

Big Break Regional Shoreline & Visitor Center at the Delta

Year opened: 2005 Acres: 1,648

Highlights: Big Break Visitor Center at the Delta, Delta Discovery Experience, hiking, birdwatching, picnicking, bicycling, canoeing/kayaking.

Did you know? Big Break got its name from a levee failure in 1928 that flooded an asparagus farm.

HISTORY Welcome to Big Break Regional Shoreline which is part of the great 1,150-square-mile California Delta. The Julpun, a Bay Miwok-speaking tribe, lived and thrived here for many generations, actively managing the land to increase and enrich the bounty of plants and wildlife on which they relied.

In the 1770s, several expeditions arrived - the Fages-Crespí expedition in 1772 and the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition in 1776. These were followed by American trappers, and later, French trappers. Between 1806 and 1827, the Julpun entered the Spanish mission system and later, Jose Noriega's Mexican rancho system. The rancho was later purchased by John Marsh who wrote in 1846 about his Native work force, "without them the business of the country could not go on."

The California Gold Rush of 1849 dramatically transformed the entire Delta, speeding local settlement and spurring widespread wetland "reclamation," or drainage. Some unsuccessful gold-seekers left the mother lode to farm the Delta's rich soils. Chinese immigrants built farming levees after laying the first railroad tracks through the Sierra Nevada. Portuguese, Italians, Dutch, and other immigrants also came to the region. Seagoing ships navigated the rivers transporting supplies, tallow, and furs.

By 1930, Delta reclamation was almost complete, with some 57 human-made islands encompassing over 550,000 acres. Today, agriculture is the primary land use, particularly for growing corn and other grains, tomatoes, asparagus, pears, and other specialty crops.

Despite these profound changes, Bay Miwoks continue to protect their rich heritage by honoring and preserving their historical and cultural ties to this place.

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY.....9-1-1
EBRPD HEADQUARTERS.....1-888-327-2757
PARK OFFICE.....1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4525
BIG BREAK VISITOR CENTER.....(510) 544-3050

CALIFORNIA DELTA The Delta watershed collects half of all the freshwater in the state, mainly through the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, although much is diverted for use in cities and farms, near and far. Freshwater in the Delta meets saltwater from the ocean, forming the largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas and one of the richest environments on the planet. Like people, wildlife from near and far depend on a healthy Delta to survive and thrive.

RECREATION Visitors come here to observe wildlife, enjoy cooling Delta breezes, fish from the 100-foot observation pier, or simply appreciate the views and tranquility. Kayakers and canoeists can launch to explore the open, shallow waters of Big Break and beyond.

Big Break Regional Trail extends along the southern edge of Big Break providing flat, paved access for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. The trail connects to Marsh Creek Regional Trail, which joins the Delta de Anza Regional Trail and runs south through Oakley and Brentwood.

WILDLIFE Despite reclamation, water diversions and development in and around the Delta, Big Break remains an ecological treasure. An assortment of fish and mammals, such as, river otters, beavers, mink and muskrat, thrive in the open waters and tidal sloughs. Flocks of migratory waterfowl share habitat with wading birds like great blue herons, snowy and great egrets, and green herons. American white pelicans forage alongside grebes, double-crested cormorants, and American coots. This rich region also provides habitat for a variety of protected species, such as black rail, northern harrier, Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, and yellow-breasted chat, as well as the giant garter snake, western pond turtle and chinook salmon.

BIG BREAK VISITOR CENTER AT THE DELTA

The visitor center is located at the west end of the park, accessible from Big Break Road in Oakley. The Center brings to life the wonder and statewide importance of the Delta with a variety of interactive exhibits, activities and resources for all ages. A short walk away is the Delta Discovery Experience. The "DDX" includes a 1,200-square-foot interactive Delta map demonstrating water movement through the region and Delta connections with the rest of the state. Enjoy picnic sites, a sand-play area, and amphitheater (all shaded), and a sandy shoreline kayak launch.



69 Big Break Road, Oakley, CA 94561

To reach Big Break Regional Shoreline:

From Hwy. 4 in Antioch, take Hwy. 160 northbound towards Sacramento/Rio Vista. Take exit 1A east and turn right onto Main Street. Proceed east a little over 1 mile and turn north onto Big Break Road. Turn right just past the last houses on the right into Big Break Regional Shoreline. You can also enter the park by way of the Big Break Trail at its intersection with the Marsh Creek Regional Trail just adjacent to Marsh Creek north of E. Cypress Road in Oakley, east of its intersection with Main Street.

Public Transportation: Tri Delta Transit #300 provides service to Vintage Parkway and Big Break Road on weekdays. Call to confirm route: Tri Delta Transit-(925) 754-4040 or see www.trideltatransit.com.



East Bay Regional Park District

2950 Peralta Oaks Court,
Oakland, CA 94605-0381
1-888-327-2757 (1-888-EBPARKS) (TRS 711)
www.ebparks.org Rev. 7/19

Big Break Regional Shoreline and Visitor Center

Oakley, Antioch, Brentwood

East Bay
Regional Park District



WELCOME!

Please enjoy the Regional Parks safely, and help protect and preserve parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

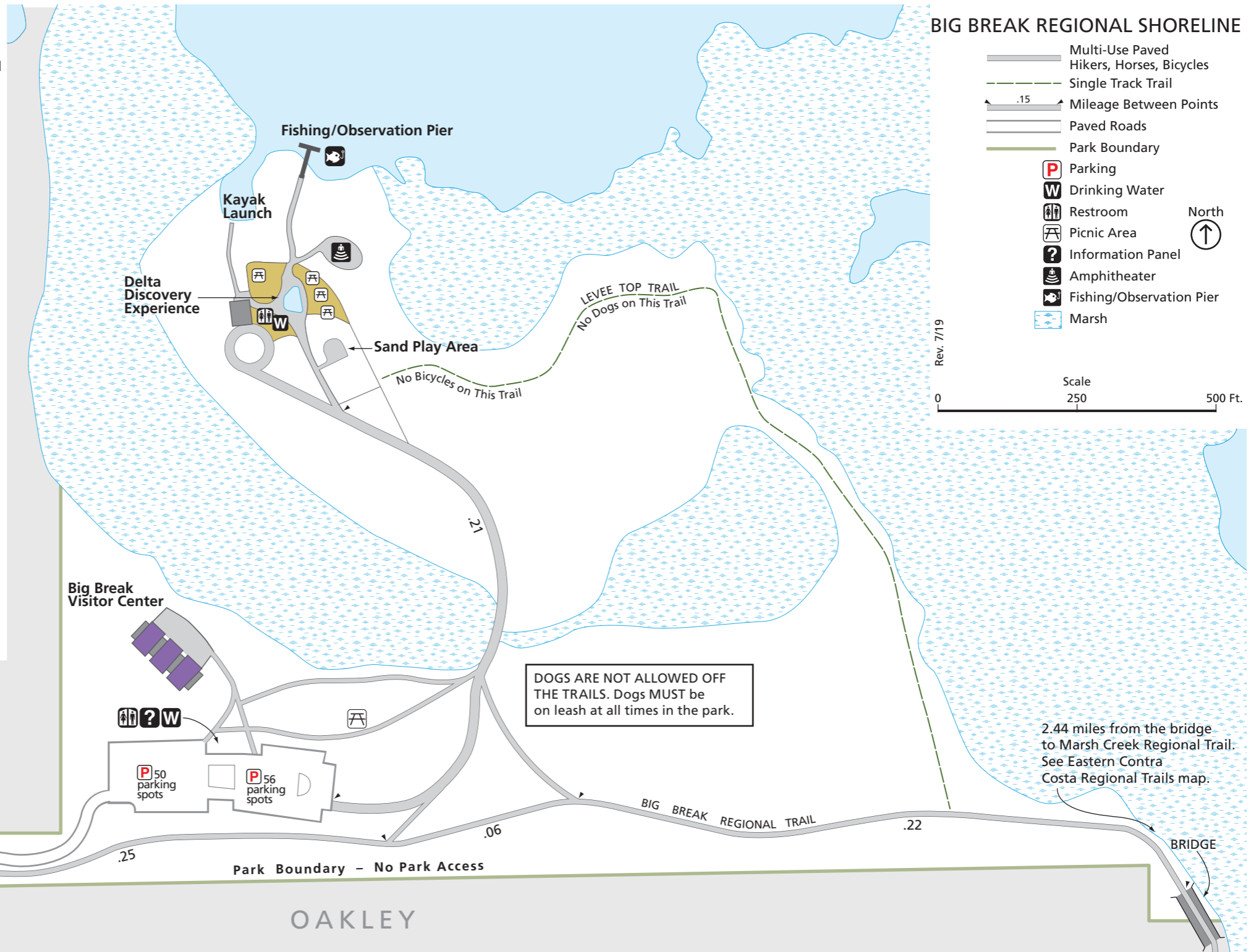
SAFETY and ETIQUETTE

- Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and causes erosion.
- Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas may be dangerous and may harm the watershed.
- Carry and drink plenty of water. Dehydration is a leading cause of injuries on the trail.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
- Trails can be slippery, rocky and steep. Proceed carefully at your own risk.
- Feeding or approaching wildlife is dangerous and illegal.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. Horses have the right-of-way on trails.
- Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.

RULES

- Dogs must be on leash at all times while in Big Break Regional Shoreline. Dogs are not allowed off the trails. Dogs must be under voice control at all times.
- Drones are prohibited.
- Smoking is prohibited.
- State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and roadways. All bicyclists and equestrians are strongly encouraged to wear helmets at all times.
- A State Fishing License is required for anglers aged 16 and above.

Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 38). See www.ebparks.org/rules.



MEMBERSHIPS
The Regional Parks Foundation offers memberships to park users. For information call (510) 544-2220.

BIG BREAK ROAD

Park Entry

OAKLEY