

Welcome to Crown Beach

Year opened: 1967 **Acres:** 387
Highlights: Crab Cove Visitor Center, swimming, picnicking, hiking/jogging, birdwatching, windsurfing.
Did you know? Known as Neptune Beach in its heyday, then Alameda State Beach, this parkland was renamed Robert W. Crown State Beach in 1974 to honor the assemblyman who worked for its preservation.

Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach in Alameda offers exciting opportunities for understanding the wildlife in and around San Francisco Bay. A leisurely stroll along the 2.5-mile shoreline will help you appreciate the importance of this urban beach. From the shore you can see across the bay to San Francisco. The beach is enjoyed by school groups, joggers, runners, swimmers, sunbathers, fishing enthusiasts, birdwatchers, sand castle architects, and other lovers of the outdoors.

BEFORE CROWN BEACH Shoreline recreation was thriving in Alameda as early as 1878. Establishments such as Neptune Beach and Crolls Gardens, Terrace Baths, Sunset Beach, and Green Arbor were among the amusing ancestors of Crown Beach.

Thousands came to Neptune Beach to enjoy the roller coaster, merry-go-round, and other thrill rides. A large swimming pool was also available for those who dared not risk the waters of the bay. The park served as a training site for such famous boxers as “Gentleman Jim” Corbett and Bob Fitzsimmons. During World War II, the federal government purchased the land and developed it into a training facility for merchant marine maritime officers.

In 1959, the beach became a state park. It was dedicated in 1967 as Alameda Memorial State and Regional Beaches, and was later renamed to honor the late California Assemblyman Robert W. Crown. Crown Beach is now operated by the East Bay Regional Park District.

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY 9-1-1
EBRPD HEADQUARTERS..... 1-888-327-2757
PICNIC RESERVATIONS 1-888-327-2757, option 2
PARK OFFICE 1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4522
CRAB COVE VISITOR CENTER.....(510) 544-3187
WEB SITE www.ebparks.org
TRS RELAY FOR HEARING IMPAIRED..... 7-1-1

GO WITH THE TIDE Beach activities are influenced by the tides. During the fall and winter months, high tide is the best time to observe shorebirds such as loons, grebes, and various ducks close to the shoreline. Low tides are best for observing shorebirds and intertidal organisms that live along the rocky shoreline and mudflat areas. Their habitat is exposed at low tide. Tide tables are available at the Crab Cove Visitor Center at the northwest end of the park, or search online for “tide tables, Alameda, California.”

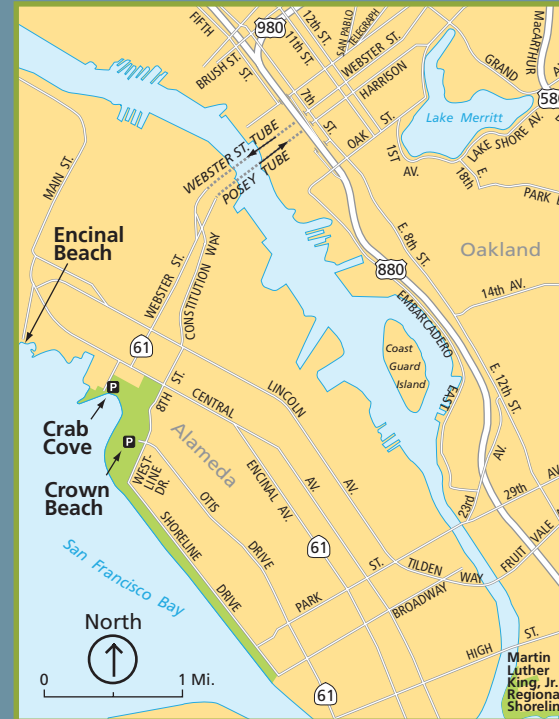
HELP PROTECT THE “LOCALS” Help us protect the creatures of Crown Beach and San Francisco Bay for all who follow you. All along the coast of California and in San Francisco Bay, once flourishing tidepool and intertidal areas are suffering extensive damage at the hands of collectors. Please leave behind the things you see along the shoreline. The beach hosts a diverse array of life forms. While they may seem like attractive additions to your aquarium, these creatures will die a short time after capture.

CRAB COVE VISITOR CENTER The visitor center opened in 1980. It is open to the public year round, Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center, which contains the Old Wharf Classroom, interprets the history of Crown Beach and offers an introduction to bay ecology. Interpretive programs, led by Park District naturalists, are featured for the public on weekends and on weekdays by reservation.

ENCINAL BEACH In October 2008 the Park District opened Encinal Beach and 1,700 feet of Bay Trail to the public. This area was formerly part of the Alameda Naval Air Station, and is now maintained and operated by the Crown Beach staff.

MARINE CONSERVATION AREA The Crab Cove area of the bay has been designated a state marine conservation area. The collection or disturbance of plant or animal marine life is prohibited.

BRINGING A SCHOOL GROUP TO THE BEACH? For information on Interpretive programs, phone 1-888-327-2757, option 3, x3187. Many weekend programs require reservations. Additional resources are available at the Crab Cove Visitor Center to help you prepare your class for an enjoyable and educational day at Crown Beach.



To Reach Crown Beach:
From San Francisco, Take the Bay Bridge to the I-880 South exit (toward San Jose/Alameda). Exit at Broadway/Alameda and turn right at 5th Street, stay in the left-hand lanes and follow the signs to Alameda. At the 5th Street/Broadway intersection you will enter the Oakland/Alameda Tube. Once through the Tube, you will be on Webster Street in Alameda. Follow Webster until you deadend at Central Avenue. From here, there are two entrances into the park: see “Entrances” below.
From the Caldecott Tunnel: Head southwest on Hwy. 24 toward exit 5B. Continue onto I-980 west. Exit at 11th/12th Street and you will be on Brush Street. Follow Brush Street to 5th Street, make a left on 5th Street, stay in the left-hand lanes and follow the signs to Alameda. At the 5th Street/Broadway intersection you will enter the Oakland/Alameda Tube. Once through the Tube, you will be on Webster Street in Alameda. Follow Webster Street until you deadend at Central Avenue. From here, there are two entrances into the park. See “Entrances” below.
Entrances: To reach the Otis Drive/Crown Beach entrance, turn left onto Central Avenue, right on Eighth Street, and right on Otis Drive into the park entrance. To reach the McKay Avenue/Crab Cove Visitor Center/Crown Beach entrance, turn right onto Central Avenue, left on McKay Avenue (immediately after the Foster’s Freeze), and left into the entrance.
Note: There is a parking fee when the entrance kiosks are attended.



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Robert W. Crown Regional Shoreline

Alameda, Oakland

East Bay
Regional Park District

