

Bay Trail Rider



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL PROJECT, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

THE BAY FOR EVERYONE: SHIFTING TO PROTECTION AND ACCESS

Today, the shoreline of San Francisco Bay is lined with parks, trails, public promenades, and beautiful wetlands that act as important sanctuaries for both people and wildlife. Communities throughout the Bay Area and organizations at the federal, State, and regional levels are working together to restore the Bay for habitat and to open its shorelines for parks and trails. These efforts have resulted in 40,000 acres of restored Bay wetlands, over 130 parks, and 293 miles of the Bay Trail. This philosophy of protecting the Bay and that the shoreline belongs to the public wasn't always the case.

From the post Gold Rush years to the early 20th century, the Bay was being filled to build factories, warehouses, train tracks, and shipping ports in San Francisco, Oakland, and nearby cities. At Point Pinole,

"THE BAY TRAIL IS THE PEOPLE'S PLAYGROUND. IT CONNECTS THE REGION'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES, PROVIDES A SENSE OF PLACE FOR RESIDENTS AND IS AN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM THAT WILL SERVE GENERATIONS TO COME. THE TRAIL HAS SURPASSED THE VISION I HAD 20 YEARS AGO WHEN THE COMMUNITY AND I WORKED TOGETHER TO WRITE THE LAW THAT CREATED THIS WONDERFUL RESOURCE. THE BAY TRAIL IS THE GLUE THAT LINKS THE PEOPLE, WILDLIFE AND SHORELINE TOGETHER IN ONE OF THE MOST MAGNIFICENT AREAS OF THE WORLD."

STATE TREASURER **BILL LOCKYER**
HAYWARD RESIDENT AND "FATHER OF THE BAY TRAIL"



Cesar Chavez Park in Berkeley

Prior to the mid-20th century, the Bay and the land around it had not been seen as a natural and recreational resource, but as something to be filled and used for industry, manufacturing, military facilities, and a disposal site. As many as 600 Gold Rush ships were abandoned in the Bay during the 1850's. Many of which are still being found in San Francisco's Financial District as new development projects dig them up. The Bay was seen as a dumping ground for many years, and the trash and garbage produced by nearby communities were disposed of at sanitary landfills that dot the shoreline of the Bay.

dynamite was produced for 80 years from 1880 to 1960 by four explosives manufacturing companies. The Bay has also been used for salt production since the Gold Rush. By the 1960's, 50,000 acres of the Bay were being utilized as salt ponds for salt production in the South Bay and North Bay.

During World War II, much of the Bay and shoreline were dedicated to the war effort with naval shipyards at Hunters Point, the Kaiser Shipyards building Victory Ships in Richmond, tanks being built on the shoreline at the Ford Building in Richmond, the naval bases at

Alameda and Treasure Island, and the army bases at Oakland, the Presidio, and Fort Baker.

It's just been in the last 50 years that all of this has changed, and the shift to protecting the Bay and creating shoreline open spaces began. In 1961, Kay Kerr, Sylvia



Crissy Field

The Bay Trail—A Vacation in Your Own Backyard!

If you are receiving this newsletter, you probably live in the Bay Area. At a time when people are increasingly looking for low-cost vacations, the Bay Trail Project would like to recommend the following ways you can **vacation in your own backyard**.

Looking for some **history** on the Bay Trail? Tour the region's military history by visiting the Presidio in



China Camp State Park

San Francisco, Fort Point at the foot of the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, and then cross the bridge for a tour of newly restored Fort Baker.

Looking to **get on the water** from the Bay Trail? While the Bay Area Water Trail has not officially launched, there are plenty of places around the Bay Area where one can set sail in a kayak or other small craft. Try China Camp State Park in San Rafael, Black Point Boat Launch in Novato, Hudeman Slough Boat Launch in Sonoma County, Kennedy Park in Napa, Palo Alto Baylands, Crown Memorial State Beach in Alameda, and many, many more.

Looking for **culture** on the Bay Trail? Visit the new Redwood Shores Branch Library, Rosie the Riveter



Arrowhead Marsh in Oakland

World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, and many others.

Looking for **wildlife** on the Bay Trail? Visit Sonoma Baylands, Bothin Marsh in Mill Valley, Arrowhead Marsh in Oakland, Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve, and countless others.

Looking for **nightlife** on the Bay Trail? Visit The Ramp in San Francisco, Skates on the Bay in Berkeley, or Sam's Café in Tiburon.

BAY TRAIL HAIKU

PEDALING MY BIKE
PAST WALKERS, JOGGERS, LOVERS
SEA BREEZE IN MY HAIR.

SAM SCHUCHAT, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

The Future of the Bay Trail

Imagine, for a moment, what it will be like to live in the Bay Area when the Bay Trail is complete. Bicycling to work in the South Bay will be significantly easier because the Moffett Field gap will be closed. No problem getting around the San Francisco Airport. Commuting across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge will bring East Bay and Marin County communities together. A walk along the bluffs overlooking the Carquinez Strait will be a straight shot from Port Costa to Marinettez. The remote trails along the edge of restored San Pablo Bay wetlands will provide ample bird watching opportunities. And visitors from around the world will travel to the Bay Area to claim the distinction of completing all 500 miles.

If the past is a good judge of the future, Bay Area and State leaders will find the funds and the political will to complete the entire trail. The Bay Trail enjoys strong public support and over the years momentum has grown to expedite its completion. Estimates call for approximately \$150 million to complete the remaining 200 miles of Bay Trail. But it is not just dollars that will make it happen. Innovative, creative and collaborative efforts to address the remaining challenges are necessary. Private landowners and communities will need to work together to find safe routes across properties that balance private interests with the public good. State and local roads will need to be altered to accommodate bicycle and

Future cont. on page 4

McLaughlin, and Esther Gulick formed Save the Bay to stop Berkeley's plan to expand the City by filling 2,000 acres of Bay. Out of this cause, the idea that the stunning beauty of San Francisco Bay should be preserved for future generations and that the Bay shoreline should be open to the public to enjoy was born. By 1965, these three women and Save the Bay pushed the State legislature to pass the McAteer-Petris Act which required development projects to preserve the shoreline for the public and provide access to it. It also worked to stop the filling of the Bay with few exceptions.

The McAteer-Petris Act also created the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), a State agency charged with regulating fill in the Bay and ensuring that shoreline access is provided as part of any development along the San Francisco Bay shoreline. When BCDC was formed, there were only four miles of shoreline open to the public along the San Francisco Bay. Through BCDC's efforts, shoreline access and trails grew around the Bay, but it wasn't until 1987 that the vision for a trail that would circle the entire San Francisco Bay came to existence.

In 1987, the shift to seeing the shoreline as a place that everyone should experience and enjoy continued to evolve. Bill Lockyer, a State Senator at the time, authored Senate Bill 100 which called for the creation of a continuous trail for bicycling and walking that would go around the entire Bay shoreline, and directed the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to create a plan to develop this vision of a trail that would bring people to the shoreline, so that they can experience the natural wonders, beauty, and vistas provided by the Bay. This trail system became known as the Bay Trail. ABAG adopted the Bay Trail Plan in 1989, and the San Francisco Bay Trail Project was created to oversee the planning and development of the 500-mile Bay Trail system.

Today, 293 miles of the Bay Trail have already been completed, and the Bay Trail Project, BCDC, local cities and counties, park districts, and many other groups continue to work towards completing the remaining segments of the Bay Trail and creating open spaces along the shoreline for people to enjoy. Where there were once military bases, dynamite factories, and landfills, there are now shoreline parks and trails like Crissy Field, Point Pinole Regional Shoreline, San Mateo Shoreline Parks, and Berkeley's Cesar Chavez Park.



Point Pinole Regional Shoreline

Many more places like the Oakland Army Base and West County Landfill are in the process of developing parks and trails next to the Bay. 16,000 acres of salt ponds purchased by the federal government will be reverted back to Bay wetlands with Bay Trail along its edges.

What began a half century ago, as a movement to reclaim the Bay and shoreline for the public, is still going strong today as the Bay Trail celebrates 20 years.

"THE BAY TRAIL IS OUR BACKYARD, OUR STROLL AROUND THE BAY, OUR GATEWAY TO THE SHORE, AND A TRANSPORTATION LINK TO COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS ENCIRCLING THE BAY. TWENTY YEARS OF EFFORT HAVE MADE THIS RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR ONE OF THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY. THE BAY TRAIL IS ABOUT ADDED VALUE-FROM BIKING AND HIKING TRAILS, BAY SHORE PARKS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, TO COMMUNITY HEALTH AND ECONOMIC VITALITY-THE PROJECT'S QUALITY OF LIFE VISION MADE TANGIBLE. WE HAVE MORE PATHS TO TRAVEL, AND MORE THAN 200 MILES TO GO BEFORE THE TRAIL IS COMPLETE, BUT WE HAVE COME FAR."

**HENRY GARDNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS**



Bicycle/pedestrian bridge at San Mateo Shoreline Parks.

Working Together to Cross Borders

Every city and county in the Bay Area has an edge. It is the line that forms the boundary of a community, defines its influence, demarcates political governance and delineates the scope of its regulations. While the location of this border may change over time, it is accepted by its residents as the perimeter of their community. The San Francisco Bay Trail blurs these boundaries. A continuous trail, extending 500 miles, passes through multiple jurisdictions enabling walkers, joggers, bicyclists and wheelchair riders to break these borders along the Bay shoreline.

We cross city and county lines every day, usually without realizing it. But ensuring connection and consistency of travel along a long-distance trail is challenging. It requires coordination across boundaries, and partnership is necessary for success. After twenty years, all 47 cities and 9 counties have recognized the Bay Trail vision with formal public support. While every shoreline community is dedicated to this effort within their boundaries, they often work together to plan or build segments of trail and to ensure seamless transitions. And as the pieces of the Bay Trail puzzle fall into place, the unique character of each community is preserved.

Support and commitment to the Bay Trail extends beyond local communities. Four state and regional government agencies in the Bay Area are charged with thinking beyond political boundaries, and each agency has played an essential role in furthering the completion of the Bay Trail. The **Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)** adopted the Bay Trail Plan in 1989, serves as host to the project and incorporates the Bay Trail vision into regional land use planning efforts. The **Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)** recognizes the Bay Trail as an essential component of the Regional Bicycle Plan and highlights

the importance of bicycle and pedestrian access as a form of transportation on roads and toll bridges. The **State Coastal Conservancy** provides funding for parks, open space and the regional trails that link these natural destination areas. Finally, the **San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)** regulates development along the Bay shoreline and requires landowners to construct Bay Trail as a condition of permit approval.

Recognition of the Bay Trail 20th anniversary is a celebration of breaking down boundaries to form seamless, equitable and enjoyable access to San Francisco Bay and its shoreline destinations.



Bridging communities along the Zampa Memorial Bridge.

Photo: Courtesy of Bill Hall, California Department of Transportation

“SAN FRANCISCO BAY IS THE VISUAL ICON THAT GIVES OUR REGION ITS NAME AND ITS IDENTITY. BUT WITHOUT THE BAY TRAIL, IN MANY PLACES THE BAY WOULD BE REMOTE AND SEPARATE FROM THE COMMUNITIES AROUND THE BAY. THE BAY TRAIL IS THE PUBLIC’S MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE BAY. IT IS OUR DOORWAY TO ALL THE WONDER, DRAMA AND BEAUTY THE BAY BRINGS TO ALL OF OUR LIVES.”

*WILL TRAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION*

Future cont. from page 2

pedestrian routes where a shoreline alignment is not feasible. Dedicated transportation dollars will need to be set aside to create commute routes linking housing, transit and employment centers. And new wetland restoration projects will need to incorporate trails that provide continuous public access along the edge of habitat areas.

The time has come to initiate a collective regional effort to set aside the funds necessary to complete the Bay Trail. After twenty years of planning and constructing the Bay Trail, elected officials, planners and advocates know that closing the remaining gaps will not be easy. But this milestone serves as a call to action to commit to completing the vision.

Bay Trail 20th Anniversary Events

Mallard Slough Hike

What: 5.5-mile hike along Mallard Slough
When: Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
Where: Environmental Education Center, Alviso
For more information: Call Jennifer Heroux at (408) 262-5513 x106.

South Bay Bike Ride

What: 11-mile round trip bike ride between San Jose and Sunnyvale
When: Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
Where: Santa Clara Golf & Tennis Club, Santa Clara
For more information: Call Jack Lueder at (408) 249-3267 or jjlueder@att.net.

Sonoma Baylands Bay Trail Walk

What: 1.3-mile walk along the edge of the Sonoma Baylands.
When: Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.
Where: Port Sonoma Marina entrance, off Highway 37.
For more information: Contact John Brosnan at (707) 526-6930 x 109 or john@sonomalandtrust.org

“AS A RESIDENT OF THE BAY AREA I FEEL FORTUNATE TO HAVE PLAYED A PART IN COMPLETING THE BAY TRAIL. THE BAY TRAIL IS THE ONE PROJECT I WORKED ON THAT I WILL CHERISH FOREVER. SOMEDAY MY GRANDCHILDREN WILL WALK ON THE BAY TRAIL AND REFLECT ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE MANY PEOPLE DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE BAY AREA”.

LIZ FIGUEROA
FORMER STATE SENATOR AND BAY TRAIL LEGISLATIVE CHAMPION



Enjoying the Bay in Richmond.

Three diverse Bay Trail outings are offered in the City of Richmond to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Bay Trail and the 10th anniversary of TRAC, the Trails for Richmond Action Committee.

Bay Trail Walk on San Pablo Bay between Wildcat & San Pablo Creeks

What: 3-mile Bay Trail loop walk.
When: Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
Where: Former West County Landfill, Richmond.
For more information: See www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/calendar.htm

Bay Trail History Walk in Rosie the Riveter/WW II Home Front National Historical Park

What: 3-mile walk along the Richmond shoreline.
When: Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
Where: Shimada Friendship Park, Richmond
For more information: See www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/calendar.htm

Bay Trail Bike Ride Featuring Shipyard 3 in Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park

What: 7-mile bike ride around historic Kaiser Shipyard 3
When: Sunday, June 7, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.
Where: Richmond Plunge, Richmond.
For more information: See www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/calendar.htm

“THE DREAM OF A BAYSIDE NETWORK OF PATHWAYS TO LINK COMMUNITIES WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THE INCREDIBLE NATURAL RESOURCE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY STARTED AS JUST A GLEAM IN THE EYE OF SENATOR LOCKYER AND OTHER VISIONARIES SOME TWO DECADES AGO. WE AT MTC ARE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN THERE FROM THE BEGINNING, PROVIDING FINANCIAL AND PLANNING SUPPORT TO MAKE THAT VISION A REALITY. THIS IS A CASE WHERE THE END PRODUCT IS MORE THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS; THIS CHAIN OF LINKS FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGES HOW WE VIEW THE BAY, HOW WE VIEW OURSELVES IN RELATIONSHIP TO IT, AND HOW WE GET AROUND.”

STEVE HEMINGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Out With The Old, In With The New!

If you are a Bay Trail aficionado, you may have done a double take recently upon seeing two different versions of our signs out on your favorite bayside stroll. In 2005, the Bay Trail logo got a facelift. While eventually all of our old signs will be replaced, for now you may see the following faces of Bay Trail along the shoreline:



Old Sign



New Sign

Thank you MTC!!

We would like to extend a special thank you to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the generous donation of \$10,000 to assist with 20th anniversary outreach and promotion. These funds make it possible for us to provide promotional items to members of the public that participate in anniversary events around the region.

“THE BAY TRAIL REPRESENTS A RESPITE AND MOMENTARY ESCAPE FROM THE HECTIC PACE OF EVERYDAY URBAN LIFE IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA. WE ARE DEVELOPING A PRICELESS AND CLOSE TO HOME RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY THAT WILL SERVE YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE AS LONG AS HUMANS INHABIT THIS UNIQUE COASTAL HABITAT.”

RICK PARMER
CHAIR, BAY TRAIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL PROJECT

P.O. Box 2050, Oakland, CA 94604

email: Baytrail@abag.ca.gov

website: www.baytrail.org

phone: 510/464-7900

BAY TRAIL STAFF

Laura Thompson, Project Manager
510/464-7935
(contact for San Mateo and Santa Clara counties)

Lee Huo, Bay Trail Planner
(contact for Alameda and Contra Costa counties)
510/464-7915

JoAnna Bullock, Grants Administrator
510/464-7968

Maureen Gaffney, Bay Trail Planner
(contact for Marin, Napa, Sonoma, Solano, and San Francisco counties)
510/464-7909

Ceil Scandone, Wildlife & Public Access Study Coordinator
510/464-7961

BAY TRAIL RIDER, the newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, highlights the progress and development of the Bay Trail. For more information about the Bay Trail, visit our website or call, write or e-mail us.



San Francisco Bay Trail Project
P.O. Box 2050
Oakland, CA 94604-2050

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit org.
U.S. postage
paid

Oakland, CA
Permit no. 973

