

**Save The Bay www.saveSFbay.org
Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline
Project Description**

Community-Based Restoration and Stewardship

Save The Bay began our Community-Based Restoration Program in September 2000, with the establishment of our first wetland restoration site at the Martin Luther King, Jr Regional Shoreline in Oakland. The overall objective for our Community-based Restoration Program is to form partnerships between Save The Bay, local middle and high schools, community groups, corporate groups, and resource agencies to increase support for and participation in the protection and restoration of creeks and wetlands throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. By providing local opportunities for individuals to participate in hands-on restoration activities, we involve a variety of community members in Bay education, habitat restoration, and environmental stewardship.

Project Objectives

Save The Bay's overall objectives for the MLK Shoreline restoration project are as follows:

- Involve local elementary through high school students and community members in habitat restoration efforts at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline.
- Link volunteers with wetland and creek restoration projects at this and other sites to increase the public's knowledge of restoration efforts in the Bay Area.
- Assist in the restoration and monitoring of the 72 acre MLK Restoration Marsh and Damon Slough wetlands, through activities such as non-native plant removal, native plant propagation and planting, native oyster and water quality monitoring, and shoreline clean-ups.
- Train students and community members to evaluate restoration success through monitoring of vegetation growth, water quality, invertebrates, and wildlife.

Project Partners

Save The Bay's primary partner at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline is East Bay Regional Park District, the land-managing agency. Save The Bay works with EBRPD staff on restoration project planning, plant propagation, and management of the project. Additional partners in the project include the Port of Oakland, Wetland and Water Resources, the National Partnership between Restore America's Estuaries and the NOAA Fisheries Community-Based Restoration Program, the California Coastal Conservancy, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and more than 150 local middle and high schools and community and corporate volunteer groups.

Site Description

The Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Shoreline is part of East Bay Regional Park District, and is located in the Oakland Estuary at the southern end of San Leandro Bay. The shoreline includes the mouths of eight major creek systems including San Leandro Creek and Lyon Creek which empties into Damon Slough. The area includes Arrowhead Marsh, a healthy 50-acre tidal wetland, and a 72 acre wetland restoration project that is the result of a lawsuit against the Port of Oakland. Our project site includes the shoreline, creek mouths, Damon Slough, and the perimeter of the 72 acre restoration marsh.

Restoration Description

The focus of Save The Bay's project is native plant species propagation to restore creek and wetland habitat along the MLK, Jr. Shoreline. Activities include:

- non-native plant removal
- site-specific native seed collection
- native plant propagation
- winter outplantings

- creek and shoreline clean-ups
- site monitoring

Training volunteers to accomplish needed restoration tasks

Save The Bay works closely with East Bay Regional Park District staff to plan restoration activities that are appropriate for students and layperson volunteers. As with all of our site partnerships, the land-owning agencies have set strong restoration priorities and clear habitat goals, but often do not have the staff time and/or funding to address such large issues as non-native removal and site-specific plantings within their regional jurisdictions. Save The Bay addresses this need by working under agency guidance to connect community volunteers and students with opportunities to meet critical restoration needs. Native plant seeds collected from the area by volunteers are used to revegetate and restore the upland marsh and riparian corridors leading into San Leandro Bay. These restoration activities done by volunteers are helping to stabilize creek, wetland, and Bay shoreline, thus improving habitat for fisheries, invertebrates, birds, and other wildlife in San Francisco Bay.

School and Community Volunteers Are Making a Difference

Save The Bay works with a variety of school, community, and corporate volunteer groups to educate the public about wetlands and involve them in actions to restore this critical habitat.

- Since beginning the project in 2000, we have led a total of **668** restoration field programs at the MLK site for **9,298 students** and **3,829 adults**.
- In total, **13,127 volunteers have given 52,000 hours** of their time towards restoration activities to improve wetland habitat at the MLK, Jr. Regional Shoreline.

Restoration Tally of Accomplishments

- Over 200,000 pounds of non-natives removed
- Over 60,000 pounds of trash removed from the creeks and shoreline
- Over 40,000 native wetland plants grown and planted from seed collected on site
- 10,000 more natives growing in our native plant nursery for winter 06-07

Benefits to Habitat

The efforts that our volunteers have put in are making a difference to the health of this area. According to the most recent monitoring report for the restoration marsh, there have been significant improvements to the amount of vegetation in the wetlands and the populations of species that use this habitat. These include:

- Marsh vegetation now dominates the site, and the project has met its' 5 year performance standard for vegetation in four years.
- Weed invasion is largely restricted to marsh upland edges and appears minimal.
- The restoration site now provides significant habitat for shorebirds, waterfowl, and other birds. Over 45 species of birds have been documented using the new marsh.
- Overall, the restoration site provides a mosaic of habitats for a variety of species.

For More Information please contact:

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