The Crab Cove Visitor Center and Aquarium is named for the small cove located next to the Visitor Center. Designated in 1980 as a marine reserve, this special status helps ensure that the area remains protected for generations to come.

Within the cove, plants and animals are protected from collecting. Rod and reel fishing is allowed with a California Fishing License. Help protect the creatures and their homes at Crab Cove. Move only small rocks, then be sure to return them to their original position. Exposure to sun and wind can kill these delicate creatures. Explore the Cove fully – but carefully! Thank You!

Explore the mudflat at Crab Cove.

Explore the mudflat at Crab Cove.
Discover the Nature of Your Parkland

Welcome to Crab Cove Visitor Center and Aquarium where admission is always free! Come in and explore the history, habitats, and creatures of this special place on San Francisco Bay. Through our interactive exhibits you can journey from Alameda’s rocky shore and mudflats into the brackish waters of the Bay and out into the deep Pacific Ocean. Interpretive displays and aquariums, including a small touch tank, highlight the creatures of these unique habitats.

Plan a school field trip.

Children can explore... with puzzles, puppets, and books, or even investigate live animals under the microscope. Visitors can also delve into the colorful history of Crab Cove, pretending to navigate a ship, or listening to a fascinating account of what life was like when Crab Cove had its heyday as the “Coney Island of the West.”

On weekends, drop-in interpretive programs are offered. Friendly staff and volunteers will let you know of any walks or programs happening that day.

For a list of upcoming East Bay Regional Park District programs and events, look for the Regional in Nature Activity Guide publication in your local newspaper or online at ebparks.org/activities.

Educational Opportunities

Crab Cove offers a variety of naturalist-led programs for schools and organized groups. School programs are correlated to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), California State Standards for Education, and are conducted both at Crab Cove and within other nearby East Bay Regional Parks. Educational programs are by reservation only.

Apply online at ebparks.org/activities/educators.

Birthday Parties

Interested in having your birthday party at the Cove? Special Nature Party programs can be scheduled for select weekends, and include guided outdoor exploration, nature craft, and your choice of Reptiles or Bay Critters theme.

For more information call 510-544-3187.