

W. DON MACGILLIVRAY LOOKOUT POINT



DEDICATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Don MacGillivray

FORMER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, MAYOR OF SANTA
BARBARA, AND CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATOR

IN APPRECIATION FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE
TO HIS COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION

HIS EFFORTS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE PRESERVATION OF THIS
LAND FOR A PARK FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY HE SO LOVED

1995

STEVE MALONE/NEWS-PRESS

plaque marks MacGillivray Point at Shoreline Park.

Relatives of late mayor Don MacGillivray oppose Shoreline Park changes

By **BEN SMITHWICK**

NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

With the city of Santa Barbara aiming to use the MacGillivray Point lookout at Shoreline Park, relatives of the late Mayor Don MacGillivray are speaking out in favor of preserving what they believe is one of the city's most treasured places.

The proposal, part of a \$200,000 Parks and Recreation Department improvement plan for

the park, was reached after a 2008 landslide prompted city officials to take a closer look at park management operations.

Pointing to a geological study indicating that a landslide at the MacGillivray Point lookout would be sudden and catastrophic, officials say the safety risks require its closure.

The city is moving forward with plans to install 57 linear feet of safety fencing to keep people away from the lookout. Benches will be removed and signs will be placed on the fence

warning of hazards.

Shannon MacGillivray McGraw, the late mayor's granddaughter, told the News-Press that closing the lookout would be devastating.

"It just totally dishonors his efforts and his memory and his work. It's offensive on every level," she said. "This is where we've always come to honor him."

Although she recognizes the city's concerns:

*Please see **PARK** on A7*

Hatchet killer may spend life in mental facility



Parks and Recreation contends there is a risk to public safety

■ PARK

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regarding safety at the lookout, Ms. McGraw said she would like to see the area preserved and alternative options considered.

"This is so sacred to us," she said, stating that the chain link fence around the lookout has upset her grandmother, the former mayor's wife, Dee MacGillivray.

Don MacGillivray was mayor from 1964 to 1968, the same period in which a bond measure providing funding for the park was approved by voters.

The lookout point, which was dedicated to the former mayor and assemblyman in 1995, is bordered by a short stone wall with a commemorative plaque. According to the Parks and Recreation Department, the stone contains cracks, which likely correspond to the location of a future landslide.

Ms. McGraw and her mother, Sandy, were opposed to changing the Mesa park's name from Shoreline Park to MacGillivray Park after the former mayor's death.

"I feel sad now because I stood up in the council meeting," Ms. McGraw said, adding that she regrets not supporting the change after seeing the way the city has treated the lookout point.

Assistant Parks and Recreation director Jill Zachary told the News-Press that funding and staffing reductions have restricted restoration efforts at the lookout.

"We have in our longer-term phase two plan for the park an intent to develop another place that serves like a lookout and to also rededicate a section of the park to the mayor," Ms. Zachary said.

Ms. McGraw said that if public access to the lookout is restricted

she would like to see the park's playground area named in his honor or since it is located in the same spot where her grandfather took her to play as a child.

Although the city at one point considered demolishing the lookout's stone wall, it was eventually determined that the task would be too expensive and potentially damaging to the bluff.

According to planning officials, the city surveyor has been monitoring several areas at MacGillivray Point lookout since March.

While only two of the 10 points surveyed currently show movement, the Parks and Recreation Department contends that the area is a risk to public safety.

Acknowledging that a lot of Santa Barbarans are going to lament the fact that coastal bluff erosion has made areas of Shoreline Park unsafe, Ms. Zachary said that her department is working to make sure that the park's amenities are preserved, a goal supported by Sandy McGraw.

"We hope that they preserve the park so that my grandchildren and my great-grandchildren can take advantage of it," she said.

The Shoreline Park improvement plan will be reviewed by the Planning Commission at 1 p.m. Thursday at City Hall, 735 Anacapa St.

email: bsmithwick@newspress.com



From left, Sandy MacGillivray McGraw, Dee MacGillivray, and Shannon MacGillivray, with 10-month-old P Shoreline dedication site they wish to preserve.

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