



# Albany Burrowing Owl Conservation Project

## Eastshore State Park

East Bay Regional Park District

**E**astshore State Park extends 8.5 miles along the East Bay shoreline from the Bay Bridge to Richmond. It includes 2,262 acres of uplands and tidelands along the waterfronts of Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany, and Richmond. Eastshore State Park parallels the most heavily traveled corridor in the East Bay, making it a highly visible, highly accessible area of parkland. Pedestrian and bicycle trails run almost the entire length of the park and provide a panoramic view of the Bay. The shoreline reflects the influences of both natural systems and human intervention with natural features such as tidal marshes and beaches intermingled with man-made elements such as municipal landfills.



*Albany Plateau*

*Brend Olson*

The East Bay Regional Park District is enhancing and restoring a number of ecosystems and habitat types throughout the park. The Albany Burrowing Owl Conservation Project will provide a protected habitat for burrowing owl and maintain a low intensity recreational area.

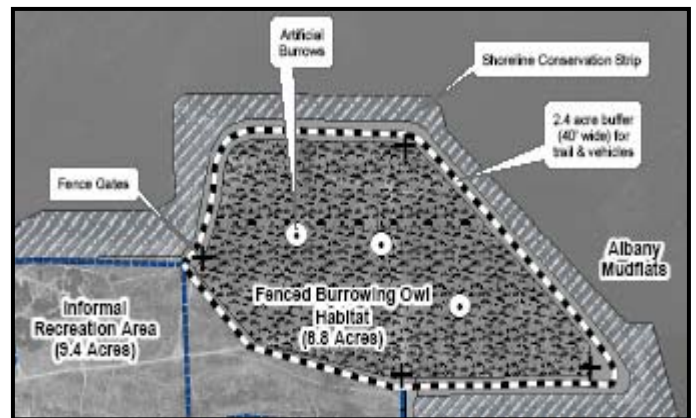
### ***A New Habitat for the Burrowing Owl***

The burrowing owl is listed as a Species of Concern in California. The rapid development of its grassland habitat in the Central Valley has led to a steady decline in the owls population along with the squirrels that make



*Burrowing Owl*

the burrows they live in. The Albany Plateau will provide the burrowing owl with low ground cover and enough open space to be sustained in this urbanized area. A fence will be built around the 8.0-acre area to protect the owls. Along the outside of the fence will be a viewing trail of just over a half mile. Burrows will be created inside to simulate the abandoned rodent holes the owl typically inhabits.



*Relocation Plan*

### ***Funding***

Initial \$57,000 and maintenance costs of \$30,000 over five years will be provided by the five-city (Richmond, El Cerrito, Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville) Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Agency to mitigate the loss of habitat from the Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex. The sports complex just south of

Golden Gate Fields will provide needed soccer, softball, and baseball fields for all cities involved. The Albany Burrowing Owl Conservation Project will provide improved trails, as well as protect a species with a declining population.

### **Quick Facts**

Action: Habitat Relocation  
Size: 8.0 acres  
Funding: \$57,000 with \$30,000 maintenance over 5 years  
Funding: Joint Powers Agreement  
Target Habitats: Open grassland  
Target species: Burrowing Owl  
Improvements: Fencing and Gates, new burrows, maintenance of habitat