

Tidings

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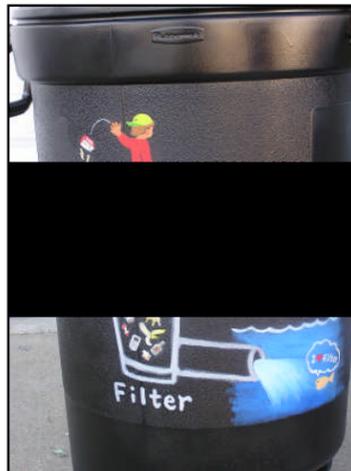
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New Trash Bins Around the Lake

Two of these very colorful barrels will be placed in each of our four "U-Clean-It" boxes around the Lake, and one more will be kept in the truck. For those wishing to access the boxes and use the nets, barrels and trash bags therein, the lock combination is 1-3-1-4. Instructions are located inside the box lid. If you can't sleep at night, just come on out and clean the Lake! As Tom S. says, it really is fun, just like whitewashing the fence.



The Lake Merritt Institute
568 Bellevue Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610



Volunteer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code

THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

AN URBAN RUNOFF AND
WATERSHED RESEARCH CENTER

568 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610 (510) 238-2290
lmi@netwiz.net www.lakemerrittinstitute.org

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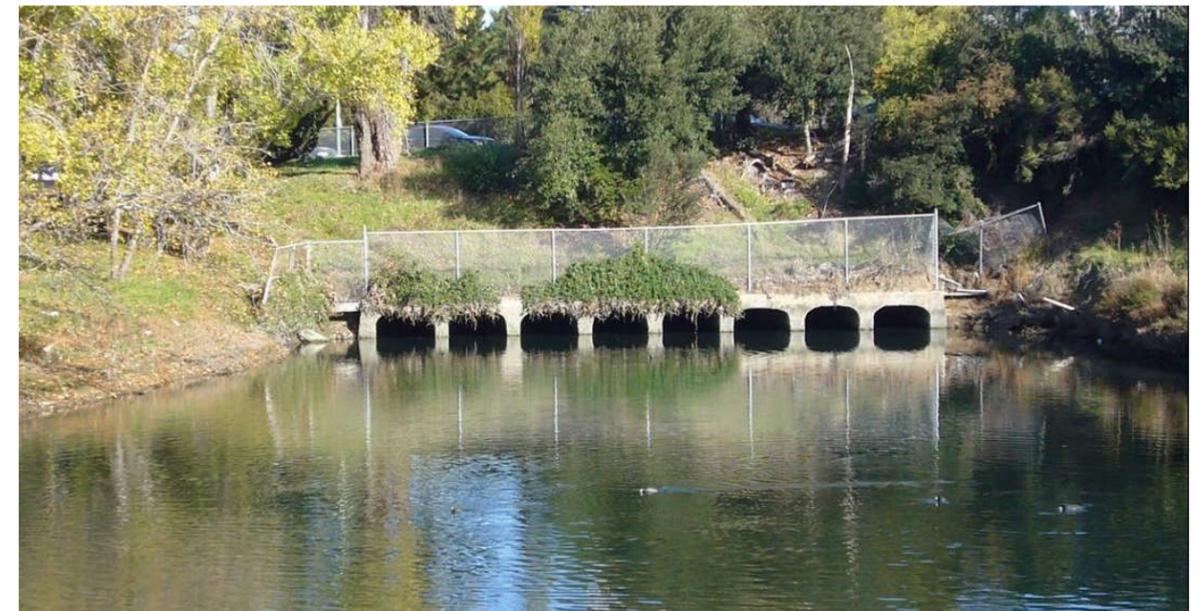


Improvements to Begin on Channel and Lake

By Kaletha Patterson

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Improvements to Begin on Channel and Lake	1
Local Artists to Tell Tidal Tale	2
Fun Facts About Our Lake	3
New Trash Bins Around the Lake	4



An example of a culvert at Lake Merritt

Historically, the Channel (and the adjacent tidal wetlands) between Lake Merritt and the Oakland Estuary have been filled in and narrowed over the years (see map for a view of the Channel in 1883). Now, through Measure DD, the Oakland Trust for Clean Water and Safe Parks, there is an opportunity to address this historical narrowing of the Channel. A portion of the \$198.2 million Measure DD budget allocated for projects such as upgrading existing parks, developing new recreation facilities and protecting creeks and waterways will be used for widening the Lake Merritt Channel, construction of new bridges and protection of the perimeter around Lake Merritt.

The 10th and 12th Street projects will remove two of the biggest constrictions to water flow along the Lake Merritt Channel. The projects will result in increased flushing and improved tidal action at the Lake. Construction of these projects is expected to begin in 2009. Both projects will take approximately two years to complete.

One of the primary objectives for these projects is to increase the volume of water exchanged between Lake Merritt and the Oakland Estuary. The 12th Street Project will replace existing fill material and culverts with a 100-foot clear-span bridge. The 10th Street Project will remove

Continued on page 3

Local Artists to Tell Tidal Tale

By Douglas Brooks

With many hurdles in the 12th Street Reconstruction Project cleared, it's an exciting time at Lake Merritt with visions of our picturesque lake on the verge of fruition. As part of the 12th Street Project, the new plans will convert the existing 12-lane expressway into a 6-lane tree-lined boulevard. This design will allow for more natural and human-oriented spaces. These spaces include a pier overlook, expanded park space, a pedestrian/bicycle bridge, new bicycle lanes and restoration of the Lake's Channel.

As these big picture plans begin to move forward, the time has come to concentrate on details. In 2005, the City of Oakland sent out a Request for Qualifications, in order to court artists into submitting proposals on how the City should beautify the newly created spaces. In response, the City received 19 applications for the public art project. The list was filtered down to 5 artist teams that made detailed presentations on their qualifications, interest and approach to a seven-member panel convened by the City. Of these teams, the Oakland-based artists Todd Blair and John Colle Rodgers were selected as the most creative and qualified.

The team of Blair and Rodgers presented a fresh and innovative concept for artworks on the two 132 foot

long by 12.5 foot tall walls, adjacent to the viaduct walkways under the new vehicular bridge. The artists described the pieces as 'ecoventions' which, while they are distinctive sculptural installations, are also designed in relationship to one another. The first work would be a static undulating sculptural form of galvanized and coated forged metal and plate steel. The second, on the opposite wall, will reflect tidal monitoring at Lake Merritt and the Bay, consisting of illuminated LED modules made of polycarbonate forms receiving information from a new Alameda County solar-powered measuring device to be located at the Boat House.

The team also plans to use lighting in the formation of an arc to light the viaduct passageway, with the walls adorned by ripple pattern concrete slabs. Blair describes the commission as a sculptural intervention to visualize the energy of the estuarine tidal flow with integrated LED light columns that indicate the direction and flow of the daily tide as it moves through the channel. With the completion of the 12th Street Renovation Project expected sometime in 2011, I believe my fellow East Bay residents will be eager to see this installation to show their tidal knowledge.



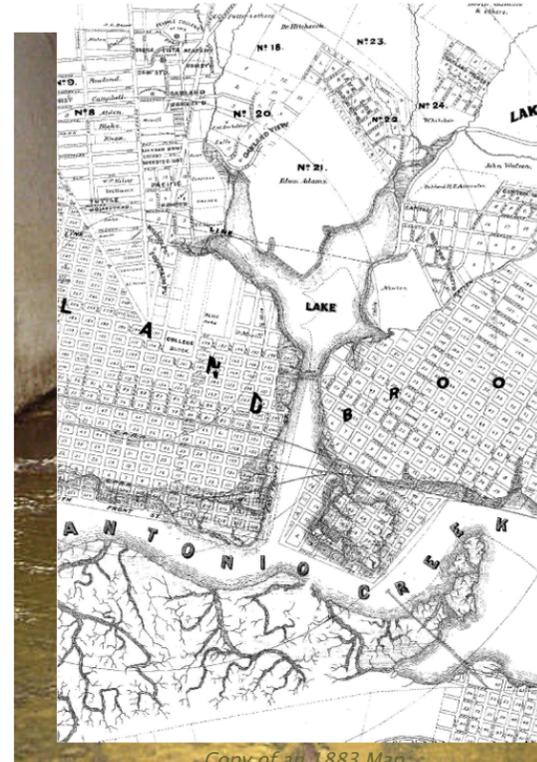
Plan of Proposed Project

Fun Facts About Our Lake

1. Lake Merritt was originally part of the San Francisco Bay. True or False?
2. In 1869, Oakland Mayor Dr. Samuel Merritt donated money to build a dam at the 12th Street Bridge, across the "neck" of the inlet, thus creating the present-day lake. True or False?
3. Before it was entitled Lake Merritt, what was the original name of this lake?
4. In 1925, Lake Merritt's "Necklace of Lights" was lit for the first time during which festival? a) Oakland Chinatown StreetFest; b) Dons of Peralta Water Festival; c) San Francisco Jazz Festival; d) International Dragon Boat Festival
5. At one point, there were 75 lampposts along the Lake, each given by an organization or an individual. True or False?
6. The lampposts and 3,400 pearly bulbs shined until which year? a) 1964, b) 1938, c) 1982, d) 1941
7. Lake Merritt is a freshwater lake. True or False?
8. In 1963, the wildlife refuge at Lake Merritt was registered as a National Historic Landmark. True or False?
9. Lake Merritt is the youngest wildlife refuge anywhere in North America. True or False?
10. The lake breeds large populations of which of the following (select four): frogs, herons, egrets, doves, geese, flamingos, crows, ducks.

Answers to questions in Fun Facts About Our Lake

- 1) True; 2) True; 3) Merritt's Lake; 4) B. Dons of Peralta Water Festival; 5) False. There were 126 lampposts; 6) D. 1941; 7) False, Lake Merritt is a saltwater lake; 8) True; 9) False. It's the oldest wildlife refuge in North America; 10) Herons, egrets, geese and ducks



Improvements to Begin on Channel and Lake continued

culverts and install a new 100-foot clear-span bridge. The 12th Street Project will also replace a 12-lane road with a 6-lane road.

New Tidal Wetlands

Markley Bavinger, Watershed Program Specialist with the City of Oakland, is involved with water quality and habitat issues affecting Lake Merritt and the City of Oakland. She explained to us that approximately one acre of new tidal wetlands will be established along the Channel. This addition of wetlands will provide new habitat for bird species and small fish.

"By enhancing tidal fluctuation and regularity, there will be an improvement of habitat quality throughout Lake Merritt. This will not only benefit the Channel, but the entire lake system," Bavinger highlighted.

Funding for these projects has been provided by Measure DD, the California Coastal Conservancy and the federal government.