

Welcome / bienvenidos



Photo: Cris Benton

[The César Chávez Memorial Solar Calendar Project](#) is developing a comprehensive urban solar/lunar calendar at Chávez Park in Berkeley, California. The project will draw from design concepts in art, astronomy and architecture found at numerous ancient sky observatory sites around the world to inform the final design.

The project seeks to:

- Promote an understanding of the Rhythm of the Seasons
- Honor the work, life and values of César E. Chávez
- Provide an outdoor classroom to study science, math & culture
- Create a space for reflection in the midst of a busy urban environment

Events

Spring Equinox

Spring Equinox Saturday, March 19, 2016 6:30 to 7:30 pm Sunset at 7:20 pm

Summer Solstice Gathering

Summer Solstice Gathering Monday, June 20, 2016 7:45pm to 8:45 pm Sunset at 8:30pm Led by Tory Brady, Exploratorium Teacher Institute

César Chávez Park

Location

11 Spinnaker Way, North of the west end of University Avenue - Marina/Northwest Berkeley

Cesar Chavez Park, built on the site of a former landfill, offers a wide range of recreational opportunities in a marina setting with spectacular views of the three bay bridges, Alcatraz, and Angel Island.



Park Features

- **Acreage: 90 acres (3,920,400 sq. ft.)**
- **Large multi-purpose turf area**
- **Picnic areas with BBQ**
- **Hiking on trails throughout the park; the 1.25 mile Dorothy Stegmann trail around the park's perimeter is fully wheelchair accessible**
- **Shoreline and wetland areas**
- **Spectacular views from trails and vista, including the San Francisco Bay to the west and the hills to the east**
- **Off-leash dog area (in designated area only)**
- **Wildlife sanctuary at undeveloped northern end of park**
- **Kite flying (site of annual Kite Festival in July)**
- **Wildlife sanctuary at undeveloped northern end of park**
- **Portable Toilets Available**
- **Limited Parking Available**
- **Picnic areas are available on a first-come basis; special events open to the public need a rental permit. Contact the Recreation Office at 510-981-5150**
- **[Chavez Memorial Solar Calendar](#)**

Accessibility



Paved paths around perimeter and part of interior are wheelchair accessible; other areas are not.

Park Hours

6 a.m. to 10 p.m. unless otherwise posted

History

The park was renamed in 1996 after César E. Chávez, noted union leader and founder of the United Farm Workers of America. In 2004 the Berkeley City Council approved the Phase I Design for the Chávez Memorial Solar Calendar – <http://solarcalendar.org>. For city-wide commemorative activities and resources on César Chávez, go to <http://www.ecologycenter.org/chavez>.

A 17-acre off-leash dog area was recommended by a special Task Force created by City Council and was approved with modifications by the City Council in 1998 after a long period of public hearings and review by various commissions. Originally known as North Waterfront Park, this open space was built on a former landfill that dated back to 1957, when dikes were constructed for the purpose of containing municipal waste. In 1969, a Marina Master Plan was adopted setting aside the landfill area for unstructured recreation. The landfill was completely sealed in 1991 and the park opened soon thereafter.