



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

## Collaboration Along the Carquinez Strait

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and the San Francisco Bay Trail Project are working together to complete the Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail – a 50-mile network of loop trails linking the shorelines and the ridgelines of Solano and Contra Costa counties.

In this corner of the bay, over 37 miles of existing trail provide access through varied landscapes, including the Benicia State Recreation Area, Carquinez Regional Shoreline, Martinez Regional Shoreline, Crockett Hills Regional Park, John Muir National Historic Site and Pinole Watershed.

The Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail includes three connecting loops around the strait: an outer strait loop, an

inner strait loop and a southern strait loop. The inner loop is the Bay Trail alignment which coincides with the Ridge Trail in Solano County. The Ridge Trail follows the ridgelines along the southern portions of the outer and southern strait loops. The existing pathway on the Al Zampa Memorial Bridge and the pathway scheduled for completion in 2009 on the Benicia-Martinez Bridge form two key links in the loop trail.



Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail Map

A \$100,000 grant from the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund is assisting Bay and Ridge Trail staff in promoting the trail. The two organizations are planning events, educational materials and outreach to communities to increase awareness of this regional destination.

## Gap Closures in the Works with Proposition 84 Funds

The Bay Trail-Coastal Conservancy grant program continues its momentum with funds from Proposition 84. Since December 2007, the Bay Trail Board has awarded grants in the amount of \$2.25 million to 17 projects throughout the region. Four planning projects will complete detailed analysis for 15.7 miles, and twelve construction projects will complete nearly 16 miles of new trail. In addition, funding will assist Bay Trail staff in developing a regional sign plan.

- **Fort Mason West (\$82,450)** The National Park Service will construct trail improvements to a 500-foot gap at Fort Mason near Laguna Street and Marina Boulevard.
- **Jefferson Street Redesign (\$30,000)** The City of San Francisco will complete an extensive analysis of bicycle and pedestrian circulation improvements in Fisherman's Wharf.
- **Coyote Point Bay Trail Construction (\$500,000)** San Mateo County will construct 1.3 miles of Bay Trail in Coyote Point Park improving the design of intersections and expanding the width of the multi-use trail.

Gap continued from front page

- **Bair Island Bay Trail (\$200,000)** Ducks Unlimited will construct a 175-foot bicycle and pedestrian bridge providing access to Inner Bair Island as part of a comprehensive restoration of the area.
- **Palo Alto EcoCenter Trail (\$58,749)** Environmental Volunteers will construct two parallel pathways around the renovated Sea Scout Building at the Palo Alto Baylands.
- **Moffett Field (\$63,250)** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will upgrade the levee along the edge of Moffett Field to allow year-round public access.
- **Fremont Gap Feasibility Study (\$75,000)** The City of Fremont will complete a feasibility study and preliminary engineering analysis of a 1.1-mile shoreline trail alignment north of the Fremont/Milpitas border.
- **Newark-Fremont Realignment Feasibility Study (\$80,000)** The Cities of Fremont and Newark will complete an analysis of trail alignment alternatives along 13 miles of shoreline.
- **San Leandro Slough Bridge Construction (\$300,000)** The City of San Leandro will construct the bridge over San Leandro Slough linking Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline to existing trail along the Metropolitan Golf Course.
- **Derby Avenue to Lancaster Street (\$200,000)** The City of Oakland will construct a section of trail between Derby Avenue and Lancaster Street, behind the Women's Museum Board warehouse.
- **Cryer Boathouse Site (\$200,000)** The City of Oakland will construct a trail segment along the edge of the waterfront at the Cryer Boathouse site, adjacent to Union Point Park.
- **Shipyards III Construction (\$289,000)** The Port of Richmond will construct trail access to Shipyards III/Rosie the Riveter/ WWII Home Front National Historic Park.
- **Point Richmond Gateway Improvements (\$17,600)** The Point Richmond Gateway Foundation will complete construction of 0.1-miles of sidewalks and bicycle lanes at the entrance to Point Richmond.
- **West County Wastewater District Trail Construction (\$150,000)** The East Bay Regional Park District will construct over 1 mile of new Bay Trail along the western and northern perimeters of the West County Waste Water District facility in Richmond.
- **Glen Cove Waterfront Park (\$200,000)** The Greater Vallejo Recreation District will construct 0.6 miles of Bay Trail in this new waterfront park along the Carquinez Strait shoreline.
- **Kensington Way to Kimberly Park Bay Trail Study (\$70,000)** The City of American Canyon will conduct a feasibility and engineering study for a trail in southern American Canyon with connections to Vallejo.
- **Bay Trail Regional Sign Plan (\$90,000)** Bay Trail Project staff will evaluate existing Bay Trail segments and provide location recommendations to local agencies for new Bay Trail signs along complete portions of the trail.

## Visiting the Bay Trail

### Palo Alto Baylands

What is the draw for visitors to the Palo Alto Baylands? It's the birds! The Baylands are home to nearly 120 species of water, shore and ground nesting birds. People come from distant places to get up close to night crown herons, blue herons, white pelicans, and a host of different species of rails, stilts and sand pipers! Bird watchers, with binoculars, telescopes, and telephoto lenses, flock to this major migratory stopover on the Pacific Flyway.

Palo Alto continued on page 4



Palo Alto Baylands and Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center

Photo: Don DeBold

## Richmond San Rafael Bridge Update

Bicycle and pedestrian access to the **Richmond-San Rafael Bridge** continues to be a vexing and substantial gap for the San Francisco Bay Trail. Efforts by staff in coordination with the Marin County Bicycle Coalition, the East Bay Bicycle Coalition, the Bay Area Bicycle Coalition and local elected officials have yet to result in a workable solution that is acceptable to Caltrans. A moveable barrier option providing bicycle/pedestrian access on the upper deck during non-peak commute hours appeared to have traction, but ran into opposition from Caltrans based on safety concerns.



Richmond-San Rafael Bridge

During the most recent study regarding bicycle/pedestrian access, Caltrans asserted that the currently vacant third lane would be needed for traffic in the near future. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) has asked Caltrans to provide more specific information regarding their concerns with the moveable barrier option, as Caltrans will need a permit from BCDC in order to convert the third lane to traffic. We anticipate Caltrans will be making this presentation to BCDC in 2009.

### Regional Signage Program

Because too many people still say "What's the Bay Trail?", the Bay Trail Project staff have kicked off a major, region-wide effort to sign existing segments of the Bay Trail in all nine counties. Staff will be hitting the trail with camera and notebook in hand in order to prepare draft signage plans for each jurisdiction. Upon completion, these plans will be submitted to each city, town, county or park district for review. The Bay Trail Project will then supply the signs for free to our local partners for installation. We hope to see a significant increase in the amount of signed Bay Trail miles in advance of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2009!

## Journal of Wildlife Management to Publish Wildlife & Public Access Study Results

**Good News!** The first article presenting the results of the Wildlife and Public Access Study will be published soon. The *Journal of Wildlife Management*, the prestigious peer-reviewed publication of The Wildlife Society, recently notified principal investigators Dr. Lynne Trulio and Jana Sokale that their analysis of the first two years of research will appear in the November 2008 issue.

The Bay Trail Project initiated the Study in 1996 to build a foundation of statistically-valid information that could guide the siting and management of shoreline trails. It was designed to test whether the use of trails for bicycling, walking and other non-motorized activities has significant impacts on the abundance, species diversity, and behavior of shorebirds in adjacent mudflats.

Between July 1999 and June 2001, dozens of trained observers collected hundreds of hours of data at paired trail and non-trail "control" sites in Marin, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties. The researchers compared data collected at sites with trails and nearby sites without trails to assess whether and to what extent trail use might be affecting foraging shorebirds.

Overall, the study found no significant effects of trail user intensity on shorebird numbers, species richness, or foraging behavior when comparing trail to non-trail sites. When comparing lower and higher use days at the trail sites (typically weekdays to weekend days), the study found that with increasing trail use, the number of shorebirds decreased, with higher use days averaging 25% fewer birds. At the levels of trail use observed, the decline was not enough to produce a significant difference between trail and non-trail sites. The information suggests that when managers site and design trails, they should also provide alternative, trail-free foraging opportunities.

There is more to come. A second paper from this study will examine the responses of specific shorebird species to trail use. In addition, a follow-up study was conducted in 2004 to evaluate the food supply at the study sites and observer presence as a potential impact on shorebird use of the study sites. Reports on those studies are underway.

Congratulations to Lynne, Jana, and the entire team of site supervisors and observers. Many thanks to the funders. For a list of contributors and other information, visit the Bay Trail website at <http://baytrail.abag.ca.gov/wildlifestudy.htm>. The *Journal of Wildlife Management* pages will be posted on the Bay Trail website once it becomes available.

## Measure WW: East Bay Parks Open Space Bond Measure Extension

On August 5, 2008, the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors voted to place **Measure WW** on the November 4 election ballot. The measure extends Measure AA, a bond measure passed in 1988, without raising the present property tax rates above the present rate. The \$500 million from Measure WW will fund local and regional park projects and programs including the acquisition and development of new parks and trails such as the Bay Trail. Measure WW earmarks \$12.3 million for the

development of new Bay Trail in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. In addition, 12 other earmarked projects include components of the Bay Trail.

The Bay Trail Board voted to support Measure WW in August, and Measure WW was approved by over two thirds of voters in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Congratulations to East Bay Parks! For more information on Measure WW, visit <http://www.ebparks.org/node/672>.

## Alameda-Oakland Estuary Crossing Study

Since the beginning of this year, the City of Alameda has been developing the **Alameda-Oakland Estuary Crossing Study**. The purpose of this study is to determine the feasibility of a wide-variety of options for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the northern portion of the Alameda-Oakland estuary near the Webster Tube. The study leaves no stone unturned, and it analyzes the feasibility of options ranging from a new bicycle/pedestrian bridge, ferry service improvements, the use of amphibious vehicles, water taxis, user-propelled boat/amphibious bike, transporter bridges, improvements to the existing Webster tube access, and many other creative options.

The study has involved an extensive outreach effort, and several public workshops to receive input from both Oakland and Alameda residents and businesses have been held in April, May, and early October. In addition, the feasibility study process has included regular meetings of both a Technical Advisory Committee and a Policy Advisory Committee which are comprised of key stakeholders such as the Bay

Trail Project, Port of Oakland, City of Oakland, Alameda Transportation Improvement Authority, U.S. Coast Guard, and many other organizations. The draft feasibility study is expected to be available for public review in the winter of 2008. For additional information about the study and how to become involved in the study process, contact Gail Payne of the City of Alameda Public Works Department at [gpayne@ci.alameda.ca.us](mailto:gpayne@ci.alameda.ca.us) or (510) 749-5918.

Palo Alto continued from page 4

Bounded by Mountain View and East Palo Alto, the Palo Alto Baylands offer 15 miles of trails within the Preserve and around the duck pond. Along these trails, you may find jackrabbits and, if you stand/sit still for about 2 minutes in front of one of the little holes by the side of the trail, usually a vole will come out, and if you visit during the summer, you might find a snake by the boardwalk trail. The Bay Trail at Baylands consists of two loop trails that provide an excellent opportunity for walking, running, cycling, bird watching, nature painting, wind surfing, and boating for non-motorized vessels. Facilities to visit at Baylands include Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center, a great place for kids and adults to learn about wildlife, a historic SeaScouts Building that is going to be restored and turned into an EcoCenter, Byxbee Park, a combination of nature and landscape art and the Baylands Athletic Center.



## Bay Area License Plate Campaign: Nature Within Reach

Bay Area residents now have a new way to support the protection of Bay Area wildlife, open space and outdoor recreational opportunities.

The State Coastal Conservancy and other partners recently unveiled a license plate featuring an image of the Golden Gate Bridge and the motto, "Nature Within Reach" to raise money for habitat restoration, parks, farmland, trails and public recreation in the Bay Area.

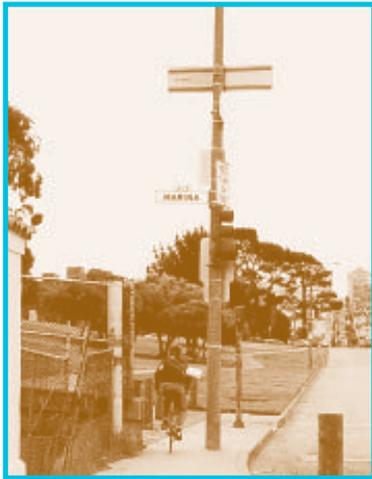
The **Nature Within Reach** license plate campaign needs 7,500 paid pledges by July 2009 to become a reality. The goal is to eventually raise \$1 million per year for Bay Area projects. Proceeds from the sale and renewal of the plate will directly fund projects supported by the Coastal Conservancy, including the Bay Trail.

To invest in the Bay Area's future, call (877) 473-2291 or visit [bayarealicenseplate.org](http://bayarealicenseplate.org).

# Along the Bay Trail

## SAN FRANCISCO

Affectionately known as “The **Fort Mason Squeeze**”, a 2-foot 6-inch passage between a concrete light post and a historic train tunnel wall at the corner of Marina and Laguna in San Francisco is undergoing a much-needed and long-awaited redesign. The train tunnel wall will be cut back to allow a wider passage, and the National Park Service and the Golden



Gate Parks Conservancy are working with the City of San Francisco to relocate the light post and widen the sidewalk. The thousands of users who thread this needle on a daily basis will soon find passage through this section of Bay Trail much less stressful!

*A cyclist does “The Squeeze” at Fort Mason.*

A new section of multi-use trail and improvements to signage and amenities are nearly complete at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. **The Battery East Bay Trail** is one of many improvements in the Presidio area that Bay Trail grant funds have helped to implement. Upcoming trail projects will result in the completion of all Bay Trail gaps in the Presidio.

## SAN MATEO

Phase I of the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project includes a plan to improve a 0.7-mile trail at the **Ravenswood Open Space Preserve**, near the Dumbarton Bridge. In addition, interpretive displays and two new viewing platforms will be built as well as an overlook at Menlo Park’s Bayfront Park with views of the Ravenswood ponds.

## SANTA CLARA

Traveling around the South Bay will soon be easier due to the implementation of phase I of the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project. The project proposes to open 2.5 miles of new Bay Trail between Sunnyvale and Mountain View along the existing outer levee, located near **NASA’s Moffett Field**. The new Bay Trail will provide a direct connection between Sunnyvale Baylands Park, Mountain View’s Shoreline Park, and the Stevens Creek Trail. Stay tuned for a dedication date.

## NAPA

Napa County has recently completed construction of 3,600 feet of Class II bike lanes on **Las Amigas Road**. These bike lanes connect to recent Bay Trail grant-funded improvements on Cuttings Wharf Road and represent Napa’s steady march toward completion of important Bay Trail gaps.

## CONTRA COSTA

In late May, Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC) received the **2008 California Trails and Greenways Website Award** for its effective use of the website for developing community interest and involvement in the Bay Trail within the City of Richmond. TRAC’s website was created and continues to be maintained by David Moore of Sincere Design. Congratulations to TRAC and David for their work and efforts in developing community action for completing the Bay Trail in Richmond! Visit TRAC’s website at <http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail>.

On a sunny day in the City of Richmond, a new part of the Water Trail was added with the Grand Opening of the **Boat Ramp Street** launch on May 9, 2008. This new water trail launch site is located right off the Bay Trail at 700 Cutting Boulevard and is a prime example of how the Bay Trail and Water Trail will work together to bring people access to the San Francisco Bay and its shoreline. Attendees of the grand opening arrived by bicycles on the Bay Trail and by kayaks and canoes from the Bay.

## ALAMEDA

On May 28th, the City of Oakland held the dedication ceremony for the **66<sup>th</sup> Avenue Gateway** project which includes a new portion of the Bay Trail, several pieces of public artwork, and benches for people to enjoy the marshlands and wildlife within the Oakland Estuary. The new Bay Trail is the initial component of a planned Bay Trail segment that will ultimately connect the Oakland Coliseum BART station to the East Bay Regional Park District’s Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline and act as a gateway to both the regional shoreline and the overall Oakland Waterfront Trail/Bay Trail along the Oakland shoreline.



*66<sup>th</sup> Avenue Gateway Trail*

The Oakland Heritage Alliance awarded one of its 2008 Partners in Preservations Awards to the City of Oakland and PGA Design for their work in developing a series of 11 **Historic Markers along the Bay Trail** in Oakland. These markers provide a written and photographic history of Oakland, and its waterfront, industry, and people. These Historic Markers can be found as you travel along the Bay Trail at Mandela Parkway, 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Embarcadero, and the Oakland waterfront. The development of the Historic Markers was partly funded by the Bay Trail Project.

## ABAG Golf Tournament Benefits the Bay Trail

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) held its **19th Annual Golf Tournament** on Friday, July 18th at the Metropolitan Golf Links in Oakland. The tournament took place next to a Bay Trail segment that the City of San Leandro and the Port of Oakland are working to complete within the next year. Over 60 players attended the tournament, and proceeds in the amount of \$6,600 were donated to the San Francisco Bay Trail Project.

The Bay Trail Project wishes to express its gratitude to: **Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Chevron Richmond Refinery; Chapman and Cutler, LLP; AIG Specialty Excess; Alliant Insurance Services; Bank of New York; Bank of the West; Bickmore Risk Services; Clapp, Moroney, Bellagamba & Vucinich; Four Star Cleaning and Restoration; Ideal Restoration, Inc.; Hawkins, Delafield & Wood, LLP; Jones Hall; Low, Ball & Lynch; Selman Breitman, LLP; and Union Bank of California.**

### Bay Trail Board Updates

In May, the Bay Trail Board officially welcomed two new Board members and bid farewell to two long-standing directors. **Moira McEnespy** of the Coastal Conservancy and **Cecily Harris** of San Mateo County Department of Parks joined the board. **Joan Cardellino** and **Jim McGrath** stepped down after 16 and 10 years respectively. We welcome Moira and Cecily and thank Joan and Jim for many dedicated years to the Bay Trail Project.



#### SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL PROJECT

P.O. Box 2050, Oakland, CA 94604

phone: 510/464-7900

email: Baytrail@abag.ca.gov

website: [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org)

#### 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

