A century ago Marina Bay was a land that dissolved into tidal marsh at the edge of the great estuary we call San Francisco Bay. One could find shell mounds left by the Huchiun tribe of native Ohlone and watch sailing vessels ply the bay with passengers and cargo. The arrival of Standard Oil and the Santa Fe Railroad at the beginning of the 20th century sparked a transformation of this landscape that continues today. The Marina Bay segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail offers us new opportunities to explore the history, wildlife, and scenery of Richmond's dynamic southeastern shore.

**Ford Assembly Building**
- Built in 1939, the Richmond Ford Motor Co. Plant was the largest assembly plant on the West Coast. During WWII, it switched to the assembly of combat vehicles. A rare example of architect Albert Kahn's distinctive 20th-century industrial architecture, the building has been renovated for mixed uses.

**Lucretia Bulvars Park**
- Interpretive elements pay tribute to the collective contribution of all San Francisco Bay Area WWII Shipyards. To the west is Point Potrero, once the site of Kaiser Shipyard #2.

**Sheridan Point**
- Site of the Riveter Memorial, with its historic photos, drawings, and memories of shipyard workers in a framework reminiscent of a Liberty Ship's proa construction. Is located here.

**Marina Bay Park**
- Future site of Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park Visitor Center

**Shimada Peace Park**
- A local artist’s installation in this small waterfront park commemorates friendship with Richmond’s sister city in Japan. Water activities are popular from this location.

**Must see, must do ...**
- Walk the timeline through the Rosie the Riveter Memorial to the water’s edge.
- Visit all 8 historical interpretive markers and learn about the World War II Home Front.
- Fish at high tide with the locals (and remember your fishing license).
- Visit the S.S. Red Oak Victory ship in Shipyard #5 and see a ship’s restoration first hand. Call 510-237-2933 or visit www.ssredoakvictory.org.
- Be a bird watcher; be binoculars.

**MARINA BAY PARK** was once at the heart of Kaiser Richmond Shipyard #2. The Rosie the Riveter Monument, with its historic photos, drawings, and memories of shipyard workers in a framework reminiscent of a Liberty Ship’s proa construction, is located here. Dining and food services overlook the Marina west of the park.

**MEKER TIDAL CREEK** goes through coastal salt marsh, one of the most productive ecosystems on earth. Bay and brackish water provide a nursery home for innumerable species of animals and micro-organisms that process plant material into detritus, the foundation of the food web. The creek’s upper reaches are home to Grey Fox, Barn Owl, Western Garter Snake, Northern Alligator Lizard, Pacific Treefrog, butterflies and skunks. Near the bay, Marsh Wrens, sandpipers and Long-billed Curlews probe the mudflats with bills specially suited to feature intertidal macrofauna hidden beneath the surface. Look for Mallards, American Wigeons and Least Grebes, and Wildlife Trails leading to inland pools.

**BROOKS ISLAND REGIONAL PRESERVE** is a 375-acre island inhabited by the Ohlone Indians some 2,500 years ago. European settlers used the island for grazing and quarrying. Now managed by the East Bay Regional Park District, Brooks Island is a protected site for nesting Caspian terns and California gulls, as well as preserved Indian shell mounds and burial sites. Visit by permit only. For information call East Bay Regional Park District at 888-327-2577.

**Bird Watching**
- BIRD WATCHING opportunities are plentiful along the trail. The adjacent open bay waters, salt marsh, and tidal mudflats are important wintering and stopover sites for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. Summer resident birds nesting nearby include American Avocets, Black Oystercatchers, egrets, herons, terns and gulls. The Chevron Clayton Rail, now endangered, may sometimes be seen or heard foraging in tidal channels. Avoid disturbing birds and their habitat—enjoy them quietly from the trail, and keep dogs on leashes.
TIMELINE | Richmond’s Southeastern Shore

2000 B.C.
Native American Ohlones (Huchiun) establish near permanent settlements along Richmond’s shore, leaving many shellmounds as evidence of their presence. The largest mound was located northwest of the present-day marina, at a place called Ellis Landing.

1859 A.D.
Captain George Ellis inaugurates Richmond's first port facility, along a dough to the north and east of present-day Harbour Way and Hall Avenue.

1900
The Standard Oil Company and the Santa Fe Railroad begin operations in the marshlands to the north of the small settlement of Point Richmond. Within a few years, these wetlands, navigable at high tide, are completely filled in. Roads and rails now meander where once Captain Ellis sailed his vessels Sierra and Mystery west across the tidal sloughs directly into San Pablo Bay (past the “island” of Pt. Richmond).

1915
Richardson’s first substantial port facility (Terminal #1) is constructed on fill just to the west of Brickyard Cove. The shoreline is further altered with the construction of a seawall west from Brooks Island.

1918
Work begins on Richmond’s inner harbor, with dredging and filling along both the west and east sides of the Santa Fe Channel. The old shoreline is completely altered as new land is created south of Ellis Landing. In the late 1920s, two new port terminals are built along the western shore of this new land. By 1930, the configuration of the new shoreline is completed with the construction of two new industrial facilities, the Filice and Perrelli Cannery and the Ford assembly plant.

1940
Work begins on the first of four shipyards, under the direction of Henry J. Kaiser, leading to further dramatic changes in Richmond’s southern shore. Shipyard #2 takes shape to the east of the arm of created land on which the Ford building stands. In a matter of months, a deep-water basin is created, suitable for launching the hundreds of cargo vessels (Liberty and Victory ships) that will be built here. With the filling in of the bay to the east and south of the new basin, creating a protective “arm,” the outline of Richmond’s southeastern shore is complete.

1979
Work begins on Richmond’s new marina, site of Kaiser Shipyard #2. Completed in 1981, the marina development has only a minor impact on the shoreline, but creates a major impetus to residential development near the water, changing forever the industrial character of this area of Richmond.

2000
Legislation passes to create Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park. Bay Trail expands access to the Richmond shoreline.

Trail Etiquette
As more of us enjoy the Bay Trail – walkers, joggers, bicyclists, skaters, wheelchair users, and families with strollers – please show courtesy and be safe by following these few simple guidelines:

Keep to the right of the trail and save the left side for passing.
Observe posted bike speeds. Call out or ring your bell when approaching other trail users.
Respect the privacy of adjacent residents and stay on the trail.
Please don’t litter.
Enjoy watching wildlife from a respectful distance, and please don’t feed the wild animals.
Keep your dog on a leash and pick up after your pet – rainwater washes waste into the Bay.
Follow park use and parking rules – dawn to dusk.

Directions to Marina Bay
From SF/Oakland: Hwy 580 East; left on Marina Bay Pkwy; right on Regatta Blvd. The parking lot for Marina Bay Park is the first left at Melville Sq. Dr.
From Marin: Hwy 580 East over Richmond/San Rafael Bridge; right on Marina Bay Pkwy/Si 23rd St.; right on Marina Bay Pkwy; right on Regatta Blvd. Continue as above.
From Sacramento/Vallejo: Hwy 80 West; exit Central Ave.; right onto Central; right onto Hwy 580 West; exit Marina Bay Pkwy; right on Regatta Blvd. Continue as above.
From BART: Richmond BART/Amtrak Station; exit to south toward Macdonald Ave.; board AC Transit Bus #74 to Hilltop Mall; get off at Regatta and Sea Drift Dr. (Return via AC Transit Bus #74 to Ridgeland from Regatta and Melville Sq. Dr.)

See! I am dancing!
On the rim of the world I am dancing!
—Ohlone Song

Ohlone Song collected from Coast Miwok by Arthur Kroeber (1876-1960)
U.S. Geological Survey map sections from the U.S. Geological Survey