.

How did this vision get developed?

The USS Midway Museum's lease requires the museum to develop a park on Navy Pier and to help provide long term downtown parking solutions. The museum has studied the Port's feasibility studies of Navy Pier and participated in the recently completed Citizens Advisory Committee input process.

For many years community leaders Malin Burnham and Hal Sadler have been working on an iconic architectural element concept that would become the signature image for San Diego: a tall twin-sail sculpture visible from throughout San Diego Bay as the centerpiece downtown skyline. Simultaneously the San Diego Symphony had sought a permanent home for the Summer Pops. All three initiatives came together to become Veterans Park on Navy Pier.

Who is going to pay for this?

To be sure, a public/private/philanthropic partnership will be necessary to achieve this vision. Entrepreneur and philanthropist Denny Sanford has agreed in principle to make a gift of \$35

million to underwrite the iconic architectural element. Contact has been made with other potential donors and the USS Midway Museum stands ready to financially participate as well.