

It's Your Tern

Least Tern Habitat Helpers



Children have painted and installed decoys to attract terns.

Hundreds of wildlife volunteers have been working to give "birth" to the Least Tern Habitat Enhancement Project at the Hayward Regional Shoreline. These Habitat Helpers are shaping the future of our wildlife heritage for generations to come. Holding tightly to the belief that their legacy will be no less than their inheritance, many people like you have contributed thousands of hours in support of this monumental stewardship effort.

The California least tern is an endangered species due to the loss and disturbance of coastal habitats. Historically,



Nesting California least terns.

least terns nested next to estuaries, on sandy beaches and salt flats with sparse vegetation. As the human population along the California coast has increased, least tern habitat has decreased. In order for the species to survive, terns require protection from disturbance and predation. In addition, their remaining habitat needs to be maintained and enhanced.



People of all ages have spread out more than 150 tons of sand, salt, and oyster shells to encourage least terns to nest on the island.

With the help and financial support of the Regional Parks Foundation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Program, Alameda Countywide Clean Water Community Stewardship Program, New United Motor Manufacturing, Orchard Supply Hardware and Johnston's Oyster Farm, volunteers have created 15,000 square feet of new nesting sites for the State and Federal listed endangered California least tern. We have moved over 300,000 pounds of materials onto the island to create the "right ambiance" for tern mating and nesting.

How you can make a tax-deductible donation to support the program:

Please make check payable to the Regional Parks Foundation in support of the "It's Your Tern Program" and send to the Regional Parks Foundation, P.O. Box 21074, Crestmont Station Oakland, CA 94620



For information or to become a Wildlife Volunteer call or email Dave "Doc Quack" Riensche, Wildlife Resource Analyst at docquack@ebparks.org or call Doc Quack at (510) 544-2319.