

Breaking ground on \$105M makeover



Photos by Gabrielle Lurie/S.F. Chronicle

The India Basin Waterfront Park project will include a new beach, a boathouse and pier, and a new playground.

India Basin Bayview-Hunters waterfront park project aims for completion in 30 months

By Sam Whiting
STAFF WRITER

With the dip of 10 gold shovels into sandy soil on a perfect beach Tuesday, a rundown bayfront picnic area in San Francisco called India Basin Shoreline Park was on its way to a \$105-million makeover.

When the India Basin Waterfront Park is finished in 30 months, a hilly 7.5-acres of grass will be flattened by bulldozer into a gravel slope down to a beach, with a path linking it to the year-old park on the other side of the cove.

That park, at 900 Innes Ave., is part of the three-phase India Basin Waterfront Park. Phase 1 was to clean up the contaminated cove. Phase 2 was construction of 900 Innes, a 2.5-acre parcel. Phase 3 — the renovation that started on Tuesday — will complete the project, amounting to 10 acres. Together, the three phases cost \$225 million, making it the most expensive park project in San Francisco history.



Mayor Daniel Lurie, center, and other community members participate in a shovel ceremony to mark the start of construction Tuesday at India Basin Waterfront Park.

“I’m so excited about this project,” said Mayor Daniel Lurie at the groundbreaking ceremony. “Standing here at the edge of this incredible shoreline, I can feel the excitement of what’s ahead.”

What’s ahead, in addition to the new beach, is a boathouse and pier, two full-sized basketball courts and “a renovated playground that is going to rival Tunnel Tops,” said Recreation and Park Department General Manager Phil Ginsburg, referencing the popular play area in the Presidio of San Francisco, on

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Newsom stands out by being aggressive

But redistricting push could suffer from governor’s tactics

By Sophia Bollag
STAFF WRITER

SACRAMENTO — By launching a campaign to redraw California’s congressional districts, Gov. Gavin Newsom has once again placed himself at the center of the national political conversation.

That’s helpful to Newsom as he positions himself to run for president in 2028 — something he has not explicitly stated but has long been evident in his efforts to build a national donor base and boost his visibility in other states, including a recent visit to South Carolina. But it could prove detrimental to the redistricting campaign itself if Republicans can convince voters to view the measure as a power grab by Newsom, rather than the Democrats framing it as a fight against President Donald Trump.

For loyal Democratic voters, the key constituency Newsom would need to win in a presidential primary, that framing seems to be working. Newsom has surged in popularity on social media, with his persistent attacks on Trump, and is earning praise from liberals hungry for their leaders to take on the president more aggressively.

“He’s staking out a position as the kind of person who fights,” said Hans Noel, a government professor at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. “A lot of Democrats want to see that.”

To successfully campaign for president, Newsom needs to shore up support from Democratic leaders

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Source: Macy’s in Corte Madera eyed for housing

By Laura Waxmann
STAFF WRITER

A Marin County town is counting on the revival of a defunct Macy’s department store that sits dark within a sprawling shopping center to help meet its housing goals.

And an influential San Francisco developer could be planning to step into what would be a major redevelopment play for Corte Madera. According to real estate insiders and town officials, Prado Group has been involved in preliminary talks around a mixed-use development at the site.

The developer is now “in charge” of the property at 1400 Redwood Hwy., a 7.5-acre site located within the Village at Corte Madera shopping center, according to a source who spoke on the condition of anonymity saying they wanted to preserve business relations. The Chronicle could not independently verify this information. The site is owned by Macy’s, and includes a 100,000-square-foot retail box where the retail giant closed its department store earlier this year, as well as a surface parking lot.

Early discussions have been centered around redeveloping the parking lot into housing and activating the commercial building, potentially with a gro-

Macy’s continues on A8

“It’s a big picture with big ideas, and yet everything was brought down to the granular level of meeting the needs of the neighbors. It’s a triumph.”

Kat Anderson, president of the Recreation and Park Commission

State mulls measure for hunting invasive swans

By Ryan Sabalow
CALMATTERS

On an early August morning, it didn’t take long to spot the first pair of huge white swans with orange and black bills and graceful, curving necks as they swam the side of a Solano County levee road.

They dabbled in the vegetation as a pickup drove through the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area. A short drive later, past a herd of a dozen tule elk, two more swans appeared in the marsh alongside the dirt road. Then four more. A few hundred yards down the road, out in the distance past a thicket of swaying reeds, dozens of

swans swam in the water.

For casual bird watchers, the sight of these majestic animals might be a pleasure and bring to mind swan-themed works of literature, such as “Leda and the Swan” and “The Ugly Duckling.”

But for wetland biologists and others with a stake in the health of the surrounding Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the largest estuary on the West Coast, the birds represent the latest — and exponentially growing — threat to the few remaining wetlands left in California.

These are mute swans, native to Europe and Asia. Weighing up to 30 pounds

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Ronen Tivony/NurPhoto via Getty Images

A mute swan is seen in Orlando. The species, not native to California, is posing a growing threat to the few remaining wetlands left in the state. A state measure seeks to trim their population through hunting.