Doug Siden Visitor Center at Crab Cove

JULY 2024

Story Time
Dive into a world of wonder and imagination followed by a themed craft after.

Fish Feeding Time
Visit our aquariums to see who lives here! Observe a shark, fish and other critters while they eat!

Family Nature Fun
Spend an afternoon at the Bay, make new discoveries, and enjoy a new activity each week with games, crafts, and special surprises.

July 6 & 7 Squid Dissection – Learn all about squids with this hands-on guided dissection!

July 13 & 14 Tern Time – Get to know one of your neighborhood’s endangered seabirds.

July 20 & 21 Dashing Dragonflies – Discover the mysteries of these carnivorous insects and search for them pondside!

July 27 & 28 Pollinator Palooza - Come explore the buzzing and bustling world of pollinators!

Doug Siden Visitor Center at Crab Cove at Crown Memorial State Beach officially opened on July 4, 1980. You can see bay creatures in our 600-gallon aquarium and 6 other aquariums. The visitor center is open: Wed—Sun (10am-5pm March—October). (10am-4pm, November—February).

Programs are free, drop-in, & meet at the visitor center unless otherwise noted.

Program Key:
= Wheelchair accessible
$ = Fee program
☑️ = Register online at ebparksonline.org
= Parking Fee may apply
(non-res.) = Residents outside of Alameda & Contra Costa counties

Given advance notice accommodations can be made for visitors with disabilities.

Contact Us:
Telephone: 510-544-3187
Email: ccove@ebparks.org
Address: 1252 McKay Avenue Alameda, CA 94501
facebook.com/crabcovealamedaca/
Hikes for Tykes

Enjoy some nature before naptime with your young child! Join a naturalist as they take you over hill and dell to explore the Regional Parks. Tools for exploration will be provided. Hikes average about 1/2 mile (roundtrip).

Bring a snack. Strollers are not recommended for most hikes.

**July 2: Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline (Arrowhead Marsh)**

Meander along the marsh looking for birds, squirrels and more!

**July 16: Anthony Chabot Regional Park (Bort Meadow)**

Hike down to the meadow to hear a story, searching for bunnies and other critters along the way.

**Note:** only access to Bort Meadow is from Redwood Road via Oakland.

July 4th Open House

Celebrate the beauty and diversity of our Bay with family-friendly activities. Ongoing crafts on deck all afternoon.

Scheduled programs:

1:00 - 1:30 pm  Turtle Time.
1:30 - 2:00 pm  Listen to some nature stories.
2:00 - 2:30 pm  Celebrate Plastic Free July!
2:30 - 3:00 pm  Meet one of our reptile residents and learn some snake secrets.
3:00 - 4:00 pm  Clean up the beach and add to our museum of oddities!
Alameda 4th of July Parade

Enjoy Alameda’s hometown parade, which is one of the longest in the nation! Watch for our Mobile Visitor Center and Crab Cove staff dressed up as Bay Area animals as we promote the love of nature and the Regional Parks.

Full Moon Grunion Search

11:30pm-1:30am, Fri night Jul 5 / Sat morning Jul 6
Midnight-2:00am, Sun night Jul 21 / Mon morning Jul 22

This is a rare spawning sight not to be missed! Ages 10 +

Bring a small flashlight that we will cover with red cellophane or tape to not harm the fish. No flash photography. Dress warmly as it can be very chilly at this hour.

Registration required: bit.ly/grunionsearch

Space is limited.

Where: Crown Memorial State Beach (Otis Dr Parking Lot)
Sun, Jul 7
8:30-10am

**Sunday Stroll**
We will stroll and look and listen for birds in this beautiful wooded canyon. Beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars. We will also bring some to lend out.

*Where: Leona Canyon Regional Preserve (Canyon Oak Staging Area)*

**NOTE:** No restrooms at this site

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Tue, Jul 9
10:30-11:30am

**Turtle Time**
Crab Cove Visitor Center invites families and young children to learn about turtles! Hear a story, meet a visiting turtle named “pumpkin” and make a craft to take home.

*Where: Alameda Main Library*

1550 Oak St, Alameda, CA 94501

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Thu, Jul 11
8am-11am

**Tern Town Birdwalk**
This morning we will walk to an amazing bird sanctuary built for endangered California Least Terns. We will have special access to see this nesting island closer than you normally can. Bring binoculars. Spotting scopes optional.

*Meet at Hayward Interpretive Shoreline Center*
**Return of the Terns $**

Join us for a special day dedicated to the California Least Tern, an endangered species! View a presentation (outside) about their fascinating behaviors and the reasons for their success at the largest colony in Central/Northern CA 10:15am, 11:30am, and 12:45pm.

Reserve your spot to view the nest site accessible only on our tour bus (space limited). Experts aboard the bus will interpret bird behavior. **To avoid disturbing the endangered terns, visitors must stay on the bus to view activity.**

At 3pm, join a naturalist to look for these amazing acrobats hunting at Crab Cove (binoculars available for loan).

Bus rides to the colony (reservations required):
11am, 12:15pm, and 1:30pm

**Bus sign ups: bit.ly/ternsreturn**

Fee: $12 per person for bus ($14 non-resident).

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**Explore Alder Creek**

Welcome to a new side of Sibley. Visit the verdant restored creeks and explore fresh trails.

Ages 6 and up. **Parking is extremely limited, so please carpool! No dogs allowed in this area.**

**Where:** Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve
(Eastport Staging Area)
Storytime at Bay Farm Island Library

Meet naturalists from Crab Cove Visitor’s Center as they lead a special storytime and craft. Perfect for kids ages 5 and up and their caregivers.

Where: Bay Farm Island Library
3221 Mecartney Rd, Bay Farm Island, 94502

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Low Tide Exploration

Bring friends along for a muddy odyssey into the Bay’s tidal riches. Wear old shoes or rain boots- you will get dirty!

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Going Batty

On the grassy area next to the Amphitheater, we will watch for bats coming out to feed as the sun sets!

Dress in layers. Bring a blanket to sit or lay on and look up to watch for bats.

Where: Anthony Chabot Family Campground (Amphitheater)
Anthony Chabot Campfires

Every Sat, Memorial weekend – Labor Day weekend

Join us for after-dark fun! Learn about the parks and nature around you through games, songs, photos and stories around the campfire. New topic each week. Non-campers are welcome to come in for the program!

Where: Anthony Chabot Family Campground
(Amphitheater)

Jul 6: Talent Show!
Jul 13: Nature Detectives!
Jul 20: Grossology: What’s Gross around Anthony Chabot
Jul 27: Sharks

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

Due to recent storm damage, the Park is not accessible via Redwood Road from I-580 westbound in Castro Valley. You must access via Redwood Road from Skyline Blvd.