

# Carquinez Strait and Crockett Hills

**VEGETATION** The major plant communities in Carquinez and Crockett Hills Regional Parks are composed of plant species typical of annual grassland, oak woodland, and coastal scrub vegetation. Localized wooded communities with oak and oak/bay woodland and buckeye can be found in protected east-facing slopes and ravines.

**WILDLIFE** The two parks' grasslands provide habitat to western meadowlark, horned lark, house finch, western bluebird, and American goldfinch. Valley oaks offer nest sites for the red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, golden eagle, northern harrier, great horned owl, and barn owl. Cooper's hawks use the riparian ravines for nesting and for providing cover for ambushing prey. Mammals include the gray fox, mule deer, raccoon, eastern fox squirrel, Botta's pocket gopher, and other species. Small rodents are prey to gopher snakes and western garter snakes.

**HISTORY AND TOPOGRAPHY** Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline comprises 2,843 acres of bluffs and shoreline along Carquinez Scenic Drive between Crockett and the hillsides overlooking Martinez. This parkland provides a gateway to the river delta region along the northern edge of Contra Costa County. The coastal hills rise steeply to 750 feet above Carquinez Strait. From the highest elevations, the view includes the marshland of Benicia State Recreation Area to the north across Carquinez Strait. From along the Franklin Ridge Loop Trail and the California Riding and Hiking Trail, hikers can see Mt. Tamalpais to the west and Mt. Diablo to the southeast. Looking south from this high point are the ridges of Briones and Las Trampas Regional Parks. Eckley Pier is accessible from the Bull Valley Staging Area. No fishing license is required for fishing; striped bass and sturgeon are caught from the pier. Note that **dogs and barbecues are not allowed on the pier.**

Located outside of the town of Crockett, the 1,300 acres of Crockett Hills Regional Park were likely hunting and gathering grounds for Native Americans, later were 19th-century ranchlands, and more recently played a role in the industrial history of the region. The original ranch barn, milkhouse, and corrals can still be seen in the Crockett Ranch staging and picnic area. The park ranges in elevation from 150-800 feet, offering views of San

Pablo Bay, the Delta, Mount Tamalpais, and Mount Diablo. Trails include a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

The topography of these parks consists of open, rolling grasslands, wooded ravines, eucalyptus-shaded meadows, and river shoreline. Multi-purpose trails provide canyon views and ridgetop vistas. At the Bull Valley Staging Area shoreline, the remnants of a late-1800s brickworks, grain wharf, and resort recall the historic character of the site. The sights and sounds of tugboats along this broad waterway are a part of the charm of Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline.

## WELCOME!

Please enjoy our Regional Parks safely, and help us protect and preserve your parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

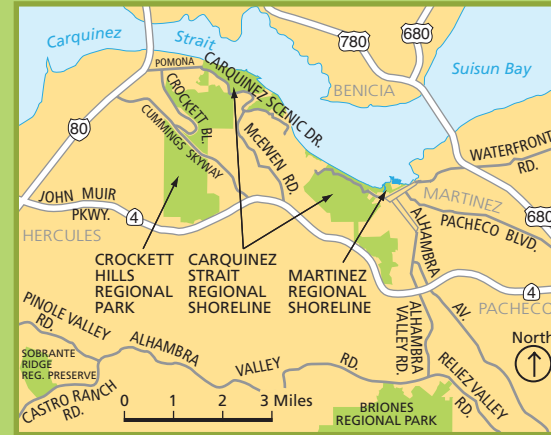
### SAFETY and ETIQUETTE

- Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and causes erosion.
- Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas may be dangerous and may harm the watershed.
- Carry and drink plenty of water. Dehydration is a leading cause of injuries on the trail.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
- Trails can be slippery, rocky and steep. Proceed carefully at your own risk.
- Wildlife may be present on the trails at any time. Feeding or approaching wildlife is dangerous and illegal.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. Horses have the right-of-way on trails.
- Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.

### RULES

- Pets must be leashed 200 feet from any trail or park entrance. Pets must be leashed in parking lots, picnic areas, developed areas such as lawns and play fields, and on some trails. They must be under voice control at all times.
- The Eckley turf area is closed to horses. A special staging area for large riding events is located at Crockett Hills. Most other trailheads are suitable for unloading horses, except those trailheads with only limited parking along road shoulders.
- A state fishing license is not required when fishing from Eckley Pier.
- Swimming, wading, and other water activities are allowed on Bay shorelines. Swim at your own risk.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at swim facilities, within 50 feet of roadways or parking lots, or in posted areas. Beer and wine are allowed in other areas of the park. Please enjoy your beverages responsibly.

Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 38), available online at [www.ebparks.org/activities/ord38](http://www.ebparks.org/activities/ord38).



**To Reach the Nejedly Staging Area:** From Hwy. 4 in Martinez, exit at Alhambra Ave. and turn north into Martinez. In downtown Martinez, turn left onto Escobar Street, drive three blocks and turn right onto Talbart Street. Drive three blocks again and bear left onto Carquinez Scenic Drive. Drive to the Nejedly Staging Area entrance on the left.

**To Reach the Bull Valley Staging Area:** From Hwy. 4, exit at Cummings Skyway and drive north. Turn right onto Crockett Boulevard and drive to Pomona Street in Crockett. Turn right onto Pomona Street, which becomes Carquinez Scenic Drive. Follow Carquinez Scenic Drive to the staging area entrance on the left. From I-80 in Crockett, exit at the Pomona St. exit (exit 27), turn left onto Pomona and drive for about 2.5 miles to the staging area on the left. Note that Pomona becomes Carquinez Scenic drive as you leave Crockett.

**To Reach the Crockett Ranch Staging Area:** From Hwy. 4, exit at Cummings Skyway and drive north to Crockett Boulevard. Turn right onto Crockett Boulevard and drive to the staging area on the left, about 1/2 mile from Pomona Street in Crockett. From I-80, exit at Cummings Skyway and drive south-east to Crockett Boulevard. Turn left onto Crockett Boulevard and drive to the staging area on the left.



### East Bay Regional Park District

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East Bay  
Regional Park District



**POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY** .....9-1-1  
**EBRPD HEADQUARTERS** ..... 1-888-EBPARKS  
**PARK OFFICE** ..... 1-888-EBPARKS, option 3, ext. 4514  
**WEB SITE**..... [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org)  
**TRS RELAY FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED** .....7-1-1