The Baylands

More than a century ago, Palo Alto’s Baylands was a marshy estuary, a place where the San Francisquito Creek emptied into the bay. This was the land of the Ohlone and later the basis for our city’s first urban park.

The Baylands today consist of 1,400 acres of varied terrain that offers both wild and calm spaces. Some of these areas are used as open space while others are reserved for specific activities.

POPULAR HIKES AND RIDES

Adeline Creek Loop Trail: 2.4 miles The loop trail begins at the entrance of the Adeline Creek Loop Trail and is a nice walk in the woods through the trees.

Duck Pond Loop Trail: 0.7 miles This loop trail is a nice walk around the pond and is a great place to see wildlife.

Penguin-Arastadero Preserve: 1.3 miles

The entrance gate is closed after dark to preserve the habitat.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Baylands are home to over 200 species of birds, including several that are rare or endangered. The Baylands also support a variety of plants, including wildflowers and native grasses.

POPULAR ACTIVITIES

Bird Watching: The Baylands is a great place for bird watching, especially during the fall and spring migration seasons.

Nature Study: The Baylands also offer a variety of nature study programs throughout the year.

FACILITIES & ACTIVITIES

Adeline Creek Picnic Area: This is a popular spot for picnicking, with tables and restrooms nearby.

Foothills Park: This is a great place for hiking, biking, and nature study.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Baylands is a popular place for cross-country skiing, with trails that vary in difficulty.

HISTORY

The Baylands were part of the original survey of the City of Palo Alto in 1865. In 1964, the City purchased the last 10 acres of the Baylands for use as open space. Foothills Park Hours

The entrance gate is closed to vehicles, but is open to pedestrians and cyclists.

Adeline Creek Picnic Area Hours

The picnic area is open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset.

FACILITIES & ACTIVITIES

Picnic tables, charcoal grills, restrooms, and drinking fountains are available.

Foothills Park

Towle Campground: This is a popular spot for camping, with electric and water hookups available.

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