

# Bay Point Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access Project

Bay Point Regional Shoreline is located at the waterfront of the Bay Point community in unincorporated Contra Costa County, along the southern Suisun Bay shoreline at the approximate mid-point of San Francisco Bay and Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta. The shoreline park provides important shoreline access to tidal marshlands and waterfront open space. Access is severely limited along a 20-mile stretch from Martinez (Waterbird Regional Preserve) to Oakley (Big Break Regional Shoreline).

The East Bay Regional Park District will restore wetlands and grasslands back to their historic state before dredging and marine use. Public access to the shoreline will be improved by raising trail elevations to provide sea-level rise resiliency, improving disabled access, creating new viewpoints, and installing park furnishings and interpretive panels supporting environmental education and naturalist programs.



## History

Historically, the Bay Point Regional Shoreline was comprised of a broad range of ecological communities, including large expanses of emergent saline marsh, seasonal wetland, wet meadow, open water, tidal channels, riparian scrub, and grassland. Most of the historic habitats have been lost or significantly degraded over the past 100 years by diking baylands, draining and filling wetlands, and diverting waterways to support development. The project area is degraded and disconnected from adjacent high value tidal marsh by imported fill and artificial levees created to support past sand dredging operations. Current sea level rise projections indicate that the project area will be adversely affected, resulting in loss of marsh and transitional habitats that are important to the survival of delta species and for water quality.

## Project Actions

### Restore 30 acres of channel, wetland, transitional and upland habitats

- High areas, filled during prior sand dredging operations, will be lowered to restore tidal marsh and excavated material used to raise the trail while creating a gradual transition from the marsh to grasslands.
- Areas between high tide and upland areas (transitional habitat) will be expanded to provide cover and safe refuge for marsh wildlife during high tides and other flood events. Over a mile of new tidal channels will be created, providing habitat for native fish and invertebrates and foraging opportunities for shorebirds.

### Improve public access

- Harrier Trail will be designed for disabled access, to correct flooding and to remain in service with sea-level rise.
- A bridge crossing for the Harrier Trail will be installed over a new tidal channel.

### Provide resiliency to a changing climate and future sea-level rise

- The project will reconnect the site with adjacent marsh land and provide higher ground to offset the loss of habitat due to sea level rise. A diversity of habitats will be created, focusing on high marsh and transitional habitats designed to evolve over time with sea-level rise.

Project Sponsor:	East Bay Regional Park District
Location:	Bay Point Regional Shoreline, Contra Costa County
Purpose:	Habitat Restoration and Public Access
When:	Construction 2019 Summer
Contact:	Karla Cuero, Project Coordinator, 510-544-2622



## Public Access and Site Improvements

- **Accessibility.** Provide access for persons with disabilities on Harrier Trail.
- **Environmental Education.** Install interpretive panels to enhance naturalist programs such as climate science and shoreline resources.
- **Public Health.** Provide attractive 1.1 mile paved loop trail to facilitate healthy activity outdoors.
- **Sustainability.** Design trails and habitat to accommodate up to 5.5 feet of sea level rise. Establish drought tolerant native landscaping.
- **Visitor Facilities.** Install shade structures at picnic area, flush toilets, water faucets, benches, trail overlooks for wildlife viewing.



Funded in Part by Voter Approved



## 1 Tidal Panne

- Tidal pannes, also known as tidal ponds, historically occurred at the project site. Pannes are shallow depressions where through successive cycles of tidal inundation and evaporation unique soil conditions form that add habitat complexity to the ecosystem.
- Tidal panne habitat will be created by lowering berms around a ponded area allowing for more frequent tidal inundation
- Composed of open water fringed with pickleweed.
- Provides habitat for salt marsh harvest mouse and increases food web productivity to benefit pelagic fish species such as delta smelt and longfin smelt.



Pickleweed  
Photo by: Matt Wickland



Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse  
Photo by: Joe DiDonato



## 2 Tidal Marsh

- Tidal marsh habitat will be restored and comprised of low marsh and high marsh.
- Low marsh floods frequently (lower elevation). It supports species such as hardstem bulrush, California bulrush, and cattail.
- High marsh floods less frequently and occurs above mean high tides (higher elevation). It supports species such as alkali bulrush, pickleweed, and saltgrass.
- Restored tidal marsh provides foraging and nesting habitat for a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, including protected California black rail and Ridgway's rail.



Ridgway's rail  
Photo by: Joe DiDonato

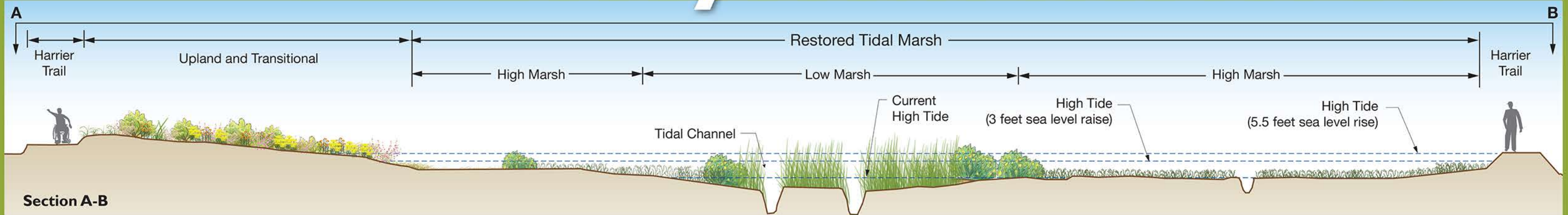
## 3 Transitional and Upland

- Comprised of coastal grassland and scrub areas, bordered by wide gently sloped transitions between wetlands and uplands.
- Provides refuge habitat for marsh wildlife species during high tides, accommodates marsh movement upslope with sea-level rise, and provides a buffer between public use and sensitive wildlife species in tidal marsh communities.
- Supports alkali heath, meadow barley, creeping wildrye, coyote brush.



Alkali heath  
Photo by Wilde Legard

# An Ecosystem Restored



Section A-B