

Miller/Knox and Ferry Point Recreation and Fishing Improvements: Ferry Point Pier Removal Project Augmentation: Final Programmatic Report (AMENDED)

Recipient Organization/Agency: East Bay Regional Park District

Date Submitted: December 3, 2024

Award Amount: \$319,891.69

Matching Contributions: \$295,233

Total Disbursements: \$319,891.69

NFWF Project ID: #8006.23.078860

1. Summary of Accomplishments

The project successfully removed sections of an old pier and pilings to improve safety for shipping routes and recreational water users. A thorough structural assessment guided the process, ensuring the health and safety of Bay users. The removal of the abandoned structure not only protected the environment but also enhanced the surrounding natural landscape.

Public recreational benefits included restoring clear views, creating safer fishing access at the nearby fishing pier, and improving safety for boaters and paddlers at the San Francisco Bay Water Trail launch at Ferry Point Beach. These improvements enriched the experience for visitors enjoying the Richmond waterfront, shoreline, and the historic Rosie the Riveter National Park.

This project was an augmentation of East Bay Regional Park District's previous project, "Miller Knox & Ferry Point Recreation & Fishing Improvements."

2. Project Activities & Outcomes

Activities

The project involved comprehensive activities to assess and remove deteriorating pier structures. This included evaluating the condition and remaining lifespan of the piles and pier superstructure, along with environmental monitoring and specialized surveys, such as an eelgrass survey and bathymetric survey, to protect local marine ecosystems. Removal efforts targeted the north, south, and remnant piers, with asbestos exposure monitoring and abatement conducted to ensure safety. Miscellaneous timber piers were also removed and properly disposed of, completing the environmental and safety-focused objectives of the project.

There were no discrepancies between the project activities and the grant agreement; however, the discovery of asbestos onsite required additional time for safe abatement and condition monitoring.

Benefits

Before the pier removal, debris posed hazards to nearby shipping channels, small watercraft, the shoreline, and adjacent habitats. Clearing the pier has significantly reduced the risk of debris entering the water, greatly enhancing recreational conditions for activities in the bay. The area is now safe for navigation, providing a better experience for all users.

The unexpected discovery of asbestos required additional exposure monitoring and abatement efforts. Additionally, a sunken ship in the area necessitated a scope adjustment to remove portions of the structure while carefully operating around an established eelgrass buffer.

To date the eelgrass monitoring has not shown any significant unexpected results. However, it was valuable in that it revealed the capacity to work very close to eelgrass without damage. The most important questions will be how the beds respond to the removal of the structure.

Anglers fishing from the pier may have a clearer cast resulting in the ability to fish in waters previously not possible.

3. The Future

The remaining portion of the pier will be closely monitored as it ages, allowing timely identification and mitigation of any emerging safety hazards. With deteriorated sections already removed, the Park District can proactively address future risks and ensure continued safety for all users.

4. Lessons Learned

The Park District has considerable experience in completing projects that benefit park users, habitats, and surrounding ecosystems. However, projects involving structures on and under water require specialized expertise. Strong partnerships with contractors experienced in water-based structure removal were essential to safely and effectively complete this project. Through these collaborations, we were able to improve safety and protect natural habitats, highlighting the importance of these relationships in future projects.

5. Project Documents

Before and after photos (below).

POSTING OF FINAL REPORT: *This report and attached project documents may be shared by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and any Funding Source for the Project, including via their respective websites. In the event that the Recipient intends to claim that its final report or project documents contain material that is exempt from disclosure by law, the Recipient shall clearly mark all such potentially protected materials as "EXEMPT" and provide an explanation and complete citation to the law for such exemption.*



Image 1: Expanded view of pier structure facing southwest prior to removal work. Note that the pier structure has sections that are dilapidated and obscures views of the bay (Photo Credit: East Bay Regional Park District staff).



Image 2: Expanded view of pier structure facing southwest post removal work. Note that significant portions of the pier have been removed and there is a more open view of the bay from shore (Photo Credit: David Caulboy).



Image 3: Closer view of pier structure facing southwest prior to removal work. The closer view highlights the poor condition of sections of the pier in both the foreground and background (Photo Credit: East Bay Regional Park District staff).



Image 4: Closer view of pier structure facing southwest post removal work. The closer view highlights the areas where the pier was removed and the good relative condition of the remaining pier sections (Photo Credit: David Caulboy).



Image 5: Up close view of pier structure prior to removal work. The picture highlights the dilapidated state and poor aesthetics of a close-to-shore section of the pier that was removed through the project (Photo Credit: East Bay Regional Park District staff).



Image 6: Up close view of pier structure after removal work. A section of pier that was close to shore is now removed, improving safety, reducing environmental risks, and creating a better aesthetic (Photo Credit: David Caulboy).



Image 7: View of pier pilings prior to removal work. The pier pilings and neighboring dilapidated pier structure pose an environmental and safety risk. This section of the pier is also an eyesore and was removed through the project (Photo Credit: East Bay Regional Park District staff).



Image 8: View of pilings facing northwest from a publicly accessible portion of the pier after the project. The view of the shoreline is much less obstructed and has improved aesthetic value (Photo Credit: David Caulboy).



Image 9: View from the end of the public fishing pier prior to removal work. The dilapidated pier blocks views as well as limits access to Fishing (Photo Credit: East Bay Regional Park District staff).



Image 10: View from the end of the public fishing pier after the project. No obstructed view and easier access for fishing (Photo Credit: David Caulboy).



Image 11: View from the end of the public fishing pier prior to removal work. The dilapidated pier blocks views as well limits access to fishing (Photo Credit: East Bay Regional Park District staff).



Image 12: View from the end of the public fishing pier after the project. No obstructed view and easier access for fishing (Photo Credit: David Caulboy).