

Colony Caretakers Needed

Tern Town & Plover Paradise

Nestled along the eastern shoreline of the San Francisco Bay is the expansive and enchanting Hayward Regional Shoreline, and home to a very special bird sanctuary. More than a decade ago, a passionate group of wildlife volunteers built “Tern Town”, by shipping and scattering over 200 tons of sand and oyster shells in order to create a safe nesting area for the California



Photo by Jerry Ting

An adult Tern feeds a fledgling

least tern. Our smallest tern in North America was once abundant along the Pacific Coast, but is currently listed as a Federal and California State Endangered Species. However, thanks to dedicated volunteers who unselfishly help pull non-native weeds during the non-breeding season, and who also carefully monitor terns during the nesting season, our site has become the second-largest California least tern colony north of Ventura County. Based on a review of the

nesting densities of other California least tern colonies state-wide, the District’s colony may have the highest nesting density of all West Coast sites, averaging 279.6 nests per hectare with an upward range of 787 nests per hectare!

“Tern Town” is also a paradise for the federally threatened western snowy plover! These sparrow-sized, tan-and-white shorebirds numbers are dwindling due to loss of coastal habitat, pressure from non-native and over abundant predators, and human encroachment.



Photo by Jerry Ting

An adult western snowy plover rests on the sand

Colony Caretakers Needed

Tern Town & Plover Paradise

Since 2008, several snowy plovers have annually hatched and raised fledglings here, taking full advantage of the added camouflage that the oyster shells provide their young as well as the tern chicks! Like the terns, western snowy plovers nesting densities are very high at this location ranging from 4.1 to 16.6 nests per hectare.

With your support, these two special status species will continue to nest and thrive in the East Bay Regional Park District.



Tern in Flight

Photo by Eric Crabb

Thanks to the help and financial support of the Regional Parks Foundation, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Coastal Program, Fremont Bank Foundation, Drakes Bay Oyster Company, Alameda Countywide Clean Water Community Stewardship Program, Dow AgroScience LLC, California Department of Transportation, Orchard Supply Hardware, New United Motor Manufacturing, Dow AgroScience LLC, California Department of Transportation. These special birds will have a place in our future. Our successes have not diminished the need for financial contributions and volunteer help from enthusiastic members of the public. Plovers and terns need wildlife lovers like you!



Patch given to volunteers