Hayward Regional Shoreline

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.

Fees: there are no fees at Hayward Shoreline.

HISTORY  This 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. 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 comprises five miles of graded shoreline public trails within a complex ecosystem of shallow water and mudflats, 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. The parkland is undergoing a long-term marsh improvement program that currently consists of 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, the area rapidly became an established saltwater marsh.

Hayward Marsh, developed in 1985, is a 145-acre fresh and brackish water marsh. 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 allow 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 offers year-round interpretive programs on wetlands, shoreline habitats, and the ecology of San Francisco Bay. The visitor center is accessible off Breakwater Ave. in Hayward.

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

SAFETY  • 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 carefully at your own risk.
• 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, in parking lots, picnic areas, developed areas (lawns and play fields) and on some trails. They must be under voice control at all times.
• State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and roadways. Equestrians and bicyclists are also strongly encouraged to wear helmets at all times.
• Smoking is prohibited.
• Drones are prohibited. Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 38). See www ebparks.org/rules.

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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............0.38
- Bridge at Bockman Channel.............0.75
- Bridge at Oro Loma Marsh...............1.16
- Bridge at Sulphur Creek................1.45
- Hayward's Landing.......................2.26
- Cogswell Marsh.........................2.82
- Johnson's Landing.......................3.89
- Hayward Shoreline Interp. Center... 5.04

From West Winton Ave. parking area to:
- Hayward's Landing.......................0.52
- Cogswell Marsh.........................0.39
- Johnson's Landing.......................1.46
- Hayward Shoreline Interp. Center... 2.61
- Grant Avenue parking area............2.71

HAYWARD SHORELINE
- Hiking & Bicycling Trail
- Paved Hiking & Biking Trail
- San Francisco Bay Trail

2.25 miles along S.F. Bay Trail from San Lorenzo Creek bridge to San Leandro Marina.