

# Ours to Explore, Enjoy and Protect

Please enjoy Regional Parks safely and help protect and preserve the parklands by following all park rules and regulations.

## Safety and Etiquette

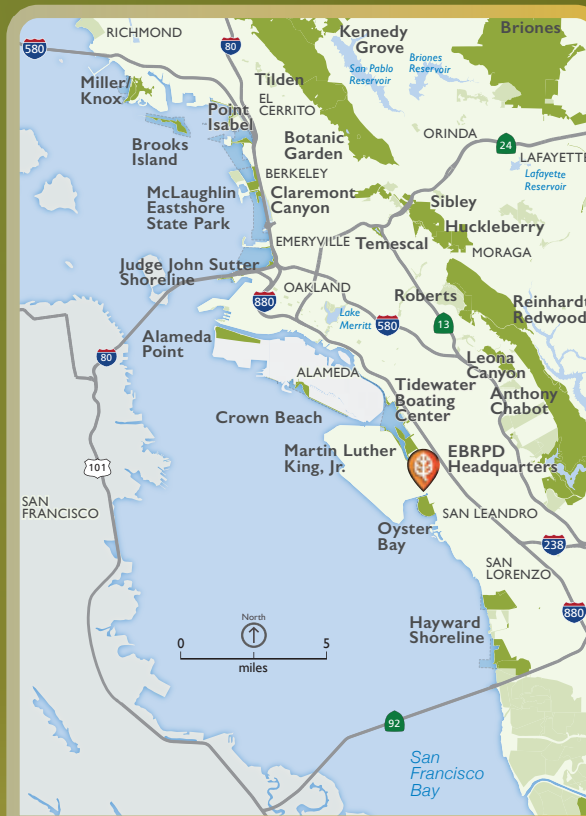
- Stay on trails. Shortcuts are dangerous and damage natural resources.
- Bring plenty of water to prevent dehydration.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
- Keep parks clean. Pack out what you pack in.
- Inform someone where you are going and when you will return.
- Save our 24/7 Dispatch Center number on your mobile phone: Emergency 510-881-1121; Non-emergency 510-881-1833.

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY ..... 9-1-1  
 PARK POLICE (evenings/weekends) ..... 510-881-1833  
 CAMPING RESERVATIONS ..... 1-888-327-2757, option 2  
 PARK OFFICE ..... 1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4556

## Rules

- Dogs must be leashed in parking lots, 200 feet from any trail or park entrance, in picnic areas, developed areas, where grazing animals are present, and as posted. Dogs must be under voice control at all times. Clean up after your pet: bag it, bin it.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. Bicyclists stay to the right side of trail, ring or call out when passing.
- Bicyclists yield to pedestrians. State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear a helmet. All bicyclists are encouraged to wear helmets at all times.
- The following are prohibited:
  - Wading and/or swimming into parklands
  - Consuming alcohol in non-designated areas/parks
  - Feeding or approaching wildlife
  - Releasing animals
  - Causing damage to plants, geological or archaeological features
  - Graffiti
  - Smoking/vaping
  - Skateboarding
  - Drones

Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 38). See [ebparks.org/rules](http://ebparks.org/rules).



## Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline

1600 Neptune Dr., San Leandro, CA 94577

**East Bay Regional Park District**  
 1600 Neptune Dr., San Leandro, CA 94577  
 1-888-EBPARKS or 1-888-327-2757 (TRS 711)  
[ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org)



**Regional Parks Membership**  
 RECEIVE FREE DAY-USE PARKING, SWIMMING,  
 DOG PASS, AND MORE. 510-544-2220  
**REGIONALPARKSFUNDATION.ORG**

**On the cover:** Hermit thrush on toyon.

Cover Photo: Paul Reeves

Bugs go here

# Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline

SAN LEANDRO



**East Bay**   
 Regional Park District

Healthy Parks Healthy People

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## Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline

**Year Opened:** 1995

**Acres:** 195

**Highlights:**

- Diverse community of plants and animals, thriving on what used to be a trash dump
- Beautiful view of San Francisco Bay
- 18-hole disc golf course, opened in December 2021
- Quarter-acre garden with 300 native plants providing overwintering monarch butterflies with nectar, helping them survive the winter and migrate in spring

**Fees:** None



*Red-tailed hawk*

Lenny Carl



*Play disc golf while taking in bay views*

Hillary Van Austeren



*Walk the San Francisco Bay Trail*

Hillary Van Austeren

## Discover the Nature of Your Parkland

Welcome to Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline, a bygone landfill built upon former marshland, now transformed into a Regional Park. Imported, clean soil now “caps” the aging trash below, allowing many kinds of plants and animals to make this changing landscape their home.

Oyster Bay hosts a portion of the Bay Trail, a planned recreational corridor that, when complete, will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays with a continuous 500-mile network of bicycling and hiking trails. Since this is a multi-use trail, please be considerate of other park users who are hiking, biking, running, or walking dogs. As in all Regional Parklands, take only pictures and leave only footprints.

### Learn More

- In 2013, the Park District adopted new projects to improve Oyster Bay. Some projects are complete, like the Disc Golf course. Others, like a bike skills park, are in the design and permitting stage. Check the Park District website for future project openings
- To learn more about the Davis Street environmental education program call 510-891-6532 or visit [stopwaste.org](http://stopwaste.org)
- For information about picnic reservations and volunteer service projects at Oyster Bay, call 888-327-2757 or visit [ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org)

**NOTE:** Keep dogs on a leash in all developed areas. Thank you for protecting wildlife, especially during nesting season when many animals nest on the ground (burrowing owls, northern harriers, jackrabbits, etc.)

## Signpost Interpretive Information

Look for the marked signposts along the trail for each of these 11 stops:

### 1 Salt Marsh

Extensive marshlands, considered wastelands in the past, once existed from here to east of Doolittle Drive. Over 90 percent of marshes throughout the Bay were filled and developed for many uses including housing, farming, and landfills. Now we know that salt marshes like the one before you are vital ecosystems. They provide feeding grounds for migratory birds, and they act as natural filters to cleanse water runoff before it enters the Bay.

Below the trail, between the marsh and the path, notice the unique plants that help protect the sensitive wetlands and provide habitat for animals. The Park District has designated this area as natural uplands habitat, so no dogs are allowed. Predators such as raccoons, foxes, and raptors use this area. Other animals, including the endangered Ridgway's rail and salt marsh harvest mouse, might also find shelter at high tide among the plants.

### 2 Monitoring Wells

This small bay became a community landfill and was filled with garbage over a period of 37 years. Once the site reached its holding capacity in 1977, it was capped with clay to seal it and then covered with soil for plants. Ground structures found throughout Oyster Bay monitor leachate (contaminated liquid) and the methane gas created by decomposing refuse in an oxygen-poor environment. The leachate is piped to a nearby wastewater treatment facility and the methane is burned at Waste Management's Davis Street Transfer Station, which you will see at the end of the trail. One monitoring well is to the right of the sign marker and the restroom is behind you.



### 3 Oyster Bay History

Shellfish, including oysters, flourished here in the Bay years ago. They were fed by incoming tides, gathered by the local Jalquin ("hal-kin") and Yrgin ("yer-gen") tribes, and preyed upon by bat rays and shorebirds. In 1890, oyster farming in California was a huge industry, with most of the farming operations located here in the East Bay and on the West Bay's San Mateo coast. By 1939, the Bay oyster industry had collapsed due to increasing populations and industries along the shoreline dumping untreated raw sewage and polluting chemicals into the Bay. Combined with the practice of filling in marshland, oxygen levels plummeted, and oysters died or were unsafe to eat. Now with improved water quality, there are movements to restore oyster beds in the Bay.

### 4 Native Plants

Most of the plants in this area are "native," originally growing in California before European colonization, and are adapted to our Mediterranean climate. They conserve water in many ways. Small, hairy, or waxy leaves prevent water loss during dry summers. Some plants lose their leaves altogether and may appear dead in the summer, only to sprout anew with the fall and winter rains. Can you find these different kinds of leaves on the plants at this stop?

Also, look for evidence of insect activity. Many species of butterflies can be found in the park and have an interdependent relationship with plants. Butterfly larvae (caterpillars) depend on the plant leaves and stems as a food source. Adult butterflies feed on plant nectar in flowers. In turn, plants depend on butterflies and other insects for pollination.

### 5 Land Acknowledgement

Though you are standing on a capped landfill, the surrounding area is the ancestral homeland of the Chochenyo Ohlone. Jalquin and Yrgin tribal villages existed every three to five miles along the Bay shore and inland waterways. From this vantage point, you can see the homelands of many Indigenous Peoples, who remain deeply connected to the land that is now in the cities of San Leandro and Hayward.



### 6 Disc Golf Course

An 18-hole disc golf course opened in December 2021, with much of the planning, installation and upkeep done by the Oyster Bay Disc Golf Club ([obdgc.org](http://obdgc.org)). What a beautiful place to play!

### 7 Wildlife

Look and listen quietly for a moment, then scout the trail and look for evidence of the animals that live here. Tracks, scat (animal droppings), feathers and fur, shed skin of snakes and lizards, and burrows or holes in the ground can tell you about the animals that live in the park. If you carefully investigate scat for pieces of plants, insects, and fur, you can tell what the animal ate. Its shape might also identify which animal left it: round like a grape is probably a jackrabbit; torpedo-shaped is likely a squirrel. Ground squirrels make burrows with many large openings, and gophers push up dirt into mounds.

Gopher snakes and garter snakes also make their homes in the park, feeding on small animals such as rodents, birds, lizards, and insects. Snakes in turn are sometimes eaten by raptors such as red-tailed hawks. Snakes in this park are protected and should be observed from a distance.

### 8 Birds of Prey

Watch overhead for large, soaring birds. Red-tailed hawks, osprey, northern harriers, white-tailed kites, and Cooper's hawks feed on many kinds of animals found in the park. These raptors, which may nest here, help keep nature "in balance" by controlling the number of rabbits, squirrels, and other rodents.

### 9 Bay Conservation

In 1960 a group of four dedicated women, alarmed that Bay marshes and mudflats had been filled an average of four-square miles per year since 1850, established Save the Bay and initiated the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

The goal was to control development and loss of shoreline habitats. Their success and that of future conservation groups has been significant! Despite all the trash in the Bay, chemical water pollution has significantly decreased compared to 1960. Land

management agencies are now working to restore marshland and mudflats, though as oceans rise the way to achieve that goal is increasingly complex.

### 10 Native Plant Butterfly Garden

A quarter-acre garden established in fall, 2021 features California native plants that bloom at different times of year, providing monarch butterflies (and many other species) with nectar to help them survive the winter and migrate in the spring. See the interpretive panel just in front and to the right of you for more information.

### 11 Community Waste Prevention

The methane gas, produced by decomposing garbage on this former landfill, flows to the vent pipe before you, where it is burned off.

You are viewing the back side of the Davis Street Resource Recovery Complex and Transfer Station. After being brought here by trucks from many communities, recycling materials are separated and then sent to recycling factories. Landscape and food waste goes to composting facilities. Trash is compressed and then brought to the landfill. For a better view of the transfer station, walk forward (to the north) about 1/4 mile.

How can we reduce our garbage? Practice the "4 R's" – reduce our packaging and reduce buying products we do not need; reuse and/or recycle everything we can; and compost our food and yard waste (rot is the fourth R). Visit [stopwaste.org](http://stopwaste.org) for many resources in Alameda County.



### End of the Trail

As you finish your walk around the park, ponder nature's cycles and your part in them. Consider ways you can live more lightly by reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting your waste materials.