

North Richmond Shoreline Tour Packet

January 24, 2009

North Richmond Shoreline Academy

Today's Goal:

The goal of today's tour and visioning exercise is to hear from you, the community members, about your vision for the North Richmond Shoreline. What would you like it to look like in the future? What would you like to preserve? What would you like to change?

We will tour three sites along the shoreline and discuss what we see. Then we will convene at the Parchester Village Community Center for lunch and a discussion on our visions for the shoreline.

Thank you for joining us today. Your input and participation are extremely valuable.

-The Shoreline Academy Team

Community Health Initiative – Golden Gate Audubon - Natural Heritage Institute – Parchester Village Neighborhood Council - Restoration Design Group – Urban Creeks Council – West County Toxics Coalition



Stop ① Wildcat Creek Staging Area – Trails and Watersheds

Trails

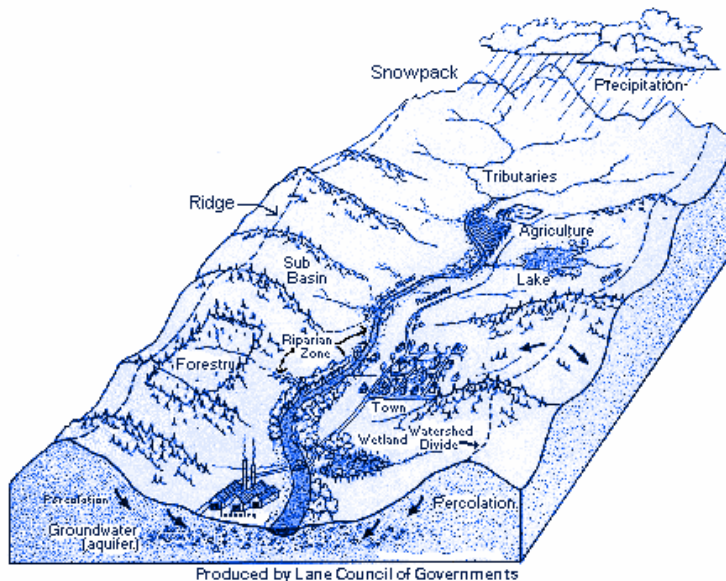
The San Francisco Bay Trail is a 500-mile long hiking and biking trail that will encircle the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. In Richmond, 24 miles of the Bay Trail are complete. Seventeen miles remain to be built. When complete, the Bay Trail will extend the length of the North Richmond Shoreline.

The Wildcat Creek Trail is a regional connector trail that will connect the cities of San Pablo and Richmond with the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Each major street crossing is a design challenge. The East Bay Regional Park District is currently working on designs to improve how people on the trail cross the Richmond Parkway and connect to the Bay Trail.

See map on next page.

Watersheds

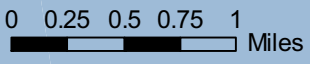
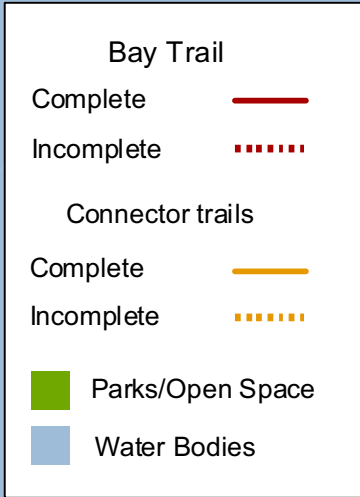
What is a watershed? A watershed is an area of land that all drains to one place.



The Rheem Creek, San Pablo Creek, and Wildcat Creek watersheds all drain into the North Richmond Shoreline and San Pablo Bay. In all, over 60 square miles of land drain into the San Pablo Bay along the North Richmond Shoreline. Anything that is applied to lawns, dumped in the street, and makes its way into storm drains or creeks, eventually ends up here.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL PROJECT

Richmond



June 1, 2007

Stop ② Wildcat and San Pablo Marshes – Birds and Wetlands



Brown pelican



Red knot

Birds (Adapted from Audubon California's *Important Bird Areas*)

The mudflats of San Francisco Bay in this region attract thousands of shorebirds and other waterbirds during migration and winter, and serve as a link between the vast wetlands of the San Pablo Bay to the north and those in south San Francisco Bay. Interestingly, Pt. Pinole seems to attract species otherwise uncommon within San Francisco Bay, including Red Knot (over 1000 counted in a recent spring, Lynne Stenzel, PRBO, unpublished. data). San Francisco Bay, and this important bird area in particular, is one of just three areas along the Pacific coast of North America that supports large numbers of Red Knot in winter (Goals Report 1999). This area also supports one of the few nesting pairs of Osprey on San Francisco Bay, and the tidal marshes here still have an intact tidal marsh bird community widely extirpated from the Central San Francisco Bay.

Bird Census

Ninety two species of birds were reported in Golden Gate Audubon's 2007-2008 shoreline census including the endangered Clapper Rail and the threatened Red Knot. Audubon's watch list species detected included Marbled Godwit, Clark's Grebe, Long-billed Curlew, Sanderling, Black Skimmer, and Thayer's Gull. Species recently delisted and seen at North Richmond include the Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, and Brown Pelican. Known sensitive species along the shoreline also include Northern Harrier, Black Rail, California Clapper Rail, Short-eared Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Bryant's Savannah Sparrow, San Pablo Song Sparrow.

The North Richmond shoreline maintains high habitat value in spite of a long legacy of filling, dumping, and pollution by sewage treatment plants, landfills, oil refineries, and heavy industry. Though a portion of this area is well protected as regional parkland, large swaths of saltmarsh and grassland habitat are still privately owned and threatened by rapidly-developing Richmond.

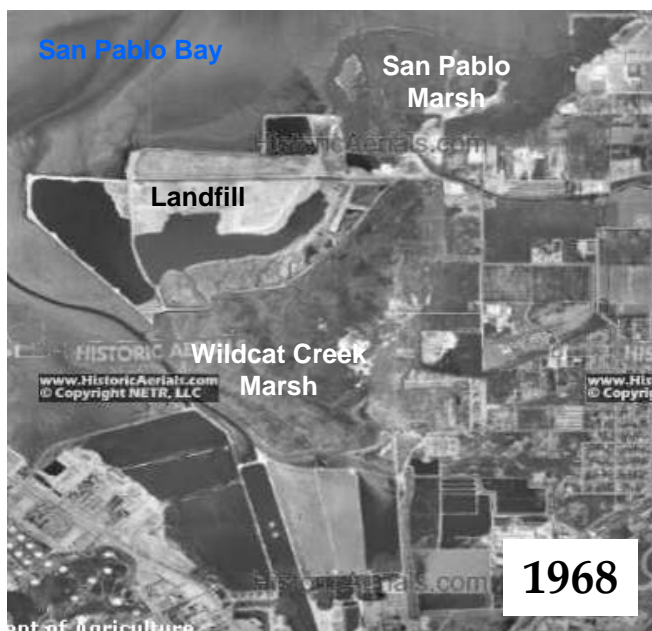
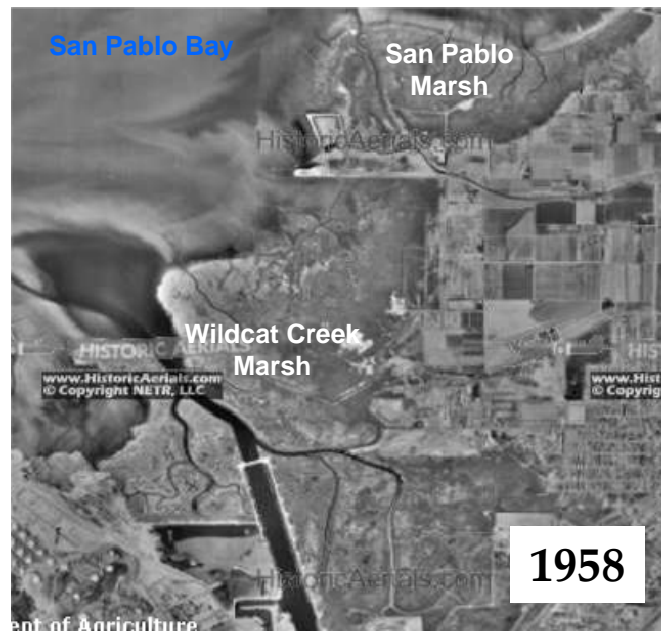
There are numerous restoration opportunities for former tidal marsh in the area that could add appreciably to the habitat value of the area (e.g. Rheem Creek area and vicinity Richmond Landfill to the south).

Wildcat and San Pablo – A Tale of Two Marshes

One hundred and fifty years ago, Wildcat and San Pablo Marshes were part of a single, large, 2000 acre marsh that stretched from the San Pablo Bay to the south Richmond shoreline. Even as late as 60 years ago, San Pablo and Wildcat Creeks flowed into a one contiguous marsh. The West County Landfill was built on top of the marsh, mudflat, and open water, separating the mouths of the two creeks and creating two separate, smaller marshes. See the historical aerial photos below.

One large marsh is better than two smaller marshes. It allows marsh animals to move freely around a larger area to find food and shelter and generally leads to a healthier ecosystem.

Is there a way to re-connect Wildcat and San Pablo Marshes so that animals can travel freely between the two?



Stop 3 Goodrick Avenue – Visions and Opportunities

Open Space

At this stop, we are surrounded by nearly 100 acres of privately owned open space. What becomes of this open space is dependent on the desires of the private landowners, the City of Richmond, and the will of the local community. The Richmond General Plan attempts to represent all three. Below are the visions being considered for inclusion in the Richmond General Plan Update. What is your vision for the shoreline?

Existing Zoning



Land Use Option 1



Open Space Map



Land Use Option 2*



Land Use Option 3*



Residential Neighborhoods	
	Hillside Residential
	Low Density Residential
	Medium Density Residential
	Neighborhood Mixed-Use
Business and Industry	
	Live Work
	Business Mix
	Marine and Waterfront Commercial
	Industrial
Community	
	Open Space
	Parks and Recreation
	Public, Cultural and Institutional

*Land uses shown at the parcel level. To see areas that are not developable refer to Open Space Map.