

ATTACHMENT #1:  
STATUS OF EASTSHORE STATE PARK,  
ALBANY BULB AND BAY TRAIL CONNECTION

**Eastshore State Park (from East Shore State Park General Plan)**

**1. History**

The Park grew out of decades of effort by Bay Area citizens and environmental organizations to stop the filling of SF Bay and protect the waterfront as public open space. In 1988, the California Parks and Wildlands Act allocated \$25 million for the East Shore State park, funds that were crucial in the acquisition of lands that would eventually become the park. Lands were acquired in 1997. On December 6, 2002, the park was created by the California State Park and Recreation Commission.

**2. Status**

The Eastshore State Park consists of 2,262 acres of land and water, along 8.5 miles of East Bay shoreline. The park extends from Richmond to Oakland, ending near the east anchorage of the Bay Bridge. In Albany, there are 617 acres (88 upland, 591 tideland) designated in the Eastshore State Park Master Plan. This includes the beach, plateau and neck (State owned), and the Bulb (City owned.) The upland areas (p. III-78) are designated as follows:

Preservation Areas (11 acres) are those with unique or fragile habitat and resource values that need to be protected and preserved. Public access to these area is restricted. There are 11 acres of Preservation area, including the mudflats from El Cerrito border south and up to the eastern edge of the plateau

Conservation Areas (57 acres) are those areas where natural habitat values will be protected and enhanced while accommodating lower intensity recreation. The Albany Neck and Bulb, beach and portions of the shoreline plateau are designated as Conservation areas.

Recreation Areas (20 acres) are those areas that can accommodate more intensive recreation. This designation applied to the central plateau because of the potential for ballfields at this site; however, ballfields are not being located there and a portion may be designate as an owl habitat.

**Albany Bulb**

**1. History**

The Albany bulb was operated as a Class III landfill by a private operator until 1984. It then fell under a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) closure order, which was finally lifted in 2005. A Lease Agreement with the State Department of Parks and Recreation was entered into in 1985 and established the basis for transfer of the property to the State for State Park purposes.

**2. Status**

According to the provisions of a lease agreement between the City and the State, the City is responsible for the maintenance of the Bulb until the State determines that “an

integrated shoreline park has been developed to its satisfaction.” Currently, the position of the State is that the “plop art” must be removed, dogs must be leashed, and hazardous rebar and construction materials must be removed or mitigated.

## **Bay Trail**

**1. History:** The Bay Trail is a planned recreational corridor that, when complete, will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays with a continuous 400-mile network of bicycling and hiking trails. It will connect the shoreline of all nine Bay area counties, linking 47 cities. To date, approximately 240 miles of the alignment have been completed.

**2. Status:** The Buchanan street spur of the Bay trail was built in 1996, but ended at the GGF parking lot, although informally many users walk or bike through the GGF parking lot to the Gilman Street connection. In 2003, as part of a land transaction with the East Bay Regional Park District, GGF entered into a license agreement for the development and use of portions of its property for an interim Bay Trail connection. The agreement is in effect until 2006, and can be extended for seven one-year terms thereafter. The license area can be dedicated for public use on a permanent basis following the completion of the “entitlement process” or if the process is still pending after the 7 year extensions, the parties can “confer in good faith” to attempt to identify a mutually agreeable means by which public ownership of the license area may be achieved.

When completed, the Bay Trail will provide a north-south connector for pedestrians and bicyclists. The Bay Trail currently stops to the north of GGF at the Buchanan Street Extension and at the south at Gilman Street. EBRPD will be developing the interim trail (paint striping, fencing & signage) within the next 12-18 months (summer/winter 2006). According to EBRPD staff, the trail will be about 10 feet wide, be located along the shoreline and will connect with the existing trails at Gilman and Buchanan. EBRPD will also be doing a feasibility study (once grant funds are obtained) to research opportunities for a permanent trail.