

# The Baylands

Palo Alto  
Open  
Space



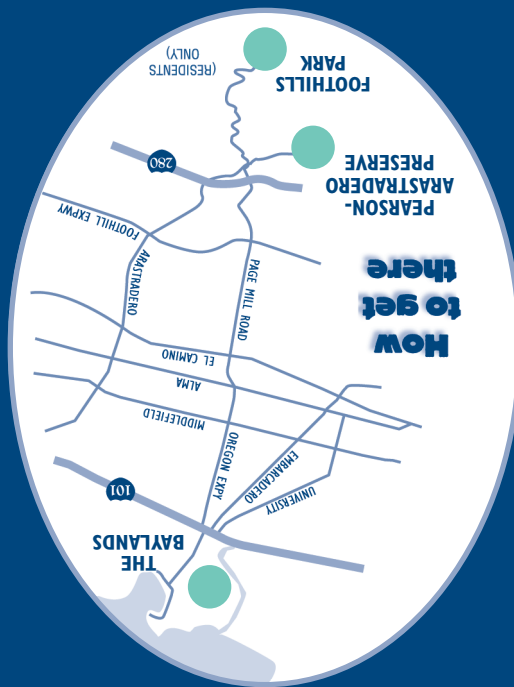
CITY OF  
PALO ALTO

The entrance gate near the Duck Pond and Byxbee Park Hills parking lots are closed according to the time depicted on the sign near Preserve entrances.

**BAYLANDS PRESERVE HOURS**  
Open to the public  
8 am to sunset, every day.

For information, call 650-617-3156 or email [open.space@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:open.space@cityofpaloalto.org)

The Baylands Nature Preserve, Pearson-Arastroero Preserve, and Foothills Park include almost 4,000 acres maintained and managed by the City of Palo Alto as open space for recreation and wildlife habitat preservation.



## PRESERVE RULES

- No smoking
- Park in designated parking areas
- Dogs on leash permitted, except where posted. If you would like to exercise your dog off-leash, please visit the Mitchell Park Dog Run, located behind 455 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto
- Speed limit 15 MPH
- Bicycle helmets required
- Because roadways are narrow, skates and coasting devices are not allowed on Preserve roads or trails.
- Wildlife feeding is prohibited
- No hunting or collecting
- Remote-controlled vehicles and aircraft are prohibited.

## BOUNDED BY MOUNTAIN

View and East Palo Alto, the 1,940-acre Baylands Preserve is one of the largest tracts of undisturbed marshland remaining in the San Francisco Bay. Fifteen miles of multi-use trails provide access to a unique mixture of tidal and fresh water habitats. Many consider this area to be one of the best bird watching areas on the West Coast.

CURLEWS ARE OFTEN SEEN ON THE EDGE OF THE MARSH AT THE BAYLANDS



Photo: PNNL

In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks.

—John Muir



## FACILITIES

- Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center  
Call 650-329-2506 for open hours
- Byxbee Park
- Emily Renzel Wetlands
- Baylands Athletic Center (baseball and softball)
- Wildlife observation platforms and benches
- Picnic facilities and barbecues (*First-come, first-served for groups up to 24 persons.*)

## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- Walking and biking trails, bird watching, sailboarding and boating with non-motorized, hand-launched watercraft such as canoes and kayaks.
- Nature walks and programs on ecology and natural history are presented for all age groups and are offered on weekends throughout the year. A schedule of programs is available in the City's *Enjoy!* catalog or on the Internet at <http://enjoyonline.cityofpaloalto.org> Call 650-617-3156 for information.
- School programs are offered September through June, Monday through Friday. Call 650-329-2506 for information.

## HISTORY

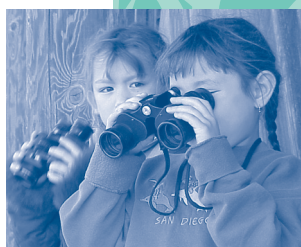
Over a century ago, the Palo Alto Baylands salt marshes extended inland, approximately to the location of the Bayshore Freeway. The marshes were a valuable resource providing Native Americans and early city residents with fish, shellfish, small mammals, waterfowl and plants for food, medicine, and construction materials.

Palo Alto's stewardship of the Baylands began in 1921 with the purchase of 40 acres. In the 1930s the yacht harbor clubhouse, a saltwater swimming pool (now the Duck Pond), and the lagoon were constructed.

Today, the Baylands covers 1940 acres—1600 acres are protected in the Baylands Nature Preserve. The preserve includes some of the last remaining salt marsh/mudflat habitats on the West Coast. It is home to the endangered Ridgeway Rail and the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse.

Unlike other Bay marshes which have plants that grow in distinct zones, the Palo Alto marshes have a mixed plant distribution. This includes pickleweed and cordgrass habitats that are interspersed between mudflats.

Bird watching in the Baylands is excellent year-round. In wintertime extreme high tides bring bird watchers from around the world. In the spring and fall, this is a prime stopover or destination for birds traveling on the Pacific route of their migratory flyway.



SCIENCE CLASSES & ACTIVITIES AT THE LUCY EVANS BAYLANDS NATURE INTERPRETIVE CENTER



## ACCESS INFORMATION

- Open to the public 8 am to sunset, every day.
- Dogs permitted on leash, except where posted.
- Feeding wildlife is prohibited.
- Park in designated parking areas.
- Hunting is not permitted.

- Paved Trail
- - - Gravel Trail
- Paved Roadway

- Mileage Markers
- Ranger Station
- Parking Lot
- Picnic Area
- Drinking Water
- Restrooms
- Public Phone
- Wildlife Viewing Platform
- Gates



**San Francisco Creek Trail**  
3.2 miles/1-2.5 hours. Easy, flat terrain, can be extremely muddy during rainy season. Mixed terrain trail bed includes decomposed granite, crushed oyster shell, paved sections.

**Boardwalk Trail** .2 miles (one way)  
1.5 min. Best area to view Ridgeway Rail. Easy, flat terrain; mixed terrain trail bed includes gravel levee and wood boardwalk.

**Duck Pond Loop Trail** .7 miles  
10-15 min. Dogs prohibited. Easy, flat terrain; crushed oyster shell and decomposed granite trail bed; no obstacles.

**Renzel Trail** .9 miles/20-25 min.  
Trail passes along the Emily Renzel Wetlands and connects the Adobe Creek Loop Trail with the San Francisco Creek Trail. Easy, flat terrain; paved.

**Hilltop Trails** 3.5 miles/1 hour  
Bay views, wildlife, wildflowers, landfill conversion process. Hilly terrain/trails are steep in places. Trail bed is decomposed granite and crushed oyster shell.

**Marsh Front Trail** 1.0 miles  
25-30 min. Descriptive natural history panels. Easy, flat terrain; crushed oyster shell and decomposed granite trail bed; no obstacles.

**Adobe Creek Loop Trail**  
5.6 miles/2-3 hours. Bay views, bird life, converted landfill. Easy, flat terrain; trail mostly on bay-side gravel levees and pavement.