

Phipps Ocean Park Design Memo

Towards the southern end of Palm Beach, Phipps Ocean park lays hiding in plain sight. Donated by the Phipps family in 1948 and with re-design efforts dating back to 1985, the park is now being reimagined thanks to an initiative spearheaded by the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach.

The site, flanked by mangroves on the west side and native dune on the east, presents itself as an opportunity to provide recreation and education through the restoration of the original native ecosystems.

An integrated landscape design approach, which includes grading, water management and native species as its core principles, will in time, kick-start the park's ecology. Native vegetation will attract fauna otherwise not present, synergizing the natural systems.

Aiming for balance is one of the key principles to create harmony, beauty, and resilience.

The park intervention scope is defined by 4 main areas which are described below:

Little Red Schoolhouse Center

Across the Great Lawn and a few feet up the dune, relocated from its current location, this space is meant to serve as the center of activity at Phipps Ocean Park. Being a schoolhouse will be only part of its educational mission, as now it will be the confluence point for all visitors.

Embedded in native vegetation and under the shade of large canopy trees, a large outdoor space will host meetings, classes, and activities for small and medium groups. Larger groups can be accommodated on the terraced steps, overlooking the Great Lawn.

Dune Playground

Right behind the dune, the playground is meant to provide healthy activity and education. Its unique setting within the Maritime Hammock is an opportunity to educate about two Florida native ecosystems.

Interactive structures, that blend with the landscape will provide a space for kids of multiple ages to play and learn. Shade trees from the hammock side give refuge from the sun, while grasses and low dune vegetation keep an open view to the ocean.

Horizon Plateau

This space is meant to unify the south and north sides of the park, which now are severed by the tennis courts. Rising to the dune elevation, the Horizon Plateau provides all around views to the ocean and the west side of the park. Shade around the perimeter, and sun at the center, the space is meant to congregate, host classes, activities, and or meetings.

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Nursery / Propagation Area

Split into two areas by the main pathway, and amidst a thicket of trees and Coastal Strand vegetation the Propagation Area will host an initiative that will educate the visitor about native species, and in the future provide the park with native plants and trees for later phases of the project.

The package included as part of this presentation includes extensive site research, the results of a Community Participation process and a detailed description of the proposed improvements, renderings, plans and diagrams. Additionally, the package includes the site survey and a preliminary feasibility study prepared by a Coastal Engineer.

Raymond Jungles Inc. is honored to be part of this effort lead by the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, and we look forward to the project's development and completion.



Guy Champin

Senior Associate