

In or Under Your House

To prevent squirrels from moving into your home, use sheet metal or 1/4-inch wire hardware cloth to seal openings to your attic and basement. If you have a fireplace, install a chimney cap. If squirrels are already living in your basement or attic, wait for them to leave or install a squirrel excluding device that allows them to leave but not to return. Be sure all squirrels have left before sealing a space. Trapping and relocating squirrels is ineffective and only legal with a valid California Department of Fish and Wildlife permit.

Squirrels reproduce rapidly. To control squirrels, hire a licensed pest control professional who is trained to place and monitor traps while avoiding non-target species.



Ground squirrel

Photo: ©KevinHinsley

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

Visitor Centers

- Ardenwood Historic Farm**, Fremont
510-544-2797, awvisit@ebparks.org
- Big Break Regional Shoreline**, Oakley
Big Break Visitor Center at the Delta
510-544-3050, bigbreakvisit@ebparks.org
- Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve**, Antioch
510-544-2750, bdvisit@ebparks.org
- Coyote Hills Regional Park**, Fremont
510-544-3220, chvisit@ebparks.org
- Crown Memorial State Beach**, Alameda
Crab Cove Visitor Center and Aquarium
510-544-3187, ccove@ebparks.org
- Del Valle Regional Park**, Livermore
510-544-3146, svisit@ebparks.org
- Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Parks**, Hayward
510-544-3220 (Coyote Hills), chvisit@ebparks.org
Open summer weekends
- Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness**, Sunol
510-544-3249, svisit@ebparks.org
Open weekends only
- Tilden Regional Park**, Berkeley
Botanic Garden: 510-544-3169, bgarden@ebparks.org
Tilden Nature Area/Environmental Education Center
510-544-2233, tnarea@ebparks.org



Regional Parks Membership
ENJOY FREE DAY-USE PARKING, SWIMMING,
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On the cover: A fox squirrel

Photo: © Tony Iwane

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Living with Squirrels in the East Bay Regional Park District



East Bay 
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Living with Squirrels

Photo: © James Spitznas

These smart rodents are pillars of their communities. Squirrels are food for raptors, foxes, coyotes, snakes, and other predators. They sow future generations of plants by hiding acorns, other nuts, and seeds. Their digging improves growing conditions for plants of all ages. Their burrows are home to many animals.

Four species of squirrel live in the East Bay: fox, eastern gray, western gray, and California ground. When you see a squirrel in the trees or on a wire in a developed area, it is likely a fox squirrel or an eastern gray squirrel. California ground squirrels are mostly seen in or near their burrows on the ground in turf and grasslands. Western gray squirrels are no longer common in the East Bay, as they need expansive oak woodlands or oak and pine forests to survive.

The fox, eastern gray, and western gray squirrels are all tree squirrels. These superb climbers construct large, round, hollow nests out of twigs and bark. In trees without leaves, their nests are easy to see. Tree squirrels use their outstanding balance and agility to escape predators, gather food, and travel long distances far above the ground.

California ground squirrels are expert excavators. They live in colonies, building networked burrows. They make loud alarm calls when danger is near. In their homes, they are beyond the reach of most predators. Mothers will attack and chase snakes – including rattlesnakes – to defend their young. Adult ground squirrels are resistant to rattlesnake venom and they have a powerful bite.

**California
ground
squirrel**



Fox squirrel



Eastern gray squirrel



Western gray squirrel

In your Yard

Squirrels can be a joy to watch. Support them by nurturing native plants that provide food and shelter, including oak trees. Protect them by searching for nests before you trim trees. If you find an active squirrel nest, do not trim until the young have moved out. Keep squirrels healthy and wild by not feeding them or attempting to tame them. If you feed birds, use a squirrel-proof feeder. Squirrels like to eat tomatoes, berries, and fruits and nuts from trees. It is difficult to keep them away from garden plants. A Park District naturalist, master gardener, or online gardening group can suggest approaches that may help your specific situation.



Fox squirrel

Safety

Never approach a squirrel that is acting abnormally or looks sick. Squirrels may spread diseases that are harmful to humans. Do not handle dead or living squirrels with your bare hands.