



EXPLANATION

- Creeks
- Former creeks, buried or drained, and Bay shoreline, circa 1850
- Underground culverts and storm drains
- Engineered channels
- Willow groves, circa 1850
- Beach, circa 1850
- Tidal marsh, circa 1850
- now water
- now fill land
- Bay
- Bay, circa 1850, now fill land
- Artificial bodies of water
- Present watersheds
- Points of interest

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1. Creekside Park** Cerrito Creek flows through this small park on the north side of Albany Hill. This is an engineered channel, replacing the marsh and meandering slough that originally extended from Yosemite Avenue to the bay. Once a Miwok summering place, water birds such as egrets and herons are frequent visitors.
- 2. John Hinkel Park** Blackberry Creek flows through this wooded park, but at a reduced flow because its headwaters are diverted into the Spruce Street storm drain and carried to Marin Creek. Downstream at Capistrano Avenue, Blackberry Creek is again diverted into Marin Creek, never to reach its original destination, Middle Creek.
- 3. Codornices Park** Two branches of Codornices Creek meet in a culvert beneath the park. Walk up the south branch beside the picnic area or the north branch beside the playground to a magical world of trees, rushing water, and rocks. The name "Codornices", means "quail" in Spanish. Mostly unadvertised in its journey to the bay, visit the creek again at the Rose Garden, Live Oak Park, under the BART tracks, and at #5.
- 4. Thousand Oaks School** A previously culverted section of Blackberry Creek on the school grounds was restored in 1995. Watch for the gradual re-establishment of a natural streambed and streamside plants and animals.
- 5. Albany Waterfront Park** Park your car at the trailhead, then walk back toward the freeway and the bird-rich Albany mudflats. Codornices Creek flows through a salt marsh on your right, then under the road into the mudflats. The Marin Creek storm drain enters the mudflats from under the freeway. Viewing platforms and informational signs help you appreciate these

- wetland habitats. By foot or by bicycle, explore the park (built on landfill) and the Bay Trail, with beach, wildlife, outdoor art, and spectacular views of the Golden Gate Bridge.
- 6. University of California campus** Visit the central part of campus to see a landscape design that integrates a natural creek. The cool shady banks of Strawberry Creek are perfect places to read, daydream, or study the creek.
- 7. Strawberry Canyon fire trail** A haven for runners, this trail crosses Strawberry Creek and Hamilton Gulch, then works its way upward along the side of the canyon. Near the crest of the hill, as you look out over the canyon, you can appreciate the bowl shape of this part of the watershed.
- 8. University of California Botanical Garden** Strawberry Creek is landscaped in different styles in different botanical communities. Compare appearance of the creek in the Japanese garden with that in the California-native garden.
- 9. Strawberry Creek Park** This small section of Strawberry Creek on Alston Way west of Sacramento was "daylighted" or restored in 1982. Big chunks of concrete that form the northern bank were once part of the culvert that held the creek. This is a good example of a restored creek that has become an asset to the community.
- 10. Berkeley Aquatic Park** Standing on the east shore of the lagoon, you are on one of the few stretches of original Bay shore left in the area; behind you is the old wave-cut cliff. The freeway is built on earth fill and forms the west shore of this artificial lagoon. Tidal flow comes in and out through the culvert under the freeway,

- 11. Temescal Creek Park** Near the Department of Motor Vehicles on Claremont Avenue, the creek bed you see is not really Temescal Creek. Most of the water of Temescal Creek runs in a large culvert beneath you. The water you see is pumped into this artificial creek bed during the summer months to create a park amenity. The system was built when this section of Temescal Creek was culverted in the 1970's.
- 12. Lake Temescal Regional Park** Lake Temescal was created in the 1860's by damming Temescal Creek. The Hayward fault runs along the northeast side of the lake and continues southeast parallel to Temescal Creek and the Warren Freeway for about a mile. To see a natural section of Temescal Creek, walk south along the shore to where the creek enters the lake.
- 13. Emeryville Crescent** These wetlands are part of the new Eastshore State Park. Public access is restricted to preserve the area as nesting habitat and foraging grounds for shore birds. Temescal Creek enters the Bay here, as does storm water from West Oakland (See #14).
- 14. Ettie Street Pump Station** Flooding was a serious problem in West Oakland after these former lowlands and marshlands were developed in the late 1800's. In 1954 this problem was solved by constructing an extensive system of storm drains, and pumping the storm water from West Oakland to the Emeryville Crescent via the Ettie Street pump station.
- 15. Mandela Parkway** Engineering design which failed to account for the soft marsh sediments beneath this stretch of the former Nimitz freeway was partly responsible for the collapse of the double-decker freeway in the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. The freeway has been removed and converted to a ground level parkway.

- 16. Glen Echo Park** This tiny two block park between Monte Vista and Montell Streets is a shady place for a stroll along Glen Echo Creek.
- 17. Oak Glen Park** Glen Echo Creek is the main attraction in this lovely strip park along Richmond Boulevard.
- 18. Lake Merritt, Lakeside Park** Lake Merritt is a tidal estuary that originally connected to San Francisco Bay through San Antonio Creek, a quarter-mile wide waterway. Now it connects to the Oakland Inner Harbor via a tide gate, so tidal flushing is greatly reduced. The lake is a mixture of saltwater and freshwater.
- 19. Lake Merritt Tide Gate** This gate, accessible by taking the walkway under 7th Street, controls the flow of the tides in and out of Lake Merritt. The water level is usually kept high for recreational use, but is pumped down in the winter to accommodate storm runoff. Note how much more lush the marsh vegetation is on the south side where the tide cycles naturally.
- 20. The Oakland Museum** Stop in and explore the fascinating exhibits about our East Bay streams and marshes. You can also pick up a copy of this and other East Bay creek maps in the bookstore.
- 21. Piedmont Park** Visit this small park near Piedmont High School to see tiny Bushy Dell Creek. The Parks Department has been restoring native vegetation here. Look for young maples, oaks, alum root plants, and sword ferns among the redwoods and eucalyptus trees. It will be interesting to see whether the aggressive, non-native English ivy and periwinkle can be displaced by these natives.
- 22. Dimond Canyon Park** Treat yourself to a beautiful hike along Sausal Creek through a wooded canyon.

- Be sure to notice the concrete walls, check dams, and other erosion control structures that were built by the Works Progress Administration around 1940. Also notice that after 50 years, the check dams are full of sediment and the concrete is being undermined by erosion. There are plans to remove some of the concrete and restore the creek to a more natural condition during the summer of 2000.
- 23. Trailhead** Park on the east side of the freeway for access to the trail up Palo Seco Creek, the west side for the trail down Dimond Canyon, or better yet, use the walkway under the freeway for access to both trails! These trails follow two of the most significant sections of natural creek remaining in the East Bay. Enjoy!
- 24. Joaquin Miller Park** Palo Seco Creek runs through the canyon west of the park headquarters. The canyon was part of San Antonio Forest, a stand of huge redwoods stretching from Dimond Canyon over the hills to Moraga which was completely logged in the 1850's. Today's redwoods are second growth. Past Skyline Boulevard the park connects with Redwood Regional Park.
- 25. Peralta Hacienda Park** This is another example of an artificial creek created by diverting a portion of the water from the main creek culverted below. To see the real Peralta Creek, also known as Adams Creek, walk across Davis Street and look down.
- 26. Foothill Meadows Park** A short segment of Peralta Creek is open through this park. The storm drain bypass carries much of the water flow, but there are plans to allow greater flow through the creek bed in the future.
- 27. Mouth of Sausal Creek** Totally artificial, this culverted creek spills into the dredged tidal canal. The

- best view of the culvert outlet is from the fishing pier on the Oakland side of the Fruitvale Bridge. The culvert is big enough to paddle a canoe into! Historical records, and the name "Sausal", meaning "willow grove", suggest that this creek may have flowed into a large willow grove near the Fruitvale BART station.
- 28. Mills College** Stop at the booth at the MacArthur Boulevard entrance and ask for a campus map and directions to Lake Aliso. Lake Aliso is a flood control pond, which, when full, is habitat for water birds. Walk downstream from the lake along one of the two remaining long reaches of Lion Creek. The creek is open all through the campus and, though pollution from old sulfur mine tailings upstream may have reduced creek life, there are many birds and beautiful glades to enjoy.
- 29. Leona Heights Regional Preserve** Hike up this canyon through one of the most natural watersheds in the East Bay. The creek is the Rifle Range Branch of Arroyo Viejo Creek. This water will eventually enter the Bay at Damon Slough.
- 30. Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center** Arroyo Viejo Creek flows along the edge of this park, its banks reinforced with concrete to prevent erosion. An old outdoor amphitheater is nestled in a meander of the creek.
- 31. San Leandro Regional Shoreline - Damon Slough** Park at the Curt Flood Sports Complex off Oakport Road, hike the asphalt trail south to its end, then continue a little further to Damon Slough. Water from both Arroyo Viejo and Lion Creek enters the Bay here. Look for pickleweed and shorebirds, or stay and watch the tides.

CREEK & WATERSHED MAP of Oakland & Berkeley

By Janet M. Sowers, William Lettis & Associates, Inc.
Historical wetlands research by the San Francisco Estuary Institute

This map shows the modern hydrology of the Oakland-Berkeley area, including watershed boundaries and the present-day creek and storm drain network. Also shown are the historical shoreline, tidal marshes, beaches, willow groves, and creeks. Most of these historical features no longer exist. Development has resulted in the undergrounding of many creeks, and in the filling of portions of the bay and almost all tidal marsh lands.

Notes: The map shows creeks having a minimum of 0.2 square kilometers of watershed, and storm drains 24 inches or greater in diameter. Where the entire creek flow is carried by a culvert buried in a former creek bed, only the culvert symbol (red dots) is shown on the map.

How this map was made: The locations of storm drains and present-day creeks were compiled from city and county maps of the storm runoff system, and confirmed by field inspection. The locations of creeks circa 1850 were reconstructed from historical maps archived at the University of California, and from city creek and sewer maps. Sloughs were generalized from 1856 U.S. Coast Survey maps. The locations of the shoreline, tidal marshes, beaches and willow groves circa 1850 were derived primarily from the 1959 Bay Area EcoAtlas, a GIS map prepared by the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), Richmond, CA. The EcoAtlas map was compiled from a variety of historical sources, including the 1856 U.S. Coast Survey charts, early Spanish and American maps, and written accounts.

Accuracy: Every effort was made to produce an accurate map. However, no map is completely accurate and all lines should be considered approximate. There is error in the historical maps, in the transfer of historical information to modern maps, and in the modern maps themselves. In addition, natural shifting of creeks, sloughs, tidal marshes, shoreline, and willow groves can be expected to have occurred both before and after the historical maps were made. Historical shoreline and tidal marsh boundaries are considered accurate to within 200 feet on either side of the line shown. Present-day creek and storm drain locations are considered accurate to within 100 feet on either side of the line shown.

Complete documentation including a list of sources can be obtained from Janet Sowers at William Lettis & Associates, Inc. in Walnut Creek, or through The Oakland Museum of California. The base map (showing present geographic features) was prepared in 1980 by the U. S. Geological Survey. Minor updates to roads and highways were made for this edition.

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