

**Updated Responses to Questions Asked at the Community Meeting, October 7, 2021
October 28, 2021**

Number	Question	Answer
1	Can you explain what type of events only require a park permit (approved by BPC) as opposed to events that require special event permit?	The Sarasota Code of Ordinances Chapters 22.2 and 29.6 govern park permits and special events. Please see those sections of the ordinance for specifics. In general, BPC will issue park permits for events with fewer than 75 people, unless food and beverages are being sold. Any events with attendance over 75 people, or those providing food and beverages for fewer than 75 people, will need to apply to the City for a permit.
2	What is the largest number of estimated attendees for events in Phase 1? Can you provide a maximum?	We have no idea, and won't have any idea, of estimated number of attendees until we see how park users and visitors respond to our free programs. We have offered Yoga for approximately 6 months, and a few Sunday at The Bay music performances, and the estimated attendance for those programs ranged from 25-30 to 60-75.
3	Can access to the boardwalk be closed for a private or ticketed event?	No. We have no plans to have a private event on a desirable location like the sunset boardwalk.
4	If you plan to hold events that are not free and open, what areas of Phase 1 can be closed to the public for private or ticketed events? Also, how often?	Our intent and plan is that the park stays open to the public 365 days a year, and every event in the park is free. That means if an activity, park event or program costs money, it will need to be provided pro bono, sponsored or supported by some form of private donation or government grant. If occasionally a small portion of Phase 1 is closed to a private event, the majority of Phase 1 will remain open and free to the public.
5	A park that is "free and open" is a main objective of BPC. Will all the events held (in Phase 1) be free and open to the general public?	See answer for question 4.
6	The IA says you will rely on volunteers for needed services. What if there are not enough volunteers?	If volunteers are not available for needed services, appropriate staff will be hired.
7	Can you tell us more about the "Around The Bend Nature Tours" at The Bay?	These are free nature tours around Phase 1 of The Bay every Wednesday morning at 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM beginning at the Blue Pagoda building.
8	Will you be providing a list of all the questions, with the answers, from today's meeting? On your website? Will you be providing the Q&A to the City Commission?	Yes, and video of the entire meeting is posted on thebaysarasota.org website.
9	All new lighting is to be night sky compliant - right now the 2 lights on the pathway east of the osprey nest appear to be <u>not</u> night sky compliant.	All new lights are state of the art LED with prismatic lenses that direct the light to illuminate the surface intended. All have been designed to Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) standards.
10	Are existing above-ground power lines going to be buried?	We are hoping to bury all on-site overhead power lines as we develop the park, and are in discussions with FPL and the City regarding this item.
11	How is/will The Bay Park's plan going to work with the Van Wezel Foundation new Performing Arts Center (when/if) the City approves a new PAC as the phases advance for the park?	We have an ongoing collaboration and partnership established with the Van Wezel Foundation team and the City. We are working closely together and coordinating park design and Performing Art Center plans .

12	What is the status of the crossover 41 pedestrian bridge? It remains dangerous to cross 41 as a pedestrian. Not all motorists obey the signals/sign.	BPC is recommending 2-3 pedestrian bridges over US41 as is shown in our City-approved Master Plan. The final decision rests with the City and State.
13	Will the BPC be requesting any City ordinances for litter or smoking-free zones within the park?	We plan to comply with City ordinances, therefore, The Bay will be a smoke-free park. Per the joint Implementation Agreement, the City will continue doing pickup of litter, recyclables and trash. BPC will provide enhanced pickup. Our goal is a clean and well-maintained park.
14	Where will people park their vehicles once parking spaces disappear in the park development?	BPC and the City commissioned three parking studies to evaluate parking demand at buildout. All three agree that we will need approximately 850 spaces at buildout. Over time, as we build out the park, onsite parking will be reduced from the existing 1,400 spaces to approximately 850 spaces. We will also be implementing traffic management procedures to better insure a good experience for those that choose to drive to the park.
15	How will this be enforced?	The City manages and enforces all parking on the site.
16	How will traffic management plan for Blvd. of the Arts (during events)? When will this be available?	The City manages all public rights of way and reviews and approves special event permits. Any special events that would impact any public street, including Blvd. of the Arts, will be reviewed, approved and managed as required by the City. Typically, the execution of the traffic management plan is provided by either the City or the special event sponsor.
17	Under "traffic management" you say the City will manage all City streets. Who will provide parking and traffic plans and controls (especially Blvd. of the Arts) during large or special events? City's guide says it is the applicant who must provide the plan.	See #16
18	Please explain the SWFWMD-FDEP operating agreement and how it affects the "Sunset Boardwalk" plan/permit. FDEP South Division has no knowledge of The Bay, yet the Operating Agreement specifies that FDEP is responsible for permitting "docks, boardwalks, shore protection structures and piers...including dredging." I asked for the environmental impact study, but FDEP is unaware of this project. (Audie Bock, Supervisor Grp 2, Sarasota Soil and Water Conversation District)	As discussed in person with Ms. Bock, ACOE and SWFWMD are handling environmental permitting for Phase 1 of The Bay Park. FDEP is a funding partner for some of the water quality elements of The Bay Park. These agencies agreed to handle permitting and funding in this way based on a pre-application meeting held a few years ago.
19	No fishing from boardwalk/pier? This activity is historically vital to the African American community residing north and east of The Bay property. (Audie Bock)	Fishing is an important free activity at the park and will continue to be encouraged along the western area of the park north of the Van Wezel. The City will ultimately be abandoning the purple intake structure, but we will be doing improvements in the next several months to support fishing there and at Centennial Park.
20	Will swimming be allowed in the Mangrove area?	As with all waters of the state, swimming is allowed by right.
21	Will you have lifeguards at the floating platform?	While swimming in state waters is allowed by right, our Phase 1 is not intended to be a recreational beach, but rather a resilient natural shoreline. Therefore, no lifeguards will be provided.
22	Will visitors be allowed to bring their own alcoholic beverages?	No, as is clearly specified by City ordinance.

23	Will the BPC have its own security staff to safeguard the park and visitors	As specified in the Long-Term Partnership Agreement, the City will provide basic security, and BPC will provide enhanced security.
24	Under what conditions would the boardwalk be open after sundown? If so, would you approve amplified sound on the boardwalk?	As a park feature, the sunset boardwalk hours will be the same as all other City park hours, open from 5:00 am to 11:00 pm. Any amplified sound will comply with the City's noise ordinance.
25	What are the rules about kayaks? Can anyone bring their own Kayak?	The Mangrove Bayou paddle launch will initially be open to users to bring their own equipment. In addition, BPC is exploring with a provider to potentially offer on-demand equipment in the future.
26	What are the hours that the boardwalk will be open?	See #24
27	How will you safely manage swimmers, snorkelers, kayakers, paddleboards and motor boats all in the same area around the boardwalk? While motor boats cannot dock, they will likely anchor close by for fishing or partying. Particularly concerned about swimmers' and snorkelers' safety.	The State has very clear policies for access by users to all waters of the state. The Bay Park will comply with all state and city ordinances.
28	Can you expand/review what/how the next phases of the park will unfold?	West Coast along the Bay north of the Van Wezel (under design), Historic District (under design), Canal District and Boat Launch (2-5 years). Last will be the center of the "ring" improvements based on new Performing Arts Center design approval and schedule.
29	Are there plans to monitor or evaluate late hour use of the park past 10 pm? Concern for noise and those sleeping/using park for unlawful activity.	As previously noted, the City will be providing basic security as with any other public park. BPC will be providing enhanced security. In addition, BPC will be testing video and audio security in the first phase and deploying in future phases as appropriate.
30	Can you explain this statement in the IA - "Further additions to The Bay Park may be added at the discretion of the City of the BPC..."? What types of additions would be allowed? Shouldn't the City be required to approve all additions, not the City or BPC?	The City and BPC have agreed to remove this statement from the Implementation Agreement because it addresses park development and not park operations.
31	You say you will follow all City ordinances. Will you commit that you will not seek to waive the ordinances regarding park hours and noise limits for events? For Phase 1 events?	As indicated previously, the City and BPC will be complying with all City ordinances regarding public parks.
32	Will amplified sound be allowed on the boardwalk?	See #24