



Red-tailed hawk



Rising Wave Sculpture



Photo: Michael Short

7. Birds of Prey

Watch overhead for large, soaring birds. Red-tailed hawks, osprey, and northern harriers feed on other birds, fish, and animals found here. The hunting grounds of the park are also the nursery area where these raptors hatch and raise their young. Birds of prey help keep nature in balance by controlling the number of rabbits, squirrels, and other rodents. Use binoculars to help identify the species.

8. Community Recycling

Plant materials from curbside green and food waste programs in Alameda and Contra Costa counties are transferred here. This is where your green waste bin materials are transformed into an energy source or useful soil product!

Slow and relentless, nature decomposes and restores nutrients to the earth. Standing here on this small hill, you are looking onto the Davis Street Station for Material Recycling and Transfer, one of the nation's largest and most innovative transfer and recycling operations. Garbage is moved to storage sites and recyclable materials are sorted and transferred to processing plants.

The large gas flare vent pipe below you draws landfill gas from wells found throughout the park. The gas produced by decomposing garbage is burned off in the tower.

NOTE: Keep dogs on a leash in all developed areas. Thank you for protecting wildlife, especially during nesting season when many animals nest on the ground (burrowing owls, northern harriers, jackrabbits, etc.)

On the cover: Hermit thrush on toyon.
Cover Photo: Paul Reeves

End of the Trail

As you close the loop back to the beginning of your walk, consider nature's cycles and your part in them. From your household and daily routines to the natural world, everything is tied together in this cycle of life. Consider ways you can live more lightly by reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting your waste materials. Visit Oyster Bay and the other East Bay Regional Parks often, and observe how nature is constantly renewing itself and changing with the seasons.



- To learn more about the Davis Street environmental education program call 510-563-4282 or visit stopwaste.org.
- For information about picnic reservations and volunteer service projects at Oyster Bay, call 888-327-2757 or visit ebparks.org.



Photos: Michael Short

East Bay Regional Park District

Healthy Parks Healthy People

East Bay Regional Park District
2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605
1-888-EBPARKS or 1-888-327-2757 (TRS 711)
ebparks.org



The Undergoing Construction

Recreational improvement plans for Oyster Bay include areas for disc golf, dog play, and bicycle skills.

Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline Main Entrance:
1600 Neptune Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577
Access is also available via the San Francisco Bay Trail Bill Lockyer foot bridge.

Resources:

Park Activities, Events, and Facilities:
ebparks.org/activities

California Department of Fish and Wildlife:
wildlife.ca.gov

Regional Parks Membership:
RECEIVE FREE DAY-USE PARKING, SWIMMING, DOG PASS, AND MORE. 510-544-2220
REGIONALPARKSFUNDATION.ORG



Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline

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East Bay Regional Park District

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Discover the Nature of Your Parkland

Welcome to Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline, a former landfill, now being transformed into a Regional Park. You are about to walk into “recycling in action.” You’ll see clean soil being brought in to build up the topography of the park. Enjoy plants growing out of the new soil, and walk on land that’s healing and returning to a more natural state. Look for the marked signposts along the trail for each stop in this guide.

Since this is a multi-use trail, please be considerate of other park users hiking, biking, walking dogs, and running. As in all Regional Parklands, take only pictures and leave only footprints.

1. Salt Marsh

Extensive marshlands once existed from here to east of Doolittle Drive. Marshes were considered wastelands in the past. Over 80% of them were filled and developed or used for grazing, farming, or for the city dump. Now we know that salt marshes like these are vital ecosystems. They provide feeding grounds for migratory birds, and act as natural filters to cleanse runoff before it enters the Bay.

Below the trail, between the marsh and the path, notice the unique habitat for grasses, shrubs and marsh plants. These plants help protect the sensitive wetlands and provide a special place for animals. The Park District has designated this area as natural uplands habitat, so no dogs are allowed. Predators such as raccoons, foxes, and raptors use this area. Other animals, including the endangered Ridgway’s rail and salt marsh harvest mouse, might also find shelter at high tide among the plants.

2. Monitoring Wells

This small bay became a community landfill and was filled with garbage over a period of 37 years. Once the site reached its holding capacity in 1977, it was capped with clay to seal it and then covered with soil for plants. New soil is being added, for the next couple of years, to create a base for park development including irrigation for new landscaping and drinking water.

Ground structures found throughout Oyster Bay are monitoring wells. They monitor groundwater, leachate and the natural gas created by the decomposing refuse. The collected contents are piped to a nearby wastewater treatment facility and Waste Management’s Davis Street Transfer Station where the gas is burned... which you’ll see at the end of the trail.



Alameda County Planning Department

3. Oyster Bay History

Shellfish, including oysters, flourished in the mudflats here years ago. They were fed by incoming tides, preyed upon by bat rays and shorebirds,



Photo: SL PDC #468

Oyster workers harvesting shellfish in San Leandro Bay under the protection of an armed guard, c. 1880-'90s.

and gathered by the local Jalquin (“hal-kin”) and Yrgin (“yer-gen”) tribes. In 1890, oyster farming in California was a one million dollar industry with most of the farming operations here in the East Bay and on the West Bay’s San Mateo Coast. By 1939, the 60-year old Bay oyster industry had collapsed. Its demise was caused by increasing populations around the Bay, and industries along the shoreline dumping untreated, polluting chemicals and raw sewage into Bay waters. These elements, combined with the practice of filling in marshland and wetland areas for grazing and development, led to dramatically reduced water-oxygen levels. Oysters died or were unsafe to eat.

Straight ahead is a portion of the Bay Trail, a planned recreational corridor that, when complete, will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays with a continuous 500-mile network of bicycling and hiking trails.

4. Native Plants

Most of the plants in this area are “native,” originating in California, and are adapted to our Mediterranean climate. Some of them conserve water through different mechanisms. Small, hairy or waxy leaves prevent water loss during dry summers. Some plants lose their leaves altogether and may appear dead in the summer, only to sprout anew with the fall and winter rains. Can you find these different kinds of leaves on the plants at this stop? Also, look for evidence of insect activity.

Many species of butterflies can be found in the park and have an interdependent relationship with plants. Butterfly larvae (caterpillars) depend on the plant leaves and stems as a food source. Adult butterflies feed on plant nectar.

In turn, plants depend on butterflies and other insects for pollination. As you leave for the next station watch how the “Rising Wave” sculpture, created by Roger Berry, changes as you approach it. Notice the varied angles of each pipe.

5. Local Native Americans and Conservation

From this vantage point you can see the former homelands of several tribes, including the Jalquin and Yrgin, now the cities of San Leandro and Hayward. Native American villages occurred every three to five miles along the Bay shore and inland waterways. Most of the natural materials they used in their day-to-day lives were decayed or burned, forming nutrient-rich mounds at their village sites.

In 1960 a group of citizens was alarmed that the Bay marshes and mudflats had been filled an average of four-square miles per year since 1850. They established Save the Bay and initiated the Bay Conservation and Development Commission to control development and loss of shoreline habitats.

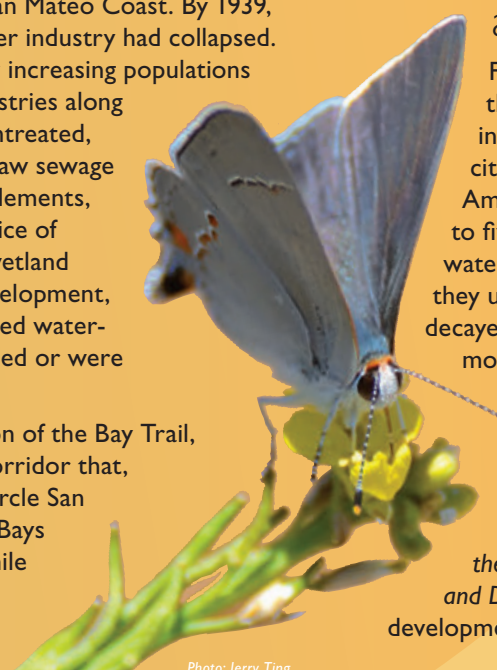


Photo: Jerry Ting

Finding a place for our trash continues to be a challenge for residents and visitors in the Bay Area.

How can we reduce our garbage? Practice the “4 R’s”—reduce our packaging, reuse or recycle what we can, and rot (compost) our food and yard waste. Please consider what you are doing to practice the “4 R’s” already, and what more you might do to help our environment.

6. Wildlife

Look and listen quietly for a moment, then scout the trail and look for evidence of the animals that live here. Tracks, “scat” (animal droppings), feathers and fur, shed skin of snakes, and burrows or holes in the ground can tell you about the animals that live in the park. Scat, for example, gives you a clue to what the animal ate: plants, insects, or possibly fur from other animals. Its shape might also identify which animal left it: round like a grape is probably a jackrabbit; torpedo-shaped is likely a squirrel. Each animal’s scat is different. Gopher snakes and garter snakes also make their homes in the park. Feeding on small rodents or frogs and reptiles, snakes in turn are sometimes eaten by raptors such as red-tailed hawks. Snakes in this park are protected and must be left here to play their part in nature’s cycle.



Photo: Deaver Desandc