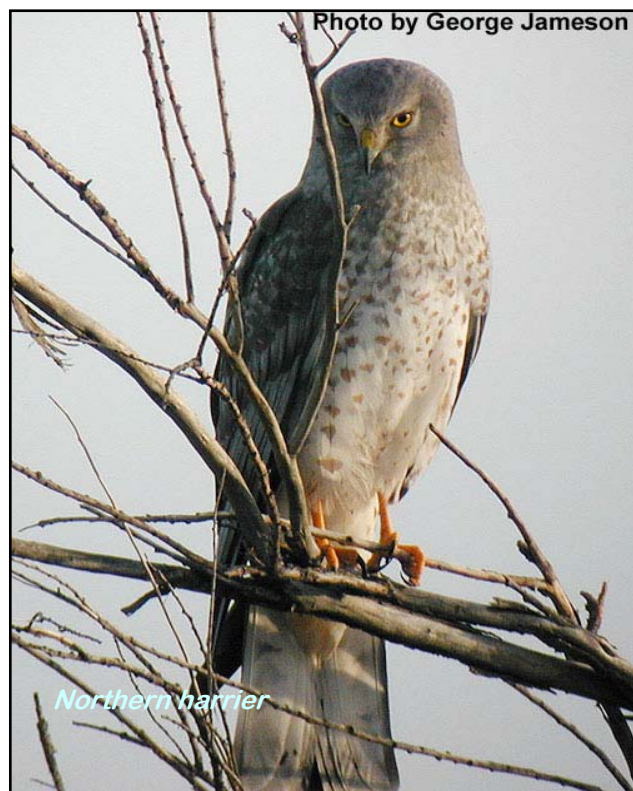




Park District is enhancing and restoring several ecosystems in the Park. A three-phased Berkeley Meadow Restoration Project is restoring ecological habitat and providing public access to the 72-acre Meadow.

Eastshore 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. The Park parallels the most heavily traveled corridor in the East Bay, making it a highly visible and accessible area. Pedestrian and bicycle trails run almost the entire length of the Park and provide a panoramic view of the Bay. The



Phase I of the project was funded by Cherokee-Simeon Joint Venture. It was constructed in 2004. This project replaced non-native vegetation with native grassland and scrub plants to provide habitat for northern harrier and white-tailed kite. Seasonal wetlands were enhanced or created to provide habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl. Fences and gates were installed to protect the restored habitats.

Trails, benches and interpretive exhibits were installed to enhance the public's enjoyment and understanding of the restored habitats. Phase II was constructed in 2008. This project created and enhanced the same habitats provided in Phase I. Funding was provided by Bailey Estates LLC. The Phase III project will restore remaining portions of the Meadow in 2009. It is funded by the California Coastal Conservancy. See the back of this fact sheet for more detailed information on Meadow restoration.

Berkeley Meadow Restoration Project

The Meadow is being restored in three phases over five years in order to minimize impacts to wildlife and to create a diverse and thriving habitat for plants and animals in this highly urban area.

The City of Berkeley operated a municipal landfill at the Meadow until the late 1970's. It was never formally closed like Caesar Chavez Park. The surface of the Meadow is strewn with concrete, asphalt, metal, tires, and other debris dumped into the landfill during its operation. In addition, the Meadow has been invaded by a host of some of the most invasive non-native plants in California, including fennel, broom, pampas grass, poison hemlock and leafy spurge.

Phase I - Restoration was completed in 2004 and has already developed significant habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. On a walk through this area jack rabbits and meadow voles can be seen scurrying through the grassland "runways" to avoid the ever watchful eyes of northern harrier, white-tailed kites and red-tailed hawks. Ducks and shorebirds are often seen in the seasonal wetlands. Black birds, sparrows and finches can be seen flitting in and out of the willows and coyote brush.

Phase II - Construction was completed in the fall of 2008. This phase is very similar to Phase I, only it is more open, and there are fewer native trees and shrubs. The new wetlands are used by shorebirds, such as killdeer, and by geese and ducks. A pair of burrowing owls has been observed using ground squirrel burrows, and raptors have been seen hunting for meadow voles.

Phase III - This final phase will begin construction in mid-July of 2009. In order to protect public safety there will be periodic closures of the two interior trails while construction is underway. Major project construction activities should be completed by the end of October.

This project will restore seasonal wetlands, scrub and prairie habitats within the 37-acre area. About 30 acres will be cleared of non-native vegetation and debris, and capped with about 28,000 cubic yards of clean imported soil to create a barrier to isolate the landfill garbage from the wildlife that will use the restored habitat. To create the new wetland and upland habitats, the clean soil will be contoured to create a more natural looking surface and planted with native vegetation.

Special measures have been taken to protect a historic nesting location for northern harrier. It will be preserved for this purpose until comparable nesting habitat is established elsewhere in the Meadow.

Phase III will cost about \$2,000,000. It is funded primarily with a \$1,400,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy, plus \$200,000 in Park District Measure AA funds, and \$100,000 in City of Berkeley funds. Knapp Excavators donated \$300,000 in soil for the project. The cost of restoring the entire 72-acre Meadow is approximately \$6,000,000.

Please contact Chris Barton at (510) 544-2627 should you have any questions about the restoration project.