Hayward Regional Shoreline

Hayward, San Lorenzo

Year opened: 1980  Acres: 1,815
Highlights: Hiking, birdwatching, S.F. Bay Trail. Did you know? The parkland, with more than four miles of bay shoreline, is a constructed marsh system consisting of several channels and basins created from former salt production ponds that are now used to regulate the discharge of secondary-treatment wastewater effluents into San Francisco Bay.

HISTORY The current Hayward shoreline was historically a tidal salt marsh fringing San Francisco Bay. In the 1850s levees were built in Hayward and San Lorenzo to create land for agriculture, salt production, and development along the perimeter of the bay. Landings were established to ferry passengers and move salt and agricultural products to San Francisco. Remnants of timbers at landing sites along the trail can be seen from the mudflats at low tide.

MARSH RECLAMATION Hayward Regional Shoreline consists of 1,815 acres of salt, fresh, and brackish water marshes, seasonal wetlands and public trails. The shoreline parkland is undertaking a long-term marsh improvement program that currently consists of public trails, and fresh, brackish, and salt water marshes that were created as restoration or enhancement projects.

In the early 1970s, the City of Hayward developed four wastewater ponds at its present oxidation pond site just to the west of the parkland. Cogswell Marsh, a 250-acre tidal marsh restoration and enhancement project, was completed in 1980. Once restored to tidal action, this area rapidly became an established saltwater marsh.

Hayward Marsh, developed in 1985, is a 145-acre fresh and brackish water marsh and is somewhat unusual in that it relies on secondary treated effluent as the freshwater source. The marsh is made up of five managed ponds and has 15 islands that are utilized as habitat by many species of nesting birds. Water flow through the five basins is controlled by a series of weirs, valves, and channels, which allows for great flexibility in operation, management, and biological research.

Oro Loma Marsh was constructed in 1997 and consists of a 364-acre tidal marsh with seasonal wetlands and transitional uplands.

The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD) operates the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, which specializes in educational programs on wetlands, shoreline habitats, and the ecology of the San Francisco Bay. The HARD visitor center, accessible off Breakwater Ave. in Hayward, offers year-round interpretive programs.

Hayward Regional Shoreline has five miles of gravelled shoreline public trails within a complex ecosystem made up of shallow water and mud flats, salt marshes, freshwater ponds, dry diked areas, and grassy uplands. The parkland is one of the most productive sources of natural vegetation in North America, and a haven for migrating birds, supporting over 200 avian species.

WELCOME! Please enjoy our Regional Parks safely, and help us protect and preserve your parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

SAFETY and ETIQUETTE
• Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and causes erosion.
• Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas may be dangerous and may harm the watershed.
• Carry and drink plenty of water. Dehydration is a leading cause of injuries on the trail.
• Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
• Trails can be slippery, rocky and steep. Proceed careful fully at your own risk.
• Wildlife may be present on the trails at any time. Feeding or approaching wildlife is dangerous and illegal.
• Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. Horses have the right-of-way on trails.
• Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.

RULES In order to protect wildlife, dogs are not allowed south of the West Winton Avenue flood control channel. In areas where dogs are allowed, they must be leashed 200 feet from any trail or park entrance. Dogs must be leashed in parking lots, picnic areas, developed areas such as lawns and play fields, and on some trails. They must be under voice control at all times.

TO REACH Hayward Regional Shoreline: take I-880 (Nimitz Freeway) north from Fremont or south from Oakland to Hayward. Exit the freeway at West Winton Avenue and follow West Winton westwards toward the Bay to the staging area. To reach the Grant Avenue staging area, take the Washington exit from I-880. Go south on Washington Avenue to Grant Avenue, and right on Grant Avenue to the staging area.

To the Bay: take I-880 from Hayward and South Hayward BART stations to West Winton Avenue and Cabot Blvd for a 4.7 mile walk west into the park. Call to confirm bus schedule—AC Transit: 817-1717; 800-448-9790 (TDD/TTY)

If you would like this information in an alternative format, please contact the EBRPD Public Affairs Department at (510) 544-2200, fax (510) 635-3478.

PLEASE LET US KNOW how this map may be improved to help you use this park. Write, email, or call with your suggestions: 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605; info@ebparks.org; (510) 544-2210.

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY ..................................................... 9-1-1
EBRPD HEADQUARTERS ..................................................... 1-888-327-2757
PARK OFFICE ............................................................. 510-544-3084
 or 1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4531
WEB SITE ..................................................... www.ebparks.org
TRS RELAY FOR HEARING IMPAIRED ................................................. 711

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ACTIVITIES
Activities at Hayward Regional Shoreline include hiking, bicycling, jogging, birdwatching, picnicking, and fishing. Horseback riding is not allowed.
Fishing is allowed from the levees, except in the marsh areas. A California State Fishing License is required for those age 16 and over.
Picnicking is permitted, but there are no picnic tables in the park. Benches are located along the trail.
Dogs are not allowed south of West Winton Avenue to protect nesting and feeding wildlife.
Please remember during your hike or bicycle ride that shoreline areas provide nesting habitat and feeding grounds for wildlife. In order to minimize human intrusion, please remain on the trail and observe specially signed restricted areas.

MILEAGE CHART
From Grant Ave. parking area to:
Bridge at San Lorenzo Creek ............... .37
Bridge at Bockman Channel................. .74
Bridge at Oro Loma Marsh................. 1.15
Bridge at Sulphur Creek............... 1.44
Hayward's Landing...................... 2.25
Cogswell Marsh.......................... 2.80
Johnson's Landing......................... 3.87
Hayward Shoreline Interp. Center .... 5.02

West Winton Ave. parking area to:
Hayward's Landing......................... 5.57
Cogswell Marsh.......................... 3.37
Johnson's Landing......................... 1.44
Hayward Shoreline Interp. Center .... 2.59
Grant Avenue parking area............. 2.74

NO DOGS ALLOWED
south of W. Winton Avenue and the flood control channel.

IN ORDER TO REDUCE OR PREVENT THE RISK OF SERIOUS HEAD INJURY OR DEATH, STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT ALL BICYCLISTS UNDER AGE 18 WEAR AN APPROVED HELMET WHILE RIDING ON TRAILS AND ROADWAYS. THE DISTRICT ALSO STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT ALL EQUESTRIANS AND BICYCLISTS WEAR HELMETS AT ALL TIMES.

MEMBERSHIPS
The Regional Parks Foundation offers Memberships to park users. For information, see www.regionalparksfoundation.org, or call (510) 544-2220.