

Hayward Regional Shoreline

Restore Hayward Marsh Project Hayward, CA



The Hayward Regional Shoreline is located on the eastern shores of San Francisco Bay. The park's 1,841 acres contain a diversity of fresh and saltwater wetlands that are a haven for migrating birds.

The Restore Hayward Marsh Project will continue to enhance the wildlife habitat available along the Hayward Shoreline, bolster the Shoreline's resiliency to sea level rise, and expand the area's public benefits.

History

Salt ponds were once a naturally occurring component of San Francisco Bay's tidal marshes, including the Hayward Regional Shoreline. Pond vegetation provided food for waterfowl while salt was harvested by the Ohlone people and, later, by early Spanish and Mexican settlers. Beginning in the 1850s, much of the Bay's wetlands were diked to form additional ponds for commercial salt production.

Some of these man-made salt ponds have since been restored to tidal marsh and other wetland habitats, including ponds within Hayward Marsh. Since 1985, these Hayward Marsh ponds have used treated wastewater to create fresh and brackish marshes. While these marshes provide habitat for many species, the wastewater infrastructure has exceeded its useful life, necessitating updates to the pond system. Additionally, predicted sea level rise conditions are expected to alter the wildlife habitats and trail infrastructure. Given these anticipated changes, it is time to re-envision the future of Hayward Marsh.



Image Courtesy of the
Hayward Area Historical Society

Project Goals

The Restore Hayward Marsh Project seeks to plan for sea level rise and habitat resiliency, enhance public access, enhance wildlife habitat, increase shoreline resiliency, and improve the ability of the District to adapt to future conditions. The project's goals will be further refined during the design process.

Opportunities for Wildlife Habitat Improvements

The endangered salt marsh harvest mouse inhabits dense pickleweed stands within salt marshes. Within Hayward Marsh, a 27-acre area dominated by pickleweed is set aside as a Mouse Preserve. This Preserve, along with other portions of Hayward Marsh, is also dominated by cordgrass, which provides habitat for the endangered Ridgway's rail (California clapper rail).



salt marsh
harvest mouse

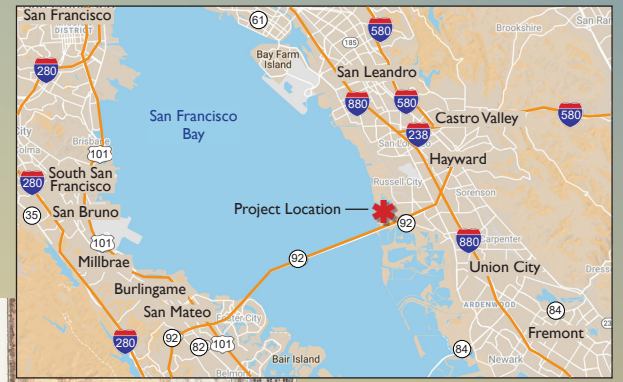
The islands located within Hayward Marsh function as important nesting grounds for birds such as the California least tern, the western snowy plover, and the black skimmer.

The Restore Hayward Marsh Project will preserve and improve the benefits Hayward Marsh provides for its wildlife residents.

Project
Sponsor: East Bay Regional Park District
Location: Hayward Marsh Regional Shoreline
Purpose: To re-envision Hayward Marsh
When: To be determined
Contact: Karla Jean Meyers,
Project Coordinator
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Hayward Marsh Today

Opportunities for Improvement



1 Improve Existing Bay Trail



2 Repair Eroding Levees



3 Decrease Sedimentation



4 Improve Wildlife Habitat



5 Remove Outdated Wastewater Infrastructure