

Berkeley People's Park Housing

More than 60% of the site is preserved as community green space, many trees will be preserved, and many more native plantings will be added.

The project site was formerly People's Park, a 2.8-acre site that is owned by the University of California. This transformative project will create more than 1,100 beds of urgently needed student housing at below-market rates, build permanent housing for the unhoused, and preserve green community park space.

Two housing buildings will be around the green space.

The first building is student apartments and will be targeted for UC Berkeley sophomores, juniors, and seniors, who are particularly under served by existing campus housing. More than 1,100 students will be housed predominantly in double-occupancy 4-bedroom apartments at below-market rents.

The student apartments will be developed, owned, and operated by UC Berkeley, and will be similar in quality and livability to existing campus housing. There are no private developers. There are no private operators. No profits are being generated for private entities.

In a second building, there will be permanent supportive housing for more than 100 extremely low-income persons. The facility will provide a reliable place to live, coupled with case management that connects residents to needed services. The campus has committed to provide land for this facility at no cost, and will partner with a third party development firm to develop and operate the supportive housing.

Revitalized green space with commemoration of the past.

New gardens will incorporate colorful native plantings and lush groves of trees, many of which are preserved from the old park. The People's Park Glade is a new central, sunny meadow with plantings, pathways, and passive use areas that reinforce the park's public presence. Wide, southern-facing exposures maximize daylight and minimize shadows, creating a sunny and ideal space for recreation and relaxation. Landscape elements will be incorporated into the design to commemorate the site's storied history, from land originally inhabited by native peoples thousands of years ago, to turn-of-the-century residential housing development, and through the 1960s and the subsequent creation of a park, to today.

We believe in a safe, revitalized park that will be used by a wider segment of students and the entire Southside community in the City of Berkeley.



• Below-market apartments will house more than 1,100 undergraduate students.



• Independent surveys show that UC Berkeley students support this project by a 2:1 margin.



 Preserve more than 60% of the site as community green space. That's almost as big as one and a half football fields.



Learn more:

PeoplesParkHousing.berkeley.edu



Above: View of the student housing building looking across the Central Glade towards Bowditch Street. **Below**: Placement of the new housing has been carefully considered to create an expansive sunny meadow with plantings and pathways called the Central Glade.

This project is widely supported by the Berkeley mayor, members of the city council, the media, our neighbors, local churches, faculty experts and professionals who have dedicated their lives to helping and supporting unhoused people. We are grateful for their endorsements.

We have also taken an important step to ensure we are listening to the full range of representative student perspectives regarding housing issues in general, and plans for People's Park in particular. Undergraduate and graduate students were surveyed by a leading independent survey firm in two waves of scientific, random sample surveys at a 99% confidence level and 3% margin of error.

The results show that students support the People's Park project by a two-to-one margin (57% to 27%.) Then, after being provided with basic information about the project, support among Berkeley students grew to a 62% to 27% margin, with 73% specifically supporting the construction of student housing on the site, and 70% supporting construction of supportive housing on the site.





Learn more:

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In a separate building, apartments will house more than 100 persons who are currently unhoused or were recently unhoused. This is not a temporary shelter.

Supportive housing provides a reliable place to live, coupled with case management that connects residents to needed services. Residents are more likely to avoid re-incarceration, experience fewer visits to the emergency room, and need fewer inpatient hospital stays, reducing public expenses overall.

The campus made the commitment to provide land at no cost for the supportive housing and will partner with a third party development firm to develop and operate the facility.

Interns from the Schools of Public Health and Social Welfare will partner with service providers to support the supportive housing residents as part of their academic studies.