



The transformation of the Olympic Port into a people-centred space is underway

- » The first stage of development has begun – the remodelled Olympic Port will be a vibrant space for everyone that will boost nautical sports and activities, gastronomy, as well as the blue economy.
- » Currently underway is the provisional revamp of the promenade, which is scheduled to be completed in December. People will be able to enjoy the improved public space, consisting of a rest and relaxation zone of more than 10,000 square metres.
- » Next week will see the first regenerative works on the seawall, which will be improved to guarantee safety and resolve current overtopping issues.
- » Progress continues on the rest of the interventions geared towards the Port's transformation, which involves investment of over 40 million euros, and will not cause disruption to port activity.

The Olympic Port's transformation is already underway. Barcelona City Council has started to implement the first phases of development of the promenade, converting it into a new social space for citizens and locals which will boost nautical sports, the blue economy and gastronomy.

The point of reference for this process of transformation is the Olympic Port Strategic Masterplan. It incorporates the new governance which began on the 3rd of April last year by Barcelona Municipal Services (B:SM) who, at the request of the Barcelona City Council, performs tasks involving the control, development, maintenance, adaptation and management of the Port, along with criteria for sustainability.

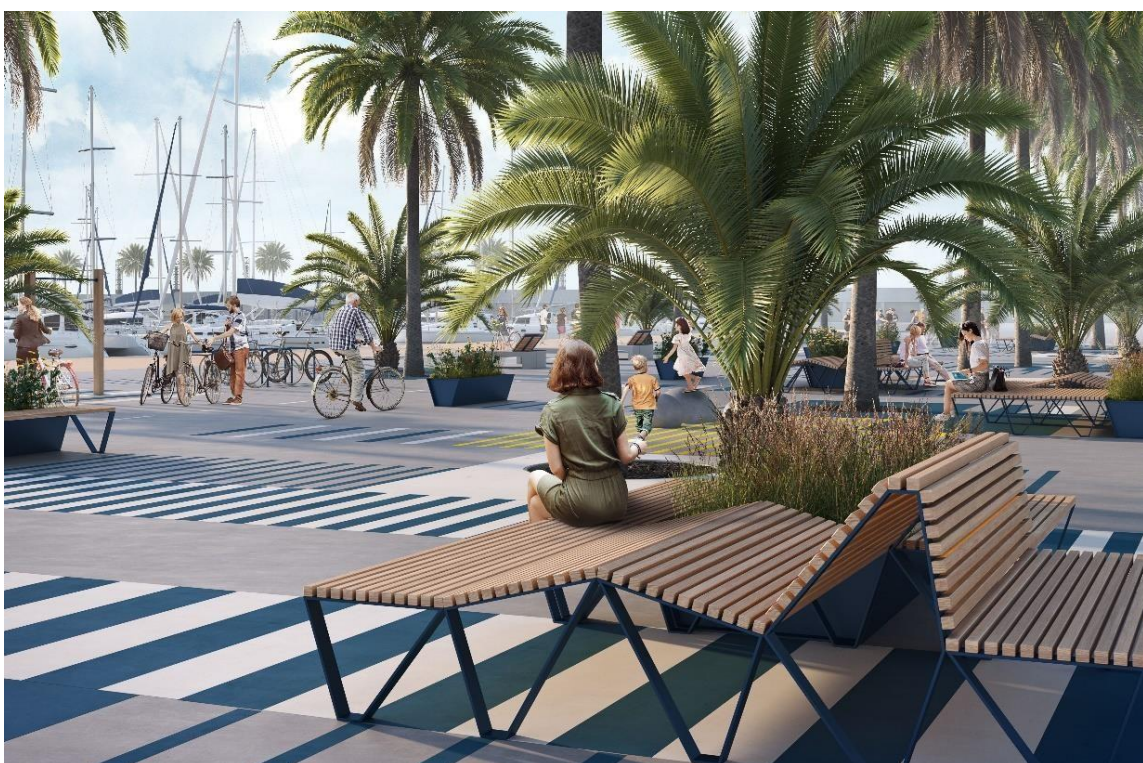
The Masterplan defines the new model and the proposed course of action which derive from multiple points of view, such as mobility and accessibility, infrastructure, uses of space, the environment and sustainability, and the gender perspective.

Improvement of public space and the infrastructure's safety

Some of the proposals are already being implemented or at the point of implementation. The first has to do with the fundamental objective of integrating the Port with the city, making it more pleasant and with more meeting points for people, giving it a stronger social dimension, as well as being a place for everyday use, especially for those residing in the Sant Martí district.



The provisional revamp of the Mestral and Gregal promenade, which has already started and will recover 10,000 square metres of high quality public space, will be used for pleasure, relaxing and sports. Its completion is scheduled for the end of December, with investment of 400,000 euros. The terraces and two rows of parking areas next to the pavement will be removed to allow the space to be converted into a new social and family meeting point.



Provisional revamp of Olympic Port public space

Next week the first steps of construction begins for the revitalisation of the seawall, one of the most important actions to guarantee safety. Improvements will be made to ensure the functionality of the Port and to solve the problems of overtopping of the seawall. The seawall will be reinforced, as well as the four underwater seawalls which protect the seafront.

Preparations are currently being made, and the manufacture of concrete tetrapods and the breakwater will be carried out from January in the Vallcarca Port, Garraf. The maritime transportation and installation of these elements are scheduled for March, with the hope of finishing all works in May 2022. The project cost is 10.6 million euros.

Progress is also being made for the new point of access, which will connect Avinguda del Litoral with the lower level of the Mestral Wharf. The intervention will allow improvements to accessibility, permeability and the continuity of the Olympic Village neighbourhood and the Olympic Port Park, and will get rid of barriers and slopes. The drafting of the executive project has already been assigned and it is foreseen that the works will start at the end of 2021, and will finish at the start of 2023, with a total investment of 2.8 million euros.



Proposed new access to the Olympic Port

Boosting nautical activity, the blue economy and gastronomy

The popularisation of nautical activity is another of the strategic pillars of the Olympic Port. Accessible pricing policies are being carried out, prioritising small boats with fiscal benefits based on sustainability criteria. Also, maritime training will be ensured, not forgetting about professional and recreational boating.

It is precisely these fields which will give a boost to the Barcelona Municipal Sailing Centre, which will strengthen its activity in beginner sailing courses, especially among

children and young people. Additionally, the centre offers training to obtain official licences for recreational sailing as well as navigation practice.

The boost will be a result of refurbishments to the Barcelona Municipal Sailing Centre of the Barcelona Sports Institute, which will be able to improve its services with new facilities which will be more modern and adapted, such as a gym, changing rooms, activity rooms, hangars and the rest of the necessary space for nautical sports. The total project will be a size of approximately 2,500 square metres and will cost 3.8 million euros. In the next few weeks, the drafting for the executive project will be awarded.



Proposed new interior of the Barcelona Municipal Sailing Centre

Another focal point of the Port is to promote a new model of uses and activities centred around the blue economy, understood as a sea-related economy, non-contaminating, efficient in the use of resources and based on sustainable production and consumption models, which improves wellbeing and social equity, contributing to the economic growth and significantly reducing environmental risk and ecological scarcity.

This new aggregate, developed with Barcelona Activa and highlighted in the Pla Litoral, will allow daily activity which will be productive, sustainable and innovative in a vibrant port. The Port will be open 365 days a year with accessible activities for everyone, and connected with the people, whilst simultaneously increasing the city's competitiveness, generating 200 new jobs related to this economic sector.

The spaces which will foster the blue economy are the Mestral Wharf and the seawall. Both spaces are currently in the bidding phase of the project, which will involve an investment of 4 million euros.

The tangible first step in this direction is the recovery of the spaces in the Mestral Wharf, currently occupied by nightlife, to be able to stay on schedule for the aforementioned projects. To date, 4 venues have voluntarily given up their properties, with 26 more pending. The 16th of October was the end of the period of administrative enquiry of those 26 venues whose properties were not voluntarily given up. Now, the Barcelona City Council has opened the court proceeding, anticipating the authorisation of eviction of said venues and their indefinite recovery before the end of the year.



Proposed new establishments in Mestral Wharf



Proposed promenade with new establishments and storage facilities

On the other hand, the comprehensive regeneration project of the new establishments and storage facilities, as well as the redevelopment of the seawall space, are in the process of adjudication. This will also complement the pillar of boosting the blue economy. The rest of activity will be located in these new regenerated spaces, and the storage facilities for sailors will be located in the central part of the seawall.



The regeneration of the seawall will generate a unique platform on the lower port, but permeability as a whole will be increased through two new access points along the seawall, which will connect the pedestrian area of the lower city with the lower level of the port. Taking into account the buildings and the urbanisation of the space, the size of the project will be nearly 9,500 square metres, with a projected cost of 7 million euros.

The forecasted execution of this group of projects (regeneration of venues and storage space, and the pedestrian area of the lower city and the port of the new seawall) is the start of 2022, with the project's forecasted completion at the end of 2022.

Lastly, the provision of gastronomy will continue to be one of the strong points of the Port, which will be transformed into a space where tradition meets innovation, a meeting point where one will be able to enjoy healthy, Mediterranean cuisine. Gastronomy in the Gregal Wharf maintains the vision for a port where Mediterranean cuisine - its proximity and connectedness to the sea will trigger economic activity in this sector. In this sense, catering maintains its value, contributing to making the port a lively place, guaranteeing employment during the transformation period.

The transformation project of the Olympic Port foresees an investment of around 40 million euros, which will serve to fund the improvements of infrastructure and the adequacy of the public space. It will go forward without disruption to current activity, and it will not result in any excessive costs for the Barcelona City Council, because it will be funded by revenue generated from the Port's own activities.

Public management and sustainability

The incorporation of the public management criteria on the Olympic Port holds a vision where the core strategy is towards the improvement of quality of life for the city's population, from leading management with commitment, integrity, cooperation, innovation and excellence, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals SDGs 2030.

It is management closely linked to the citizens, which guarantees the safety of people and facilities, makes policies based on affordability and accessibility, giving clear support from the improvement, conservation and maintenance of the city's heritage assets.

In the current situation, an effort has been made in obtaining the Global Safe Site and Safe Tourism Certified certifications as safe activity which abides by all the preventative measures to avoid the possible propagation of Covid-19.

Furthermore, the Olympic Port will be a port which is innovative in its environmental management, in line with the SDGs, which are:

- Zero-waste port: Decline of the waste generation. Boosting separate collection.



- Zero emissions: Reduction of energy consumption, and capitalisation of renewable energy, especially solar energy.
- Respecting the environment: Sustainable material and minimising the impact on marine life.
- More Green: Provision of green space to make a more liveable space.

A new look for a new era

From September, a new graphic identity for the Olympic Port has already been established, with the purpose of visualising the transformation and the beginnings of its reintegration into the urban fabric.

The design of this new graphic identity synthesises with the Port's new brand, inspired by the four concepts which represent: the environment, activity, the urban fabric and its architecture, as well as culture. The diverse elements are integrated to give life to a new image of the Port: sun, sea, and tones of green and blue; sailing, dynamism and progress; the boat, and the intertwining, polychromatic forms are inspired by Catalan art such as Miró, Gaudí and modernism.



To make the Port more comprehensive, all signage has been renewed, as well as the information about different points of services on offer in each of the facilities, updating the image and improving legibility. Digital channels are also up and running, with a new website - **portolimpic.barcelona** – with an improved user experience and features of great interest for users, such as the weather forecast or the webcams which stream live from the Port. The Port has also launched new accounts on Twitter and Instagram, where all the latest information will be posted.

