



RICHMOND BAY TRAIL MID YEAR 2013 REPORT

This 14th Mid Year Report by TRAC, the Trails for Richmond Action Committee, features progress toward closing gaps in Richmond’s Bay Trail. Despite having over 31 miles of Bay Trail in place, 10.8 miles remain to be built as shown on the last page of this report.

Closing Gaps in the Ferry Point Loop



The 4.4-mile [Ferry Point Loop](#) encircling Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline is one of the most scenic and historic recreational sections of the San Francisco Bay Trail.

[Shipyard 3 Trail to Ferry Point](#): Richmond’s W.R. Forde submitted the qualifying low bid for this project. Two new trail sections should be completed this fall. One is a 0.27-mile trail between Shipyard 3 Trail and Brickyard Cove Rd. creating public access to a scenic stretch of shoreline. The other section is a 0.40-mile gap between the western end of Brickyard Landing condominiums and Dornan Drive. The result will be a continuous Class I hiking and biking trail between Shipyard 3 Trail and Ferry Point. The project is being funded by ABAG Bay Trail Project and East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Measure WW grants supplemented by Cosco Busan oil spill compensation funds.

[Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline](#): EBRPD held a “Walk in the Park” public event on June 8 to obtain ideas for “re-visioning” this splendid park and updating its Land Use Plan. Thanks to acquisition of lands from BNSF railroad in recent years, it will be possible to realign the Bay Trail along the mile-long shoreline between Keller Beach and Ferry Point, i.e. put the Bay Trail next to the Bay.



[Plunge Bay Trail Gap Closure](#): The City of Richmond’s Engineering Services Dept. has completed construction design to close a 0.16-mile gap in the Bay Trail along Garrard Blvd. between Cutting Blvd. and the Ferry Point Tunnel. This is the central hub of the Bay Trail in Richmond where spokes converge from the north and east to provide access to the Ferry Point Loop & Shipyard 3 Trail. The project is ready to advertise for construction bids.

Connecting with Point Pinole Regional Shoreline



San Pablo Vole by Rachel Diaz-Bastin

EBRPD has completed 90% construction designs for both eastern and southern Bay Trail linkages with Point Pinole Regional Shoreline (PPRS). The eastern approach from the end of Atlas Road requires building a bridge to be opened next year over the Union Pacific railroad corridor. The southern approach is a 1.5-mile trail between Goodrick Ave. and the Bay View Trail in PPRS. This is an integral part of the Breuner Marsh Restoration & Public Access Project which has been approved by California Fish & Wildlife Service with other permits in progress. The Bay Trail is expected to open in late 2015 as one of the final stages of this \$8 million project.

Connecting with Point Molate

Point Molate Beach Park is scheduled to reopen late summer following the City Council's vote of approval in March. The 5.5-mile trail spur running from the Plunge through Point Molate to the Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor represents about half of Richmond's uncompleted Bay Trail. The keystone to closing this gap is a one-mile trail section between the bus stop at Castro St. & Tewksbury Ave. and the existing trail under the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge.



Last year, the Richmond City Council approved a local consensus trail alignment and committed funds for preparation of environmental documents and permit applications, as well as construction plans, specifications & cost estimates. This year, the

City of Richmond and Caltrans executed a cooperative agreement for Caltrans participation in the project. Over 90% of the local consensus trail alignment is on Caltrans property. The desired outcome will be a Project Initiation Document (PID) representing a consensus between Caltrans and the City of Richmond on the project's concept and basic design features. With a PID in hand, the City and its partners will be able to develop a funding plan to construct the project.

Voulez-vous Marcher Avec Moi?

Kaiser Permanente is extolling the ["hot, new fitness trend sweeping the nation called Marcher based on ancient movements dating back to the beginnings of human history"](#). Kaiser doctors state that Marcher will "help prevent heart disease, diabetes, asthma and depression as it strengthens and tones the body". No special equipment or professional trainers are needed since "Marcher" is simply French for "walk". And what better place to walk than along a scenic stretch of shoreline Bay Trail?!



You can choose sections of Bay Trail in Richmond from the map on the next page with more details available in three informative [Bay Trail guides](#). You also may explore the 330 miles built of the planned 500-mile San Francisco Bay Trail encircling both San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. A cool, new set of Bay Trail map cards is available from the [San Francisco Bay Trail Project](#) and the [Visitor Education Center](#) of Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park.

With the new map set in hand, Richmond residents Kate Lord and Bonnie Leonard have adopted a mission to walk the entire Bay Trail in three to five+ mile stretches once or twice each week. They've completed the North Bay and Contra Costa County and are now moving through Alameda County. Kate reports "There's always something interesting to discuss -- Bay restoration, wildlife, heretofore unknown parks, etc. Since we take only one car and not every trail is a loop, there has been some back tracking to do, but we don't mind that one bit because things always look different walking in a different direction. All in all it's an interesting, rewarding adventure and we always look forward to each outing knowing now from experience there will be something new and unexpected to see."



Kurt Schwabe, a 45-year old former marathon runner, took on a more strenuous mission than Kate and Bonnie, who are in their late 60's to early 70's. Using public transit, Kurt left his San Francisco home every morning in June to hike the entire Bay Trail around San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. On June 9 & 10, a handful of locals joined Kurt as he hiked through Richmond. Kurt wrote: "Having now completed nearly three hundred miles of my journey, I look back on the two days I spent in Richmond as a highlight of my trip. The incredible diversity in landscape, people and history has me talking about Richmond in a new light. This town and it's impressive shoreline is a must see, not only for new visitors to the Bay Area but also for locals who are not aware of the rich heritage of Richmond."

left to right: Anne Ronquillo, John Conroy, Bruce Beyaert. **Kurt Schwabe** & Neil Vongseni after hiking from Point Pinole to Point Richmond

So, when your sweetheart or friend says "Voulez-vous marcher avec moi, the proper response would be to say "Certainement, allons au Bay Trail!"

Thank you for supporting completion of the Bay Trail in Richmond. Please share this report with your friends and neighbors, encouraging them to join the Richmond Bay Trail Network at no cost by e-mailing tracbaytrail@earthlink.net. For maps, a calendar of events and other information about the Bay Trail in Richmond, please visit <http://pointrichmond.com/baytrail/>.



TRAC Steering Committee: Donald Bastin, Bruce Beyaert, Bruce Brubaker, Whitney Dotson, Jerry Rasmussen and Nancy Strauch

