

A Marshland Restoration Story

Year Opened: 2008 Acres: 150
 Highlights: Hiking, birdwatching, shoreline fishing, nature study

Bay Point Regional Shoreline provides access to undeveloped open space and marsh habitat in an area surrounded by residential, military, and industrial development. You can enjoy views of Suisun Bay and opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, nature study, shoreline fishing (California state fishing license required), and other recreational pastimes. The nearly 150-acre parkland is at the approximate midpoint of the San Francisco Bay Estuary and the Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta. These saltwater and freshwater systems converge at Suisun Bay and have historically been a major influence on the lives and natural surroundings of the Bay Point community.

The East Bay Regional Park District acquired this property in 1996 to preserve and restore the marshland and to provide public access to the bay shoreline.

HISTORY Prior to the early 1800s the lands along the Suisun Bay shoreline were occupied by Native American tribes. The last tribe living near the Bay Point area was the Chupcan tribe, which occupied the southern shore of Suisun Bay between Port Chicago and the mouth of Marsh Creek in the Oakley area.

From the 1850s on, the site was located between two Mexican land grants—the Los Medanos grant to the east, and the Monte del Diablo grant to the south and west. From the 1950s through the 1980s, the then-owners diked the southern section for settling ponds and a sand-dredging operation. In 1978, a California District Court decree required that the J-shaped channel now present along the park's eastern edge be dug to open the area to tidal action as mitigation for the sand-dredging operation.

PLANTS AND WILDLIFE Non-native grasses dominate the southern upland portion of Bay Point Regional Shoreline. The few native species include creeping wildrye, willow-herb, telegraph weed, gumweed, spikeweed, toyon, and coyote brush. The brackish seasonal wetlands are man-made ponds, with

slightly brackish to strongly saline soil conditions that promote dominant species such as alkali bulrush, pickleweed, salt-grass, Italian ryegrass, rush, rabbit's foot grass, and lamb's quarters. Intermixed with these species are Mexican rush, heliotrope, umbrella sedge, and others. The tidal marshlands support brackish tidal marsh species such as bulrush, alkali bulrush, broadleaf cattail, and narrow-leaf cattail. Other species include Mexican rush and annual saltmarsh aster.

The upland areas provide habitat for a wide variety of animal life, such as the mourning dove, Anna's hummingbird, northern flicker, Savannah sparrow, western meadowlark, coyote, and black-tailed jackrabbit. Dredge tailings located in the marsh interior and along the J-shaped channel form high points valuable as bird nesting sites isolated from predators. The white-tailed kite and the northern harrier forage throughout the area and nest on the interior islands. Other predatory birds, including the loggerhead shrike, American kestrel, and red-tailed hawk, perch and hunt in the area. The upland islands also provide high-tide refuges for the California black rail, which forages in the tidal marsh.

The brackish seasonal wetlands provide habitat for the salt marsh harvest mouse and other rodents. The tall, dense stands of cattails and bulrushes in the brackish tidal marsh support Pacific tree frogs, egrets, herons, American bitterns, soras, marsh wrens, red-winged blackbirds, and raccoons. The salt marsh common yellowthroat and Suisun song sparrow are year-round residents that forage and nest in the tidal marshes.

At low tide, the Western pond turtle may be observed basking in the sun in small areas of exposed mudflat. The open mudflats are also important habitat for a variety of shorebirds, which forage on marine invertebrates between tides. The open waters of the marsh channels provide foraging and resting habitat for grebes, cormorants, dabbling and diving ducks, and river otters.

AQUATIC WILDLIFE Bay Point Regional Shoreline lies within a region designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as critical habitat for delta smelt, winter-run chinook salmon, and steelhead, and for general fisheries improvement. The shoreline access at the adjacent McAvoy Harbor leads to a point at the mouth of the J-shaped channel that is a favorite local fishing spot and one of the few public fishing spots in the area. The most abundant fish in Suisun Bay are striped bass, Sacramento splittail, inland silversides, chameleon goby, and Chinook salmon. Catfish and largemouth bass may be found.



GPS Coordinates: 38.040033, -121.963216

To reach Bay Point Regional Shoreline: From Highway 4 in Bay Point, exit at the Bay Point/San Marco Boulevard exit and go north onto Willow Pass Road, towards the river. After about one-half miles, turn left onto Port Chicago Highway. Proceed for about 1.25 miles and take McAvoy Road to the trail staging area on the left.

Bay Point Regional Shoreline

Bay Point

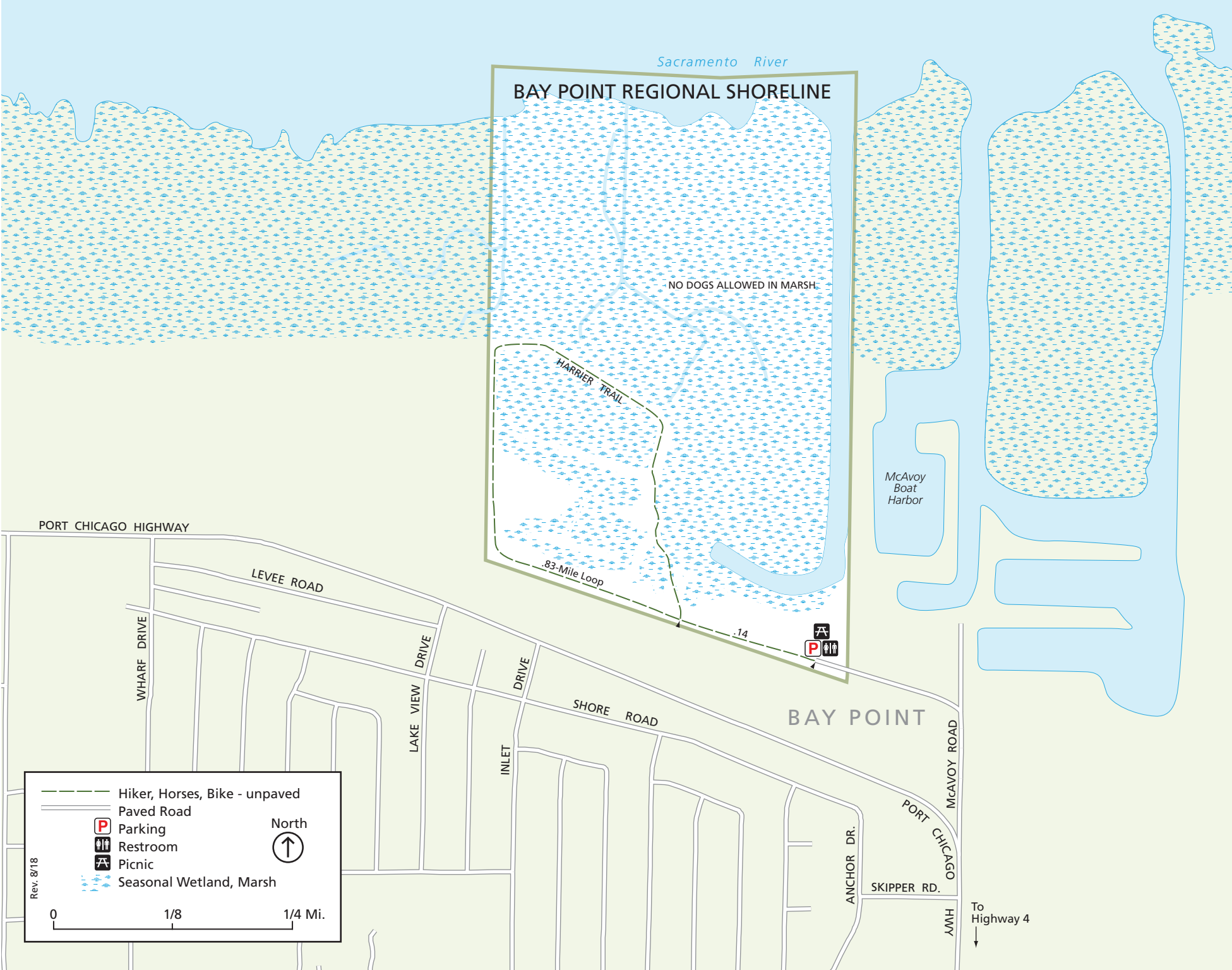
East Bay Regional Park District



East Bay Regional Park District

2950 Peralta Oaks Court,
 Oakland, CA 94605-0381
 1-888-327-2757 (1-888-EBPARKS) (TRS 711)
 ebparks.org Rev. 3/19

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY 9-1-1
 EBRPD HEADQUARTERS 1-888-EBPARKS
 PICNIC RESERVATIONS 1-888-EBPARKS
option 2, then 1



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

- Pets must be leashed 200 feet from any trail or park entrance. Pets must be leashed in parking lots, picnic areas, developed areas such as lawns and play fields, and on some trails. They 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.

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



The Regional Parks Foundation offers memberships to park users. Standard Memberships include permits for dogs and horse/boat trailers. Family memberships include children age 17 and under living in the same household. Special Access Passes are available for seniors, students, and persons with disabilities. Info: 510-544-2220, regionalparksfoundation.org.