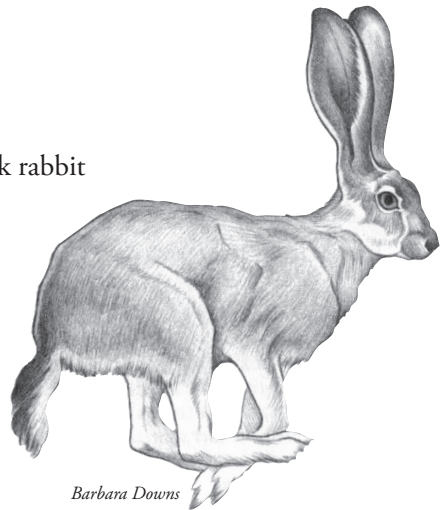


6. Wildlife

Look and listen quietly for a moment, then scout the trail and look on the ground for evidence of the animals that live here. Look for tracks, “scat” (animal droppings), feathers, fur, shed skin of snakes, burrows or holes in the ground. What do your findings tell you about the animals that live in the park? Scat, for example, can give you a clue to what animals eat: plants, insects, or fur from other animals. Look at its shape: round like a grape is probably jackrabbit; torpedo-shaped is probably squirrel; each animal’s scat is different. Break open some scat carefully using rocks or twigs and examine what the animal couldn’t digest. Remember to wash your hands!

Gopher snakes and garter snakes also make their homes in the park. Feeding on small rodents or frogs and reptiles, they in turn are sometimes eaten, by raptors such as red-tailed hawks. Snakes in this park are harmless to humans and need to be left here to play their part in nature’s cycle. Can you find evidence of different kinds of animals along this stretch of trail?

jack rabbit



7. Birds of Prey

Watch overhead for large soaring birds. Red-tailed hawks, ospreys, and Northern harriers feed on other birds, fish, and animals found here. The hunting grounds of the park are also the nursery area where these raptors hatch and raise their young. They help keep nature in balance by controlling the number of rabbits, squirrels, and other rodents.

8. Community Recycling

Have you ever noticed or heard recycling in action? 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 (SMaRT), one of the nation’s largest and most innovative transfer and recycling operations. You can probably see and hear recycling operations hard at work.

The large machine below you is drawing methane from more than 120 gas wells found throughout the park. The gas, produced by decomposing garbage, is either burned off in the tower or converted to a clean form of methane. By converting waste to a reusable form, we are closing the recycling loop.

Plant materials from curbside green waste programs in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties are screened and ground, then transferred via truck to be used as a fuel for alternative energy, soil products for direct farm applications, mulches, and composts. By composting the material, placing it in your green waste recycling bin, or bringing it to Davis Street SMaRT, you can help turn green waste into an energy source or useful soil product.

In Closing...

As you close the loop trail back to the beginning of your walk, think about nature’s cycles and your part in them. From your household and daily routines to the natural world of Oyster Bay, 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; nature is constantly renewing and changing itself with the seasons.

- To learn more about the Davis Street environmental education program call (510) 563-4282.
- For information about picnic reservations and service projects at Oyster Bay, please call (510) 562-1373, or visit www.stopwaste.org.
- Naturalist-led programs are available through the Crab Cove Visitor Center, (510) 521-6887.
- For information about programs at a more than 2,000-year-old Tuibun village site, where contemporary Jalquin and other Native Peoples demonstrate cultural skills, contact Coyote Hills Regional Park, (510) 795-9385.

Visitor Centers & Recreation Services

ARDENWOOD HISTORIC FARM
Fremont (510) 796-0633
awvisit@ebparks.org

BLACK DIAMOND MINES
Antioch (925) 757-2620
bdvisit@ebparks.org

COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK
Fremont (510) 795-9385
chvisit@ebparks.org

CRAB COVE at CROWN BEACH
Alameda (510) 521-6887
ccove@ebparks.org


SUNOL REGIONAL WILDERNESS
Sunol (925) 862-2601
svisit@ebparks.org

**TILDEN NATURE AREA/EEC
and LITTLE FARM**
Berkeley (510) 525-2233
tnarea@ebparks.org

AQUATICS UNIT
(510) 544-2517
dmccormick@ebparks.org

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

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

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Oyster Bay Trail Guide



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