

EAST SHORE

Park Project Preliminary General Plan



Point Isabel/South Richmond Shoreline

The Point Isabel and North Point Isabel areas continue to be immensely popular for off-leash dog use. Facilities have been added to enhance use by dogs and their owners, including a new dog-grooming concession, a coffee/snack bar, and additional parking off Rydin Road. Fencing along the north shoreline prevents people and dogs from straying out into the sensitive mudflats and tidal marsh areas while still allowing a high level of upland use.

The shoreline area just inside the main entrance has become a very popular area for windsurfers and others wanting access to the Bay. The new launch area facilitates convenient access to the water, and new equipment lay-down areas, restrooms, picnic facilities, lawn areas, and parking contribute to the area's appeal. The promenade that extends the length of the shoreline also has greatly broadened the appeal of Point Isabel, providing one of the most dramatic vistas in the East Bay. The new pedestrian bridge across the Hoffman Channel is a distinctive feature of the promenade and provides an important physical link that helps

integrate Point Isabel and North Point Isabel into a single park unit. Similarly, the extension of the Central Avenue spur of the Bay Trail west around the perimeter of the EBMUD facility has greatly facilitated bicycle access and provided new bayfront vistas.

The Hoffman Marsh and areas along the South Richmond Shoreline are protected as important natural habitats, and many people who use the Bay Trail stop at the new vista points to watch the birds who nest and forage in these areas.

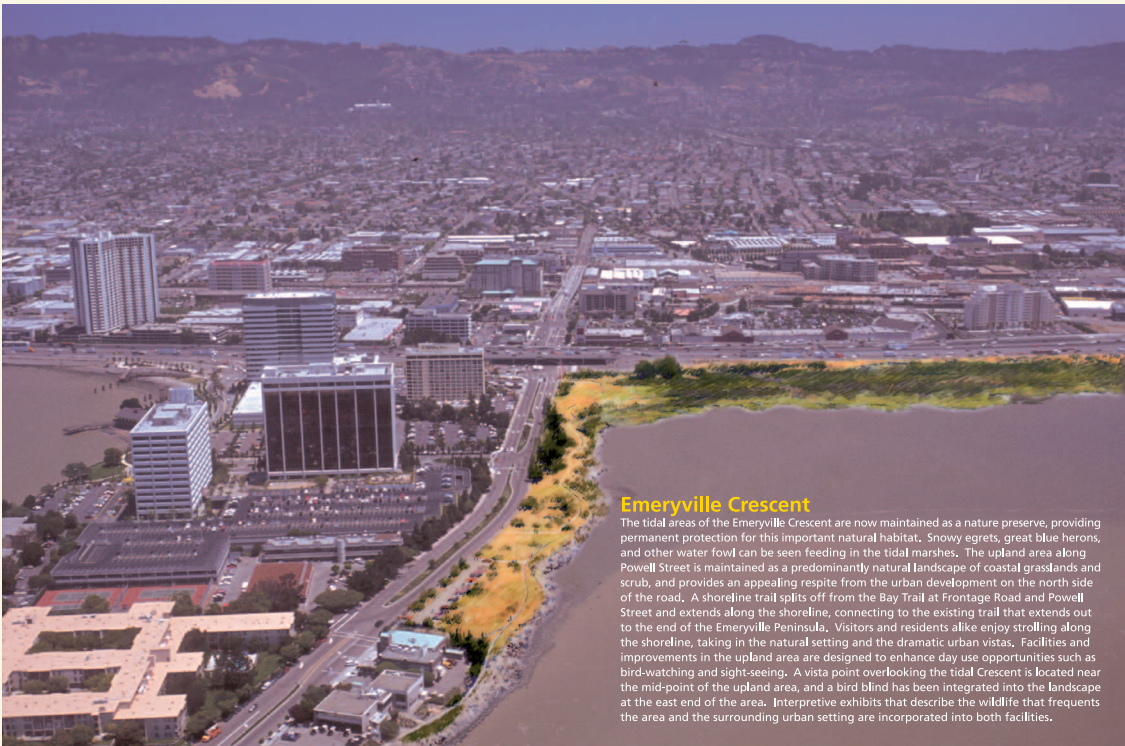


Albany Area

A number of actively used sports fields occupy the central and southern portions of the Albany Plateau. The fields are intensely scheduled for youth sports by organizations from the entire region. A broad band of natural upland habitat borders the fields to the north and east, with trails along the bluff top providing views out over the mudflats. To the west of the sports fields, lawn areas and picnic facilities are a favorite destination for families and groups. Parking, restrooms, and maintenance facilities are situated between the sports fields and lawn area. Albany Beach is also a favorite spot for those wanting to walk the sandy beach and enjoy the views of the City. A vehicle drop-off and turn-around allow people to unload their kayaks and other equipment near the south end of the beach. Boardwalks have been introduced to provide access across the expanded dune area down to the beach.

To the north of the Plateau, the tidal areas and marsh fringe of the Albany Mudflats are maintained as a nature preserve, providing permanent protection for this important natural habitat. The Bay Trail provides access around the perimeter, allowing people to view from the adjacent shoreline the variety of birds who forage in the mudflats.

The "wild", natural character of the landscape of the Albany Neck and Bulb has been maintained, and visitors are attracted to the area by the sense of distance and separation from the urban mainland and the peaceful natural ambience of the setting. Multi-use paths loop through the heavily vegetated area, eventually leading out to the vista point at the far west end of the Bulb.



Emeryville Crescent

The tidal areas of the Emeryville Crescent are now maintained as a nature preserve, providing permanent protection for this important natural habitat. Snowy egrets, great blue herons, and other water fowl can be seen feeding in the tidal marshes. The upland area along Powell Street is maintained as a predominantly natural landscape of coastal grasslands and scrub, and provides an appealing respite from the urban development on the north side of the road. A shoreline trail splits off from the Bay Trail at Frontage Road and Powell Street and extends along the shoreline, connecting to the existing trail that extends out to the end of the Emeryville Peninsula. Visitors and residents alike enjoy strolling along the shoreline, taking in the natural setting and the dramatic urban vistas. Facilities and improvements in the upland area are designed to enhance day use opportunities such as bird-watching and sight-seeing. A vista point overlooking the Tidal Crescent is located near the mid-point of the upland area, and a bird blind has been integrated into the landscape at the east end of the area. Interpretive exhibits that describe the wildlife that frequents the area and the surrounding urban setting are incorporated into both facilities.



LEGEND

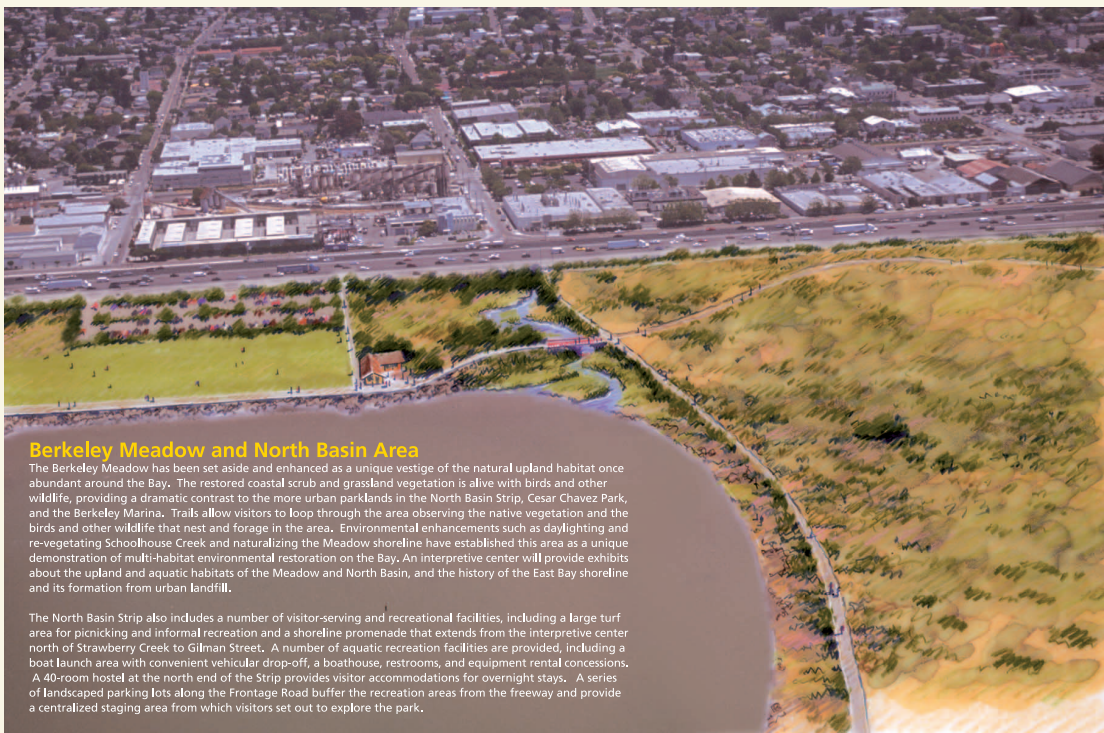
- Recreation
- Conservation
- Preservation
- Promenade
- Constructed Wetland
- Bridge
- Restoration Area
- Parking
- Gateway
- Vista Point
- Facility
- Water Access
- Bay Trail-Existing
- Bay Trail-Proposed
- Park Trail

July 2002
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WRT Prepared by:
 Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC
 Neuirth & Associates



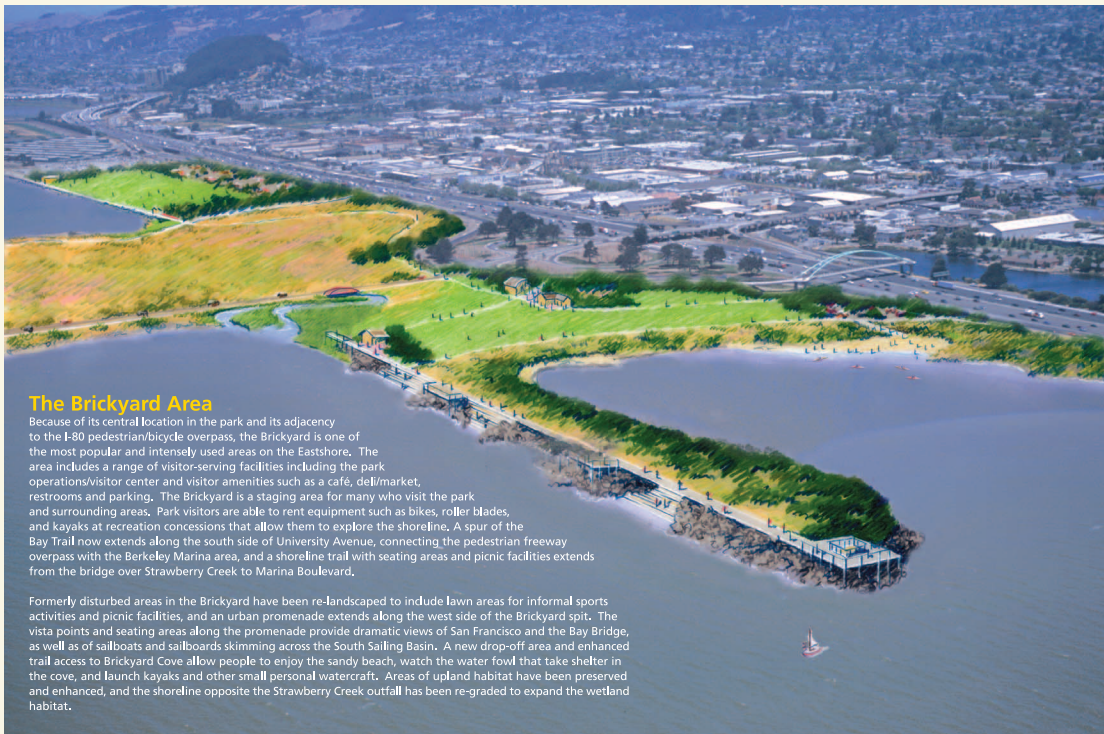
A Partnership of the
 California Department of Parks and
 Recreation
 East Bay Regional Park District
 California State Coastal Conservancy



Berkeley Meadow and North Basin Area

The Berkeley Meadow has been set aside and enhanced as a unique vestige of the natural upland habitat once abundant around the Bay. The restored coastal scrub and grassland vegetation is alive with birds and other wildlife, providing a dramatic contrast to the more urban parklands in the North Basin Strip, Cesar Chavez Park, and the Berkeley Marina. Trails allow visitors to loop through the area observing the native vegetation and the birds and other wildlife that nest and forage in the area. Environmental enhancements such as daylighting and re-vegetating Schoolhouse Creek and naturalizing the Meadow shoreline have established this area as a unique demonstration of multi-habitat environmental restoration on the Bay. An interpretive center will provide exhibits about the upland and aquatic habitats of the Meadow and North Basin, and the history of the East Bay shoreline and its formation from urban landfill.

The North Basin Strip also includes a number of visitor-serving and recreational facilities, including a large turf area for picnicking and informal recreation and a shoreline promenade that extends from the interpretive center north of Strawberry Creek to Gilman Street. A number of aquatic recreation facilities are provided, including a boat launch area with convenient vehicular drop-off, a boathouse, restrooms, and equipment rental concessions. A 40-room hostel at the north end of the Strip provides visitor accommodations for overnight stays. A series of landscaped parking lots along the Frontage Road buffer the recreation areas from the freeway and provide a centralized staging area from which visitors set out to explore the park.

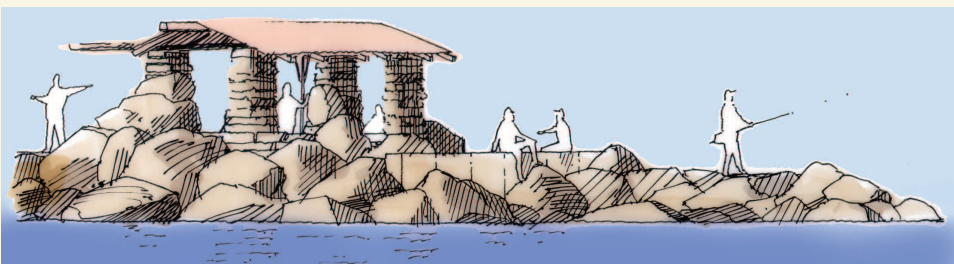


The Brickyard Area

Because of its central location in the park and its adjacency to the I-80 pedestrian/bicycle overpass, the Brickyard is one of the most popular and intensely used areas on the Eastshore. The area includes a range of visitor-serving facilities including the park operations/visitor center and visitor amenities such as a café, deli/market, restrooms and parking. The Brickyard is a staging area for many who visit the park and surrounding areas. Park visitors are able to rent equipment such as bikes, roller blades, and kayaks at recreation concessions that allow them to explore the shoreline. A spur of the Bay Trail now extends along the south side of University Avenue, connecting the pedestrian freeway overpass with the Berkeley Marina area, and a shoreline trail with seating areas and picnic facilities extends from the bridge over Strawberry Creek to Marina Boulevard.

Formerly disturbed areas in the Brickyard have been re-landscaped to include lawn areas for informal sports activities and picnic facilities, and an urban promenade extends along the west side of the Brickyard spit. The vista points and seating areas along the promenade provide dramatic views of San Francisco and the Bay Bridge, as well as of sailboats and sailboards skimming across the South Salting Basin. A new drop-off area and enhanced trail access to Brickyard Cove allow people to enjoy the sandy beach, watch the water fowl that takes shelter in the cove, and launch kayaks and other small personal watercraft. Areas of upland habitat have been preserved and enhanced, and the shoreline opposite the Strawberry Creek outfall has been re-graded to expand the wetland habitat.

Enhancing public access to the shoreline and enjoyment of the Bay are key recreational objectives of the Plan.



Welcome to the Eastshore State Park Project: A Bird's-Eye View



After 18 months of working closely with the public to develop a vision for the Eastshore, the Planning Team is proud to announce the release of the Preliminary General Plan for the Eastshore State Park Project.

The illustrations in this brochure present an artist's conception of how the Eastshore may look 20 years from now when the park has been fully improved. Given the scale of the site, the illustrations show the area from a bird's perspective within the larger context of the East Bay environment. We hope the drawings portray the majesty and potential of the site; they are intended to give a sense of the scale and character of both the natural resource enhancements and the shoreline access and recreational facilities proposed in the Plan. The text accompanying the illustrations provides thumbnail descriptions of the future parklands.

The Plan promotes a diverse and sustainable vision for the area based on a respectful siting and balance of uses, where wildlife and people can share the land and water. This open space vision is the legacy of those who fought long and hard to save this reach of the Bay from commercial development. The park that evolves from this General Plan will meet our children's recreational needs while enhancing and safeguarding the shoreline's natural values.

We offer this vision of the Eastshore to you, the citizens of the Bay Area and the State, for your consideration. Hundreds of people have contributed to this effort through letters, e-mail, testimony and phone calls. We hope you enjoy the view and will continue to work to make this vision a reality.

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Preliminary General Plan and EIR now available

The Eastshore State Park Project General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report are now available on the Internet at www.eastshorestatepark.org or individuals may request one copy of the documents, free of charge, with 24-hour notice from:

Kinko's
5895 Christie Avenue
Emeryville, CA
510/644-9701

The General Plan and Draft EIR are also available for viewing at the Richmond, Albany, Berkeley (Main Branch), and Oakland Public Libraries.

Public Comment

The public review and comment period for the Draft EIR extends from July 15, 2002 to August 29, 2002. All comments must be submitted in writing to:

Robin E. Ethinger, ASLA
California Department of Parks & Recreation
Northern Service Center
1 Capitol Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Upcoming Meeting

Eastshore State Park Project Regional Workshop #4: Preliminary General Plan & Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2002 at 7:00 PM

Where: Hs. Lordship's Restaurant in the Berkeley Marina

Purpose: To discuss the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR. The Planning Team will provide an overview of the General Plan and EIR. Workshop participants will be given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the General Plan and EIR.

For more information visit our project website www.eastshorestatepark.org or call 1-888-988-PARK.

PLANNING THE EASTSHORE
A Park for the 21st Century
A Partnership of the
California Department of Parks and Recreation
East Bay Regional Park District
California Coastal Conservancy
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