

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**1. Name of Property**Historic name: People's Park **DRAFT**

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)**2. Location**Street & number: Between Haste & Dwight, and Telegraph & BowditchCity or town: Berkeley State: CA County: AlamedaNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of certifying official/Title:****Date**\_\_\_\_\_  
**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of commenting official:****Date**\_\_\_\_\_  
**Title :****State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government**

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
☐ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐  
Public – Local ☐  
Public – State ☒  
Public – Federal ☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☐  
District ☐  
Site ☒  
Structure ☐  
Object ☐

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>                    </u>	<u>          1          </u>	buildings
<u>          8          </u>	<u>                    </u>	sites
<u>          2          </u>	<u>          1          </u>	structures
<u>          1          </u>	<u>                    </u>	objects
<u>         11          </u>	<u>          2          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register      None     

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE, outdoor recreation, park

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE, outdoor recreation, park

RECREATION AND CULTURE, sports facility, basketball court

RECREATION AND CULTURE , music facility, stage

RECREATION AND CULTURE , outdoor recreation, restroom

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

None

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: \_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

People's Park is located in Berkeley, California, on the block east of Telegraph Avenue bounded by Dwight Way on the south, Haste Street on the north, and Bowditch Street on the east. The park is approximately 2.8 acres (11,331 m<sup>2</sup>) of open space divided roughly into thirds. It covers most of Block 1875-2, except for the commercial strip along Telegraph Avenue. Houses that existed on the lot had been purchased by the University of California, Berkeley through threat of eminent domain and were cleared in 1968. The lot left vacant with the exception of three large trees and became a muddy and trash filled vacant lot used as an ad hoc parking lot. The original sidewalk surrounds the park on its east, west and north sides. The period of significance is 1969-1979. Construction of the park occurred in three phases. It began as a community effort in April 1969. Most of the original features of the park during this initial period (April to May, 1969) were destroyed by the California National Guard. However, when the park was recreated (1972-74), its new features followed what was originally done and enhanced with similar objectives in mind. Similarly, a third section of the park was created in 1979. Today each of the three areas of the park has a distinctive character and purpose as planned by the community groups who initially created it and those who joined as gardeners and park supporters throughout People's Park's over fifty years of existence.

#### Contributing Resources/Features:

1. Canary Island palm tree – pre-dates the park
2. Coast redwood tree – pre-dates the park
3. Incense cedar tree – pre-dates the park
4. Native Plant Garden – begins with student-initiated course in Spring 1974
5. Central grass field – same area as the original 1969 park
6. Free Speech Stage – original stage built in April 1979
7. Community Garden – created in November 1979
8. Fred Cody Grove – planted in 1979



People's Park

Name of Property

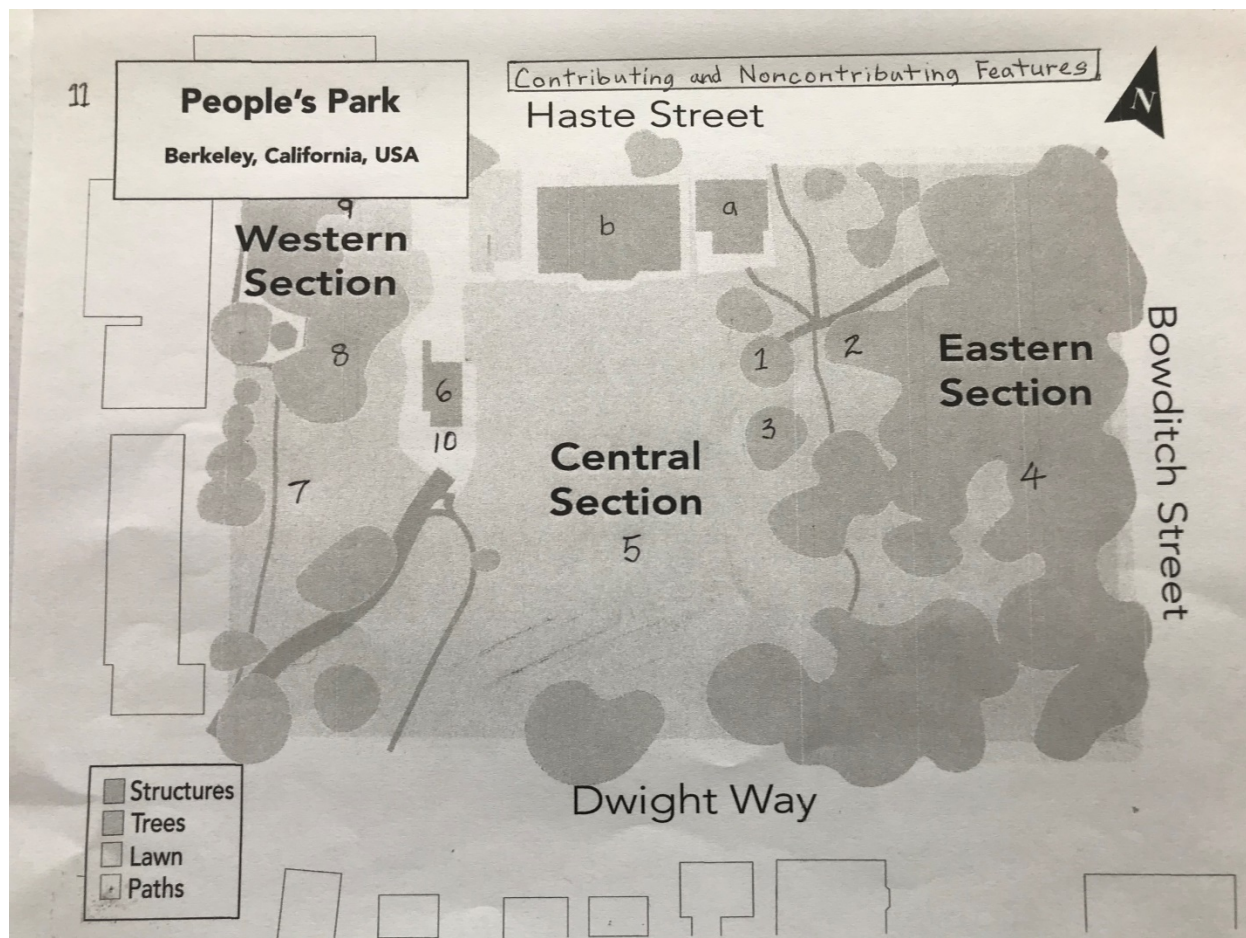
Alameda County, CA

County and State

9. Council Grove – planted in 1979
10. Food Distribution Table – first free food distribution in park on April 20, 1969
11. People's Bicentennial Mural – painted in 1976

Noncontributing Resources/Features:

- a. Bathroom/Storage/Office Building – built in 1992
- b. Basketball Court – constructed in 1992



**Narrative Description**

The *location* of People's Park is in the original site of its construction during the historic events of its creation in 1969. The *design* of the park reflects both its initial community developed conception of its earliest days, particularly the central grass lawn area. Park features were mostly destroyed following the events of 1969, and it was fenced off. The fence was removed and the park redeveloped from 1972-1974; the distinct east and central areas were created during this time and the west area in late 1979.<sup>1</sup> These three areas remain today. The *setting* reflects this

<sup>1</sup> Terri Compost, editor, *People's Park: Still Blooming 1969-2009 and on...*, Slingshot Collective, 2009, p. viii-ix.

People's Park

Alameda County, CA

Name of Property

County and State

historical development – three original trees from the period when the block was a residential neighborhood, user developed areas of trees and plants, paths, benches and the stage. The park provides a central square for the highly historic buildings that surround it. The *materials* that make up the landscaping of the park also reflect user development, e.g., boulders line paths, asphalt torn up from the parking lot form protective berms, recycled wood to create planter boxes. The *workmanship* of the park similarly is evocative of the community involvement in the park, in contrast to a landscape architect designed park. The *feeling* of the park reflects its association with the cultural and political ethos of its period of development, both that of the hippie alternative culture and the civil rights/anti-war/free speech activism. Its use during the Covid-10 pandemic as a refuge for the unhoused reflects its ongoing role of providing a welcome to all. The *association* between the current features of the park and those of its early days are strong and evoke its continual use over the decades as a site of political, cultural and recreational events that have taken place in the park and within the South Campus neighborhood. The park retains its essential physical features that convey its historic identity.

### The East End of People's Park

The eastern area is forested with trees some of which were present at the park's creation in 1969, including a Canary Island date palm (**contributing feature 1**), a large coast redwood and the biggest tree in the park (**contributing feature 2**), and an incense cedar (**contributing feature 3**). Monterey pine, coast live oak, Douglas fir, giant sequoia, eastern white oak, valley oak, bay laurel, California lilac, incense cedar, Catalina ironwood, canyon live oak and Monterey cypress create a California native tree canopy across the user-developed, winding dirt paths which curve through trees and native plants, many of which were an original part of what was called the "People's Park Council Project/Native Plant Forum" (**contributing feature 4**). This was a student-led project created in the 1970's connected to independent field studies in Conservation of Natural Resources, allied disciplines, and a course based in the former UC Agriculture Department entitled "Urban Ecosystems." The project was affiliated with the Associated Students of the University of California, supported by the university, and assisted by local naturalists, botanists, and horticulturists from "faculty in the Agriculture and Forestry wings of the College of Natural Resources as well as the UC Botanical Garden's long-time director, James B. Roof."<sup>2</sup>

Throughout the east end of People's Park there are picnic tables, benches, a bulletin board, and natural logs for informal seating which create garden settings for enjoying nature and watching the local birds that frequent the treetops in this leafy area. Local groups often use this area to share food with others, part of People's Park's tradition of welcoming strangers and creating a sense of community welcome, healing, and connection, a custom which has been part of People's Park's culture since its inception. The east end has a cloistered, restorative aspect enhanced by the three churches its view to the east frames with wreaths of coast live oak trees. Plum trees and additional seasonal plants create a leafy frame for the landmarked properties across the adjacent street to the east, Bowditch Street, which establishes a sense of well-being in both a natural and an architecturally historic setting visible from every area of the park.

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<sup>2</sup> David Axelrod, Field Coordinator for the People's Park Council/Native Plant Forum

People's Park

Alameda County, CA

Name of Property

County and State

The associated landmarks directly to the east include the First Church of Christ, Scientist, 2619 Dwight Way (Bernard Maybeck, architect, 1910), National Historic Landmark; City of Berkeley Landmark (8 March 2020), and the Baptist Divinity School (American Baptist School of the West), 2606 Dwight Way (Julia Morgan, Walter H. Ratcliff, Jr. et al., architects, 1918–1964), City of Berkeley Landmark; listed in the State Historic Resources Inventory, and the Casa Bonita Apartments, 2605 Haste Street (John Albert Marshall II, 1928), City of Berkeley Landmark; listed in the State Historic Resources Inventory.

Other commemorative elements in the east end of People's Park are still visible, such as a rose bush commemorating Rosebud Denovo planted near the northwest area of the east end. There are also the remains of the base of a Peace Pole given to the park by a Buddhist monk near the Dwight Way side of the east end of the park which once had prayers on each of the four sides in four different languages, but has since been removed. A small memorial tree commemorating the life of Hate Man, a beloved local philosopher and former *New York Times* reporter, is a more recent addition to the Dwight Way side of the east end; many such small memorials to park-related friends and family have come and gone through the years, far too many to name, but the custom of creating small shrines to people's memory is still honored throughout the park. The east end has stumps of approximately 42 native trees the university cut down without public notice in December of 2018.

### **The Center Area of People's Park**

The center area of People's Park is an expansive grass field where the original sod was rolled out in 1969 (**contributing feature 5**). This open space is available to the public for informal recreation, picnicking, and traditionally operates as a free, open gathering space for events regularly presented from the community-built, wooden, open-air People's Park Free Speech Stage (**contributing feature 6**) which was completed in 1979 (approximately 35' x 20') and is located on the southern edge of the of the park's central grassy area facing east toward the Berkeley Hills. Concerts and events traditionally attract hundreds to the park to enjoy music, dancing, speeches, poetry, speak-outs, native rituals, and teach-ins. The stage was updated with wheelchair access in the 1980s and is colorfully decorated and repaired by park users throughout the year as part of its user-developed tradition.

It perhaps goes without saying that this unassuming wooden stage has been graced by luminaries, community activists, as well as celebrities in music, poetry, and political thought for decades. The grassy area as well as the stage is a traditional setting for anniversary drum circles, spiral dances, memorials, and impromptu theater. A large metal storage cabinet was placed by the university in 1991 along the Dwight Way edge of the grassy area of People's Park, a cabinet which is kept locked and unavailable for use. It is decorated with murals on three sides and mirrors on one side.

The People's Park Stage was the subject of a lawsuit in 1987 with Alameda County Superior Court Judge Henry Ramsey ruling in favor of the People's park Council, a ruling that "established and recognized the status of People's park as a 'quintessential public forum' for

People's Park

Alameda County, CA

Name of Property

County and State

freedom of speech, assembly and public expression."<sup>3</sup> The ruling, which remains in effect today, requires the university to permit amplified sound. The Court ordered the University of California, as defendant in the lawsuit, to cooperate with and facilitate the plaintiffs in scheduling and conducting public amplified events specifically on the People's Park Stage.

The northeast edge of the center area of People's Park has a cinderblock bathroom/storage/office structure (**noncontributing feature a**) covered with painted and tile murals built in 1992 along with a nearly full size (40' x 80') basketball court (**noncontributing feature b**) just west of the structure along Haste Street, the northern border of the park. The middle of the court is decorated with a flower mural. Narrow concrete paths surround the cinderblock bathroom structure. Bordering the concrete paths are rock walls on the east and west sides; a stone lined path leads from the east side to the south side of the structure. Mounds of earth which surround the basketball court to the east and south of the basketball court keep the basketballs from straying across the field. The practical benefit of having a public bathroom is marred by its inconvenient unavailability due to its being frequently locked by the university, and its complete aesthetic incongruity with what was, before 1992, the unobstructed view from the park of Haste Street's renowned landmark, the Anna Head School, 2538 Channing Way at Bowditch Street (Soulé Edgar Fisher, architect, 1892; Walter H. Ratcliff, Jr., architect, 1911–1927), listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This City of Berkeley Landmark has an ornate brown shingle facade, rooftop cornices, many diamond windows traditional of its period, and the view from People's Park looking toward the Anna Head School is that of the Alumnae Hall.

Just west of the western edge of the basketball court along Haste Street is a bulletin board, one of several throughout the park. This is the largest of the public bulletin boards in People's Park. This is also the traditional area where volunteers build, and the university destroys, a "freebox" almost every anniversary. There is a large corral for garbage cans just west of the bulletin board next to a short driveway from Haste Street which allows access to both the garbage cans and the stage area for unloading sound equipment.

### The West End of People's Park

The west end of People's Park is a community garden (**contributing feature 7**) which surrounds the People's Park Stage and stretches from Haste Street all the way across the park to Dwight Way with winding paths, raised beds, fruit trees, compost bins, small seating areas, benches, bulletin boards, and picnic tables. It was recently made a hot spot for Wi-Fi as a community service to those without access.

The edges of both the north and the south of the west end's community garden are characterized by mounds of earth which cover layers of asphalt ripped up and piled by the edges of the park by park volunteers in 1979 when the university, without community notice, tried to turn the west end into a UC Fee Lot. The mounds and logs along the west end's periphery were intended to be protective, are often used for seating, and remain physical testimony to the ongoing struggle to keep the land open space for the community's use as a park. The mounds, or berms, along the north and south sides of the west end also provide well-drained substrate for succulents, flowering shrubs, ground-covers, and wildflowers. One small patch of asphalt near the Dwight

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<sup>3</sup> David Axelrod, plaintiff.

People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State

Way area of what then became more formally the community garden was deliberately left intact to show the history of the garden's re-creation.

Just behind the stage, which is at the center of the eastern edge of what is known as the "west end" or the "community garden" area, are two redwood trees which were planted early in the creation of the community garden and dedicated to Fred Cody of Cody's Books (**contributing feature 8**). Underneath the redwood trees are benches set informally in a square, one of many gathering areas used for meetings. Just west of the redwood trees is a blue heptagonal bench surrounding a garden conceived and built by community volunteers. To its north is a small garden known as the "Blue Star" garden which once was shaped like a star but is now more of a circle.

Just north of the Blue Star garden beside the northwestern entrance path to the park is a small circle of trees with benches called "The Council Grove" (**contributing feature 9**), a traditional meeting place for the People's Park Council, organized in 1972 and one of the longest-running, open community meetings in Berkeley. Decisions about People's Park, according to custom, must be made within the park, typically in one of the traditional meeting areas at the weekly meetings. The trees in the grove itself are in the rose family and the genus plums, cherries, and allies, as well as loquat plants and lemon trees. The northwest entrance to the park, just west of the Council Grove, has a stone sculpture of a seated human figure by an unknown artist resting with its arms around its knees.

Along with the redwoods, vegetation in the west end near the Blue Star garden includes both native and non-native plants including candelabra aloe, American century plant, tree mallow, avocado, bittersweets, mint, Armenian blackberry, Indian-shot, blue lily, cabbage, rose, and potato. Some of the raised beds are dedicated to seasonal greens and herbs. Other vegetation throughout the west end includes calla lily, borage, cotoneaster shrub, lantana bush and bamboo. Trees include peach trees, common figs, cypress, locust, maple, Norfolk Island pine, orange, peach, pear, pomegranate, valley oak, acacia, willow, apple, ash, Canary Island date palm, and coast live oak. A picnic table and bench near Dwight Way is a traditional gathering place for chess players.

The stage area and a table on the north side of it (**contributing feature 10**) are often used for food distribution by various nonprofit groups dedicated to addressing community needs, a tradition which is as old as the park itself but is much older than the park. On the first day of the park's creation, April 20, 1969, communally prepared free food was distributed to those working on the park. The Black Panthers, founded in 1966, were among the community groups that took it upon themselves to address community needs, including food distribution, in creative, independent ways, and countless nonprofit and religious groups continue this tradition in People's Park.

Just past the northwest entrance's corner on Haste Street is the People's Bicentennial Mural (**contributing feature 11**), 2500 Haste Street at Telegraph Avenue (Osha Neumann et al., 1976); it is another City of Berkeley Landmark.

People's Park

Alameda County, CA

Name of Property

County and State

Another commemoration to the park's struggle is the center pole of the sand pit volleyball courts the university imposed on the grassy center area of the park in 1991, volleyball courts which it finally removed in 1997 due to years of ceaseless community protest. The pole, which was sawed off with a chainsaw in a protest by Bob Sparks, is now a memorial to activists who are now passed who fought to have the volleyball courts removed, including David Nadel and Bob Sparks. "In Memory Bob Sparks David Nadel" with an image of a tree below is carved into the post.

Surrounding landmarks visible from the Dwight Way side of People's Park include; the Stella (Mrs. Edmund P.) King Building, 2502 Dwight Way at 2501 Telegraph Avenue (Albert Dodge Coplin, architect, 1901), City of Berkeley Landmark; listed in the State Historic Resources Inventory. To its right is another City of Berkeley Landmark, the Soda Water Works Building, 2509–2513 Telegraph Avenue (E.A. Spalding, builder, 1888; Henry F. Bowers, builder, 1904–05 addition).

Just east of the Stella King Building (at Regent Street) looking south from People's Park one sees the John Woolley House, 2506 Dwight Way (1876), a City of Berkeley Landmark listed in the State Historic Resources Inventory. To its left stands the Ellen Blood House, 2508 Regent Street (R. Gray Frise, architect, 1891), also a City of Berkeley Landmark and Structure of Merit listed in the State Historic Resources Inventory. Just further east on Dwight Way stands the Alexander C. Stuart House at 2524 Dwight Way (Pissis & Moore, architects, 1891), City of Berkeley Landmark; listed in the State Historic Resources Inventory, which is next door to the George Edwards House, 2530 Dwight Way (A.H. Broad, designer-builder, 1886), another City of Berkeley Landmark.

From any part of People's Park the stately sightlines of these surrounding architectural landmarks are framed with California native trees, green landscapes and gardens creating a unique opportunity for contemplation and study of the past, the present, and the possibilities of the future. People's Park offers a remarkable physical, historical, and cultural link to the decades that came before it, a fine lens through which to see its most significant period of cultural and political impact, and an expansive opportunity for generations to come to fulfill its promise.

The part has evolved into an intact ecosystem of native and introduced flora with an attendant population of bird species that are represented by hawks at the top of the food chain and other prey species. An indication of the rich variety of bird species populating the park was the bird survey completed in October 2020 and posted on eBird (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S75395037>). 17 species of birds were counted in only an hour, and the interrelationship of the flora and fauna within the park was fully described in two recent articles.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Harvey Smith, "People's Park, part 1," *Berkeley Times*, February 4, 2021, p. 7 and "People's Park, part 2," *Berkeley Times*, February 18, 2021, p. 7.

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State

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Sat, 24 Oct 2020, 9:43 AM  
People's Park, Alameda County, California, United States

Robert Hinz  
Observers: 3  
Duration: 1 hr, 1 min  
Area: 2.8 ac

**17 Species observed, 139 individuals**

50 Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)

6 Anna's Hummingbird

1 Red-tailed Hawk

1 Black Phoebe

3 California Scrub-Jay

8 American Crow

4 Chestnut-backed Chickadee

1 Oak Titmouse

17 Bushtit

6 Ruby-crowned Kinglet

2 Hermit Thrush

1 House Finch

14 Dark-eyed Junco

18 White-crowned Sparrow

2 Golden-crowned Sparrow

1 Song Sparrow

4 California Towhee

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☒ F. A commemorative property
- ☒ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)



**People's Park**

Name of Property

Politics/Government

Social History

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Alameda County, CA

County and State

**Period of Significance**

1969-1979

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**Significant Dates**

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**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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**Cultural Affiliation**

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**Architect/Builder**

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People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

People's Park is eligible for the National Register of Historical Places under Criterion A, the area of Social History and Politics/Government, for its association with student protests and countercultural activity in Berkeley, California during the 1960s, becoming an important, nationally recognized symbol of this turbulent period. The site is significant at the local and national levels. The period of significance is 1969 to 1979, including the months in which the actual conflict over People's Park occurred and the years in which the park's current major features were developed. The property meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration F (commemorative properties) because age, tradition, and symbolic value has invested the property with its own historical significance, intended to commemorate the turbulent events of 1969. People's Park meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration G because the park's exceptional significance in understanding an important era of American social and political history was achieved by the rebuilding of the destroyed site in the 1970s.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **I. Social History and Politics /Government**

In Berkeley and the nation, the 1960s social and political upheavals were specific reactions to racism and repression, the Vietnam War, and serious violations of civil liberties. Protestors also advocated new forms of social democracy, personal expression, cultural freedom, community planning, and environmental consciousness. But the activists faced a powerful conservative backlash of forces defending traditional values and established authority. No northern American city was more affected by these upheavals than Berkeley, and no single event brought together more of the conflicting forces of the decade than the struggle over People's Park. As documented in the substance of this Statement of Significance, New Left protestors and counterculture advocates confronted "the establishment," with major implications for American social history and politics. The conflict over People's Park, then, illustrated deep divisions in American society that are still present today.

The property is significant in the context of Social History because the activism and backlash that occurred in Berkeley and specifically in People's Park reflect the new national social forces that divided American society. Most, including the student New Left and the counterculture, were dominated by members of the Baby Boom generation. They were profoundly affected by social changes demanded by the Civil Rights Movement and by a new wave of Black, Latino, Asian American, and Native American activists. The new women's, gay, environmental, and disabled citizen movements also exerted great social influence on the generation that was coming of age in the sixties.

People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State

The property is significant in the context of Politics/Government because Berkeley activists in general and park supporters in particular advocated significant changes in public policies and new forms of political participation and popular decision-making that attracted passionate support and powerful opposition at both the local and national level. The two areas of significance, Social History and Politics/Government, are so closely related in the story of People's Park that they cannot be reasonably separated. For example, the conflict between the New Left and New Right so graphically illustrated by the history of the park was simultaneously a confrontation of social forces and a deep difference in political ideologies. These areas of significance, then, are best illustrated and supported by the following unified historical narrative.

**Berkeley in the 60s**

Consider the historical record of Berkeley in the 60s: In 1960 UC Berkeley students, primarily from the Barrington Hall Co-op, crossed the bay to loudly protest a meeting of the House of Representatives Committee on un-American Activities at San Francisco City Hall. Their action was the first large, well-publicized political demonstration by northern college students since the 1930s. In 1964 Cal students began the Free Speech Movement, the first of the great protests that hit American campuses during the ensuing decade and established the student New Left as an important national political force. In the spring of 1965 Berkeley's Vietnam Day Committee started a decade of major anti-war protests, including the massive demonstrations of Stop the Draft Week in 1967. Huey Newton and Bobby Seale founded the Black Panther Party in South Berkeley and North Oakland in 1966. By 1967 the counterculture was well established in Berkeley and rapidly spreading across the country. Young people flocked to the Bay Area, heading to Berkeley's Telegraph Avenue, as well as San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury. In 1968-69 the Third World Liberation Front temporarily closed down the UC Berkeley campus, striking for an ethnic studies college. The 1968-69 school year also marked the beginning of the Berkeley Unified School District's unprecedented elementary school desegregation program, including the two-way busing of Black and White children. And this is just a small sampling of the interrelated social and political activism, all connected to national movements and events, which rocked Berkeley during the sixties.<sup>1</sup>

Because of its role in movements for social and political change, Berkeley naturally became a major target of the New Right conservative movement that was also growing during the sixties. The New Right gained popular support from a "backlash" of voters who reacted to what they considered the excesses of the sixties' rebels. The movement's titular leader, Ronald Reagan, campaigned for governor in 1966, promising to "clean up the mess in Berkeley." One of his first actions as governor was to engineer the firing of UC president Clark Kerr. In 1969 Reagan twice sent the National Guard into Berkeley, establishing something similar to martial law. Reagan was the most powerful electoral politician produced by the upheavals of the sixties, eventually taking his conservative vision to the White House. He owed much of his initial support to his opposition to Berkeley and all it seemed to stand for. Differences between Reagan and the Berkeley activists are still reflected in many of the political and social issues that divide contemporary America. Just as today's progressives are part of a heritage going back to the New Left and counterculture of the sixties, the contemporary right has its roots in Reaganism and the backlash politics of that same decade.<sup>2</sup> Again, then, events in Berkeley related to the rise of the

People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State

New Right reflected important developments in both American social history and the nation's political system.

**People's Park**

All these forces came together and acted and reacted upon each other in the conflict over People's Park. In 1956 the university identified a 2.8-acre parcel three blocks south of campus as a future location of dormitories and other facilities. It wasn't until 1967 that the university regents approved the project, including acquiring the property by eminent domain. Chancellor Roger Heyns and campus real estate officials explained that in destroying the forty "derelict" residential buildings on the site, UC would eliminate cheap housing occupied by "hippies." The legislative appropriation for the purchase was sponsored by local assemblyman Don Mulford, a conservative Republican who was part of a group of community leaders who were privately exchanging information about campus activists with the FBI. In 1968 the land was cleared, but no funds were available to begin construction. For several months, the site remained a messy, muddy de-facto parking lot.<sup>3</sup>

In April of 1969 activists Wendy Schlesinger and Michael Delacour decided to turn the lot into a park. They published an appeal for volunteers in the underground newspaper The Berkeley Barb. More than a hundred people turned out on Sunday April 20, and over the next three weeks, the volunteers laid sod, planted trees and shrubs, and began transforming the property into a pleasant public open space. For many activists, the project was a chance to go beyond protests and begin creating an alternative vision of society. A user developed, community controlled park, independent of what activists considered repressive university and local government bureaucracies, was entirely consistent with the social idealism of the sixties. It was a practical manifestation of the Black Panther slogan, "Power to the People." After failed attempts at compromise between park supporters and the university administration, and under pressure from Governor Reagan and conservative UC regents, Chancellor Heyns announced he would evict the trespassers and build a fence to assert and protect the university's property rights.

**Bloody Thursday**

At 4:30 a.m., Thursday, May 15, 1969 local police and California Highway Patrol officers accompanied workers who surrounded the property with an eight-foot fence and bulldozed much of the work of the park volunteers. A few hours later at a rally on campus, student body president Dan Siegel urged the crowd to "take back the park." As many as 3000 people marched to the site and were confronted by officers with tear gas and clubs. Police called in mutual aid from outside law enforcement agencies, and the force protecting the fence grew to almost 800 officers. Included were Alameda County deputy sheriffs armed with loaded shotguns. Shotgun blasts fatally wounded onlooker James Rector and blinded park supporter Alan Blanchard. Of the more than 300 injured protestors, about 70 suffered buckshot or deer shot wounds. Law enforcement agencies reported that 111 officers were wounded. Appropriately, May 15, 1969 is known in University of California history as "Bloody Thursday."

The next day Governor Reagan declared a state of emergency and sent 2700 National Guardsmen into Berkeley. For about two weeks, the city was under virtual martial law. The guard broke up gatherings that might turn into protests and enforced a curfew. On May 26

People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State

Reagan suspended the state of emergency and began withdrawing some of the National Guard units. The Berkeley City Council issued a permit for a protest march. Two days later an estimated 35,000 people peacefully marched down Berkeley streets in what was more a counterculture "be-in" than a protest. Music played, crowds laid sod on the pavement, the air was thick with marijuana smoke, and young women put flowers into the rifle barrels of equally young guardsmen. The most violent protest in Berkeley and University of California history ended with a joyous march.<sup>4</sup>

Probably no single event, then, involved so many of the diverse and often conflicting social and political forces of the 60s than the struggle over People's Park. Students and faculty, counter cultural idealists, New Left political activists, anti-war protestors, the Black Panther Party and other ethnic political groups, and followers of the new ecology and women's consciousness movements were among the supporters of the park. Champions of law and order, and supporters of property rights, law enforcement, and established authority rallied to the side of the university administration and Governor Reagan. If Civil War battlefields commemorate the great military conflicts of the 1860s, sites like People's Park similarly commemorate the profound social and political conflicts of the 1960s. As former Berkeley mayor Loni Hancock said in 1989 when the city unsuccessfully attempted to rent the park from the university, "You wouldn't build a dormitory on the battlefield at Gettysburg."<sup>5</sup>

### **Rebuilding the Park**

For three years after Bloody Thursday, a tense truce existed between the university and park supporters. University administrators maintained the fence but hesitated to start construction on the site out of fear of another mass protest. Finally, in the midst of a 1972 demonstration against an American escalation of the war in Vietnam, protestors tore down the fence, and the university reluctantly allowed people to reoccupy and rebuild the park. Nearly all of the layout and landscape that exists today is due to the work of activists and volunteers during the 70s. Their surviving accomplishments both commemorate and preserve the original 1969 vision of park founders.

Since the university had destroyed virtually all of the original 1969 work, the only significant plantings that still existed in 1972 were three large trees that had grown in the backyards of the former residential buildings. In 1969 activists had established a People's Park Council, and the body reconstituted itself in 1972 to oversee the efforts of volunteers to reconstruct the park. The council has continued to exist in one form or another ever since. In 1974 activists also formed a native plant forum that oversaw the cultivation of a thriving California native plant garden by a group of environmentalists, including Cal students and several faculty members. The effort reflected the new ecological consciousness created by the 60s that was especially strong in Berkeley and the Bay Area and was celebrated nationally by the first Earth Day in 1970. The garden's location near the northeast corner of the park is now marked by a profusion of mature native plants and trees, including Monterey pines, a giant sequoia, and numerous varieties of California oaks.

On the west side of the park, volunteers planted an organic fruit and vegetable garden that is still in use. One of the first organic projects in the Bay Area, the garden was very much part of a new

People's Park

Alameda County, CA

Name of Property

County and State

food consciousness that emerged out of the Berkeley counterculture of the sixties. In 1971, just a few months before the reoccupation of the park, Alice Waters opened the now internationally renowned Chez Panisse restaurant in Berkeley. A Cal student activist during the sixties, Waters rebelled against the processed, industrially produced food that most Americans ate in the postwar era. The restaurant, which helped create a revolution in American cuisine, features fresh produce grown on local farms and community gardens like the one in People's Park.

Near the garden are two redwood trees planted in memory of legendary book merchant Fred Cody. Cody was an influential supporter of the park and other 60s causes, and his iconic bookstore was one of the few places of common ground on Telegraph Avenue, patronized by both activists and members of the establishment. The western area of the park is also the location of Council Grove, a collection of ornamental plants and fruit trees where for decades the People's Park Council has held its weekly meetings.

The park became a place of refuge for a number of poor and homeless people. Their presence has been a matter of debate and concern for some neighborhood residents and Telegraph Avenue merchants, but park supporters have generally welcomed the impoverished street people. For many years, groups like Food Not Bombs and Catholic Worker have served free meals at a park table. This is part of a tradition going back to the Black Panthers free food program of the sixties and seventies.

In the late 1970s, volunteers built a large wooden stage near the center of the park. The university objected and threatened to destroy the structure. Eventually, park supporters sued the university, and Superior Court Judge Henry Ramsey ruled that the stage was "a quintessential public forum for freedom of speech, assembly and public expression." The stage still stands, and for decades has been the site of speeches, debates, and protests, as well as musical and dramatic performances.<sup>6</sup> Berkeley residents and Woodstock veterans Country Joe MacDonald and Wavy Gravy are among the many prominent sixties cultural figures who have performed there.

. Unlike most parks that are either preserved natural settings or the work of professional gardeners and planners, the People's Park that exists today is an ecosystem wholly created by park supporters to both replicate and commemorate the original 1969 work. As described in section of this document, the rebuilt park attracted communities of birds and other wildlife. Although initially cultivated, the landscape took on a life of its own, developing its own unique environment. At the same time, the site is very much a product and commemoration of the social and political ideals of the 1960s, and of the original 1969 vision of a public open space produced by and for the people. It is both the site of a significant historical event and a place that reflects broad changes in the social history and political development of the United States.

## II. Local Significance

Berkeley historian Stephanie Manning called the creation of People's Park "perhaps the most significant event in Berkeley's history."<sup>7</sup> Alan Temko, the San Francisco Chronicle's late Pulitzer Prize-winning architectural critic, said it was "the beginning of a new era in democratic city planning."<sup>8</sup> But for the last half century, the University of California has barely tolerated the park, treating it as a piece of contested territory. As a site of activism and idealism, of

People's Park

Alameda County, CA

Name of Property

County and State

confrontation between town and gown, or simply a famous public open space, People's Park has been a place of local significance to Berkeley and the surrounding community for more than fifty years.

People's Park is located in the South Campus district, one of Berkeley's oldest and most historic neighborhoods. Local historian Daniella Thompson calls the neighborhood a "de facto historic district," home to sixteen city registered historic landmarks, including the park itself.<sup>9</sup> Like the park, some of these other South Campus sites commemorate the heritage of the 1960s, most notably a community mural located at the corner of Haste Street and Telegraph Avenue, adjacent to the park's northwest entrance. The mural, originally painted by community members from 1976 to 1978, portrays the People's Park struggle, as well as other sixties events in Berkeley.

There are also older landmarks, including Berkeley's most distinguished building, architect Bernard Maybeck's First Church of Christ Scientist (1910-12). A National Landmark, it is located across Bowditch Street from People's Park. Architectural scholar Kenneth Cardwell calls it "simply, one of the great buildings of the world."<sup>10</sup> The university's plans for the intensive development of the park site would seriously degrade the building's aesthetic context and perspective. Another institution important to the South Campus neighborhood is the former Anna Head School for Girls, a National Register-listed complex of buildings, located across Haste Street from People's Park. Beginning in 1892, the school built what architectural historian Susan Cerny called "the largest planned complex of shingle buildings in the Bay Area" and an "important and significant example of the American Arts and Crafts Movement."<sup>11</sup> The Anna Head buildings are now university property and used for various academic purposes. The neighborhood also includes the Baptist Seminary of the West (1919), a landmarked group of buildings located across Dwight Way from the park and designed by Julia Morgan, a distinguished architect and Cal graduate, best known as the creator of Hearst Castle.

### **Transformation of South Campus**

The South Campus neighborhood was dramatically transformed in the post-World War II era. The university had gained tremendous prestige for its key role in the Manhattan Project that developed the atomic bomb, and for the several Nobel Prizes received by UC faculty members. Cal was generally regarded as the nation's leading public institution of higher education and a model for what university president Clark Kerr described as the modern "multiversity." The G.I. Bill and California's booming economic and population growth produced large increases in both students and faculty. In 1948 UC began a new period of substantial physical growth, not only on campus, but in the South Campus neighborhood as well.

Over the next twenty years, the university purchased the equivalent of about ten city blocks in the area and cleared them to build dormitories and other structures.<sup>12</sup> Like similar actions by universities across the nation, Cal's expansion created considerable town vs. gown conflict, as South Campus became the city's most densely populated neighborhood, indeed one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the Bay Area. But as we have seen, UC neglected to develop the parcel that was to become People's Park. Ironically, then, the park emerged as the one piece of public open space in an increasingly congested district. However, today the university is again proposing to develop the property, including construction of a 17-story

People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State

building. Like so many of the national issues raised by the activists of the 60s, Berkeley's half-century of conflict over competing visions for the space occupied by People's Park remains unresolved.

### III. National Significance

In 1970 the President's Commission on Campus Unrest, chaired by former Pennsylvania governor William Scranton, noted the "the growing frequency with which campus protests reflected the Berkeley scenario."<sup>13</sup> Nothing illustrates this important role of Berkeley in the national development of the sixties era of political and cultural protest better than the conflict at People's Park. The park is a site of national significance because of the way its story helps us to understand the broader experience of the sixties in the United States.

As early as 1960, Students for Democratic Society organizer Tom Hayden met with leaders of SLATE, a leftwing political party at UC Berkeley that competed successfully in student body elections. According to David Armor, then the SLATE-affiliated student body president, Hayden wanted to replicate what SLATE was doing on a national scale: "Hayden used that model to start a national organization."<sup>14</sup> Also in 1960, Cal student participation in the demonstrations against the House Committee on Un-American Activities at San Francisco City Hall received extensive national and international media coverage and established Berkeley's reputation as a place of political activism.

But it was the 1964 Free Speech Movement that had the greatest influence on the national student movement. Harlan Lebo, author and senior fellow at USC's Center for a Digital Future, argues that the Berkeley Free Speech Movement was the "first significant civil disobedience on college grounds that most other major universities would soon follow..."<sup>15</sup> The President's Commission on Campus Unrest concluded that, "the Free Speech Movement altered the character of American activism in a fundamental way."<sup>16</sup>

Subsequent Berkeley activism also had widespread influence. For example, in 1965 the Berkeley-based Vietnam Day Committee established a nationwide network of campus anti-war leaders, and the 1968-69 Third World Strike at Cal, combined with a similar action at San Francisco State, sparked a nationwide demand for ethnic studies programs on college campuses. The term "Asian American" was invented in Berkeley to bring together activists from various Asian communities as part of the Third World political protests.

But of all the post-FSM Berkeley protests, none had more national significance than People's Park. As already noted, the conflict involved most of the diverse and often divided elements of the national sixties story, including the student New Left, the Black Panthers, the counterculture, and the powerful conservative backlash. People's Park commemorates its own exceptionally important history, as well as the broader extraordinary influence that Berkeley had on the national politics and culture of the 1960s.

### Beyond Protests



People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State

At People's Park, sixties activists went beyond protests to create their own social and political space. In the process, they used the tactics of direct action and civil disobedience learned from the civil rights movement to put into practice the ideals of participatory democracy advocated by New Left leaders like Tom Hayden and Mario Savio. When Black Panther co-founder Bobby Seale visited the park during its early construction, he laughed and said "I've got to get some panthers down here, this is socialism."<sup>17</sup> UC Berkeley Architecture professor Sam Davis said the park is "a symbol of community autonomy and self-determination."<sup>18</sup>

The park even had an impact on national and international popular culture. Prominent entertainers like John Lennon and Jimi Hendrix publicly supported park activists. Renaldo "Obie" Benson wrote singer Marvin Gaye's iconic anthem of the sixties, "What's Going On," in reaction to the violent confrontations at the park.<sup>19</sup> Several sites around the world are named People's Park in honor of the Berkeley original.

The People's Park conflict also marked an escalation of the conservative reaction against sixties protestors, including the use of deadly force. Georgetown University political scientist Victor Frekiss believes the park became "world famous" because it was "a place where blood was shed and life lost in the cause of radical ecology and the struggle against the American political and economic establishment."<sup>20</sup>

### **Kent State and Woodstock**

People's Park can be compared to Kent State and Woodstock, two other sixties sites that have already achieved National Register status. The Kent State National Register listing commemorates the May 4, 1970 shooting and killing of four campus demonstrators and the injuring of nine others by National Guardsmen at Kent State University in Ohio. The victims were protesting the expansion of the U.S. military into Cambodia. The site was approved for register listing in 2010 and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2017.

The authors of the Kent State National Register nomination recognized that events in Berkeley were precursors to their own student movement, as well as to the broad tradition of 1960s activism. The People's Park conflict, which occurred about a year before Kent State, established the tragic precedent of deadly force used against campus protestors. And National Guardsmen were deployed in both cases. At Kent State, as at People's Park, university administrators were under great pressure from conservative governors to crack down on demonstrators. While the violence at Kent State resulted in "backlash" support for President Richard Nixon, Governor Ronald Reagan gained great political advantage from the confrontation at People's Park. Both events received extensive national and international media coverage. And, as the National Park Service said of Kent State, People's Park was as an example of "a government confronting protesting students with unreasonable force."<sup>21</sup>

The Woodstock National Register listing, approved in 2017, celebrates the extraordinary music festival held near the town of Woodstock, New York on August 15-18, 1969. An estimated half million people attended the event to listen to a remarkable gathering of sixties musicians. The event featured many Bay Area performers, including Joan Baez, who had supported and participated in Berkeley protests since the 1964 Free Speech Movement. Berkeley's Wavy Gravy

People's Park

Alameda County, CA

Name of Property

County and State

(Hugh Romney) served as master of ceremonies, a role he subsequently played at several People's Park ceremonies and performances. A highlight at Woodstock was the appearance of Berkeley resident Country Joe McDonald, who led the crowd in his famous "F-cheer" and then sang his anti-war classic, "I'm Fixing to Die Rag." McDonald wrote and recorded the song in 1965 and initially sold the record at Vietnam Day demonstrations on the UC campus. Like Kent State, then, Woodstock was significantly influenced by events in Berkeley.

The National Park Service describes Woodstock as "a symbol of what once was thought possible" by the sixties counterculture.<sup>22</sup> Much the same could be said for People's Park, where demonstrators went beyond simple protests and tried to establish new forms of popular activism and decision-making. In a sense, the huge march that ended the violence at People's Park in May of 1969 was precedent for the even larger gathering at Woodstock three months later. Both events were peaceful expressions and celebrations of sixties counterculture and consciousness.

By the same token, the President's Commission on Campus Disorder's conclusion that at Kent State "the indiscriminate firing of rifles into a crowd of students and the deaths that followed were unnecessary, unwarranted, and inexcusable," also applies to People's Park.<sup>23</sup> The park's story, then, combines the peaceful countercultural character of Woodstock with the violent sixties hostilities at Kent State in a way that is replicated at no other historic site.

#### **IV. Commemorative Properties (Criteria Consideration F)**

From late 1969 through 1979, activists rebuilt and completed the original People's Park that the university had almost entirely destroyed in 1969. In the process, they commemorated not only the physical presence of the original park, but also the idealistic social and political aims of the park creators. Most of the physical attributes that exist today were established during the 1970s rebuilding, and thus the park has existed in more or less its present form for more than four decades. Visitors from all over the world come to Berkeley specifically to visit the site, and properties around the globe are named People's Park in honor of the Berkeley original. The property meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties), because People's Park has, as specified in National Register Bulletin 15, "symbolic value" which "invests it with its own historical significance" as a park built by and for the people.

The park has broader commemorative qualities, as well. It also has important symbolic value reflecting the extraordinary national role of Berkeley in the sixties, a role that in many respects culminated in the great 1969 confrontation. In this sense, the park establishes its historical significance not only because it commemorates the ideals and vision of the New Left and the counterculture, but also the powerful social, economic, and political forces that led to the massive conservative backlash. People's Park neither celebrates heroes nor condemns villains. Instead, it is a historically significant site because it commemorates the deep conflict in values and culture that marked the 1960s.

#### **V. Exceptional Significance (Criteria Consideration G)**

Referring to the heritage of the 1960s, Harvard historian and *New Yorker* writer Jill Lepore has called for "a political settlement, a peace, that the nation has needed for a half century. And it will require a history that can account for Greensboro, and Berkeley, and Kent State, and the

People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State

Hard Hats, all at once.”<sup>24</sup> That is why it is appropriate that several sixties sites are on the National Register, including Kent State and Woodstock. The National Park Service recognized both sites as having exceptional importance because they continue “to achieve significance into a period less than fifty years before the nomination.” People’s Park also meets this requirement and therefore should also be designated a site of exceptional importance.

As we have seen, the university destroyed virtually all of the original park construction during the 1969 conflict. What exists today as a significant historical site is largely the work of activists who reoccupied the area in 1972 and rebuilt and developed the park during the 1970s. Their efforts are a clear example of the former sixties left and counterculture going beyond protest to attempt to construct new popular and participatory social models and institutions. This reflects a larger movement of New Left activity from street action to electoral politics during the 1970s, particularly in college and university communities. Berkeley city politics became a case study of this process. At the national level, the 1972 presidential campaign of George McGovern attracted New Left support.

At People’s Park, the Park Council tried to operate in a broad participatory, consensus-based manner. Volunteers, usually operating with little or no professional supervision, accomplished virtually all of the gardening and construction work. It was also in the seventies, that groups like Catholic Worker and the Food Not Bombs began regular free meal programs in the park. For many years, the park also featured a free box of donated and traded clothes and other useful items.

People’s Park activism increasingly reflected the new popular national environmental consciousness that was already strong in the Bay Area and was rapidly spreading throughout the rest of the country in the 1970s. Indeed, the park’s native plant gardens and organic food production indicated that the student left and the counterculture were now identifying with the new environmental consciousness in a way that had not always been the case in the 1960s.

### **The University v. People’s Park**

But conflict between park activists and the university has never really ended. In 1979 the university administration converted the west end of the site into a parking lot without Park Council permission. Activists, believing this was a first step toward removing the nearby People’s Stage, tore up the asphalt and converted the parking lot into a portion of the organic garden. This was just one of dozens of conflicts between the university and park supporters over the years. In fact, U.C. has never accepted the permanent existence of the park. We have seen that much as it did in 1969, the university still plans for the development and destruction of People’s Park.

In many respects, then, the deep social and political divisions revealed at People’s Park in 1969 are still with us today. Governor Reagan believed that UC Berkeley was “a haven for communist sympathizers, protestors, and sexual deviants.” He therefore had no hesitation about defending the use of deadly force at People’s Park that led to the killing of James Rector: “It’s very naïve to assume that you should send anyone into that kind of conflict with a fly swatter.”<sup>25</sup> And park supporters had no compunction about calling police officers “pigs.” Unfortunately, we are still

People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State

very much willing to dehumanize our opponents and justify the use of force and violence against them.

As Jill Lepore argued, it is difficult if not impossible to heal these deep social and political divisions without confronting and understanding their past roots, including those emanating from the sixties. For that reason alone, People's Park should join Kent State, Woodstock and other important sixties sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

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County and State

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People's Park

Name of Property

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County and State

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People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
☐ previously listed in the National Register  
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark  
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State

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## 9. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 2.8

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 37.865796

Longitude: 122.257015

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

People's Park is located in Berkeley, California, on the block east of Telegraph Avenue bounded by Dwight Way on the south, Haste Street on the north, and Bowditch Street on the east. The park is approximately 2.8 acres (11,000 m2) of open space divided roughly into thirds. It covers most of Block 1875-2, except for the commercial strip along Telegraph Avenue.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the site encompass the area that was cleared by the University of California in 1969 and subsequently the scene of the struggle over the creation of the park.

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## 10. Form Prepared By

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Secretary

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date: June 24, 2021



People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State

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### Additional Documentation

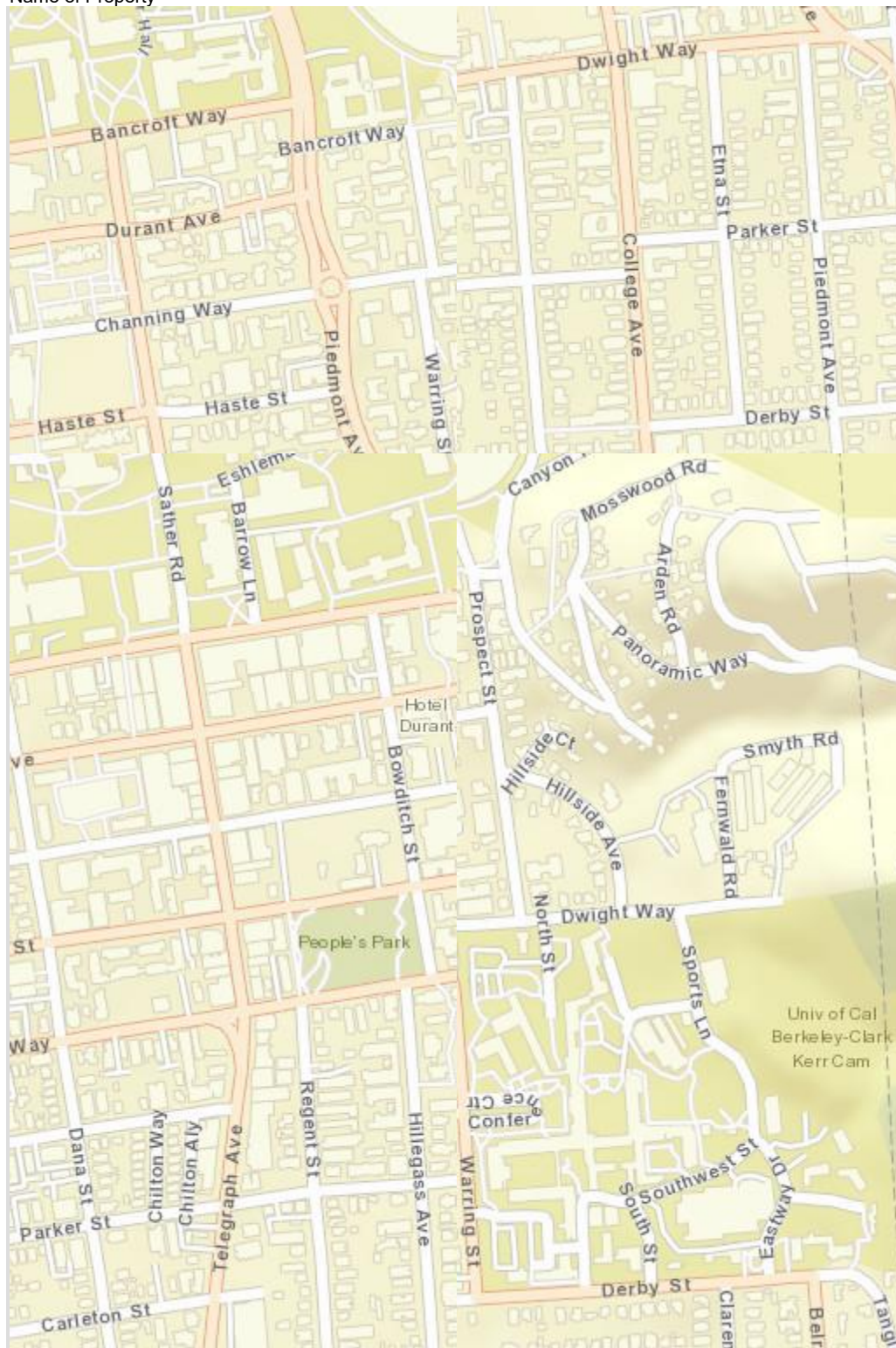
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.



People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



People's Park  
Name of Property

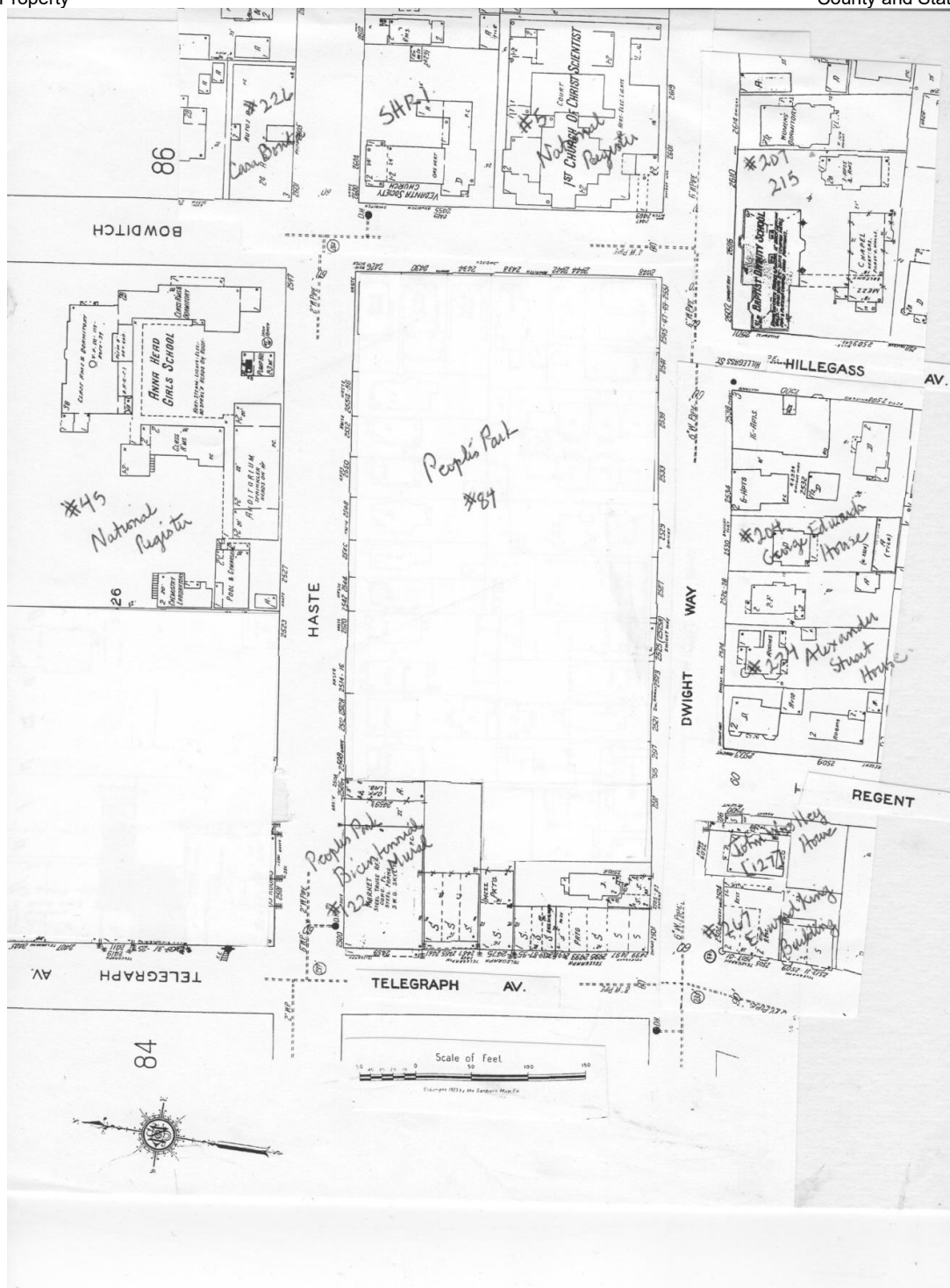
Alameda County, CA  
County and State





People's Park  
Name of Property

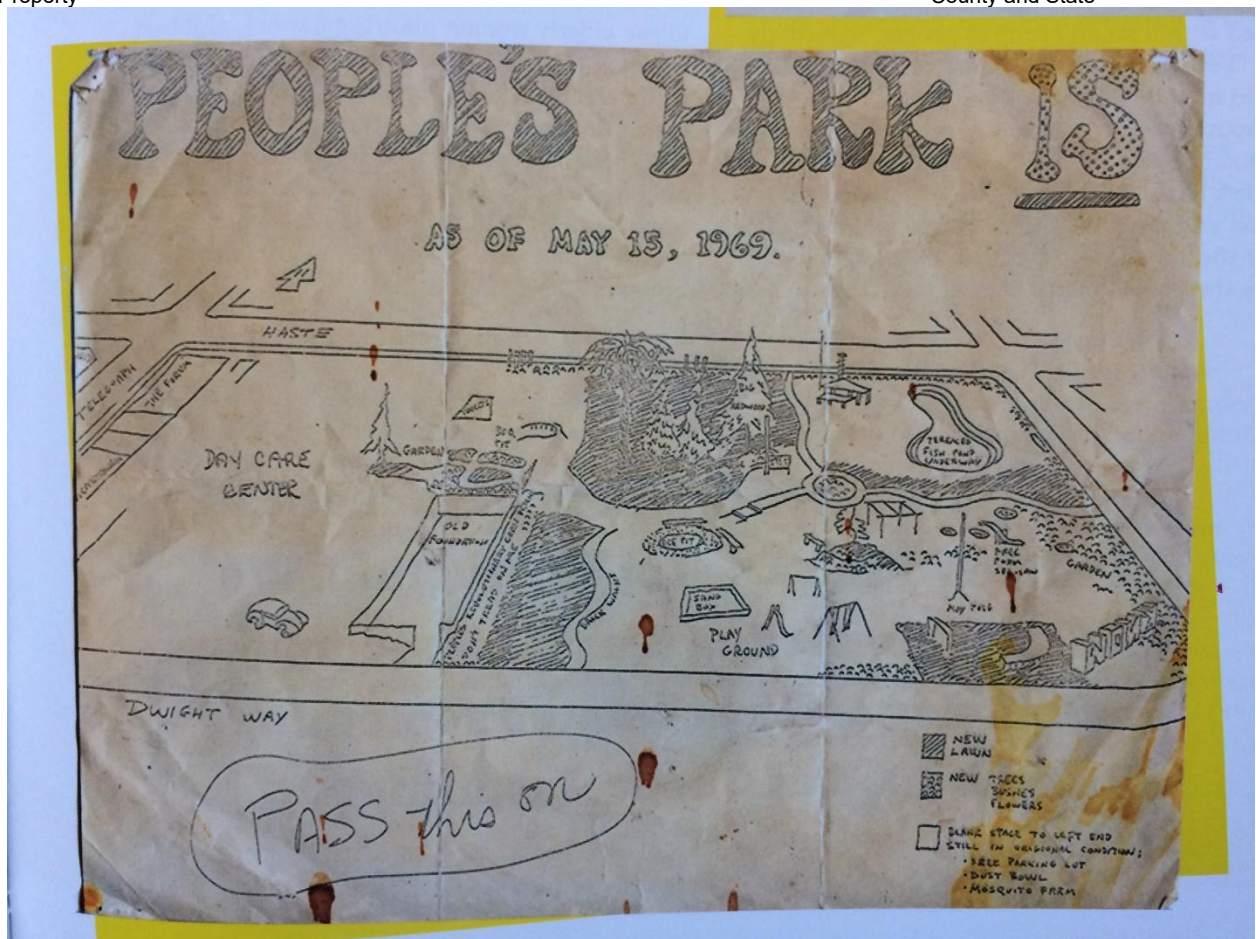
Alameda County, CA  
County and State



People's Park with surrounding historic landmarks.

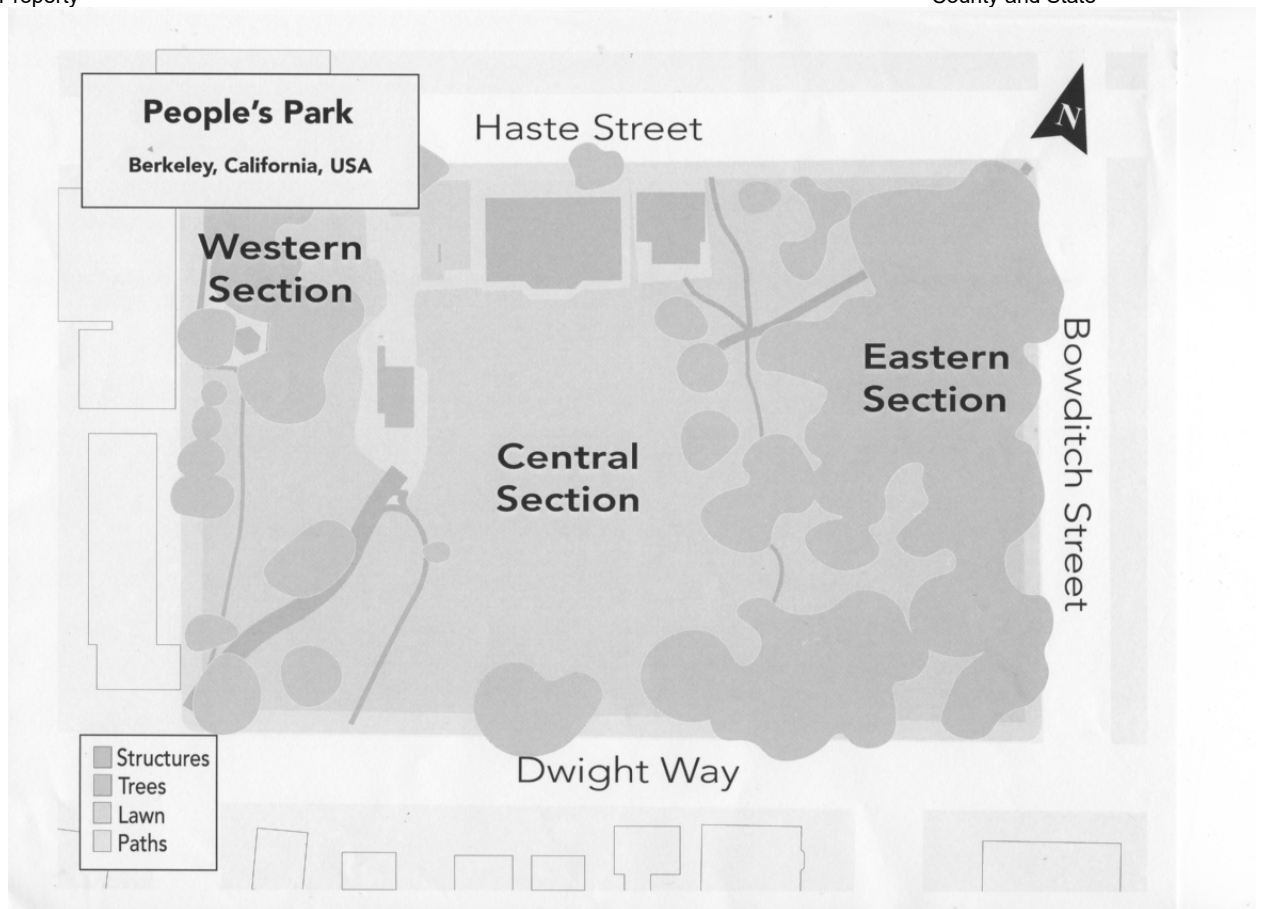
People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



Alameda County, CA  
County and State

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Tree & Shrub Lists – People's Park, East and West End, David L. Axelrod, 7/23/20**



People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State

## TREE & SHRUB LIST – PEOPLE'S PARK

(Observed by David L. Axelrod as of July 23, 2020)

### East End of People's Park, Berkeley, California

Common Name:

Botanic Name:

Location:

1. Bay Laurel – Umbellularia californica – Edge of Lawn on west-central side of East End.
2. California Lilac – Ceanothus species – Edge of Lawn on northwest corner of East End.
3. Catalina Ironwood – Lyonothamnus floribundus – Southeastern area of East End, P.P.
4. Canary Island Date Palm – Phoenix canariensis – Northwest corner of East End, P.P.
5. Canyon Live Oak – Quercus chrysolepis – Southeast corner of East End, People's Park.
6. Coast Live Oak – Quercus agrifolia (4) – East central and northeast corner of East End, P.P.
7. Coast Redwood – Sequoia sempervirens (6) – Central Grove and northeast corner, East End.
8. Douglas Fir – Pseudotsuga menziesii – North of the Central Grove, northern East End.
9. Eastern White Oak – Quercus species – Edge of Lawn, northeast corner of East End, P.P.
10. Eucalypt or Gum Tree – Eucalyptus species – Southern edge of Lawn, south central P.P.
11. Giant Sequoia or Big Tree – Sequoiadendron giganteum (2) – Eastward of Central Grove, P.P.
12. Incense Cedar – Calocedrus decurrens – Western side of Central Grove, People's Park.
13. Loquat Tree – Eriobotrya japonica – Southwestern corner of East End, People's Park.
14. Monterey Cypress – Cupressus macrocarpa – North of Central Grove, northeastern East End.
15. Monterey Pine – Pinus radiata – North of Central Grove, northwestern East End, P.P.
16. Olive-like Shrub – species unidentified – Edge of Lawn, west-central East End, People's Park.
17. Olive Tree – Olea europaea – Edge of Lawn, southwest-central East End, People's Park.
18. Valley Oak – Quercus lobata – Edge of Lawn, southwest corner of East End, People's Park.

**NOTES:** Three (3) of the specimen trees listed above definitely predate the inception of People's Park in 1969. They are the Canary Island Date Palm (Phoenix canariensis), the largest Coast Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens) and the Incense Cedar (Calocedrus decurrens), all located in the Central Grove on the East End of People's Park. All other trees and shrubs in the Park have been planted by the People's Park Project/ Native Plant Forum, or by other People's Park volunteer, during and since the spring of 1974.

The parenthetical numbers after the names of certain species, Coast Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens) (6), Giant Sequoia (Sequoiadendron giganteum) (2) and Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia) (4), indicate the estimated number of individuals of each of those particular species growing in the East End of People's Park.

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State

## TREE & SHRUB LIST – PEOPLE'S PARK

(Observed by David L. Axelrod as of July 23, 2020)

### West End of People's Park, Berkeley, California

<u>Common Name:</u>	<u>Botanic Name:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
19. <u>Apple Tree</u> – <u>Malus domestica</u> (3) –		Center, southeast and southwest areas of West End.
20. <u>Ash Tree</u> – <u>Fraxinus species</u> –		Southeastern area near edge of the Lawn on the West End.
21. <u>Bamboo</u> – <u>Bambusa species</u> –		Northern central area of the West End.
22. <u>Canary Island Date Palm</u> – <u>Phoenix canariensis</u> –		Southwestern corner of the West End.
23. <u>Coast Live Oak</u> – <u>Quercus agrifolia</u> (5) –		Near the Stage and southwest area of the West End.
24. <u>Coast Redwood</u> – <u>Sequoia sempervirens</u> (4) –		Fred Cody Grove, northwest of Stage, West End.
25. <u>Cotoneaster Shrub</u> – <u>Cotoneaster species</u> –		Northeastern corner of the West End.
26. <u>Cypress Tree</u> – <u>Cupressus species</u> –		Center of southern berm of West End near Dwight Way.
27. <u>Fig Tree</u> – <u>Ficus carica</u> –		Central area west of the Stage in the West End.
28. <u>Lantana Bush</u> – <u>Lantana species/</u> variety –		Southwestern area of the West End.
29. <u>Lemon Tree</u> – <u>Citrus limon</u> –		Southwestern segment of the eastern garden area, West End.
30. <u>Loquat Tree</u> – <u>Eriobotrya japonica</u> (2) –		Northeastern corner of the West End.
31. <u>Locust Tree</u> – <u>Robinia pseudoacacia</u> –		Northwestern corner of the West End.
32. <u>Maple Tree</u> – <u>Acer species</u> (2) –		Northern edge of West End along Haste Street.
33. <u>Norfolk Island Pine</u> – <u>Araucaria species</u> –		Edge of the Lawn south of the Stage, West End.
34. <u>Orange Tree</u> – <u>Citrus sinensis</u> –		Northern segment of the eastern garden area, West End.
35. <u>Peach Tree</u> – <u>Prunus persica</u> –		Northwest corner of the West End.
36. <u>Pear Tree</u> – <u>Pyrus species/</u> variety –		Southeast area of the West End near the Lawn.
37. <u>Plum Tree</u> – <u>Prunus prunus domestica</u> (10) –		Northwest and southeast areas of West End.
38. <u>Pomegranate Tree</u> – <u>Punica granatum</u> –		Central segment of eastern garden area, West End.
39. <u>Rose Bush</u> – <u>Rosa species x floribundus</u> (red blooms) –		Southwestern area of West End.
40. <u>Rose Bush</u> – <u>Rosa species x floribundus</u> (white blooms) –		Southwestern area of West End.
41. <u>Valley or Roble Oak</u> – <u>Quercus lobata</u> –		Northwest of the Stage, northeast area of West End.
42. <u>Wattle or Acacia Tree</u> – <u>Acacia species</u> –		Central area west of the Stage in the West End.
43. <u>Willow Tree</u> – <u>Salix species</u> –		Southwestern corner of the West End near the Lawn.

NOTES: All trees, shrubs and other plants adorning the West End of People's Park were planted by the People's Park Project/ Native Plant Forum and by other People's Park volunteer, during and since the autumn of 1979 and winter of 1980, and continuing to date..

The parenthetical numbers after the names of certain species indicate the estimated number of individuals of each of those particular species growing in the West End of People's Park.

People's Park

Name of Property

**Historic Photos**

Alameda County, CA

County and State



Figure 1.

Photographer: Robert Altman/Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images

Date Photographed: April 1969

Description: Volunteers break ground on People's Park.

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



Figure 2.

Photographer: Nacio Jan Brown

Date Photographed: 1969

Description: Building the park, with a fire pit in the foreground.

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



Figure 3.

Photographer: Michael Mundy

Date Photographed: 1969

Description: National Guard at People's Park.



People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State



Figure 4.

Photographer: Harold Adler

Date Photographed: 1969

Description: Tear gas on Telegraph Avenue at Dwight Way, looking north.

People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State



Figure 5.

Photographer: Vince Maggiora / The Chronicle

Date Photographed: May 15, 1969

Description: Bystanders cover James Rector, a spectator on the rooftop watching People's Park demonstrators, after he was injured by birdshot in Berkeley.

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



Figure 6.

Photographer: Unknown

Date Photographed: 1969

Description: National Guard and People's Park demonstrators.



People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph. Include description of view indicating direction of camera.

### Photo Log

Note: The photo documentation of the struggle over People's Park is voluminous. With the selected photos above, we have tried to give a sense of the history. Current photos below give a sense of place. Together they show the historical and cultural value of this esteemed open urban space.

Name of Property: People's Park

City or Vicinity: Berkeley

County: Alameda

State: CA

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



1 of 13.

Photographer: Harvey Smith

Date Photographed: 3/12/20

Description: Replica of historic sign in People's Park, facing south.

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



2 of 13.

Photographer: Harvey Smith

Date Photographed: 3/9/2020

Description: Middle of People's Park, looking east from Free Speech Stage (contributing feature 6) to the central grass field (contributing feature 5).



People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



3 of 13.

Photographer: Harvey Smith

Date Photographed: 9/26/2020

Description: Middle of People's Park, looking east at Canary Island palm on left, redwood on right, and incense cedar in foreground and between the two trees; the three trees predating the inception of People's Park in 1969 (contributing features 1-3).

People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State



4 of 13.

Photographer: Daniella Thompson

Date Photographed: 2020

Description: People's Park, from right - Anna Head School, bathroom/storage building (noncontributing feature a), and basketball court (noncontributing feature b); facing north.



People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State



5 of 13.

Photographer: Harvey Smith

Date Photographed: 12/13/2019

Description: First Church of Christ, Scientist on left and Baptist Divinity School in background, looking south from the northeast corner of People's Park.

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



6 of 13.

Photographer: Daniella Thompson

Date Photographed: 4/10/20

Description: First Church of Christ, Scientist, looking east from People's Park.



People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State



7 of 13.

Photographer: Harvey Smith

Date Photographed: 9/17/2020

Description: One of the painted murals on bathroom/storage building (noncontributing feature a), tile mural on right, looking east.



People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



8 of 13.

Photographer: Daniella Thompson

Date Photographed: 2020

Description: People's Bicentennial Mural (contributing feature 11), looking south from Haste Street.

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



9 of 13.

Photographer: Harvey Smith

Date Photographed: 7/23/2020

Description: Red-tailed hawk with prey in People's Park, looking south.



People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



10 of 13.

Photographer: Harvey Smith

Date photographed: September 17, 2020

Description: Free Speech Stage (contributing feature 6) and food distribution table behind stage (contributing feature 10), looking south.

People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



11 of 13.

Photographer: Harvey Smith

Date photographed: May 24, 2021

Description: Food distribution table (contributing feature 10), looking north.



People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



12 of 13.

Photographer: Harvey Smith

Date photographed: May 24, 2021

Description: Community garden (contributing feature 7), looking south.



People's Park  
Name of Property

Alameda County, CA  
County and State



13 of 13.

Photographer: Harvey Smith

Date photographed: May 24, 2021

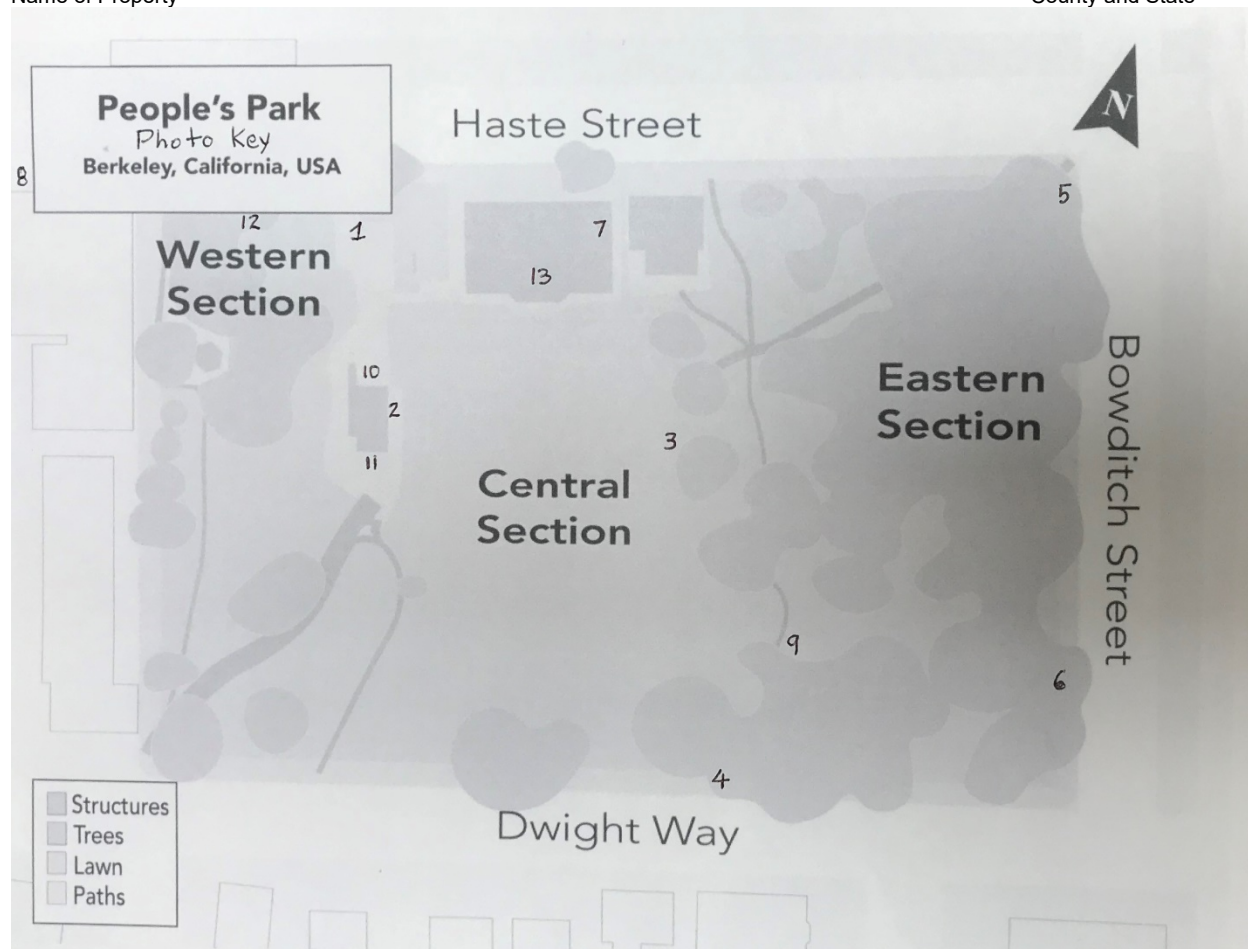
Description: Portion, two of three hoops, of basketball court (noncontributing feature b), looking east.

People's Park

Name of Property

Alameda County, CA

County and State



**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.