

The Aquatic Park Reports

Early in the spring semester of 1989, Bill Montgomery, Berkeley Parks and Marina Superintendent, informed the class that the City was in the process of redrafting the Master Plan, with a specific emphasis on upgrading Aquatic Park. Thus seven students of the seminar chose to investigate different environmental aspects of the Park. The following section contains detailed reports on general water quality (Razani), pesticide residues in water (Wang), air and sound pollution (Williams), the soundwall issue (Gan), and surveys of vegetation (Jacobs), marine birds (Coates), and public use of the Park (Miller).

There are many suggestions we could make based on our research. These range from changes to the Park which would attract more people (Miller, Gann, Williams), to changes which would attract more wildlife (Jacobs, Coates). There are also suggestions which would improve the Park for all users (Razani, Jacobs, Wang, Williams). There are some conflicts of interests between wildlife and people (Jacobs, Coates), as well as inherent problems in assessing and improving the environmental quality of Park water and air (Razani, Wang, and Williams).

The recommendations most prevalent in our papers emphasize improving circulation and maintenance of the Park, restoring marsh and natural vegetation and forming a nature trail to familiarize people with the vegetation and wildlife found in the Park. The presence of the wildlife would be an indicator of the environmental quality of the Park.

We hope that those who read our reports will develop a better understanding of the potential Aquatic Park has as a thriving nature area, even though it is bordered by a noisy freeway on one side, and Berkeley industries on the other. We have spent many days at the Park in the course of our research and are left with the impression that it is a beautiful resource. Responsible decisions to strengthen its environmental quality will be beneficial to all users.