

Background

This activity assumes that you have completed the following two readings:

- “The Homeless in Public Parks: Is Exclusion the Solution?” by Louise Mazingo (in reader)
- The History of People's Park, on Wikipedia:
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Park_\(Berkeley\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Park_(Berkeley))

You should also have some familiarity with the site itself: please use Google Maps to identify the location of People's Park (bonus: if you have a minute, consider visiting it in person – it's just a few blocks from campus).

Introduction to activity

In this activity you will **propose a redesign of People's Park as a sustainable park**. Recall that Cranz & Boland defined a sustainable park as having three important characteristics:

- It uses local materials and low-maintenance plants (both of which minimize energy use)
- It solves problems outside of its borders
- It serves as a model for other parks in proposing new aesthetic solutions for park design

Yet compounding this challenge is the site of People's Park itself. Though certain areas lend themselves to public use (the basketball courts, for example), for the most part, the park is considered the exclusive domain of the homeless population. Mazingo reminds us that public parks – like any public spaces – should welcome and accommodate a range of users, so the monopoly of a site by a single user group is problematic.

This in mind, **you will also consider this project through the perspective of a variety of user (stakeholder) groups:**

- UC Berkeley students
- Community members (people who live near the park)
- Residents of the park (the homeless population)
- Environmental advocates
- Business owners on Telegraph Avenue

As you do this assignment, you might consider: who or what needs to be mobilized to redesign People's Park as a sustainable park? Who would benefit from this transformation, and who would lose?

Your assignment

- First, identify one concern you think each of the above stakeholder groups would have for the park. In other words, **write one sentence for each of the following groups describing what an ideal, sustainable park look to them:**
 - UC Berkeley students
 - Community members (people who live near the park)
 - Residents of the park (the homeless population)
 - Environmental advocates
 - Business owners on Telegraph Avenue
- Next, **on the back of this sheet, draw a new site plan of People's Park** in which you attempt to:
 - Translate the above needs into design solutions
 - Integrate this range of solutions into a single site design
- Finally, **reflect on your proposal** by answering the following questions:
 - To what extent is your park “sustainable” (using the definition proposed by Cranz & Boland or one of the 6 logics of sustainable design identified by Guy & Farmer)?
 - What do you think each of the community members would say about the site? Do you see any potential conflicts between different user groups?

