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**interior live oak** (*Quercus wislizenii*)  
Early explorers found this evergreen oak throughout California's Great Central Valley. Grows as a scrub in challenging habitats like the top of Mount Diablo or as a broad, spreading tree in more favorable conditions.



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**valley oak** (*Quercus lobata*)  
Deciduous with deeply lobed leaves. California's tallest growing oak.



EBRPD Staff

**blue oak** (*Quercus douglasii*) Deciduous with lobed or plain bluish-green colored leaves. Warty acorn caps.



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**Palmer oak** (*Quercus palmeri*)  
Evergreen with wavy and very spiny leaves. Acorn cups have a distinctive, loose fitting appearance. Rare in northern California.

**QUESTIONS:**

If you have any questions about oak trees or other wildlife in the East Bay, call or email a Park District naturalist at one of the Visitor Centers listed below.

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

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

**BOTANIC GARDEN**  
Berkeley 510-544-3169, www.nativeplants.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, svvisit@ebparks.org

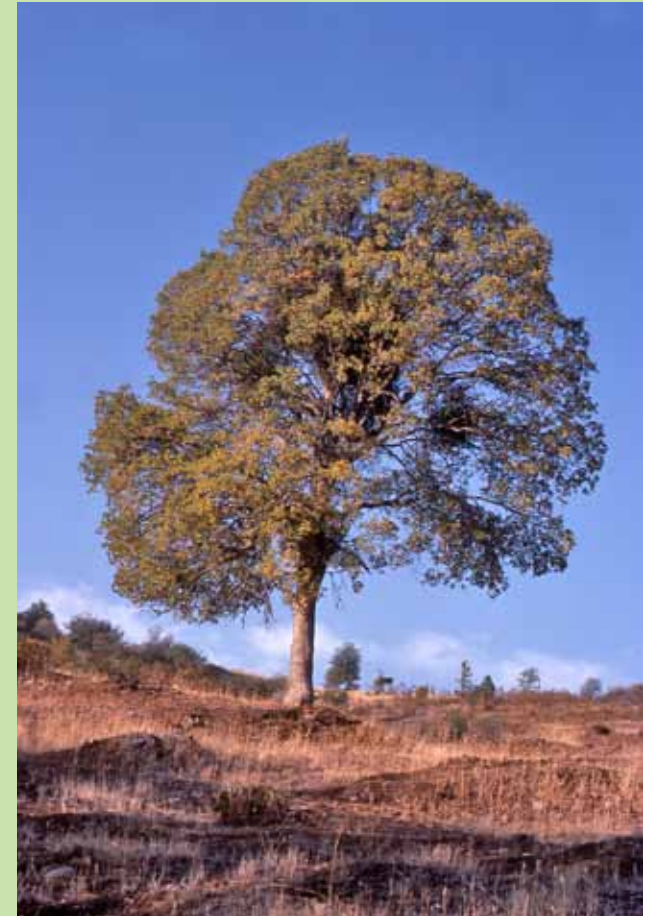
**TILDEN NATURE AREA/EEC and LITTLE FARM**  
Berkeley 510-544-2233, tnarea@ebparks.org

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

# Native Oaks of the East Bay



For more information on native oaks, or to get involved in their preservation contact the California Wildlife Foundation at: [www.californiaoaks.org](http://www.californiaoaks.org)



**East Bay Regional Park District**  
2950 Peralta Oaks Court  
P.O. Box 5381  
Oakland, CA 94605-0381  
1-888-EBPARKS www.ebparks.org  
TRS Relay: 711



**East Bay**   
Regional Park District



### THE TREES CALIFORNIANS LOVE

Could you imagine California without oak trees? Oaks beautify our neighborhoods, shade our backyards, and define the scenic character of the East Bay's tree-studded, grassy hillsides. Oak trees also provide food and shelter to many different kinds of our local wildlife. When you think of your favorite view of an East Bay landscape, are there trees in the picture? Chances are you'll see native oaks somewhere in the scenery.

### THE HEART OF A NATURAL COMMUNITY

A single oak tree can nurture a rich diversity of life, from deer and woodpeckers to mistletoe and mushrooms. When many oaks grow with other plants in an interconnected natural community, they support one of the richest and most biologically diverse habitats in California. Oak woodlands provide a home to over 170 species of birds, 100 mammals, 60 amphibians and reptiles, and 4000 species of insects. All depend on the oak trees and on each other to survive.

### MIGHTY OAKS FROM LUCKY ACORNS

A mature oak tree can produce thousands of acorns in a year. The chances of one of these seed-bearing nuts becoming an oak tree are very slim—only about one in every 10,000 acorns becomes a tree! Most acorns become food for hungry insects, birds, and mammals. In a mutually beneficial relationship, oak trees depend on acorn-eating wildlife to move their seeds away from the parent tree to another area suitable for oak tree growth. Scrub jays and squirrels store food for the future by hiding acorns in crevices and holes in the ground. Most of these hoarded nuts will later be eaten, but a few manage to germinate and survive, beginning a new generation of oak trees.



EBRPD Staff

**black oak** (*Quercus kelloggii*) Deciduous with large, deeply cut pointed leaves. In fall, leaves turn bright yellow.

### PEOPLE AND OAKS—AN ENDURING RELATIONSHIP



Alan Dalton

Local Ohlone and Bay Miwok peoples used specialized horticultural methods to increase the biodiversity of oak woodlands. Some, like Ruth Orta, make acorn soup using old and new methods.

### LIVE OAKS VS. DECIDUOUS OAKS

Seven species of native oak trees comprise most of the oaks you'll see in East Bay landscapes. Three of these species are **drought-deciduous**—they lose their leaves during winter. The other four are **evergreen**—they keep their leaf canopy year-round and so appear "live" when deciduous oaks are leafless.



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**coast live oak** (*Quercus agrifolia*) Evergreen with spiny leaves. One of the two most common oak trees in the East Bay and the tree that gave Oakland its name.



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**canyon live oak** (*Quercus chrysolepis*) Evergreen with the underside of leaves pale blue. Acorn caps display a woolly, yellow fuzz.

