

Attachment D. Cat Brochure

Our mission is to help all special status species keep their foothold in the East Bay

The East Bay Regional Park District protects and maintains more than 113,000 acres of parks and trails in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The parks provide critical wildlife habitat for more than 500 species of wildlife. Many different forms of wildlife live in your Regional Parks. Golden Eagles soar overhead and ground squirrels scamper across the grasslands.

It is our responsibility to care for and manage wildlife for our enjoyment, and for future generations to enjoy.



Juvenile western snowy plover

Photo: Jerry Ting



Western skink

Photo: Dave Renschler

The East Bay Regional Park District is a system of beautiful public parks and trails in Alameda and Contra Costa counties east of San Francisco. The system comprises over 113,000 acres in 65 parks including over 1,200 miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding and nature study.

Our mission is to manage and maintain a high quality, diverse system of interconnected parklands which balances public usage and education programs with protection and preservation of our natural and cultural resources.

For Park information visit the East Bay Regional Park District website www.ebparks.org or call 1-888-EBPARKS (1-888-327-2757).

For wildlife related information, and to report cats or feeding sites, call:

East Bay Regional Park District
Stewardship Department
510-544-2340

East Bay 
Regional Park District

2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605
1-888-EBPARKS • www.ebparks.org

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Regional Park District
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Photo: Steven Bobzien

Wildlife Protection and Free-Ranging Cats

Healthy Parks 
Healthy People



Photo: John Takekawa

Salt marsh harvest mouse

Endangered Species

The rich abundance and diversity of wildlife in our parks include some whose numbers are dangerously low.

Special status species are rare, restricted in distribution and declining throughout their range.

More than 60 special status species are protected by law in the parks. The mystery, magic and wildness of these birds and animals add quality to our lives and enrich our time in nature.

More than two dozen species such as the red-legged frog, Alameda whip snake, salt marsh harvest mouse and California clapper rail are on the endangered species list and are at risk of extinction in the Bay Area. These are protected by federal and state laws.

The Park District stewardship staff monitors these and other wildlife species, and strives to maintain a healthy ecosystem. To protect wildlife, free-ranging cat colonies (also called feral cats) are not permitted on District property.



Photo: Dave Renschke

Western snowy plover chicks

Wildlife Management

Our native birds and wildlife face many obstacles: habitat loss, pollution, and the impacts from exotic species. After habitat loss, the introduction of non-native species is the leading cause of extinction. Free-ranging cats that are descendants of the wild cats of Africa and Southwestern Asia are having a significant impact on our local wildlife. The free-ranging cat hunts because of its natural hunting instinct.



Photo: Jerry Ting

Clapper rail

Free-ranging Cats' Impact on Wildlife

Extensive studies of the feeding habits of free-ranging cats over 50 years and on four continents indicate that small mammals (rodents, rabbits) make up 70% of the cats' prey, while birds make up 20%. The remaining 10% are a variety of other animals reflecting the food that is locally available (lizards, snakes, and insects). Nationwide, cats kill more than a billion small mammals and hundreds of millions of birds each year. Free-ranging cats are exposed to diseases, parasites and wounds from animal attacks, and they also transmit diseases to wild animals, domestic pets, and humans.



Photo: Joe DiDonato

Red-legged frog



Photo: Jillian Kinnes

Least tern chick and adult tern decoy

What You Can Do to Help

Do not let your cat roam free in the Regional Parks. An indoor cat can live for more than 17 years, but an outdoor cat rarely survives past five years.

Support the removal of feral or free-ranging cats from natural areas – important habitat for native wildlife that live in the parks.

Don't dispose of unwanted cats by releasing them into parks. Be responsible by taking them to an animal control facility, or contact a cat adoption group.

Eliminate outdoor sources of food such as outdoor pet dishes and garbage which attract stray cats and other animals.

Do not feed or release stray cats in the Regional Parks. It is a violation of East Bay Regional Park District Ordinance 38, punishable by fines.

Report any cats or cat feeding sites to your local park staff or the Park District's Stewardship Department.