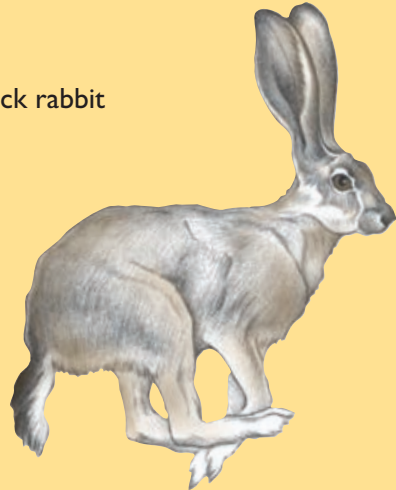


jack rabbit



animals found here. The hunting grounds of the park are also the nursery area where these raptors hatch and raise their young. Birds of prey help keep nature in balance by controlling the number of rabbits, squirrels, and other rodents. Use binoculars to help you identify the species.

6. Wildlife

Look and listen quietly for a moment, then scout the trail and look for evidence of the animals that live here. Tracks, "scat" (animal droppings), feathers and fur, shed skin of snakes, and burrows or holes in the ground can tell you about the animals that live in the park. Scat, for example, gives you a clue to what the animal ate: plants, insects, or possibly fur from other animals. Its shape might also identify which animal left it: round like a grape is probably a jackrabbit; torpedo-shaped is likely a squirrel. Each animal's scat is different. Gopher snakes and garter snakes also make their homes in the park. Feeding on small rodents or frogs and reptiles, snakes in turn are sometimes eaten by raptors such as red-tailed hawks. Snakes in this park are protected and must be left here to play their part in nature's cycle.

7. Birds of Prey

Watch overhead for large, soaring birds. Red-tailed hawks, osprey, and Northern harriers feed on other birds, fish, and

red-tailed hawk



8. Community Recycling

Slowly but relentlessly, nature decomposes and restores nutrients to the earth. Standing here on this small hill, you are looking onto the Davis Street Station for Material Recycling and Transfer, where one of the nation's largest and most innovative transfer and recycling operations is hard at work. Garbage is moved to storage sites and recyclable materials are sorted and transferred to processing plants.

The large machine below you draws landfill gas from 120+ wells found throughout the park. The gas produced by decomposing garbage is burned off in the tower.

Plant materials from curbside green and food waste programs in Alameda and Contra Costa counties are transferred here. This is where your green waste bin materials are transformed into an energy source or useful soil product!

In Closing...

As you close the loop trail back to the beginning of your walk, consider nature's cycles and your part in them. From your household and daily routines to the natural world, everything is tied together in this cycle of life. Consider ways in which you can live more lightly on this earth by reducing, reusing, recycling, and rotting away your waste materials. Come visit Oyster Bay and the other East Bay Regional Parks often and observe how nature is constantly renewing itself and changing with the seasons.

- To learn more about the Davis Street environmental education program call 510-563-4282 or visit www.stopwaste.org.
- For information about picnic reservations and volunteer service projects at Oyster Bay, please call 888-327-2757 or visit www.ebparks.org.
- Naturalist-led programs are available through the Crab Cove Visitor Center, 510-544-3187 or ccove@ebparks.org.
- For information about programs at an Ohlone village site dating back more than 2,000 years, contact Coyote Hills Regional Park, 510-544-3220 or chvisit@ebparks.org.

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Cover photos: long-billed dowitchers and anise swallowtail by Jerry Ting

NOTE: Keep dogs on a leash in all developed areas within the park. Dogs often disturb or harass wildlife, especially during nesting season when many animals nest on the ground (burrowing owls, northern harriers, jackrabbits, etc.)

Visitor Centers & Recreation Services

ARDENWOOD HISTORIC FARM
Fremont 510-544-2797
awvisit@ebparks.org

BLACK DIAMOND MINES
Antioch 510-544-2750
bdvisit@ebparks.org

COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK
Fremont 510-544-3220
chvisit@ebparks.org

CRAB COVE at CROWN BEACH
Alameda 510-544-3187
ccove@ebparks.org

SUNOL REGIONAL WILDERNESS
Sunol 510-544-3249
svisit@ebparks.org

TILDEN NATURE AREA/EEC
and LITTLE FARM
Berkeley 510-544-2233
tnarea@ebparks.org

OUTDOOR RECREATION UNIT
District-wide programs 510-544-2512
recreation@ebparks.org

TILDEN, BOTANIC GARDEN
c/o Tilden Regional Park,
Berkeley, 510-544-3169
bgarden@ebparks.org, www.nativeplants.org

This brochure is provided as a public service of the Interpretive and Recreation Services Department of the East Bay Regional Park District.

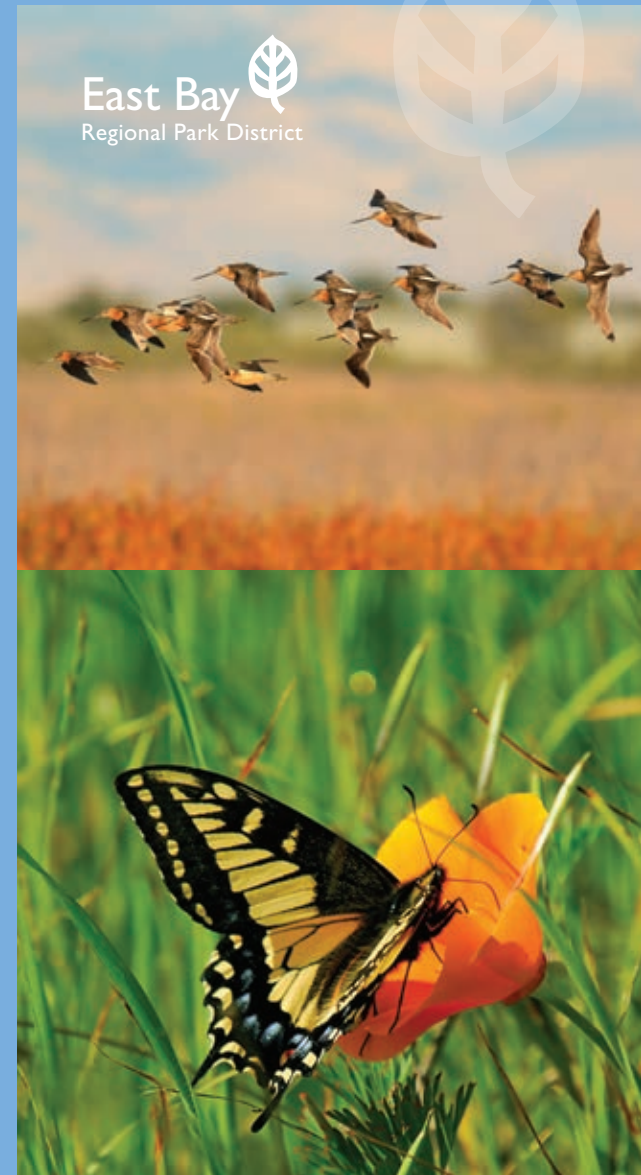


East Bay Regional Park District
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-0381
1-888-EBPARKS
www.ebparks.org



Oyster Bay Trail Guide

East Bay Regional Park District



Discover the Nature of Your Parkland

Welcome to Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline, a former landfill, now a fully accessible Regional Park. You are about to walk into “recycling in action.” You’ll hear plant material breaking down, smell plants turning to soil, and walk on land that’s healing and returning to a more natural state. Look for the marked signposts along the trail for each stop in this guide.

Remember this is a multi-use trail. Please be considerate of other Park users including people hiking, biking, walking dogs, and running. As in all Regional Parklands, please remember to take only pictures and leave only footprints.

1. Salt Marsh

Extensive marshlands once existed from here to east of Doolittle Drive. Marshes were considered wastelands in the past. Over 80% of them were filled and developed or used for grazing, farming, or for the city dump. Now we know that salt marshes like these are vital to Bay ecosystems. They provide feeding grounds for migratory birds and act as natural filters to cleanse runoff before it enters the Bay.

Below the trail, between the marsh and the path, notice the unique habitat for native grasses, shrubs, and marsh plants. These plants help protect the sensitive wetlands and provide a special place for animals. The Park District has designated this area as natural uplands habitat, so no dogs are allowed. Predators such as raccoons, foxes, and raptors use this area. Other animals, including the endangered clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse, might also find shelter at high tide among the plants.

2. Monitoring Wells

This small bay became a community landfill and was filled with garbage over a period of 37 years. Once the site reached its holding capacity in 1977, it was covered with clay to seal it. Soil has been added so plants will grow and help this new landscape recycle itself once again. As you climb the hill, you’re virtually ascending a mound of garbage!

The structures on the ground throughout the park are monitoring wells. Two by-products of decomposing refuse in a covered landfill are liquid leachate and landfill gas. Leachate, water generated from decomposing refuse, is collected and piped to a wastewater treatment facility. The gas is also collected and sent to a facility where it’s burned, which you’ll see at the end of the trail.

3. Oyster Bay History

Shellfish, including oysters, flourished in the mudflats here years ago. They were fed by incoming tides, preyed upon by bat rays and shorebirds, and gathered by the local Jalquin (“hal-kin”) and Yrgin (“yer-gen”) tribes. In 1890, oyster farming in California was a one million dollar industry with most of the farming operations here in the East Bay and on the west Bay’s San Mateo Coast. By 1939, the 60-year old Bay oyster industry had collapsed. Its demise was caused by increasing populations around the Bay, industries along the shoreline, and dumping untreated, polluting chemicals and raw sewage into Bay waters. These elements, combined with the practice of filling in marshland and wetland areas for grazing and development, led to dramatically reduced water-oxygen levels. Oysters died or were unsafe to eat.

Straight ahead is a portion of the Bay Trail, a planned recreational corridor that, when complete, will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays with a continuous 500-mile network of bicycling and hiking trails.



toyon, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*

California buckeye, *Aesculus californica*

Photos by Wille Legard

4. Native Plants

Most of the plants in this area are “native,” originating in California, and are adapted to our Mediterranean climate. Some of them conserve water through different mechanisms. Small, hairy or waxy leaves prevent water loss during dry summers. Some plants lose their leaves altogether and may appear dead in the summer, only to sprout anew with the fall and winter rains. Can you find these different kinds of leaves on the plants at this stop? Also, look for evidence of insect activity.

Many species of butterflies can be found in the park and have an interdependent relationship with plants. Butterfly larvae (caterpillars) depend on the plant leaves and stems as a food source. Adult butterflies feed on plant nectar. In turn, plants depend on butterflies and other insects for pollination.

As you leave for the next station watch how the “Rising Wave” sculpture, created by Roger Berry, changes as you approach it. Notice the changing angles of each pipe.

5. Local Indians and Conservation

From this vantage point you can see the former homelands of several tribes, including the Jalquin and Yrgin, now the cities of San Leandro and Hayward. Native American villages occurred every three to five miles along the Bay shore and inland waterways. Most of the natural materials they used in their day-to-day lives here decayed or were burned, forming nutrient-rich mounds at their village sites.

Thanks to a group of citizens, we can enjoy this great view today. In 1960 this group was alarmed that the Bay marshes and mudflats had been filled an average of four-square miles per year since 1850. They established Save the Bay and initiated the Bay Conservation and Development Commission to control development and loss of shoreline habitats. Finding a place for our trash continues to be a challenge for

residents and visitors in the Bay Area. How can we reduce our garbage? Practice the “4 R’s”—reduce our packaging, reuse or recycle what we can, and rot (compost) our food and yard waste. What are you doing to practice the “4 R’s” and what more can you do both here and at home?

Alameda County Planning Department

