

# Program Reservations

## For Schools and Groups

Each visitor center offers its own selection of programs for school classes and other organized groups. For information about program themes and the age/grade of the target audience, contact the visitor center you would like to visit. These programs are scheduled for weekdays and are available only by reservation.

## Application Procedure

- A. Program information and application forms are available from any of the six visitor centers. (See contact information on the back of this brochure.) Identify the program you are interested in and the visitor center that offers that program.
- B. Application deadlines are:
- ◆ Summer Programs – 5 pm, 1st Monday in May.
  - ◆ Fall Programs – 5 pm, 1st Monday in August.
  - ◆ Winter/Spring Programs – 5 pm, 1st Monday in December.
- C. Fill out an application for the program you would like, and mail it to the appropriate visitor center. Include a legal-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope. Applications will only be accepted via U.S. mail.

Please be sure that the contact person named on your application has all the information and the authority necessary to make final decisions on the date and time for your field trip reservation.

If you would like to schedule a program with another group, include the name of the other teacher/leader. There is a maximum of two classes per application and a total of no more than 65 students.

## *After the application deadline has passed, each visitor center will proceed as follows:*

1. All applications will be checked for duplication. Multiple applications will be rejected.
2. Visitor center staff will draw randomly from all eligible applications.
3. Applicants will be called by visitor center staff in the order in which they were selected.
4. Program dates are limited and each visitor center receives many applications. You will be more likely to secure a program reservation if you have a flexible schedule.
5. Once all the program reservations are taken, unsuccessful applicants will be put on a waiting list. They will also receive an information packet with alternative field trip opportunities.
6. Visitor center staff will do their best to find a naturalist program for as many groups as possible. If they cannot accommodate you, please try again.

## Visitor Centers

**ARDENWOOD HISTORIC FARM**  
Fremont (510) 796-0199  
ardnwood@ebparks.org

**BLACK DIAMOND MINES**  
Antioch (925) 757-2620  
bdvisit@ebparks.org

**COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK**  
Fremont (510) 795-9385  
chvisit@ebparks.org

**CRAB COVE at CROWN BEACH**  
Alameda (510) 521-6887  
ccove@ebparks.org

**SUNOL REGIONAL WILDERNESS**  
Sunol (925) 862-2601  
svisit@ebparks.org

**TILDEN NATURE AREA/EEC  
and LITTLE FARM**  
Berkeley (510) 525-2233  
tnarea@ebparks.org

This brochure is provided as a public service by the Interpretive and Recreation Services Division of the East Bay Regional Park District. For more information, call one of the visitor centers listed above.

 **East Bay Regional Park District**  
2950 Peralta Oaks Ct., P.O. Box 5381  
Oakland, CA 94605-0381  
(510) 635-0135  
www.ebparks.org



5/02

# Educational Services

— of —  
The East Bay Regional Parks

*Facilities and programs  
available at the Park  
District's Visitor Centers*



 **East Bay Regional Park District**  
www.ebparks.org

## *Educational Services of the East Bay Regional Parks*

A wealth of educational opportunities awaits you in the East Bay Regional Parks. Each year over 500,000 school children, family members, groups, and individuals participate in programs sponsored by the Park District that are fun learning experiences in the out-of-doors. The majority of the weekday programs are by reservation only (see Program Reservations). Many of these programs are designed to help teachers meet California State Frameworks and Standards.

Through exhibits, programs, publications, and special events, staff naturalists interpret the natural, historical, and cultural heritage of the East Bay parklands as well as the region. Whether you want to hike up a mountain or swap stories around a campfire, there is always something interesting going on in the East Bay Regional Parks.

This brochure describes the facilities and programs available at the Park District's six interpretive centers. You may visit our web site at [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org) or receive the bi-monthly schedule of programs by subscribing to the *Regional In Nature* newsletter. Once a year *Regional in Nature* can be found as an insert in most of the major newspapers of Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

For more information on subscribing to *Regional in Nature*, call (510) 544-2203.

The visitor centers are all wheelchair-accessible.

## *Sample Program Topics*

The classes offered by the naturalist staff are diverse and ever-changing. This list is a sample of recent offerings. Call a visitor center near you for further information or visit our web site at [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org) to read the current schedule of programs in *Regional In Nature*.

- Educators Academy
- Docent Classes
- Teacher Workshops
- Wildflower Walks
- Snake Talks
- Bike Hikes
- Film and Slide Shows
- Botanic Garden Walks
- Shoreline Exploration
- Mine Tours
- Indian Uses of Native Plants
- Old Ways Workshops
- Indian Shellmound Tours
- Folk Toys Workshop
- Animal Feeding
- Gardening
- Machinery Demonstration
- Treasures of the Trunk
- Farmyard Stories and Songs
- Indian Games
- Summer Science Weeks
- History Walks
- Mask Making
- Butterfly Gardening
- Kayaking
- Outdoor Skills
- Ice Cream Making

## *Special Programs for Youth*

A variety of exciting educational and recreation programs is available for all age groups. There is something for everyone from ages 3 to 17, from getting more comfortable in nature to learning how to swim. To request a brochure describing these programs, call any visitor center or (510) 636-1684.



## *Camp Arroyo*

This is a new state-of-the-art environmental education center and youth camp located south of Livermore. It introduces students, primarily from Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, to important concepts about sustainable living. The unique curriculum not only teaches students about our natural, cultural and built environment, but also provides a healthy atmosphere for students to develop a sense of community with their classmates.

For more information about Camp Arroyo call (510) 636-1684.

## *Teacher's Materials*

A variety of teacher's materials is available at your local visitor center. These include: nature and historic trail guides, brochures on snakes, butterflies, and wildflowers, and a selection of videos for all age groups on a wide range of nature and historic topics.

In addition, an assortment of portable natural history exhibits is available for classroom use. Subjects include birds, fungi, and snakes. Contact one of the following visitor centers: Black Diamond Mines, Coyote Hills Regional Park, Tilden Nature Area/EEC, or Sunol Regional Wilderness for more information.

## *Educator Training*

The Educators Academy is a series of courses available through the East Bay Regional Park District with support from the Regional Parks Foundation and California State University, Hayward. Every year, many one- or three-day trainings are presented in park sites throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties with the opportunity to receive college credit. To request the brochure describing these programs, call any visitor center or Reservations at (510) 636-1684.

## Tilden Nature Area

Located at the north end of Tilden Regional Park, this 740-acre preserve is set aside for the protection of plant and animal life and the surrounding watershed. The Nature Area's 14 miles of trails traverse all its natural communities: oak-bay and stream-side woodlands, fresh-water pond, grassland, chaparral, and eucalyptus and pine forests. The popular one-mile Jewel Lake Trail leads hikers through forest and woodland to the lake, and returns on a long boardwalk through mature riparian vegetation. Guide booklets for the Jewel Lake Trail are available at the Environmental Education Center (EEC.)



The Little Farm gives urban dwellers a chance to experience and learn about farm animals. Farm programs feature livestock care, gardening, and homestead skills; visitors are encouraged to take part in a variety of activities and crafts. Many other naturalist-led activities and programs are also available. Most naturalist programs begin at the EEC, where visitors will find an exhibit hall revealing the story of Wildcat Creek Watershed, and a Water Discovery room featuring interactive displays. The EEC also offers books and nature-related items for sale and portable educational displays for rent.

**The EEC is open Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm (except major holidays).** Staff naturalists also offer programs at Pt. Pinole, Wildcat Canyon, Brooks Island, and other regional parks in the northwest sector of the Park District. For more information about programs in these parks call (510) 525-2233, E-mail [tnarea@ebparks.org](mailto:tnarea@ebparks.org), or write:

Tilden Nature Area  
Tilden Regional Park  
Berkeley, CA 94708-2396



## Crab Cove Marine Reserve

The life forms of San Francisco Bay Estuary are the focal points of an exciting array of exhibits and programs at the Crab Cove Visitor Center and Marine Reserve in Alameda. Crab Cove is located within Robert Crown Memorial State Beach and preserves a half-mile stretch of mudflat and rocky shore. There is wheelchair access to intertidal and lagoon areas. A wide variety of animals are protected within the reserve ranging from crabs to clams. These animals are highlighted in scheduled educational programs for school groups and the general public. The visitor center houses a large saltwater aquarium, which displays seldom seen fish from the Bay waters. Also found within the center is a pictorial history of the Old Neptune Beach area, once known as the "Coney

Island of the West." Visitors will find information on sharks, whales, and how the Bay changes with the seasons, and many other fascinating subjects. In the Old Wharf Classroom, staff naturalists orient visitors to Bay ecology before exploring the intertidal zone.

**The Crab Cove Visitor Center is open Wednesday – Sunday, 10 am to 4:30 pm, March – November.**

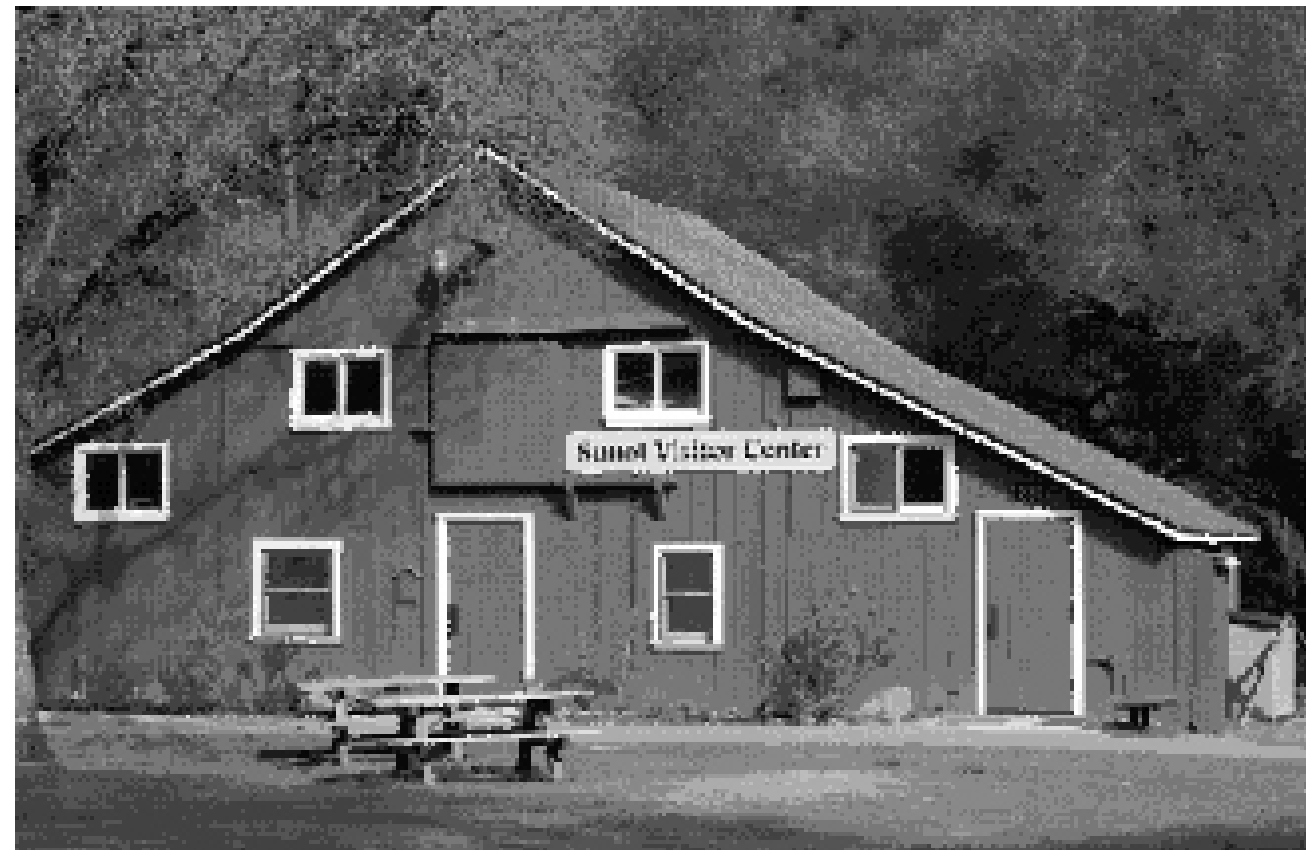
The Center carries many Bay-related books and items for sale. Also located within Robert Crown Memorial State Beach is the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary. This cordgrass marsh is a popular spot for bird-watchers and nature lovers. It is prime habitat for the endangered California clapper rail.

Crab Cove staff members conduct a wide variety of programs at Robert Crown Memorial State Beach, Martin Luther King Jr. and Oyster Bay Regional Shorelines, Redwood, Anthony Chabot, and Lake Chabot Regional Parks, Sibley Volcanic Preserve, and Huckleberry Botanic Preserve. For more information about programs at these parks call (510) 521-6887, E-mail [ccove@ebparks.org](mailto:ccove@ebparks.org), or write:

Crab Cove Visitor Center  
1252 McKay Ave.  
Alameda, CA 94501-7805

## Sunol Wilderness

Alameda Creek winds its way through the rugged hills of the 6,858-acre Sunol Regional Wilderness. Many Native Americans and settlers have lived their lives along this creek, which is Alameda County's longest stream. Interpretive programs conducted by naturalists and docents provide an opportunity to learn about these earlier residents and experience the beauty of this scenic park. More than 30 miles of trails offer escape and solitude in an expansive wilderness. The self-guided Indian Joe Trail is a one-mile trek into both history and the



area's plant and animal communities.

**The Sunol Visitor Center (Old Green Barn) is open weekends, 9:30 am to 5 pm, year-round.**

Interpretive programs are also conducted in the neighboring Ohlone Wilderness, along the Ohlone Trail, Pleasanton Ridge, Shadow Cliffs, and Del Valle Regional Parks.



**The Del Valle Visitor Center is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 10 am to 5 pm May – September, and on summer holidays.**

The self-guided Oak Hills Nature Trail is a one-mile loop exploring the diversity of the Del Valle environments. For more information about programs at these parks call (510) 862-2601, E-mail [vsvisit@ebparks.org](mailto:vsvisit@ebparks.org), or write:

Sunol Regional Wilderness  
P.O. Box 82  
Sunol, CA 94586



## Coyote Hills

For thousands of years, the Tuibun Ohlone Indians occupied this marshland area. The Tuibun village sites within the park's boundaries are evidence of thriving activity. One site may be visited on naturalist-led programs. A few structures which have been reconstructed by naturalists, Ohlones, and volunteers show what early-day Ohlone structures may have been like. Coyote Hills is also widely known for its rich diversity of birds, including a number of rarely seen species. Quiet observation of the abundant bird life is possible from a boardwalk traversing the marsh. Pick up a booklet at the visitor center for the one-mile, self-guided Muskrat Trail. A trail also connects Coyote Hills to the

## Ardenwood Historic Farm

Ardenwood is a re-creation of a late 19th-century family farm. The 205-acre farm site transports the visitor back to experience our agrarian past. The interpretive programs at Ardenwood are designed to develop an awareness of local history, changing agricultural methods, and our undeniable dependence on the land.



The programs at Ardenwood allow visitors to observe and participate in a wide variety of activities characteristic of a turn-of-the-19th-century farm. Features include farm animals, Victorian gardens, antique farm equipment, craft demonstrations, and crop planting and harvesting. Also available are nature walks, monarch butterfly and evening programs, seasonal special events, and self-guided tours. The farm features a horse-drawn train, demonstrations, blacksmithing, a food concession, and tours of the elegant Patterson House (April through November).

**Ardenwood Historic Farm is open Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm.**

For more information about programs at Ardenwood call (510) 796-0663, E-mail [ardenwood@ebparks.org](mailto:ardenwood@ebparks.org), or write:

Ardenwood Historical Farm  
34600 Ardenwood Blvd.  
Fremont, CA 94555

## Black Diamond Mines

Located in the northern foothills of Mt. Diablo, this nearly 4,760-acre preserve is rich in early California history. The Bay Miwok Indians were the first known inhabitants of this area. The later ranching history is preserved in buildings, corals, and the cattle that graze the hills. It was also the site of 19th-century coal mining and 20th-century sand mining. Interpretive programs take visitors into an underground mining museum, to coal mining-era Rose Hill Cemetery, and through former historic town sites. In addition to its rich cultural history, the park is an important geological, botanical, and zoological preserve with 34 miles of horse and hiking trails. Deer, coyotes, and mountain lions are among the animals that inhabit the grassland, foothill, woodland, and chaparral habitats. Several rare species of plants and animals are found here. Scheduled walks explore this region's natural and cultural history.

**The Great House Visitor Center is open Saturday and Sunday, 10 am to 4:30 pm, March**



**– November.** Staff naturalists also lead a variety of programs in Eastern Contra Costa County, as well as at Martinez and Carquinez Straight Regional Shorelines, Morgan Territory Regional Preserve, and Briones and Diablo Foothills Regional Parks. For more information about programs in these parks call (925) 757-2620, E-mail [bdvisit@ebparks.org](mailto:bdvisit@ebparks.org), or write:

Black Diamond Mines  
5175 Somersville Road  
Antioch, CA 94509

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. An exceptional 360-degree view of the Bay Area is found from the top of Red Hill Trail. Thousands of adults and children visit Coyote Hills annually to augment their studies in Ohlone culture and history and ecology. Naturalist-led hikes and other activities are also scheduled for the general public.

**The Coyote Hills Visitor Center is open Tuesday – Sunday, 9:30 am to 5 pm, except Thanksgiving and Christmas.**

Naturalists also offer programs at Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer and Mission Peak Regional Parks, Hayward Regional Shoreline, and Alameda Creek Regional Trail. For more information about programs in these parks call (510) 795-9385, E-mail [chvisit@ebparks.org](mailto:chvisit@ebparks.org), or write:

Coyote Hills Regional Park  
8000 Patterson Ranch Rd.  
Fremont, CA 94555