



MILLER-KNOX REGIONAL SHORELINE AND FERRY POINT PIER

# Contra Costa County

*Contra Costa County has played a major role in the development and prosperity of the San Francisco Bay Area since the earliest days of European settlement. It has long possessed a character unique to the Bay Area with distinct, ever-evolving components—most notably the western and northern shorelines with heavy industry unmatched in Northern California, the cities along the I-680 corridor whose rapid rise was once emblematic of suburban development in the State, and the vast grasslands, woodlands, and hills that were home to Spanish and Mexican rancheros and which remain, in many areas, largely untouched.*

The Coastal Conservancy has been working with communities in Contra Costa County for more than 30 years to protect and improve natural and open lands and make them more accessible to people. This work has ranged from building trails along the Richmond shoreline to protecting farmland on the outskirts of Brentwood. The Conservancy has helped communities clean up their waterways, establish rural and intercity parks, build trail systems that link urban and rural areas, and protect the scenic landscape that is fundamental to the County's heritage and important to its economy.

**POPULATION:** >1 million  
**SIZE:** 460,768 acres (land only)  
**PROTECTED LANDS:** 126,559 acres  
**CONSERVANCY PROJECTS:** >75  
**CONSERVANCY FUNDING:** >\$35 million

# Parks & Scenic Lands

Working with a wide array of government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and local communities, the Coastal Conservancy has helped establish and improve intercity parks, shoreline recreational areas, and vast parklands in the County's rural hills.

- In Richmond, the Conservancy helped establish **Rosie the Riveter/ World War II Home Front National Historical Park**, expand the **Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline**, and improve **Booker T. Anderson Jr. Park**.
- Within the foothills of towering **Mount Diablo**, the Conservancy has worked with Save Mount Diablo and others to purchase eight properties totaling more than 2,800 acres. All of the properties contain critical wildlife habitats and have been, or will be, added to the area's State and regional parklands.
- The Conservancy helped the East Bay Regional Park District acquire almost 900 acres for the **Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline** between Crockett and Martinez. The Conservancy also contributed to the addition of more than 800 acres to the District's **Las Trampas Regional Wilderness** on the border of Alameda County.
- A few miles south of the Carquinez Strait is the highly scenic **Franklin Ridge**, home to several threatened and endangered species. The Conservancy has helped the Muir Heritage Land Trust purchase more than 1,400 acres in the area, improve wildlife habitats and grazing land, and build trails for people.
- The Conservancy helped the Trust for Public Land purchase the nearly 4,000-acre **Cowell Ranch**, a historic property near Brentwood that is slated to be opened as **Marsh Creek State Park**.

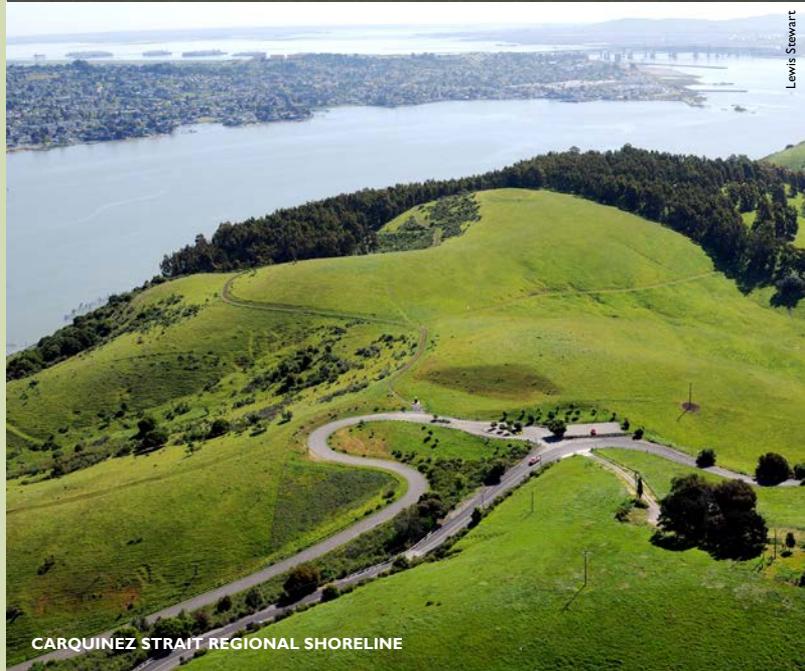
# Trails & Waterfronts

Since the early 1980s the Conservancy has worked to establish and expand networks of public trails in many parts of the County and to make waterfront areas more accommodating to visitors.

- The Conservancy has provided funding for planning, construction, and improvements of several sections of the **San Francisco Bay Trail** through **Richmond** and for linking the trail to the **Ohlone Greenway** on the City's southern border. Parts of the City's formerly industrial shoreline are now spectacular places to walk, ride a bike, launch a kayak, have a picnic, or watch the birds.
- Conservancy-supported **San Francisco Bay Trail** extensions in **San Pablo**, **Pinole**, **Hercules**, and **Martinez** have opened shoreline areas and offered local residents alternatives to travel by car.
- The Conservancy has funded construction of **Bay Area Ridge Trail** extensions between **Pinole** and **Martinez** and along **Franklin Ridge** and has provided considerable support for planning the trail's future growth.
- Many new **creekside trails**, from **El Cerrito** to **Concord**, have helped integrate creeks into the lives of their neighboring communities.
- The Conservancy has led the effort to establish the **San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail**, a growing network of launching and landing sites for small non-motorized boats. Several sites on the County's



ROSIE THE RIVETER MEMORIAL



CARQUINEZ STRAIT REGIONAL SHORELINE



MARSH CREEK VOLUNTEERS

Lewis Stewart

Photo: Lewis Stewart



MOUNT DIABLO FROM COWELL RANCH



SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL, RICHMOND



MARTINEZ MARINA AND REGIONAL SHORELINE



ECO VILLAGE FARM

## Trails & Waterfronts *continued*

shoreline—from **El Cerrito** to **Bay Point**—are being considered for possible addition to the trail.

- The Conservancy is supporting planning for the **Great California Delta Trail**, envisioned as a hiking and biking trail around the shoreline areas of the Delta. The trail would open areas of the Delta to hikers and bikers and become a link between Bay Area trails and the Great Central Valley.
- The Conservancy has helped the cities of **Richmond**, **Martinez**, and **Antioch** revive their waterfronts, expanding their commercial uses and making them better able to serve visitors.

## Environment & Education

The Conservancy has long worked to restore and improve the County's wetlands, creeks, and other wildlife habitats and to help students and the general public learn about and appreciate these areas.

- The Conservancy is a partner in the effort to restore almost 1,200 acres of wetlands at **Dutch Slough** near **Oakley**. The restoration will improve the ecological health of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta by restoring a mosaic of habitats that benefit Chinook salmon and other native wildlife while also helping people get to and enjoy the Delta shoreline.
- The Conservancy has supported restoration and community stewardship of **Marsh Creek**, which flows from Mount Diablo to the Delta near **Oakley**. The restoration included installation of a fish ladder downstream of **Brentwood** that enabled Chinook salmon and steelhead trout to reach several miles of historic spawning and breeding habitats on the creek for the first time in over 50 years.
- Conservancy funding is helping to restore 150 acres of wetlands and other wildlife habitats at **Breuner Marsh** within the Point Pinole Regional Shoreline in **Richmond**. The project includes construction of a **San Francisco Bay Trail** extension from the City's urban neighborhoods.
- The Conservancy helped establish the **EcoVillage Farm Learning Center** in **Richmond** where students and adults participate in agricultural and environmental education programs.
- The Conservancy provided funding to restore **Alhambra Creek** in **Martinez** and integrate the work with an environmental education and training program of the Martinez School District.
- The Conservancy helped the East Bay Regional Park District expand the museum at **Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve** and install exhibits at the **Big Break Regional Shoreline** on the Delta.

*“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



CHAPARRAL SPRING, BETWEEN MOUNT DIABLO AND CLAYTON RANCH

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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