



National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

NPS Cosco Busan Recreational Use Program

Project: Rodeo Beach Restroom and Picnic Area Rehabilitation Final Programmatic Report

April 2024

Recipient Park Unit:	Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Project Location:	Rodeo Beach, Sausalito, CA
Date Approved:	January 8, 2013
Project Period:	2013 – 2014
Award Amount:	\$147,000
Total Expended:	\$113,206
Matching Contribution:	None
Matching Fund Source:	N/A
Project Number:	PMIS 202247A

1. Summary of Accomplishments

This project improved and upgraded the restroom and picnic facilities and paths between facilities and parking areas at Rodeo Beach, a heavily visited destination for hikers, surfers, and beach-goers. It provided an improved experience and universal access to visitors.

2. Project Activities & Outcomes

This project made improvements to the existing restrooms and picnic area at Rodeo Beach in the Marin Headlands. This work was done in coordination with repaving of the parking lot and pathway improvements funded by Federal Highways and Transit in Parks. Rodeo Beach, located in the Marin Headlands, is a site heavily visited by hikers, tourists, locals, surfers, and bikers. The site is visited by 300-400,000 vehicles each year, with many more by bike. Rodeo Beach is also used every year for surf events, races, and other group events. Visitors to the Marin Headlands and Rodeo Beach enjoy the miles of trails and views of the surrounding mountains, ocean and Bay Area – and when they do, their primary gathering areas are the parking lot, restroom, and picnic area.

The facilities at Rodeo Beach were originally constructed in 1991, and were in need of improvement due to the increased visitation and their exposure to the marine environment.

The Cosco Busan-funded portion of this project included improvements to the picnic area, and the restroom facilities. The project pieces funded by other sources include interpretive installations, a bus shelter pad, and pathways between facilities and parking areas.

The picnic area was repaved (and retained in the same location) using the same concrete that the Federal Highways parking lot improvement project had used for an accessible path from the parking lot to the bathroom/shower house and picnic areas. Five new picnic tables and four grills were installed in an arrangement intended to better accommodate large groups, replacing the four previously existing tables. Two water fountains were removed, and one accessible water fountain was installed.

Work to the restroom facilities included upgrading the interior and exterior finishes by replacing or adding baby changing stations, motion-sensor lighting, hand dryers, plumbing fixtures, partition walls, and mirrors. Between the restroom and the picnic area, a new accessible bus shelter pad was built with a paved concrete trail connected to parking lot and the rest of the facilities.

3. Benefits

Rodeo Beach is a highly visited site with 300-400,000 vehicles visiting each year, with more using the site on bicycles. The beach is regularly used by runners, hikers, tour groups, surfers, and others. This rehabilitation project immediately benefitted all visitors by improving the health and safety of visitors and improving the accessibility of these facilities. This project also benefits NPS staff by reducing the maintenance necessary.

4. Lessons Learned

The concrete pad at the picnic area is located downslope of a wetland. Water drains towards the picnic area, so the concrete pad is often wet. This oversight in design was likely due to a misunderstanding about how much water was in the area and where it drained to. The time periods when the picnic area is the wettest are usually times when the weather is not conducive to picnicking, so the issue has not had a large impact on visitor experience.

5. Funding acknowledgement

Funding for this recreational use restoration project was provided by the Cosco Busan Trustee Council comprised of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California State Lands Commission, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Department of the Interior through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service.

6. Figures



Figure 1: Picnic area before rehabilitation.



Figure 2: Picnic area after rehabilitation, July 2014.



Figure 3: Picnic area after rehabilitation in March 2016, with water seeping onto the concrete.



Figure 4: Visitors utilizing the new picnic facilities in June 2018.