

Land Acquisition and Park Name

“Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50” is now the name of the new East Bay Regional Park in Concord. The naming was approved unanimously by the Park District Board of Directors at its meeting on June 1, 2021. The new parkland, formerly known as the Concord Naval Weapons Station, part of the larger Port Chicago military complex, had been referred to as “Concord Hills Regional Park” during the planning process until the permanent naming was approved by the Board of Directors.

NAACP civil rights lawyer and former U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall, helped defend the 50 Black sailors accused of mutiny after the devastating Port Chicago Naval Magazine blast on July 17, 1944. The explosion killed 320 men, mostly African American, and injured 390 more. It was the largest Homefront disaster of World War II. The military trial took place on Treasure Island in nearby San Francisco Bay from September 14 to October 24, 1944.



Although the 50 sailors were found guilty and sentenced to 15 years in prison, Thurgood Marshall’s high-profile appeal paved the way for the desegregation of the entire U.S. military. Marshall went on to argue the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), which led to school desegregation nationwide. He became the first black U.S. Supreme Court Justice in 1967 and served for 24 years.

Video: “A Legacy of Civil Rights: Port Chicago / Concord Hills”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMe_PD9m1Sg

In the News

Concord Hill Park Conveyance - July 13, 2019 - <https://youtu.be/KH2v5qM9178>

East Bay Times - [Navy hands over part of old Concord weapons site for creation of huge regional park](#)

SF Gate - [Navy turns over 2,200 acres for new East Bay regional park](#)

FOX2 (KTVU) - [Plans for regional park at Concord Naval Weapons Station move forward](#)

NBC Bay Area - [Navy Formally Turns Over Former Concord Naval Weapons Station Land for Park](#)

Channel 5 (KPIX) - [Navy Turns Over Concord Weapons Station Land for New Regional Park](#)

Mercury News - [Park at former East Bay weapons site could be named for Black Supreme Court justice](#)