



Summary of Key Themes : All Focus Group Stakeholder Meetings to date

<i>March 2016</i>	<i>Public Workshop: Project Identification and Prioritization</i>
<i>July 2016</i>	<i>Public Workshop: Open Spaces and Parks</i>
<i>August – October 2016</i>	<i>Feedback Sessions at neighborhood association meetings</i>
<i>October – January 2017</i>	<i>Focus Group Stakeholder Meetings</i>

Uses and Users

- Esprit Park is a popular gathering place for people with dogs. Though the Park is officially an on-leash Park facility, it is used informally as an off-leash facility by many dog owners. Dog use peaks in the early morning (before working hours) and evening hours (after work hours).
- Esprit Park is not always regarded as a viable location for children’s play by many local parents with young children and organizations serving young children (such as the preschool and kindergartens in the neighborhood). There are concerns about potentially dangerous children/dog interactions such as biting, collisions, etc. as they run and play in the meadows; sanitation in grassy areas where dogs and children mix. School(s) bring children to the Park during late morning through early afternoon – before and after the peak dog user hours.
- ‘Passive’ uses such as lunching, picnicking, reading, and people-watching are less-frequent uses; though most stakeholders expressed desire to provide more facilities for these types of uses.

Design Principles - The ‘design principles’ – established at the Park’s first creation by Doug and Susie Tompkins of the Esprit Corporation, with the Landscape Architect Drew Detsch – should be honored and retained. Stakeholders have described these principles as:

- Creating a feeling of ‘respite’ and ‘refuge’ buffered from the urban environment with a ‘naturalistic’ planting scheme evoking a ‘forest and meadow’ in the City
- Curvilinear, organic design vocabulary evoking the picturesque English school of garden design
- Minimal hardscape features; emphasizing the use of trees and plantings to establish edges

Maintenance – Though the City conducts fairly frequent maintenance at the site, stakeholders expressed a desire for:

- Investment in higher-quality maintenance regime
- Resolution of drainage issues that result in sodden grass and impassable pathways
- Development of a succession planting plan for the urban forest and understory vegetation, selecting species that are well-adapted to the local environment. Mature trees are reaching the end of their life cycles, newly planted trees are not surviving.

Circulation – The Park was originally designed as an enclosed place with a single controlled entrance, a configuration which is ill-suited to access and circulation needs of the present day.

- Provide entrances at all four corners of the Park
- Establish clearer and easier to navigate paths on the 19th Street and 20th Street edges of the Park
- Establish marked crosswalks at all four corners of the Park

Safety – Future park design should balance personal safety with the original ‘design principles’ of the park.

- Design perimeter plantings to allow for clear sightlines, but also create a sense of enclosure or buffer from the surrounding urban environment
- Create Consider creating edges using plantings and other features to discourage dogs or children from running out into the street.
- Explore appropriate nighttime lighting solutions for the park.



Friends of Esprit Park (10/12/2016, 7:00 – 8:00 pm)

ATTENDEES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Glober. Frank and Rhonda Kingman• Robin Abad, SeungYen Hong (SF Planning), Brian Stokle, Steve Cismowski (Recreation and Parks), David Fletcher, Miao (Fletcher Studio)
KEY THEMES
Uses and Users <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Park is not designed to accommodate a broad range of different active uses. Different uses of the park sometimes are not compatible with each other.• The impact of the use is increasing. The current use of the park is too intense and has exceeded the maximum the park can take.• Only a few segments of the population are currently using the park. Kids are invisible. The Friends of Esprit Park reps don't use the park very often now. They used to go there for lunch and sitting in the grass.
Design Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The initial design of the park was intended to provide a green mountain meadow or oasis in an urban neighborhood. Preserve the original vision.• Initial design of the park included understory buffer plantings that were cleared away. Future design should balance original design principles with safety needs of a public park.• Future design should minimize hardscape areas, such as plazas.
Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trees are dying. Need better watering and maintenance. Plant selection should take into account future maintenance.• Historically, healthy trees and edge understory plantings were cut down because of poor maintenance. Invest in higher quality / skilled maintenance.
Circulation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re-envision 19th Street as a 'green boulevard' connecting the Arts Plaza, Esprit Park, and Crane Cove Park
OTHER NOTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide clear signage program at all future entry points (corners) to the park.• Provide a clear blueprint of this planning effort• Provide a report for where Eastern Neighborhood Impact Fees are going. What projects are generating revenue? How much has been generated?
NOTES FROM DAVID GLOBER
Steve Cismowski, Area Manager for Rec and Park: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He has lobbied for years for higher levels of maintenance at parks, especially locations such as Esprit Park. He would like to think that some of what's happening now with the Central Waterfront Plan, and attempts by Robin Abad and David Fletcher, to meet with stakeholders in the community, and, to coordinate activities and funding across relevant government agencies, may trace back to his own lobbying over time.• Referred to Robin Abad as a kind of "referee" in coordinating agencies and community.• Sympathetic to Friends of Esprit Park showing photos of tall - colorful - beautiful Rhododendrons that got cut down by an RPD employee. Steve said this happened during the first year after the City took over Esprit Park. He pointed out that he is a manager but not a supervisor - he does not have



the power to fire any one if they do something like that. And that he has been involved in several attempts to restore understory since that occurred. He estimates 10% of the understory efforts have been able to succeed - due to dogs urination - Esprit Park has 71 dog visits per day, much higher than at athletic fields, etc. throughout the City - and much higher than when Esprit Park got started - even more so, understory restoration attempts have been impacted by trampling by dogs and people.

- Esprit Park size is 1.83 acres. Compared, for example, to Duboce Park size 4.31 acres.
- RPD has experienced a steady decrease in resources, including a steady decline in the number of personnel.
- This being said - Steve sees a definite "glimmer of hope" with the arrival of the GBD.
- Rocks recently placed by RPD at Esprit Park to capture rain and storm water are directly over "native soil" i.e. the gritty grey serpentine material. No other soil was added between rocks and the serpentine, and no attempts were made to increase drainage. Hopefully water will seep down into the fissures of the serpentine - and if indeed it truly rains, then we shall see.

Rhonda and Frank Kingman, Friends of Esprit Park:

- Esprit Park was designed to replicate the experience of being in a mountain meadow.
- When the park began, Rhonda and Frank would visit, bring a newspaper, sit at a bench, or enjoy sitting down in the grass in the middle of the park, which they would not dare do now.
- There were metal sculptures and a grass tennis court.
- All the things that "stakeholders" wish to do now seem like more than can possibly "fit" into the small space of Esprit Park.
- Frank and Rhonda are in their retirement years and ready to move on, and hope that a new Friends of Esprit Park may soon take their places.
- In spite of dog activities now dominating park use, folks with dogs now are to be given credit for organizing dog and people activities in particular on Friday evenings - that's a community building approach and that's a good thing.

Robin Abad and David Fletcher:

- Are meeting with various stakeholders who want many things to happen at Esprit Park, but intend to emphasize the special qualities of Esprit Park and not have it be cultivated or managed like other parks that are now existing and that are coming into the neighborhood over the next 5 years. Do wish to maintain the sense of small, intimate, private space, surrounded by trees. Existing trees are hurting and this may mean new trees, but intent is to take better care of them than has been given to trees so far.
- Drawing that has been taken to various groups is the result of input from various stakeholders so far. It is meant to be a synthesis, a placeholder, a working format, but not a final design. It is understood that design may be able to maintain a sense of the original vision of Esprit Park, while also accommodating some, not all, of current usage requests.
- Robin now lives in Dogpatch but for 20 years lived near Duboce Park. The separate uses were demarcated by physical suggestions, not heavy handed signage, and it seems to have worked to clarify space usage at Duboce Park with "a simple gesture such as post and chain". The dogs at Duboce have their space, children and families theirs, etc. Though it is understood that Duboce Park is 2-1/3 times larger than Esprit Park. And that if Esprit Park were that size, it would lose some of the intimacy and sense of shelter from the noise of the City it currently offers.
- David visits Esprit Park often, on his way from his home up on Potrero Hill down to his studio in Dogpatch.
- David also has two sons, and says that the idea for play space at Esprit Park is that it will be



"universal" and leave room for imagination. He contrasted this to a pre-constructed, highly programmed play space on its way on a ship from Germany to be placed in the renovation currently under way at South Park. David and Frank talked about how it was in the earlier days of Esprit Park - there could be, for example, a boulder, and some one could read on top of it, or recite poetry, or kids could run around it and imagine it to be a fort, etc.

- David pointed out to Frank that there will be some programming at Esprit Park moving forward, with the understanding that some activation increases the likelihood of people making commitments to the Park, volunteering their time, and helping with fundraising.

David Globber:

- Can be helpful for Planning Department to actually play a planning role in helping with community input, design that solves multiple use challenges and maintains Esprit Park experiential and design values,
- Transparency important on who's doing what in terms of government agencies and activities and the individuals involved, and regarding what Robin has now identified as multiple sources of funding - capital expenditures and otherwise, as Robin attempts to move the vague general suggestions of the Central Waterfront Plan into newly funded design for Esprit Park.
- Follow-through is clearly also of the essence; be sure that in addition to emphasizing great design and funding for any renovations or improvements, to include in planning and funding ... very sufficient "money for maintenance".
- Follow-Up:
- Stakeholder meetings will continue. For example, just prior to the meeting described above, and also in the Tivoli Room, the Planning and Rec and Park folks met with a group called Toes and Paws for Green Space (two dogs were in attendance at that meeting).
- Upcoming meeting with the GBD BOD.
- The original designer of Esprit Park, Drew (Andrew) Detsch called for a meeting of "working professionals" only and they stated an intention to meet with him at his professional design studio/office.



Dogpatch – Northwest Potrero Hill Green Benefit District (10/27/2016, 5:00 – 6:30 pm)

ATTENDEES

- Janet Carpinelli, Julie Christensen, Jean Bogiages, Robert Broucaret, Michelle Davis, Kat Sawyer, Jim Naylor
- Robin Abad, SeungYen Hong (SF Planning), Brian Stokle, (Recreation and Parks), David Fletcher, Michelle Zucker (Fletcher Studio)

KEY THEMES

Uses and Users

- People generally like the look and feel of the park and are not looking for major changes to layout or programming.
- Esprit cannot support all recreation needs for the area. Other parks are needed, especially with the increase in population – active recreation, children’s play areas, etc.
- Off-leash dog exercise is obviously a major activity in the park. It has been difficult to accommodate that underserved need and accommodate other users and activities in the park. This is the key friction point regarding programming. Dog exercise should be programmed either at Esprit or nearby.

Design Principles

- Residents enjoy the woody, bucolic feel of the park and want to retain its lush planting.
- Perception of edge vs. actual, built, physical edge is important – barriers can include raised planters, low walls, etc. in addition to fences. Fence does not need to be 360, could implement a half or $\frac{3}{4}$ fence supplemented by gabion walls and tall planting, etc.
- Creating low seat walls to surround elevated planted “islands” at the north and south ends could provide more soil for plants to thrive (over the serpentine base), help control irrigation and water retention, increase casual seating in an integrated way and reduce dog traffic around more fine-scale plantings.
- A cohesive planting plan should be a priority, especially long term plans for gradually replacing dying trees and maintaining understory plantings.
- Create area kids can get lost in
- Natural boulders, logs, etc. could be a nice visual and recreational value.

Maintenance

- Maintenance of the park has lessened since it moved from private care (and budgets).
- Irrigation issues were not resolved in the last (expensive!) renovation.

Circulation

- All the park corners need to be addressed. There is no proper NE entrance. The NW entrance is not ADA accessible. Both will get more use as new residences and businesses come on online.
- There are no sidewalks on north or south side of park and the paths within the park are not accessible. More pedestrian traffic around the park is assured with current development. ADA-compliant paths of travel are emphasized as the new apartments being built will better accommodate those with impaired mobility and further increase that need. The addition of a sidewalk on the north side of the park at 19th should be considered, especially to reinforce 19th as a major east-west pedestrian route between the Dogpatch Arts Plaza and Crane Cove and to improve pedestrian safety near the park.
- The dual circulation paths of exterior sidewalks and interior paths should be evaluated. People seem to like having both on the west side. The east side needs attention. The north and south sides have no sidewalks.



- Clear access to picnic area and circulation throughout park should be maintained.

Safety

- The desire for lush planting needs to be balanced by safety concerns. Sight lines are not clear with understory brush.
- Improving lighting inside and around the park should be a top priority.

Site Furnishings and Fixtures

- More picnic tables or similar accommodations are needed
- Accommodations for sitting, eating, reading, etc. should be integrated. Not all should look like “furniture”
- Park needs a non-dog area but not necessarily a formalized kids’ playground which should be accommodated elsewhere.
- If any active sports are acknowledged, an informal soccer goal has been suggested.



Homeowners Associations (10/27/2016, 6 pm)

ATTENDEES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Randy Ide (701 Minnesota), Jaqueline Hilger-Rolfe (Esprit Park Homes)• Robin Abad, SeungYen Hong (SF Planning), Brian Stokle (Recreation and Parks), David Fletcher, Michelle Zucker (Fletcher Studio)
KEY THEMES
Uses and Users <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People use the perimeter path and par course fixtures to exercise, jog, etc. A lot of people are walking around the park for exercise daily. Future design should retain the par course.• Lots of millennials come to the park for passive and active recreation• Notice groups occupying half the park for events; possibly not ‘neighborhood people.’ Is there a reservation system? Need better communication about when these events will take place• Need a way to control off-leash dogs. Possible solutions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ designate official area for them to run around. Large dog or active dog area vs. small dog or inactive dog area? Support artificial turf, if its irrigated○ try again to institute a schedule that changes throughout the day to capitalize on existing uses• Need to manage off-leash and liability of dog-owners• Sanitary concerns about lying in the grass without a designated area for dogs• Introduce more doggie bag dispensers? Hand sanitizer dispensers?
Design Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generally people do not support the idea of a physical fence of any kind. Another edge treatment could encourage separation and be visibly appealing, such as: a natural barrier, bushes, or hedges. Gabion or rock walls.• Currently there is a lack of seating• Granite planks for the plaza (vs concrete surface or decomposed granite surface)
Circulation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retain a perimeter path• Existing tripping hazard with maintenance and uneven path around the park. Future paths should be stone or other hard-wearing surface; not packed dirt or decomposed granite. Open to rubberized surface for running and recreation. A natural-looking material is preferred.• Typically do not use north entrance, cut in the middle of the park, more convenient, lots of people do the same• Provide entrances at all four corners of the Park. Consider creating entry points along both Indiana and Minnesota edges (‘midblock entrances’)
Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns from residents about safety in regards to homeless• Natural barrier would be nice, incorporate planting less than 4’ tall for visibility, consider gabion walls• Park design should be open and encourage safety. Existing large perimeter bushes provide hiding and sleeping places. Consider perimeter plantings of different scale that still provide a buffer from the street but minimize opportunities for hiding.• Better lighting is needed. Lighting is very ‘pockety’ at the moment



Toes and Paws for Green Space (10/12/2016, 6 - 7 pm)

ATTENDEES

- Robin Evans, Alison Teoh, Diana Yee, Gaynor Strachan Chun, Susan Fitch , Sasha Basso, Nicky Jacobson, Irma Lewis
- Robin Abad, SeungYen Hong (SF Planning), Brian Stokle, Steve Cismowski (Recreation and Parks), David Fletcher, Miao Fangzhou (Fletcher Studio)

KEY THEMES

Uses and Users

- The park is used as a town hall / town square gathering place. People meet and socialize there.
- Take a more holistic approach to improving parks in the Dogpatch neighborhood and understanding the community's needs. Can't satisfy everyone's needs in one park, so we need to be specific on targeted uses.
- By improving access to and safety in the surrounding parks to provide more options for dog owners (e.g. Mariposa, Progress Park, and Mission Bay), some pressure may be removed from Esprit Park.
- Important to let parents know of the multiple children play areas already in place and those in the pipeline - 22nd St., Mariposa Park, 4th St., etc.
- Acknowledge there is NO area in Dogpatch for taxpayer active recreation with off leash dogs. Toes and Paws draws a clear distinction between dog runs and dog activity areas, which allows for a breadth of active recreation options.
- People-friendly Park: The park is currently used by multiple activities - socializing, exercising, playing, dining, etc. The arrangement of existing trees divides the park into 2-3 activity areas, and recommend the using the dog run area on SF Planning/Fletcher Studio's current schematic be designated as dogs free, for people of all ages who want to enjoy the park without close contact with any dogs.
- Dog play area: : Studies have shown the ideal open space for socialization and active recreation for people and pets is at least 1 acre in size. And according to the Toes and Paws survey results, grass and openness are two major criteria for choosing a park to go to for dog play. Given Esprit is 1.84 acres inclusive of the landscaped perimeter and a walking path, Toes and Paws would like the south side of the meadow designated and programed as a legal off-leash dog activity/active recreation area
- Duboce Park as a good example of "everyone getting along" and for the way the dog play and non-dog play areas were designated. However, Duboce is larger than Esprit and therefore more conducive to area designations.
- Fencing: some want to see fences to prevent dogs from running to the street; others view the lack of fencing as a natural deterrent to inattentive owners/walkers, and dogs who are not under voice control.
- Rec and Park can work around the daily schedules of the many groups of heavy park users - students, dog owners, etc.
- Acknowledge that multiple groups currently share space in an organic fashion without any specific designations. There's a concern that over programming (like designated times, and/or a corner for every activity) will run counter to the community open green space feel that makes Esprit special.
- Dog owners use the park everyday regardless of weather and daylight. Other groups tend to be 'sunny day' users..

Safety

- Security is a major concern. Each time community members who socialize with each other and



their pets are deterred from using Esprit, the park becomes a magnet for tents and sleeping bags. In addition, there has been an increase in break ins and mugging in the neighborhood. Without dog owners and their pets enjoying Esprit, it feels unsafe to walk along the park perimeter, even if accompanied by a pet dog.

Design Principles

- Esprit Park is the only large green space in the neighborhood.
- Landscaped areas are under-utilized and a lot of space could be reconfigured.
- Toes and Paws emphasized the need for an Esprit get well plan. It needs a new irrigation and drainage systems, dead trees removed, new ground cover and drought resistant plants.

Circulation

- Retain the perimeter path/ look into a natural deterrent (raised edging around the play area?) to a few off leash dogs deciding to join joggers.

OTHER NOTES

• Toes and Paws conducted an online Esprit Park user survey in preparation for the focus group. Sent out to 250 users of Esprit (the group posted signs in Esprit with an open invitation to take the survey to ensure awareness), 75 responded within 4 days. The input from Toes and Paws represents the feedback from those respondents. Toes and Paws existing user **survey highlights:**

- The majority visited the park for over 30 minutes.
- The majority visited the park more than once a day.
- Of the choices of parks listed, respondents most visit Esprit, Potrero Square, and Mckinley Square.
- 42% of dog owners have dogs 20-50 lbs in size; about 34% have dogs 50+ lbs in size.
- 75% of the respondents are home owners.
- Reasons why they choose the park: proximity to home and work, and security
- Desired features: water fountains, lighting, waste bag dispensers.

Other

- Can eastern waterfront open spaces potentially have another dog park?



Local Schools (10/18/2016, 6:00 – 7:30 pm)

ATTENDED

- Annette Bauer, Head of School, Alt School
- Kieran Lal, Parent, La Scuola
- Monica Leicht, President and Executive Director, Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School
- Mimi Kawakami Kloster, Head of School, Potrero Kids Preschool at Daniel Webster (comments submitted in writing)
- Robin Abad, SeungYen Hong (SF Planning), Brian Stokle, (Recreation and Parks), David Fletcher, Miao (Fletcher Studio)

KEY THEMES

Uses and Users

- Local school kids use the park almost every day sometime between 10 am and 2 pm.
- AltSchool relies on nearby open spaces for student play and learning about urban nature. On a daily basis, it's typical for about t3 student groups of about 20 children per group to go to Esprit Park or other nearby parks and library. There is typically one adult to about every six children. AltSchool tries to have structured games at the park 2 days a week.
- At Esprit, the location of where kids play is usually limited to one side of the park – trees are the boundary. Adults accompanying the children make the choice about which side to use depending on where sprinklers are running, where more dogs are playing at the time, etc. Children tend to prefer the northern half.
- During unstructured outdoor time, kids like to play in the 'wooded areas' near the corners of Minnesota and 20th or Minnesota and 19th. Underbrush is a good source for kids play, but sometimes it induces homeless encampment. Sometimes kids spend time at the bench area and watch birds.
- Some schools stopped going to the park because of the following issues 1) danger of dogs 2) dog feces 3) no crosswalk to safely cross Tennessee and Minnesota.
- School teachers negotiate the situation all the time, such as monitoring where dogs are. Overarching dog issue- children and dogs running around in the same space can pose danger to both children and dogs.
- Consider creating some type of flexible boundary between kid and dog play areas; such as movable posts. Maybe let teachers place cones to set the boundary for kids during the play time (temporary enforcement measure).
- Consider introducing a playscape at Esprit Park for children ages 2-5 years old and older to play safely

Design Principles

- Keep the 'wildness' of Esprit Park. The park provides great opportunities for kids to connect to nature and build stewardship. Kids love observing birds' nests
- This part of city doesn't have natural large parks like Golden Gate Park; Esprit is the only one
- Major concern is that the park has no fence at all – kids can walk to the street anytime. The park needs some boundary enforcement edges to discourage kids from running into the street.
- Consider adding more seating / picnic table type facilities

Circulation

- Since Esprit Park is approached by walking, adequate sidewalks, marked crosswalks, and stop signs are important safety features for the neighborhood.
- Schools would like entry points into the park that can be easily monitored / surveyed



<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The corner at Minnesota and 19th does not have a clear and safe entry into the park. <p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitoring kids: Uncertainty is an issue.• Improve picnic benches to accommodate all users – dog, lunch people, children
<p>OTHER NOTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools’ and parents’ priorities for Esprit Park are: Safety > Cleanliness > Safe mobility > Sense of fairness about use.• How can the City engage parents and children in the planning process?• How much time do kids spend on lawn v. underbrush?• Consider introducing some type of storage facility for use by schools. There is a large shack used by RPD. Could schools have access to the shack or some storage facility so teachers can store play equipment, etc?
<p>NOTES FROM MIMI KAWAKAMI KLOSTER (PKDW)</p> <p>How does your school use the park (and any other parks in the neighborhood)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our students used to go to Esprit Park at least once a week for free play. However, we ran into many issues and have made the decision to go to other neighborhood parks. The issues we faced were 1) the immediate danger of dogs frequently mingling with the children 2) there were dog feces all over the park which made it frustrating for the kids to run around freely 3) no crosswalk to safely cross Tennessee Street and Minnesota Street <p>Any comments, concerns, or thoughts on Esprit Park in its current usage and design?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• See comments above <p>Ideas for the parks short term and long term future?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We'd love to have a separate enclosed space at Esprit Park for the children to play safely and with equipment that is appropriate for children ages 2-5 years old and older. Also, would love to have conversations around the safety of crosswalks around the area for families/children to access the park safely. <p>Suggestions on how to improve the park space in general and for your schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• See comments above.



Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School PTA (1/9/2017, 7:00 – 8:00 pm)

ATTENDEES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robin Abad and SeungYen Hong (SF Planning), Brian Stokle (Recreation and Parks Department)• Monica Leicht, President and Executive Director, Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School• 10 parents
KEY THEMES
Uses and Users <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There should be ample space for an off-leash dog area.• Off-leash dog area should be in the south meadow, other in north meadow.• Provide dog bag dispenser and facilities / receptacles for disposing of used bags.• Some parents have had bad experiences with their children at the park, as a result they do not take their kids there because it is unsafe. Parents have experienced having their kids knocked over.• Parents also choose not to take children to the park due to residue of dog excrement in the grass.• Parents would appreciate a children’s play area and/or playscape in Esprit Park.• RPD should consider installing Park bathrooms.• Esprit Park provides great opportunities to kids to experience wildlife. Design Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The children’s play area should be a ‘wildscape playground’ that blends into the forested feel of the park. Example of non-traditional playscape: Wooden structure in front of UCSF hospital – holes in the deck that kids can climb up on.• Any fences or barriers should be low, less visible. Example: ‘Greenscaped’ fences.• Consider moving the tree plantings to equally divide the meadows• Explore serpentine-friendly plants for the planting palette design.• Use native trees and shrubs. A native palette has more potential for education and to demonstrate biodiversity.• Resolve issues with drainage and mud. Circulation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Since Esprit Park is approached by walking, adequate sidewalks, marked crosswalks, and stop signs are important safety features for the neighborhood. Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There should be a physical barrier between dog play area and other areas.• The children’s play area should be enclosed. A low fence or barrier is easy to see over, in order to see other parts of the park from inside an enclosed children’s play area, or vice versa. Enclosure around children’s play area at McKinley is a good example. Parents were also worried about adults without kids entering into the enclosed children’s play area.
OTHER NOTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One area in the park could be a “blend” zone for both kids and dogs.• The exercise equipment is not safe, and also not used very often. One parent thought the equipment should be removed.• Further improve Muni Woods Yard park. Play facilities are inadequate. Spaces on east and west sides of play area are wasted and could be put to better use, such as an expanded play area.• Safe access to the waterfront and wayfinding signage is needed.• Coordinate with Black Rock/Burning Man groups who frequently use Esprit Park for their events.



Developers

ATTENDEES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Yarne (build inc, 650 Indiana) on 10/12 at 5:30 – 6:00 pm• John Ramsbacher (Oryx, 950 Tennessee) on 10/18 at 5:00 – 5:45 pm• Joe Kirchoff (Avalon bay, 800 Indiana) on 10/27 at 1:00 – 1:30 pm
KEY THEMES
Uses and Users: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog owners tend to move / adjust how much space they are taking up when other groups are trying to use the park• Not everyone is comfortable with dogs. Not everyone is comfortable with large dogs.• Northern meadow may be good for dogs• 6:30 – 8:00 AM and 4:30 – 7:00 PM are high-use time for dog owners• Use aesthetically pleasing strategies to define an off-leash dog area (example: A fence; Duboce Park post-and-chain fences).• For potential future dog run area, prefer grass to gravel; or consider using synthetic turf• Bring kids to park. Support the idea of a kids play area with natural elements for ‘universal play.’ The kids play area needs to be separated from a dog play area. A secure space for kids and parents in the park would be good
Design Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preserve the soft idiosyncrasy of the park (‘wooded vale, forest, natural’). Do not over program it; keep it as a nice natural enclosed park.• Improve the park edges and provide better signage and legibility at entry thresholds.• The park needs a continuous hardscaped pedestrian path along its edge. People want to stroll along the park edges through a grove of trees.• Reduce the amount of hardscape surfaces. Consider nearby open spaces like Dogpatch Arts Plaza which reduce the need for hardscapes within Esprit Park
Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lawn is in bad shape due to dog waste and poor drainage. Serpentine soils do not drain well – one idea is raising the park to build a better drainage system up on existing subsoils
Circulation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retain the multi-use trail around the interior perimeter of the Park. It is used by a lot of people to exercise.• Consider re-surfacing interior paths with a natural-looking material (such as NaturePave) instead of standard sidewalk concrete or asphalt.• Make internal trails more legible• Consider potential of 19th Street as a green connector between Crane Cove Park and Esprit Park• Consider mid-block entrances on the Indiana and Minnesota edges
Site Furnishings and Fixtures <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The park provides a great opportunity to learn about the nature. Provide trees labels and other educational signs.• Shadow from the bridge 20th St – provide a picnic area utilizing shadow?
OTHER NOTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide information about EN impact fees status.• Also invest more in other open spaces in the neighborhood, not just Esprit Park



- Actively inform the public about upcoming parks and look at the park system as a whole, not just one park – There is a chain of parks and green streets that are planned or in the process in the Dogpatch neighborhood, including the Crane Cove, a shared street on 19th Street, and the arts plaza.
- Also consider that Avalon is building a public dog park under 20th Street west of Indiana as well as an internal dog run area just for residents.
- Map other dog-use / play areas in the neighborhood
- Local group should consider providing neighborhood programming, such as movies in Esprit Park
- Do not reduce the parking around the park

Future Residents / Tenants:

- Developers expect many tenants would have pets and want a dog park. They are also pretty social and would like a place to go hang out, similar to Dolores Park.
- 950 Tenn: 40 % 2 beds and the rest (60%) being junior one bed, one bed, studio units, targeting single, young professionals and young families.