

Bay Point Marsh

Bay Point Regional Shoreline provides access to undeveloped open space and marsh habitat in an area surrounded by residential, military, and industrial development. The public can enjoy views of Suisun Bay and opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, shoreline fishing, nature study, and other recreational pastimes. The nearly 150-acre parkland is at the approximate midpoint of the San Francisco Bay Estuary and the Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta. These saltwater and freshwater systems converge at Suisun Bay and have historically been a major influence on the lives and natural surroundings of the Bay Point community.

The East Bay Regional Park District acquired this property in 1996 to preserve and restore the marshland and to provide public access to the bay shoreline. A portion of the purchase price came from the Shell Oil Spill Litigation Settlement Trustee Committee and will be used for wetland restoration.

HISTORY Prior to the early 1800s the lands along the Suisun Bay shoreline were occupied by Native American tribes. The last tribe living near the Bay Point area was the Chupcan tribe, which occupied the southern shore of Suisun Bay between Port Chicago and the mouth of Marsh Creek in the Oakley area.

From the 1850s on, the site of Bay Point Regional Shoreline was located between two Mexican land grants—the Los Medanos grant to the east and the Monte del Diablo grant to the south and west. The area remained largely untouched by history until the 1950s through the 1980s, when the then-owners diked the southern section for settling ponds and a sand-dredging operation. In 1978, a California District Court decree required that the J-shaped channel now present along the park's eastern edge be dug to open the area to tidal action as mitigation for the sand-dredging operation.

PLANTS AND WILDLIFE Non-native grasses dominate the southern upland portion of Bay Point Regional Shoreline. The few native species include creeping wildrye, willow-herb, telegraph weed, gumweed, spikeweed, toyon, and coyote brush. The brackish seasonal wetlands are man-made ponds, with slightly brackish to strongly saline soil conditions that promote

dominant species such as alkali bulrush, pickleweed, salt-grass, Italian ryegrass, rush, rabbits foot grass, and lamb's quarters. Intermixed with these species are Mexican rush, heliotrope, umbrella sedge, and others. The tidal marshlands support brackish, tidal marsh species such as bulrush, alkali bulrush, broadleaf cattail, and narrow-leaf cattail. Other less dominant species include Mexican rush and annual saltmarsh aster.

The upland areas provide habitat for a wide variety of animal life, such as the mourning dove, Anna's hummingbird, northern flicker, Savannah sparrow, western meadowlark, coyote, and black-tailed jackrabbit. Dredge tailings located in the marsh interior and along the J-shaped channel form high points valuable as bird nest sites isolated from predators. The white-tailed kite and the northern harrier forage throughout the area and nest on the interior islands. Other predatory birds, including the loggerhead shrike, American kestrel, and red-tailed hawk, perch and hunt in the area. The upland islands also provide high-tide refuges for the California black rail, which forages in the tidal marsh.

The brackish seasonal wetlands provide habitat for the salt marsh harvest mouse and other rodents. The tall, dense stands of cattails and bulrushes in the brackish tidal marsh support Pacific tree frogs, egrets, herons, American bitterns, soras, marsh wrens, red-winged blackbirds, and raccoons. The salt marsh common yellowthroat and Suisun song sparrow are year-round residents that forage and nest in the tidal marshes.

At low tide, the Western pond turtle may be observed basking in the sun in small areas of exposed mudflat. The open mudflats are also important habitat for a variety of shorebirds, which forage on marine invertebrates between tides. The open waters of the marsh channels provide foraging and resting habitat for grebes, cormorants, dabbling and diving ducks, and river otters.

AQUATIC WILDLIFE Bay Point Regional Shoreline lies within a region designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as critical habitat for delta smelt, winter-run chinook salmon, and steelhead, and for general fisheries improvement. The public shoreline access at McAvoy Harbor leads to a point at the mouth of the J-shaped channel, which is a favorite local fishing spot and one of the few public fishing spots in the area. The most abundant fish in Suisun Bay are striped bass, Sacramento splittail, inland silversides, chameleon goby, and Chinook salmon. In addition to these species, catfish and largemouth bass may be found in the channel.



To reach Bay Point Regional Shoreline: From Highway 4 in Bay Point, exit at the Bay Point/San Marco Boulevard exit and turn left onto San Marco Boulevard, towards the river. San Marco Boulevard becomes Willow Pass Road. After about 1 mile, turn left onto Port Chicago Highway. Proceed for about 1.25 miles and turn right onto McAvoy Road. The parking area is ahead, on the left.

Bay Point Regional Shoreline

East Bay Regional Park District

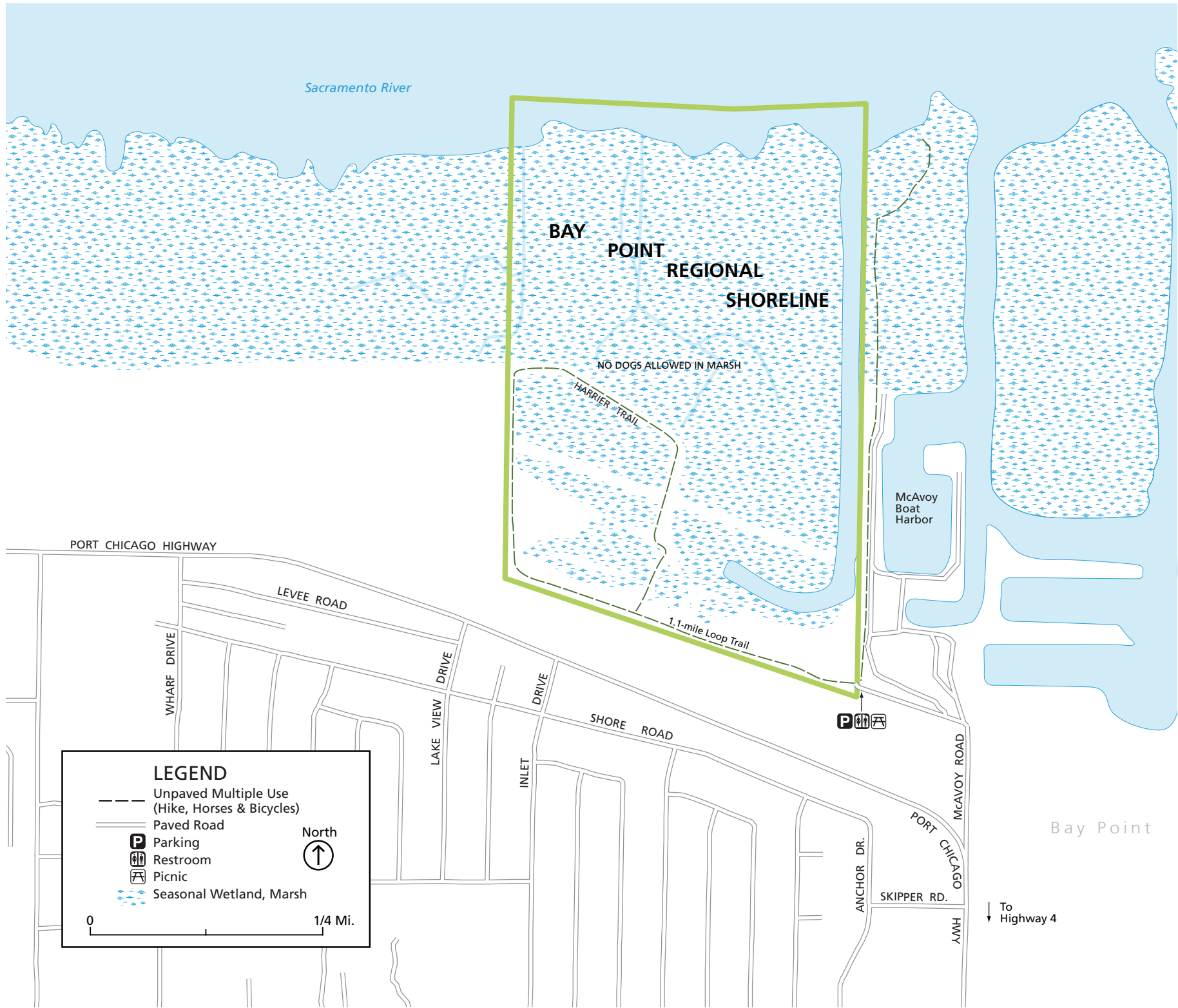


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East Bay Regional Park District

2950 Peralta Oaks Court,
P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-0381
1-888-EBPARKS ebparks.org



PARKLAND RULES

Welcome to your Regional Parklands. Help protect park resources and ensure an enjoyable visit for everyone by complying with these rules and any posted regulations. Violators will be subject to citation or arrest. For more information, ask a Park Ranger, Public Safety Officer, or telephone (510) 881-1833.

PARK GATES ARE OPEN to the public during hours posted at the park entrance. Unless otherwise posted, **CURFEW** is between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., except for persons possessing a permit to remain on parklands.

MOTOR VEHICLES are restricted to paved public roads and designated parking areas only. Vehicles must exit at posted gate closure hours.

BICYCLES may be ridden on designated bicycle trails, and on fire or service roads, unless otherwise posted. Bicycles are not permitted, either ridden, walked or carried, in areas posted "No Bicycles," or on narrow hiking or narrow equestrian trails. State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet while riding on trail and roadways. Riders should call out or sound a warning when overtaking other trail users.

DOGS must be leashed (six-foot maximum) and under control at any posted area, parking lot, picnic site, lawn or developed area. No dogs or other animals are permitted at any swimming pool, beach, wetland, or marsh. Owners must always carry a leash (six-foot maximum). Dogs may be off-leash in open space and undeveloped areas of parklands, provided they are under control at all times. Dangerous animals are not allowed in the parks. Please dispose of your dog's waste by placing it in a garbage can. Persons who walk more than three dogs at a time on Regional Parks trails must obtain a permit; commercial dog walkers are required to obtain a permit regardless of how many dogs they walk at one time (limit of six). Please call (510) 544-3009 for information.

SWIMMING, WADING and other water contact activities are not permitted at Brushy Peak Regional Preserve.

PLANTS, ANIMALS, GEOLOGIC, ARCHAEOLOGIC OR HISTORIC OBJECT are protected by law. Please do not disturb or remove any of these features.

HELP PROTECT OUR PARK WILDLIFE by not releasing or feeding ducks, cats or other animals. Do not feed wild park animals; enjoy them from a distance.

FIREWORKS are not permitted in any regional park.

FIRES are permitted in barbecue pits or personal cooking equipment in designated picnic areas or irrigated turf areas only, placed at least 30 feet from flammable materials. Please do not place hot coals on the ground or in a garbage can. Dispose of hot coals or other burned fuel in barbecue pits or in designated hot coal disposal receptacles.

CAMPING is not permitted within District parklands without a permit. **FISHING** requires a State fishing license, and a District Daily Fishing Access Permit is required when posted.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES are not permitted at pools, swim beaches or within 50 feet of paved roads or parking lots, or in posted areas. Otherwise, beer and wine are permitted at picnic areas and elsewhere on parklands.

GAMES and ACTIVITIES, including model rockets, model airplanes, hang gliding, golf and other activities with potential risk to property or park visitors are not permitted at Brushy Peak Regional Preserve.

ASSEMBLIES, PERFORMANCES, SPECIAL EVENTS or similar gatherings require a permit.

Please be considerate of other park visitors if you use a **RADIO**. A permit is required for **AMPLIFICATION** of voice, music or other sound.

FIREARMS or BOWS AND ARROWS are not permitted on Regional Parklands except at established ranges. Crossbows, spears, slingshots, air pistols or rifles, and other dangerous weapons are prohibited anywhere on Regional Parklands.

PARK VISITORS are responsible for knowing and following park rules.