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## MARTINEZ REGIONAL SHORELINE

### Park Tips for Teachers

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#### Introduction to Martinez Shoreline

The Martinez Shoreline serves as a natural safe place for plants, animals and park visitors alike. The East Bay Regional Park District operates the western section of the park with its quiet open lawns, group picnic areas, and ponds and creeks making it the perfect place to take your class on an enriching nature walk. At the shoreline students can find what's growing in the soil or perhaps spot an otter or migrating birds while enjoying trails and board walks alongside the tidal marsh.



Before taking your class on a field trip make sure to pick-up the Kids Healthy Outdoor Challenge (KHOC) teaching materials at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in Antioch, CA. Please call the interpretive office prior to picking up the materials at **(510) 544-2750** or **(510) 544-2752**.

#### Plants and Wildlife

The shoreline provides habitat for a variety of unusual plants and wildlife that surround the marshlands. The KHOC activities and the photo scavenger hunt provide opportunities to learn more about what you can see on the trail. To keep your students safe and to protect wildlife habitat, please keep all participants on the trails. Picking plants and feeding ducks are also prohibited. Students are, however, invited to touch plants. Hand lenses and binoculars are provided to allow students to get a closer look.

Keep your eyes peeled for birds such as egrets, red-winged blackbirds, mallard ducks and marsh wrens that are commonly seen, depending on the time of year. This area is also home to turtles, small fish and occasionally beavers and river otters!

#### Directions to the Park

The main parking lot where you will begin is located on the North Court Street entrance off Ferry Street in the city of Martinez, CA.

**Address:**

**North Ferry Street**

**Martinez, CA**

<https://goo.gl/maps/Dk3JW>

**Driving Directions:**

From Highway 4 in Martinez, exit at Alhambra Avenue and go north. Turn right on Escobar and left on Ferry Street; follow Ferry Street into the park.

From I-680 in Martinez, exit at Marina Vista and go west. Turn right on Ferry Street into the park

## Activities and Where to Meet

On arrival, you will notice grassy lawn areas and restrooms, feel free to gather there and use the facilities.

### Activities:

1. **Piecing It Together:** This activity is to be done on the grassy area between the restroom and the parking lot. Students will learn about the geography of the watershed.
2. **Marsh Photo Scavenger Hunt:** This activity should start after crossing the second bridge. Students will be on the lookout for wildlife using picture cards.
3. **Schooner Shipwreck:** This activity should begin at the information panel in front of the sandy beach area and the schooner shipwreck! Students can see old photos and imagine life as a fisherman in Martinez. Afterwards kids are welcome to explore the beach!



Once all activities have been completed, head back towards the parking lot, retracing your steps, and follow the trail right back to where you started. For more information about the park, check our website at <http://www.ebparks.org/parks/martinez>.

## Things to Remember/ Safety

- **Be Prepared!**
- Check the weather report before you come.
- **Clothes:** Wear play clothes that can get dirty or wet. Weather is variable. Be sure you have jackets and raingear, if necessary.
- **Shoes:** Bring tennis shoes or boots. Rain boots are helpful in rainy, wet conditions.
- Bring a lunch or snacks. Practice *Leave No Trace*, putting all trash in waste bins
- Bring water and stay hydrated.
- Discuss safety items with your group before and at the start of your trip.
- The Martinez Shoreline is a public park, we advise to check restrooms before letting children go in pairs.
- While exploring the beach area, be careful of sharp things that may have washed ashore.