



Alameda County

HAYWARD SHORELINE

Alameda County is among the most ethnically diverse regions in the country and is celebrated for its rich cultural life. Its industries and geography are likewise diverse, ranging from the Port of Oakland's expansive maritime operations on the flatlands of the Bay to sprawling hillside ranchlands in the east. Its densely populated cities are within close reach of open lands and open waters that offer people respite from the daily stresses of urban life.

POPULATION: >1.5 million

SIZE: 472,973 acres

PROTECTED LANDS: 120,130 acres

CONSERVANCY PROJECTS: >70

CONSERVANCY FUNDING: >\$39 million

The County's vast parklands, close at hand to urban centers, are a resource equaled by few areas in the country. They exist because of the generosity and hard work of foresighted individuals over the last century. Residents and visitors have ample access to trails and parks along the Bay and within the forests and grasslands in the surrounding hills. Wildlife thrives in these areas and in the neighboring ranches and protected natural lands.

The Coastal Conservancy has worked for more than 30 years with the people of Alameda County to sustain the area's quality of life. We will continue that work to:

- Restore and improve the health of rivers, streams, marshes, and wildlands
- Provide outdoor recreational opportunities for a growing and diverse population
- Keep farmland in production
- Meet the challenges posed by a rising sea and a changing climate.

Greenbelt Protection

The Conservancy has teamed up with East Bay Regional Park District, Livermore Area Park District, the Alameda County Resource Conservation District, and other local government and nonprofit organizations to protect Alameda County's natural lands. Work has been focused on expanding and connecting the current network of parks and open space.

- The Conservancy has helped add almost 2,500 acres to **Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park** in the scenic hills overlooking Pleasanton and the Livermore Valley. The park will be the core of a planned Ridgeland Regional Park that is steadily being assembled.
- **Brushy Peak Regional Preserve** northeast of Livermore grew by 1,120 acres with the Conservancy's assistance. The park is home to a wide variety of wildlife and is part of a 20,000-acre wildlife corridor that extends north to Mount Diablo and from there to Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in eastern Contra Costa County.
- Purchase of the 74-acre **Bobba Property** in the South Livermore Valley provided a site for public trails linking Del Valle State Park, Sycamore Grove Regional Park, Veterans Park, and Camp Arroyo.

Wetlands & Creek Restoration

The Conservancy has worked with the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Alameda County Flood Control District, Alameda County Water District, Alameda County Resource Conservation District, and others to improve the wetlands, streams, and surrounding open space of the East Bay.

- The **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project** is the largest wetland restoration effort on the West Coast of the United States. Over 15,000 acres of former commercial salt ponds are being restored or improved to a mosaic of wetlands habitats for shorebirds, waterfowl, fish, and other wildlife. The restoration of these wetlands will enhance the health of San Francisco Bay and contribute to flood protection for Hayward, Fremont, and Union City.
- **Alameda Creek** drains nearly 700 acres between Mt. Diablo and Mt. Hamilton and is an anchor watershed for steelhead trout. The Conservancy has worked for many years with local partners to remove barriers to fish migration and restore habitats in the creek and on adjacent watershed lands.
- Restoration and trail improvements have improved wildlife habitat, water quality, and recreational opportunities along several **East Bay Creeks** including Arroyo Viejo and Sausal creeks in Oakland, Codornices Creek in Albany and Berkeley, and Cerrito Creek on the Albany/El Cerrito border.
- The Conservancy worked for many years with the City of Oakland to improve the wildlife habitat and water quality of **Lake Merritt**. The lake is now a healthy home for birds and fish and a favorite place for people to reconnect with nature.
- The **Alameda County Wildlife-Friendly Pond Restoration Program** assists ranchers in restoring failing livestock ponds and maintaining the surrounding land in ways that meet the needs of wildlife that rely on the ponds for habitat.



UNION POINT PARK



BRIDGE ON THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL, SAN LEANDRO



BUDDING SCIENTISTS AT MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. REGIONAL SHORELINE



MIDDLE HARBOR SHORELINE PARK



PLEASANTON RIDGE REGIONAL PARK



WILDLIFE FRIENDLY POND NEAR ALTAMONT



LAKE MERRITT BIRD ISLANDS



LAKE TEMESCAL BEACH HOUSE



SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL NEAR THE BERKELEY BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Trails and Recreation

Completion of shoreline parks, regional trail connections, the San Francisco Bay Trail, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail are high priorities for the Conservancy. Considerable progress has been made in Alameda County through the Conservancy's collaboration with all the bayside cities, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the East Bay Regional Park District, the Port of Oakland, the Trust for Public Land, The Unity Council, the Urban Ecology Center, and many others.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL AND WATERFRONT PARKS

- The 90-acre **Cesar Chavez Park** on the Berkeley waterfront is among the most popular places in the East Bay for people to hike, bike, picnic, walk dogs, and fly kites.
- The Conservancy has long supported the development of **Eastshore State Park**, which runs for eight miles along the Bay shoreline from Emeryville to Richmond.
- The 16-acre site for the **Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex** in Berkeley was acquired to meet a pressing need for sport facilities. Its purchase helped keep adjacent Eastshore State Park lands dedicated to low-intensity recreation and wildlife habitat.
- The opening of **Tidewater Park** in the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline near Oakland International Airport marked the transformation of a former industrial area into a public park with picnic and turf areas, a portion of the Bay Trail, and spectacular views of the Oakland estuary, San Leandro Bay, and the Alameda waterfront.
- **Union Point Park** converted a former brownfield site into a seven-acre shoreline park. The innovative design is evocative of Mexican and Central American architecture, reflecting the heritage of Oakland's largely Hispanic Fruitvale neighborhood where the park is located. The park offers picnic areas, a tot lot, and a segment of the Bay Trail.
- The Conservancy has funded design and construction of 10 miles of the San Francisco Bay Trail to fill critical gaps in the trail on both sides of the **Oakland Estuary**.
- The **Lake Temescal Beach House** in the Oakland hills was renovated to provide access for the disabled and seismically upgraded to allow the reopening of rooms for use by the community.

BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL

- The Conservancy funded plans for new segments of the Ridge Trail at **Vargas Plateau** in the hills above Fremont and **Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Parks** in Hayward. Both parks are part of the East Bay Regional Park system.

OTHER REGIONAL TRAILS

- The Conservancy funded initial planning for the creation of a regional **East Bay Greenway** on the Oakland to Fremont BART right-of-way.

“The Bay Area’s greenbelt got a big boost when the Bay Area Conservancy Program was created. Working together, we have protected significant portions of the Bay Area’s iconic landscapes. These parks and open spaces make the Bay Area a healthy place to live.”

Robert Doyle, General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District



BEACH AT BASE OF ALBANY BULB

The Coastal Conservancy is a State agency, established in 1976, that protects and improves natural lands and waterways, helps people get to and enjoy coastal areas, and sustains local economies along California's coast. The Conservancy works along the entire length of the coast, within the watersheds of rivers and streams that extend inland from the coast, and throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The Conservancy is non-regulatory and achieves its goals by joining forces with local communities, nonprofit organizations, other government agencies, businesses, and private landowners.

CONSERVANCY PROJECTS :

- Protect, restore, and improve natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Help people get to and enjoy the outdoors by building hiking and biking trails, acquiring and improving parks and beaches, and creating campgrounds and hostels
- Keep our waterways clean and healthy for people and wildlife
- Help communities revitalize their waterfronts
- Support floodwater management and integrate flood-control projects into the life of a community
- Conserve commercial fisheries, working farmland, and forests.

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