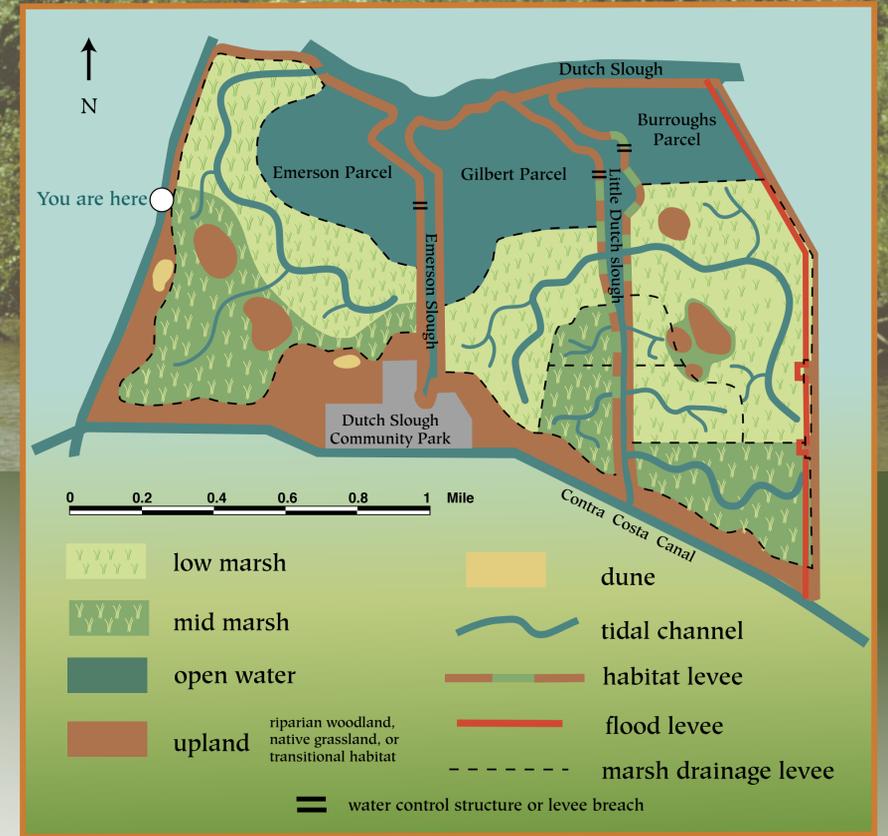


18th Century Spanish explorers of this area were stunned by the richness and expanse of seemingly impenetrable wetlands of tules and riverside forests that stretched as far as the eye could see. Over the years, that landscape has changed. Since the Gold Rush (1848) the Central Valley and Delta have lost 90–95% of their wetlands. These once abundant habitats have been reclaimed and filled for agriculture and residential development.

The Dutch Slough Project is a massive effort to regain 1,166 acres of Delta wetlands. To the east of you, former dairy and agricultural land is undergoing the slow process of restoration—the attempt to rehabilitate and restore the functions and benefits of wetlands. Here in the midst of one of the fastest growing regions in the country, citizens have seized this opportunity to enrich their community by regaining a piece of its natural heritage.

Restoring Delta Wetlands



This aerial photo and diagram shows the extent of the Dutch Slough Project. Plans include restoring open water, wetland, and upland ecosystems for wildlife, flood and erosion control, natural water filtration, recreation, and the creation of the City of Oakley's Dutch Slough Community Park.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) purchased this land from the Emerson, Gilbert, and Burroughs families.



river otter