

Image above includes the planned multi-use trail, bathrooms and public art installation, Listening Stones by artist Mark Baugh-Sasaki.

Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project: Protecting and Enhancing Habitat, Open Space and Coastal Infrastructure

Project Overview

Chronic shoreline erosion has severely impacted South Ocean Beach between Sloat Blvd. and Skyline Drive. This erosion has undermined and damaged beach parking lots, stormwater drainage facilities and the Great Highway. It threatens existing underground wastewater system infrastructure, and has constrained public shoreline access and recreational opportunities. Erosion is only expected to get worse, and rising sea levels and more intense storms amplify the threat to coastal infrastructure like roads and sewers and even the beach itself.

The Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project (Ocean Beach Project) is the first major climate change adaptation project in San Francisco. When complete, it would improve coastal access, recreation, and habitat at South Ocean Beach, while protecting vital public wastewater and recycled water infrastructure. Project elements include managed retreat, structural protection, access and recreation improvements, and beach nourishment through the placement of sand.

Adapting to Our Changing Environment

When complete, the Ocean Beach Project would create over a mile of new seaside trail; improve access, recreation, and habitat at South Ocean Beach; and protect vital public wastewater and recycled water infrastructure. To do that, it will be necessary to reroute Great Highway traffic at Sloat Blvd and Skyline Drive away from the narrowest part of the beach. That stretch of roadway will be replaced by a multi-use public trail with sweeping Pacific Ocean views.

The Ocean Beach Project design is guided by shoreline management concepts recommended by The Ocean Beach Master Plan, a collaborative vision for San Francisco's western coast, led by the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), which brought together community members, city agencies, the Federal Highway Administration and the National Park Service.

Project Location

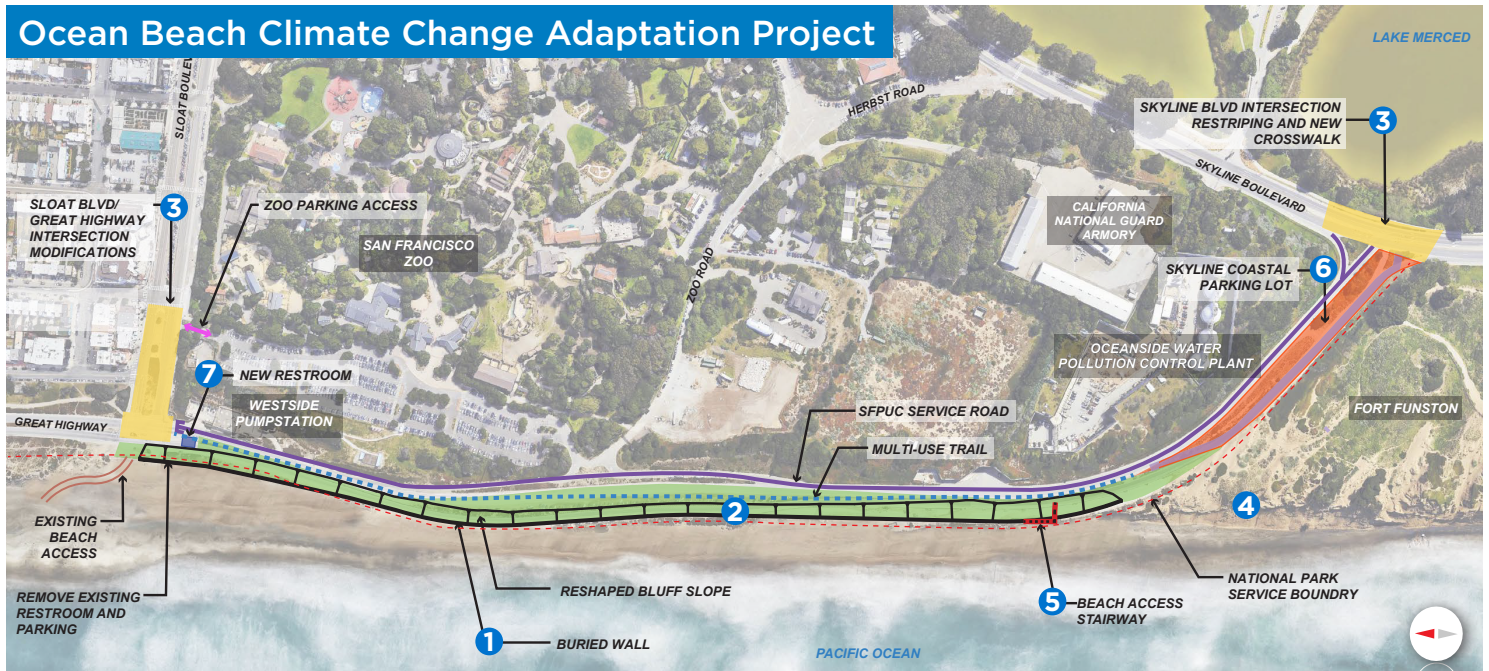


Project Partners and Timeline

Because the Ocean Beach Project requires approvals from other city and federal agencies, the implementation is a collaborative, multiagency initiative involving the SFPUC, Recreation and Parks, San Francisco Public Works, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service, and the Federal Highway Administration.

The project team is nearing completion of project design and responding to comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the Coastal Development Permit. The Final EIR and response to comments expected September 2023. Closure of the Great Highway between Sloat Blvd and Skyline Drive will require legislation anticipated to be introduced in fall 2023. Based on the current schedule, construction is expected to begin in late- 2024 and will last approximately 4 years.

Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project



Project Objectives and Components

The Ocean Beach Project is implementing a long-term coastal management strategy for South Ocean Beach that addresses shoreline erosion and climate-change-related sea level rise. Specific project objectives and components include:

- **Protect Critical Infrastructure:** Construct a buried wall to protect wastewater infrastructure and recycled water facilities from shoreline erosion. **1**
- **Preserve and Enhance Coastal Access, Recreation, and Habitat:** **4 5 7**
 - Construct a multi-use trail, beach access stairway, restrooms, and complete Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access improvements along Ocean Beach north of Sloat Boulevard;
 - Remove the shoreline protection structures and debris, reshape the bluff to increase accessible open space area and plant native vegetation. **2**
 - Continue beach nourishment (sand replenishment) as needed
- **Implement Roadway, Safety & Parking Changes:**
 - **Permanently close the Great Highway between Sloat and Skyline boulevards** to public vehicular traffic
 - **Improve Adjacent Intersections:** Improve the intersections at Great Highway and Sloat and Skyline boulevards to facilitate the changes in travel patterns resulting from the Great Highway closure. SFMTA is planning additional intersection improvements at the Sloat and Skyline intersection and along Sloat Boulevard. **3**
 - **Parking:** Construct a new parking lot with approximately 60 parking stalls near the southern end of the project's multi-use trail (near Skyline Boulevard/Great Highway intersection). The 35-space parking lot at Great Highway and Sloat Blvd will be removed. **6**
 - Reroute Muni 23 Monterey bus layover and turn-around, reconfigure San Francisco Zoo parking access, and maintain a service road to SFPUC facilities.

Beach Access During Construction

During construction, portions of South Ocean Beach would be closed to public access. Beach closure would likely be required for approximately six months per year, for each of the four years of construction. More information will be available ahead of and during construction, expected to start in late-2024.

Getting Around Now and in the Future

Beyond the Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project, the SFMTA is working on systemwide improvements in the Sunset and the Richmond neighborhoods to make it easier to take local trips on sustainable modes of transportation. Projects like the L-Taraval Improvement Project, Sunset Boulevard Repaving and the 29 Sunset Improvement project all work together to improve mobility on the westside. Learn more at [SFMTA.com/Westside](https://www.sfmta.com/Westside).

Stay Informed

Learn more at [sfpuc.org/oceanbeach](https://www.sfpuc.org/oceanbeach).
Contact us at info@sfgwater.org, or (415) 554-3233.