



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

## Bay Trail Project Unveils New Web Site

The Bay Trail Project recently went live with its revamped web site, chock-full of previously unavailable content and with several interesting new features. The site, which is found at <http://baytrail.abag.ca.gov>, was designed by Bay Trail Project staff and by ABAG's webmaster, Todd Parsnick.

The catchiest new feature on the site is "Virtual Bay Trail," a gallery of 360° IPIX™ images of popular spots along the Bay Trail, created by volunteer (and former ABAG employee) Dan Stone. Currently, three of these wrap-around views are available: from Point Isabel in Richmond, Berkeley's Cesar Chavez Park, and—most dramatic of all—the east sidewalk of the Golden Gate Bridge. First-time users might want to read the brief online guide for help on navigating through the images.

The section titled "About the Bay Trail" includes an overview and history of the project, a chronicle of recent accomplishments, and

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View, looking north, of the recently completed Bay Trail segment through San Rafael's Shoreline Park; in the background are the hills of China Camp State Park.

## Newest Trail Segment Dedicated in San Rafael

Under gray skies and a steady mist, a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the most recent extension of the Bay Trail was held on January 19 in San Rafael's Shoreline Park. While the winter weather kept hikers and bikers indoors, the well-attended event included an abundance of shorebirds.

San Rafael Mayor Al Boro acknowledged those involved in the project, including Jean Starkweather and Tom Hinman of the Marin Conservation League. In appreciation of her diligent efforts on this project, Jean was presented with a plaque to be placed on a bench dedicated to her along this segment of the trail. From the City, Community Development Director Bob Brown, Senior Planner Linda Jackson, and Associate Planner Chantry Bell were recognized for their hard work on the project. Crew members from the California Conservation Corps and the Marin Conservation Corps were also applauded for their work along the trail.

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The attendees at the January 19 ribbon-cutting ceremony in San Rafael included (front row, from left to right) Tom Hinman and Jean Starkweather of the Marin Conservation League, San Rafael Mayor Al Boro, and Janet McBride of the Bay Trail Project, accompanied by representatives of other organizations, such as the Marin Community Foundation. Behind them are California Conservation Corps crew members.

### San Rafael dedication (continued from page 1)

The 0.1-mile paved trail segment extends north from an existing section of the Bay Trail at the end of Pelican Way, off East Francisco Boulevard. The project had involved invasive plant removal and restoration of the Marin Municipal Water District pond located adjacent to the new trail segment. Native vegetation was planted in the area and protective fencing was installed around the pond to prevent access to the wetland area. The project, with a total budget of \$130,000, was partially funded through the Bay Trail Project's Regional Development Program. A partnership was formed that included the City of San Rafael, Marin Conservation League, Marin Community Foundation, the California Conservation Corps and the Marin Conservation Corps.

The extension of this well-used portion of the Bay Trail will increase access to the shoreline for nearby employees and residents and will allow trail users to enjoy expansive views across the Bay near a rich shorebird habitat. For more information about this project, contact Chantry Bell at (415) 485-3116.



Another view, this one looking south, of the new Bay Trail segment in San Rafael's Shoreline Park.

### Bay Trail web site (continued from page 1)

contact information for Bay Trail Project staff. Also available are fact sheets on various aspects of the Bay Trail, including its transportation potential, the list of cities along its alignment, the status of public access on the main toll bridges, and a list of 100 treasures along the Bay Trail.

Other sections contain recent issues of the newsletter, the entire set of our popular Bay Trail maps (which show developed as well as planned sections), an audiovisual presentation titled "Journey to our Water's Edge," and guided photo tours of completed segments of the Bay Trail. Lastly, shoppers will want to click on the new Bay Trail online store, now selling caps, t-shirts and fanny packs, the maps mentioned above, and the popular *San Francisco Bay Shoreline Guide*, a 192-page book produced by the California State Coastal Conservancy.

## BCDC Launches New Phase of Public Access Study

The Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) recently launched the second phase of its "San Francisco Bay Public Access and Wildlife Compatibility" study, a companion to the Bay Trail Project's own "Wildlife and Public Access" study. While the latter is designed to assess the effects trail users have on shorebirds, BCDC's compatibility study is exploring design and management strategies that avoid or reduce public access impacts on wildlife. Together, these two efforts will provide valuable information to guide future shoreline-access planning, siting and management decisions. The final report for the compatibility study is scheduled for release in August. For more information, contact BCDC coastal planner Caitlin Sweeney, at 415/352-3600 or at [caitlins@bcdca.gov](mailto:caitlins@bcdca.gov).

# 1999 Summer Board Meeting



The board of directors of the Bay Trail Project held its annual summer meeting on September 21, 1999. The meeting was held at the Harbor Bay Club, located on the City of Alameda's Bay Farm Island. The club overlooks an attractive segment of the Bay Trail with stunning Bay views.



Following the board's business meeting, Alameda Mayor Ralph Appezato welcomed over 50 Bay Trail supporters to a luncheon, also held at the club. Guest of honor State Senator Liz Figueroa was recognized for helping secure \$2.5 million in state funds to extend the Bay Trail (see page 4), and guests ate birthday cake to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Bay Trail Plan.



Top: State Senator Liz Figueroa, flanked by Bill Bliss (left), immediate past board chair of the Bay Trail Project, and new chair Rick Parmer.

Above: Assemblywoman Ellen Corbett (far left; after changing clothes in preparation for the after-lunch bike ride), Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson (center right), Alameda Mayor Ralph Appezato (far right) and an unidentified staff member.

Below: Senator Figueroa, proudly displaying her Bay Trail t-shirt.



After the delicious lunch and dessert, the celebration moved outdoors, under glorious skies, where guests joined one of three guided tours of the local Bay Trail. The featured choices were a hike led by *Alameda Journal* columnist and local historian Woody Minor; an in-line skating tour and lesson by Liz Miller, author of the definitive *Get Rolling: the Beginner's Guide to In-Line Skating* and a bike ride along the Bay Trail loop that encircles Bay Farm Island.



Photos by Jim Dennis, 4300 Horton St., Studio #12, Emeryville, CA 94608; 510/595.8634.



## Bay Trail in Richmond Gets Volunteer Assistance

As of last July, the City of Richmond has something no other city can claim: an advocacy group of local residents dedicated solely to implementing the Bay Trail through their community. The new organization, called Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC), has as its mission statement to “complete the San Francisco Bay Trail in Richmond, assuring that it is linked to public parks and population centers, and maintained in perpetuity.” The group, which meets once a month and is now eight members strong, has adopted four goals:

- ◆ In 1999 and 2000, complete the Bay Trail on the south and west shores, from Marina Bay to Point Molate Beach Park; between Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline and Wildcat Creek; and on the north shore, from Wildcat Creek to Point Pinole Regional Shoreline;
- ❖ Extend the Bay Trail to the Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor concurrent with development of a regional park along the shore of Point Molate Naval Fuel Depot;
- ◆ Link the Bay Trail with the Central Richmond Greenway; and
- ☒ Coordinate with other efforts to promote pedestrian and bicycle access on the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge.

There is a total of approximately 37.5 miles of adopted Bay Trail alignment in Richmond, of which slightly over 13 miles, or 35%, is already built or under construction. The longest existing segments are through Point Pinole Regional Shoreline (4.5 mi) and from the Albany border to Marina Bay (2 mi). One of TRAC’s most exciting and ambitious projects is to create a loop trail around the Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline peninsula, using historic Santa Fe Railroad rights-of-way.

Recently, TRAC helped city staff prepare a grant application to provide on-street Bay Trail connections through Richmond (see following story).

*To find out more about TRAC, contact co-chairs Bruce Beyaert (510/235.2835; beyaert@earthlink.net) or Bette Tarr (510/233.8188; kayakee@aol.com).*

## Regionwide Proposals to Extend the Bay Trail

Thirteen grant applications were submitted for funding under the Bay Trail extension program. The grant requests total nearly \$3 million and range from \$30,000 to \$600,000; combined, they would provide 15 miles of new trail and several bridge crossings. The trail extension program, currently in its third cycle, has \$2.25 million available in funding this year. A selection panel will review the applications and recommend projects to the board of the State Coastal Conservancy for allocation in April.

The proposed projects are diverse and well distributed geographically, with five in the East Bay, three in the North Bay, one in the Peninsula and four in the South Bay. Following is a list of proposals received, in counterclockwise order around the Bay:

**Millbrae:** Bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Highway 101 along Millbrae Avenue.  
**Mountain View:** Planning study for .75-mile-long trail spur into Moffett Field.  
**Sunnyvale:** Trail extension from Sunnyvale Baylands Park into Lockheed.  
**Santa Clara County:** Public-access improvements at Alviso Marina County Park.  
**Milpitas:** 2.75-mile multi-use trail on east-side levee along Coyote Creek.  
**San Leandro:** Planning study to extend trail at Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline.  
**Port of Oakland:** Bike lanes on Doolittle, and multi-use paths on Airport

Drive and around Galbraith Golf Course.  
**Oakland (City):** Bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Second and Third streets, in West Oakland.

**Richmond:** On-street connection between Marina Way and Pennsylvania Avenue.  
**East Bay Regional Park District:** Half-mile trail link in Hercules and Pinole, including bridge over Pinole Creek.  
**American Canyon:** Planning study of new alignment along the Napa River.  
**San Rafael:** Jogging trail, bike path and landscaping in Shoreline Park.  
**Sausalito:** Multi-use path on Bridgeway, from Napa to Mono streets.

*Contact Janet McBride (510/464.7915; JanetM@abag.ca.gov) or Laura Thompson (510/464.7909; LauraT@abag.ca.gov) of the Bay Trail Project for more information.*

## Bay Trail Maps Being Updated and Digitized

The Bay Trail Project is currently developing new trail maps using geographic information system (GIS) software. Bay Trail staff is entering the trail alignment into the system, which will enable us to maintain more accurate information about the trail. The mapping system can be easily updated as segments are completed and can be used to focus on specific project areas, highlighting detailed features.

Our ultimate goal is to use the GIS as a tool to quickly and easily identify specific characteristics of the trail, including detailed mileage statistics, location of bike lanes, quality and type of trail surface and signage location. When complete, new GIS maps could replace our existing printed trail maps in a more detailed format, providing trail users with more accurate and informative maps.

*Contact: Laura Thompson (510/464.7909; LauraT@abag.ca.gov).*

# Along the Bay Trail

## MARIN

The popular and scenic **H. Dana Bowers Memorial Vista Point**, located at the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge, is slated for a makeover. Caltrans will build new restrooms, replace and add landscaping, install a central plaza, complete with a memorial to the U.S. Navy, and improve circulation through the site. The bike ramp leading from the bridge and the path through the central island will be widened, the parking lot crossings will be clearly delineated, and the path between the traffic lanes at the entrance will be relocated for a safer and more direct northbound connection. *Call project manager Lyle Oehler of Caltrans at 510/286.5918.*

## SAN FRANCISCO

The city's central waterfront will soon get two new parks. **Rincon Park** will be slotted between the realigned Embarcadero roadway and the Bay, stretching from the foot of Howard Street to the historic Fireboat House at Pier 24. The park will feature an improved, 16-foot wide section of the "Herb Caen Way..." promenade and two full-service restaurants. Farther south, **China Basin Park**, between China Basin Channel and Pier 48, will serve as a backyard of sorts for the new Giants stadium. It will incorporate a 20-foot wide walk along the Bay, and parking for 200 bikes, to encourage bike commuting to the big game.

Thanks to the joint efforts of city agencies and nonprofit and community organizations, several public access projects have been completed or are underway at India Basin, in the city's Hunters Point neighborhood. Improvements include the new **Heron's Head Park** (formerly Pier 98), which provides trails and a fishing pier; expansion of the **India Basin Shoreline Park** to include group picnic areas, drinking fountains, an expanded lawn and new paths; wetland restoration and native plantings on the south shore of the basin; and unified interpretive signs for the area. *Call the India Basin Renaissance Hotline at 415/831.2090.*

## SAN MATEO

One of the last gaps of the Bay Trail around **Redwood Shores** will soon be closed with the installation of a 340-foot long decomposed granite path along the top of a section of the levee bordering Steinberger Slough, immediately north of the San Carlos Airport and at the end of Twin Dolphin Drive. The public access provisions, part of a new hotel development on the site, will include small viewing areas at both ends of the path and a 20-foot wide landscaped corridor connecting Twin Dolphin Drive to the shoreline.

## SANTA CLARA

The City of **San Jose** is in the process of preparing a **master plan** for the Bay Trail through its jurisdiction. The plan will establish the optimal feasible alignment for a trail between Sunnvale Baylands Park and Dixon Landing Road in Milpitas, a distance of approximately seven miles. When complete, the trail will likely pass through the historic town of Alviso and include a recreational spur to the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. *Call project managers Arlene Nakagawara or Judy Salvano, of the San Jose Department of Public Works, at 408/277.4777.*

## CONTRA COSTA

Public access improvements are coming to **Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor**, located on the north side of Point San Pablo in the City of **Richmond**. Several new points of interest, including a dockside plaza, a waterfront garden, beach access, a harbor overlook and collections of historic artifacts from the area, will be scattered around the harbor and strung along a new public path. The path will run along the shoreline, with short spurs to a sitting area at the end of the west breakwater and along the length of the east breakwater as well.

The East Bay Regional Park District has obtained funding to build a one-mile long paved trail from the intersection of Rydin Road and Central Avenue, in **Richmond**, to **Point Isabel Regional Shoreline**. The path will travel next to the Bay along Central and Isabel streets, and around the EBMUD overflow facility. A connecting path recently built by Caltrans to the south along I-580, between Central and Buchanan Street, in Albany, will open for use later this summer. *Contact Susan Williams of the park district at 510/544.2204 or at swilliam@ebparks.org.*

## ALAMEDA

The cities of **Oakland** and **Alameda** will soon see four small-scale redevelopment projects that will improve public access along their **Inner Harbor** shorelines. Two hotel projects on Oakland's Embarcadero at the northern end of **Brooklyn Basin**, across from **Coast Guard Island**, will resurface, widen and extend existing paths; one project, at the corner of 10th Avenue, will refurbish two existing decks, while the other, several hundred feet south, will provide an observation pier. Across the water, a 2-acre waterfront park will be provided as part of a new neighborhood at Alameda's **Fortmann Basin**; a 12-foot wide multi-use path will run through the park, between Jay and Hibbard streets. Finally, a shoreline path will be built through the **Barnhill Marina**, on Mariner Square Drive, to connect with planned and existing paths through the adjacent waterfront properties to the north and south.

A four-mile long trail will be provided as part of the proposed **Pacific Commons** project in **Fremont**. The 7.1-million sq. ft. development, at the southwest corner of I-880 and Auto Mall Parkway, will include retail, commercial, office and R&D uses, a hotel and conference center, and 49 acres of parks; 464 acres will be donated to the adjacent S.F. Bay National Wildlife Refuge for habitat restoration. The trail will run along the perimeter of the site, on the Bay side, between Auto Mall Parkway and an extension of Cushing Parkway. *Contact Len Banda, senior planner at the City of Fremont, at 510/494.4474 or at lbanda@ci.fremont.ca.us.*

## Thank You!

In past years, you might have received our annual year-end solicitation letter. Last year, however, we opted to save paper and mailing costs. Nevertheless, many people generously contributed, either directly or through workplace giving programs. If you have not donated this year, please consider doing so now. Your contributions pay for special projects like the printing of our color maps, and are never used for administrative expenses. Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to P.O. Box 2050, Oakland, CA 94604-2050. We thank the following people for donations made since August 1999:

**Trail Blazers (\$500 or more)**  
Eugene and Ruth Leong

**Trail Builders (\$200-\$499)**  
Nancy and Donald Burnett, Shanna O'Hare, Keith Slibsager, Chin Ming Yang

**Trail Champions (\$100-\$199)**  
Bill and Bonnie Bliss, Robert and Patricia Brown, Victoria Eisen, Melvin Ishikata, Barbara Kautz, Jennifer Krebs, Niko Letunic, Marci Loss, Janet McBride, Jane McDougal, Tom Mikkelsen, Jeanne Perkins, Suzan Ryder, Revan & Elsa Tranter.

**Trail Friends (under \$100)**  
Frank Alberts, Scott Alkire, Mark Buckley, Dan Eeds, Robert Fink, Richard Forst, Mark Jordan, Betty Mar, Janet Noble, Mike Petkovich, Ceil Scandone, Paula Troy

## BTP Welcomes New Staff

The Bay Trail Project welcomes the newest addition to its staff, Laura Thompson, who was hired as a planner last September. Laura received her master's degree in urban planning from the University of Illinois in Chicago, moved to the Bay Area and worked for two years as a planner for San Mateo County before her recent switch. At the Bay Trail Project, Laura is the lead for projects in Contra Costa, Marin and San Mateo counties and the contact for the Bay Trail extension grants; she also updates our maps, maintains the inventory of Bay Trail gaps, coordinates our participation in community events, and maintains the donor database. Laura can be reached at 510/464.7909 or at [LauraT@abag.ca.gov](mailto:LauraT@abag.ca.gov).

## Transitions on the BTP Board

The Bay Trail Project says goodbye to outgoing Steering Committee co-chair Bill Bliss, who resigned after five years at the helm--to embark on a year-long bike ride around the world! Rick Parmer, a manager at the California Department of Fish and Game and long-time member of the committee, was elected to take Bill's place. Bill had been involved with the Bay Trail since its inception, helping to develop the plan for the Bay Trail more than ten years ago. We thank Bill for his years of service, dedication and outstanding leadership on behalf of the Bay Trail, and wish him the best on his new adventures. Also, we congratulate Rick on his new assignment as incoming co-chair.

## Go for a Hike Across the Golden Gate Bridge

On Saturday, June 3, in celebration of National Trails Day, Coastwalk is leading a hike across the Golden Gate Bridge. The 4-mile walk will begin at 10:30 am (gather at 9:30) at the junction of Conzelman and McCollough roads, in the Marin Headlands, and end at San Francisco's Baker Beach at approximately 12:30 pm. Bring a lunch, and listen to speakers, poets and music at the proclamation ceremony. Buses will be available for return to the staging area at 2:30. For more information, call 800/550.6854.

## Purging our Mailing List Saves us Money!

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**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, call us at 510/464.7935, visit our website at <http://baytrail.abag.ca.gov>, e-mail us at [BayTrail@abag.ca.gov](mailto:BayTrail@abag.ca.gov) or write to us at the address below.

Contributors: Niko Letunic, Janet McBride, Ceil Scandone and Laura Thompson. Designed and edited by Niko Letunic.



The San Francisco Bay Trail Project  
c/o Association of Bay Area Governments  
P.O. Box 2050  
Oakland, CA 94604-2050

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