

Did You Know?

The Baylands Nature Preserve has a storied history. In 1921, Palo Alto conceived to develop a 40-acre marshland into a multipurpose recreation area. Facilities would include a saltwater swimming pool, a municipal airport, a yacht harbor with clubhouse, a basin for seaplanes, a game reserve, and areas for playgrounds, picnic grounds, and a golf course. The concept for public land use changed in the 60s to an open space park. The Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretative Center, the Harriet Mundy Marsh, the Emily Renzel Wetlands, and Byxbee Park Hills were added. The Yacht Harbor closed in 1986.

Bounded by Mountain View and East Palo Alto, the 1,940-acre Baylands Nature Preserve is the largest tract of undisturbed marshland in the San Francisco Bay.

The preserve is an important habitat for migratory shore birds; it is considered one of the best bird watching locations on the west coast.

A substantial resident population of fowl lives at the preserve; it is also a major migratory stopover on the Pacific Flyway.

The 15 miles of multi-use trails provide access to a unique mixture of tidal and freshwater habitats.

The flood basin is bordered by Adobe and Matadero creeks, serving as a catchment basin to protect East Palo Alto from flooding.

Reclaimed water from nearby Palo Alto feeds a 15-acre freshwater pond.

The Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center is built on pilings at the edge of the marsh. A quarter mile plank walk leads across the marsh to a panoramic view of San Francisco Bay.

The Baylands Nature Preserve is open every day of the year from 8 a.m.-sunset.

Airedales on leash are welcomed in the preserve except around Renzel Pond.

We will picnic with our Airedales in the yard of the former harbor master's cottage—now converted to a ranger station.

Join CATC's April 1 walk to personally experience the views, nature, and habitats that this preserve offers!