

## Working Together ...

The East Bay Regional Park District is working with local animal shelters throughout the East Bay to safely relocate and rehome free-roaming domestic cats found in parks.



For more information and a list of shelters near you: [ebparks.org/natural-resources/biodiversity/wildlife](http://ebparks.org/natural-resources/biodiversity/wildlife)



Nicky Lloyd



Alzmann Jaka

# East Bay

## Regional Park District

Healthy Parks Healthy People

2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605  
1-888-EBPARKS or 1-888-327-2757 (TRS 711)  
[ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org)

## Visitor Centers

**Ardenwood Historic Farm**, Fremont  
510-544-2797, [awvisit@ebparks.org](mailto:awvisit@ebparks.org)

**Big Break Regional Shoreline**, Oakley  
Big Break Visitor Center at the Delta  
510-544-3050, [bigbreakvisit@ebparks.org](mailto:bigbreakvisit@ebparks.org)

**Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve**, Antioch  
510-544-2750, [bdvisit@ebparks.org](mailto:bdvisit@ebparks.org)

**Coyote Hills Regional Park**, Fremont  
510-544-3220, [chvisit@ebparks.org](mailto:chvisit@ebparks.org)

**Crown Memorial State Beach**, Alameda  
Doug Siden Visitor Center at Crab Cove  
510-544-3187, [ccove@ebparks.org](mailto:ccove@ebparks.org)

**Del Valle Regional Park**, Livermore  
510-544-3146, [svisit@ebparks.org](mailto:svisit@ebparks.org)

**Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Parks**, Hayward  
510-544-3220 (Coyote Hills), [chvisit@ebparks.org](mailto:chvisit@ebparks.org)  
Open summer Saturdays

**Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness**, Sunol  
510-544-3249, [svisit@ebparks.org](mailto:svisit@ebparks.org)  
Open weekends

**Tilden Regional Park**, Berkeley  
Botanic Garden: 510-544-3169, [bgarden@ebparks.org](mailto:bgarden@ebparks.org)  
Tilden Nature Area/Environmental Education Center  
510-544-2233, [tnarea@ebparks.org](mailto:tnarea@ebparks.org)



**Regional Parks Membership**  
ENJOY FREE DAY-USE PARKING, SWIMMING,  
DOG PASS, AND MORE. 510-544-2220  
[REGIONALPARKSFUNDATION.ORG](http://REGIONALPARKSFUNDATION.ORG)

Cover Photo: Viktoria Hrekiva

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# Domestic Cats in the East Bay Regional Park District



East Bay   
Regional Park District

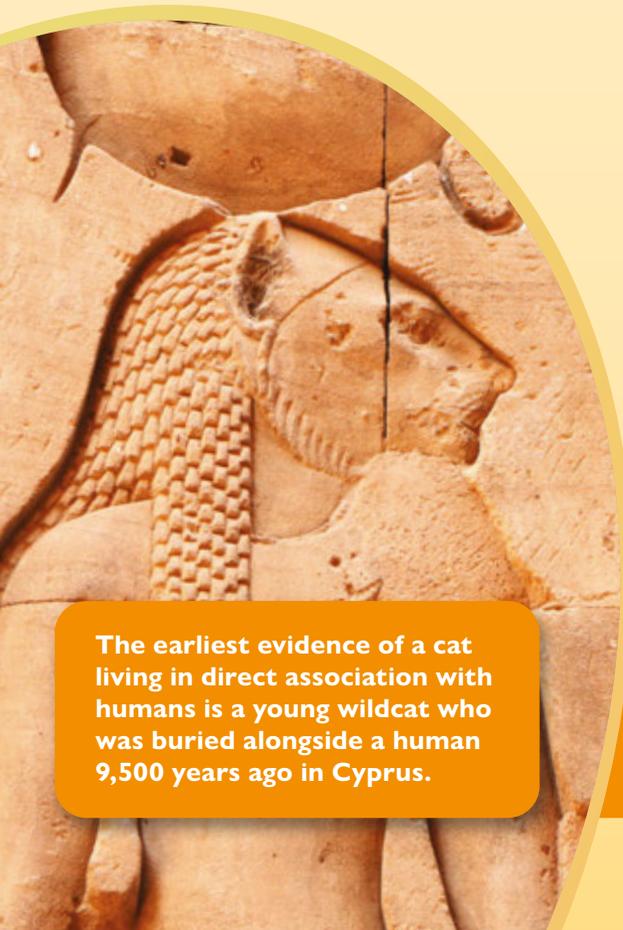
Healthy Parks Healthy People

# Domestic Cats ...

A story of partnership, predation, and protection

## In the beginning ...

Cats and humans have a long-standing partnership. Our relationship developed thousands of years ago, when humans started storing agricultural grains, including wheat and barley. Grains attracted rodents, and cats were happy to use their keen hunting skills on these relatively easy meals. Humans were happy for the help controlling rodent populations.



The earliest evidence of a cat living in direct association with humans is a young wildcat who was buried alongside a human 9,500 years ago in Cyprus.

Terry J. Lawrence

## Populations grow ...

Cats and humans both benefit from the proximity of the other. Humans appreciate cats' quirky personalities and the comfort they bring to a household. Cats are beloved family members across the globe, and their populations have grown drastically.



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The global population of domestic cats is estimated to be around 600 million – in contrast to their wild cousins, such as bobcats and lions, whose total combined populations barely reach 100 million.

## Natural hunters ...

The growing populations of domestic cats maintained their superb hunting skills. When given the chance, they skillfully hunted small mammals, reptiles, and birds in their new neighborhoods and nearby parks. Songbirds began to disappear, and humans knew if we wanted to maintain healthy environments, we also needed to build more responsible relationships with our beloved felines.



Ornitolog82

Scientists estimate that domestic and feral cats kill around 2.4 billion birds annually in the United States alone. The extinction of 63 species of birds, reptiles, and mammals across the globe are attributed to cats.

## Healthy parks ...

As with any healthy relationship, setting boundaries benefits all parties involved – humans, cats, and the wild animals impacted by domestic cats. As the partnership between cats and humans continues to grow and evolve, we can all help make it a healthy one by practicing the following:

- **Rehome cats responsibly.** If your cat needs a new home, contact your local animal shelter. Never abandon pets in parks.
- **Keep cats safe by keeping them indoors.** It's a hard life outside, with car strikes, predation, and disease taking a major toll on outdoor cats.
- **Never leave cat food outdoors.** Food dishes attract wildlife, such as skunks and raccoons, increasing predation, disease, and wildlife conflicts.
- **Report cats in parks.** The Park District works with local animal shelters to safely remove, rehome, and relocate cats found in its parks. Alert park staff or email [stewardship@ebparks.org](mailto:stewardship@ebparks.org) if you see a cat in a park.

The East Bay Regional Park District is required by law to protect native wildlife within its parklands, including threatened and endangered species. There are hundreds of species in the Park District that are protected by federal and state law.



Michael Short