

A SLICE OF TIME

Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve is an ecological jewel. The native plant community here is found nowhere else in the East Bay. It represents a relic plant association found only in certain areas along California's coast where ideal soil and climatic conditions exist. You are within the boundaries of an island in time . . . what's left of a time gone by.

The vegetation association of Huckleberry Preserve finds its roots in past climates and geologic history. The plants originated in the distant past along the southern coast of California when the climate was more moist and tempered by the cool coastal fog. Today, similar vegetation is found on the islands off the Santa Barbara coast and in isolated pockets on the mainland coast from Point Conception to Montara Mountain south of San Francisco.

The rock strata exposed in the Preserve were laid down in a deep ocean basin and contain the remains of microscopic diatoms and radiolaria. Through time these beds have been subjected to uplift and folding and stand exposed as hard, brittle bands of interbedded chert and shale. The resulting soil is very low in nutritional value and favors pioneering chaparral species that tolerate harshness and colonize the most sterile, rocky knolls. It is on these "barrens" that the rare and endangered Alameda manzanita survives. The soils are well drained at the surface, but the fractured and bedded rocks below hold water for deep roots. Although the barrens seem superficially dry at the surface, these sites are actually relatively moist. Being directly across from the Golden Gate, the barrens receive ample summer fog; northerly exposure is isolated from the sun; and on the crest of the Berkeley Hills the rainfall is sufficient.

In the absence of fire, leaf litter has been deposited in great quantities and the soil has become rich and deep. Live oaks and bay laurels have gradually moved into the chaparral areas to shade out the chamise and manzanitas. This "plant succession" is a natural part of the evolution of California's landscape.

Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve has a year-round display of blossoming plants, many rare to the East Bay. As you stroll through the 240-acre preserve, stop periodically and reflect on your sense of place, for here you can experience an ancient slice of time.

HUCKLEBERRY PATH, a 1.7-mile loop, traverses a wide variety of terrain and is maintained to minimum requirements. From the parking lot, follow the path to the left fork, descend steeply and contour through a mature bay forest for about one mile. A steep ascent to the botanically rich upper trail will begin your .7-mile return to the parking lot. Allow two hours. Carry water. If you require a less strenuous trail, begin on the right fork and return before its descent into the bay forest.

PARKLAND RULES

Welcome to your regional parklands. Help protect park resources and ensure an enjoyable visit for everyone by complying with these rules and any posted regulations. The Park District's Ordinance 38, which is summarized below, lists specific rules for use and protection of regional parklands. Violators will be subject to citation or arrest. For further information, ask a Park Ranger, Police Officer, Volunteer Trail Patrol member, or telephone (510) 881-1833.

Because of the fragile nature of Huckleberry Preserve and the Huckleberry Trail, jogging is discouraged.

PARK GATES ARE OPEN to the public during hours posted at the park entrance. Unless otherwise posted, **CURFEW** is between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., except for persons possessing a permit to remain on parklands.

MOTOR VEHICLES are restricted to designated parking areas and paved public roads.

BICYCLES are prohibited at Huckleberry Preserve. In Regional Parks that allow bicycles, they may be ridden on designated bicycle trails, and on fire or service roads, unless otherwise posted. Bicycles are not permitted, either ridden, walked or carried, in areas posted "No Bicycles," or on narrow hiking or narrow equestrian trails. State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and roadways. Riders should call out or sound a warning when overtaking other trail users.

DOGS are prohibited at Huckleberry Preserve, except on the Skyline National Trail. In other Regional Parks that allow dogs, they must be leashed (six-foot maximum) and under control at any posted area, parking lot, picnic site, lawn or developed area. No dogs or other animals are permitted at any swimming pool, beach, wetland, or marsh. Owners must always carry a leash (six-foot maximum). Dogs may be off-leash in open space and undeveloped areas of parklands, provided they are under control at all times. Dangerous animals are not allowed in the parks. Please dispose of your dog's waste by placing it in a garbage can. Persons who walk more than three dogs at a time on Regional Parks trails must obtain a permit; commercial dog walkers are required to obtain a permit regardless of how many dogs they walk at one time (limit of six). Please call (510) 544-3009 for information.

HORSES are prohibited at Huckleberry Preserve, except on the Skyline National Trail.

PLANTS, ANIMALS, GEOLOGIC, ARCHAEOLOGIC OR HISTORIC OBJECTS are protected by law. Please do not disturb or remove any of these features.

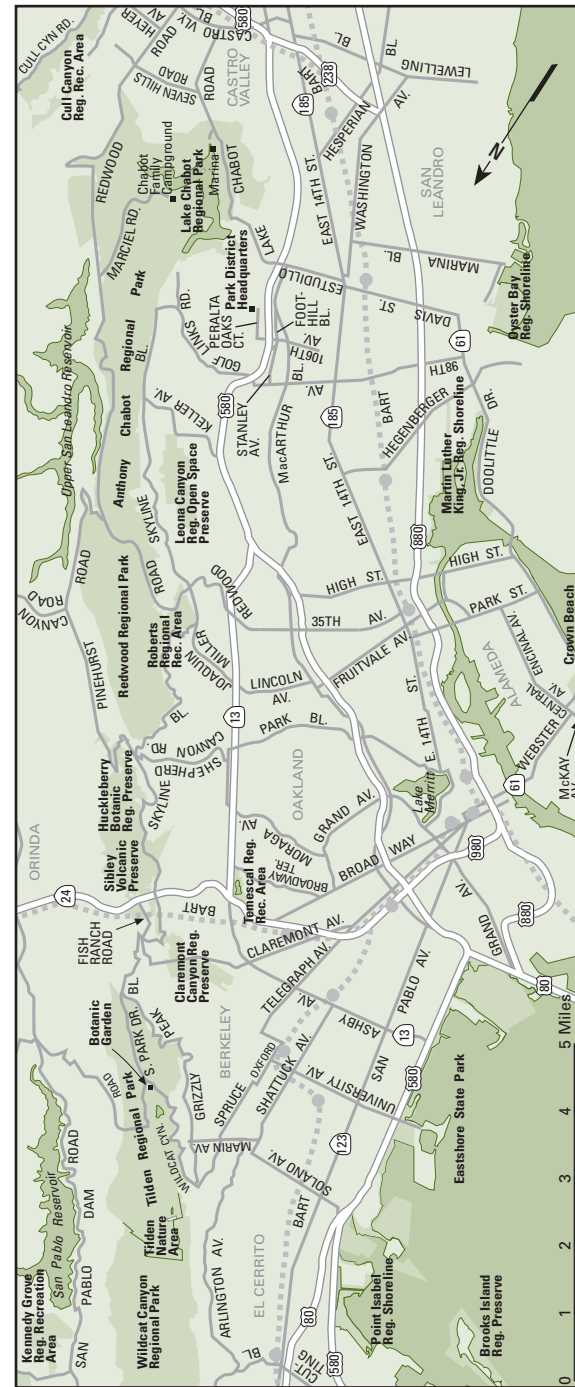
HELP PROTECT OUR PARK WILDLIFE by not releasing or feeding ducks, cats or other animals. Do not feed wild park animals; enjoy them from a distance.

FIRES are prohibited at Huckleberry Preserve. In other Regional Parks that allow fires, fires are permitted in barbecue pits or personal cooking equipment in designated picnic areas or irrigated turf areas only, placed at least 30 feet from flammable materials. Please do not place hot coals on the ground or in a garbage can. Dispose of hot coals or other burned fuel in barbecue pits or in designated hot coal disposal receptacles. **FIREWORKS** are not permitted in any regional park.

CAMPING is not permitted within District parklands without a permit. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** are not permitted at pools, swim beaches or within 50 feet of paved roads, parking lots or posted areas. Otherwise, beer and wine are permitted at picnic areas and elsewhere on parklands. **GAMES and ACTIVITIES**, including model rockets, model airplanes, hang gliding, golf and other activities with potential risk to property or park visitors are not permitted at Huckleberry Preserve. **ASSEMBLIES, PERFORMANCES, SPECIAL EVENTS** or similar gatherings require a permit.

Please be considerate of other park visitors if you use a **RADIO**. A permit is required for **AMPLIFICATION** of voice, music or other sounds. **FIREARMS or BOWS AND ARROWS** are not permitted on regional parklands except at established ranges. Crossbows, spears, slingshots, air pistols or rifles, and other dangerous weapons are prohibited anywhere on regional parklands.

PARK VISITORS are responsible for knowing and following park rules.



East Bay Regional Park District
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 Oakland, CA 94605-0381 (510) 562-PARK
<http://www.ebparks.org>

HUCKLEBERRY

BOTANIC REGIONAL PRESERVE



EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT