

Emeryville COOL Fun Facts

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It's a good time for a scene report on our local park system. This isn't a comprehensive review of all parks within our city limits (don't @ me!!!). The goal is a vibes check for this contemporary moment. PLEASE TAKE A LOOK.

DOYLE HOLLIS PARK is a classic Park style park. Like all parks right now, the child's play area is cordoned off with some droopy caution tape to discourage entry. The play area features squishy foam flooring (great choice!), and contains ambiguous sculptural play structures that one KALW reporter described as a "contraption [that]... seems just plain confusing." I'm all for confusing children so this sounds great to me!

Overall, the vibe is chill. There's a basketball court, a public bathroom



(BECAUSE USING THE RESTROOM IS A RIGHT NOT A PRIVILEGE, LET THE PEOPLE PEE!!!), and you'll be glad to know as a fan of PUBLIC ART that there is indeed some public art on view (shout out Masayuki Nagase!). It's equally as ambiguous as the play structure so 10/10 for having a consistent theme. The art is especially popular for SICK SKATEBOARDING TRICKS. The wide cement area also provides abundant space for children to execute chalk drawings, and who doesn't appreciate trippy children's art?!

DHP gets an overall review of 10/10 due to the free accessible restroom.

TEMESCAL CREEK PARK only recently came to my attention, partially through a reader who urged me to investigate the creek that flows through here. First off, the park needs a community bulletin board to meet the demands of local news and public art aficionados.

On the other hand, there are informational placards (WHO DOESN'T LOVE A GOOD INFORMATIONAL PLACARD?!?) about the Muwekma Ohlone people indigenous to this land. I appreciated the opportunity to learn a few Chochenyo words. The placards were created in collaboration with the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe so that adds to the chill factor of this park from a decolonization perspective.

I was REALLY disappointed the creek only makes an appearance through a below-ground grate. I was imagining the experience of a leisurely urban getaway next to a babbling brook, but all I got was some water in a blocked-off culvert with the potential for field recording some flowing water sounds. Sound art is always welcome in my book so I guess that ups the chill factor a little further.

If you visit the park right now, look forward to the graffiti war between visitors with varying agendas: those who wish to remind us of the neighborhood's role in gentrification vs.

those who are offended by the term and opted to replace the word with "happy play"(?) vs. a Semantics Guy who needs to point out that the park is in fact in Emeryville, not North Oakland.

The least interesting yet most utilized area of the park is a rectangular patch of fenced-in dirt. If you have a dog, or love dogs, you'll probably like this part. Personally I was more interested in the woodland-themed sculptures in the children's play area that spanned from log simulacra to oversized mushrooms: it's like the designers really understand that all children are basically stoners.

I'd say this park is "fine" and give it an 8/10. +++GREAT SHADE, WEIRD SHAPE, DRAMA ---NOT CONTAINING AN ACTUAL ACCESSIBLE CREEK

MCLAUGHLIN EASTSHORE STATE PARK is probably my favorite local hangout spot. It's a great locale if you enjoy egret sightings. You'll also get to enjoy the mashup view of the port and San Francisco skyline, take in the gentle waves, and reminisce about the bygone cultural era of the Emeryville Mudflat sculptures (to see them documented, I highly recommend Chris Marker's film *Junkopia*, where you can also be confused by the house-like structures reaching far out into the bay that I've since learned were possibly duck hunting shacks???)

The main reason I like to venture this way is to forage for beach glass treasures among the trash and other junk that washes up. On some days, I've found purples and blues! There's of course plenty of green, brown, and clear to be discovered.

While this park gets an A+ for beach glass and birds, it gets a Z- for the amount of ice plant covering the ground. All I have to say about this is F*** ICE PLANT.



Do you have a tip on an unsung park hero in Emeryville? Hot takes on our local recreation facilities? Ideas for future issues?

Leave a message at (510) 519-7283