The story of this portion of the Bay Trail is one based on the very essence of today’s meaning of “green.” Non-existent until now, the trail incorporates fantastic views of San Pablo Bay, Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks with remarkable examples of industrial water conservation and reuse, resource recovery, electrical generation, recycling and recreation.

Make sure to visit the many interpretive exhibits along the trail which tell the story of this formerly little-known part of Contra Costa County’s shoreline.

Who Lives Here?

This new land form has attracted flora and fauna characteristic of the Bay Area shorelines.

Salt tolerant plants as well as marshbirds, shorebirds and raptors co-exist with mammals along the shoreline.

Map Legend

- Bay Trail suitable for walking, cycling, roller skating & wheelchair access
- Bay Trail of compacted aggregate
- Distance markers and mileage between two markers
- Future Bay Trail
- Concrete Trail
- Parking
- Drinking Water
- Picnic area
- Restrooms

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WHAT EXACTLY IS "GARBAGE MOUNTAIN"?

This landfill was begun in 1953 on farmland on the San Pablo Bay shoreline. It was operated for many years by the Richmond Sanitary Service and then acquired by Republic Services that operated the facility until it stopped accepting construction and demolition debris in 2008 and was closed in October 2010.

The "mountain" contains many materials now settling and decomposing. They produce gases (methane) and leachates (liquids) that must be kept from entering the outside environment. This is done through a series of capping layers of various materials that serve as barriers to prevent escape. The many pipes and tubes placed along the contours of the mountain are monitoring wells, which permit sampling to determine how well the capping materials are performing.

The ultimate "cap" is vegetation produced from green waste brought to Garbage Mountain's decomposing wastes to create electricity to supply the landfill's power needs as well as being sold as a commercial product; and a concrete crushing plant is very much alive with recycling programs. The Power Generating Plant at Garbage Mountain as well as to the nearby Chevron Refinery to be used in making gasoline. These programs are performing.

This new mountain has become a habitat for birds, mammals and reptiles not common to the low farmland it has replaced. Species of raptors include the red-tailed hawk, northern harrier and great blue heron. Harmless snakes have been seen on the slopes.

RECYCLING REPLACES BURIAL, THIS IS A VERY BUSY SITE

While not accepting wastes for burial now, the Republic Services landfill is very much alive with recycling programs. The Power Generation Plant uses methane gas from Garbage Mountain's decomposing wastes to create electricity to supply the landfill's power needs as well as being sold into PG&E's power grid providing power sufficient for 1,500 homes. The trail continues to a large retention pond on the right, partially covered with pickweed. This 40-acre site provides forage and cover for many bird species. The water is brackish and contains natural runoff and effluent from the nearby treatment plant. On the left is a large area that is open to tidal flow from the bay. Both aquatic environments provide habitat for waterbirds such as cormorant, spoonbill, beaver, sandpipers, pelicans and geese. A small spur trail at this point extends for 2 miles along a breakwater allowing a closer look at any waterbirds present.

The Wildcat Creek trail head is accessible from the East Bay Regional Park District's Wildcat Creek turn off, on the Richmond Parkway, southbound, just after Pittsburg Blvd. There is a parking lot, restrooms, drinking water and a picnic area at this location. This trailhead leading to the landfill trail is scheduled to open in fall 2011. It will pass along the southern edge of Wildcat Marsh in front of WCWD treatment plant and link with the Wildcat Loop trailheads. (Unfortunately, at this time, there is no access from Wildcat Creek Marsh trailhead to the inland portion of Wildcat Creek Trail.)

Keep to the right of the trail and save the left side for passing. Observe posted bike speeds. Adjust your riding speed. Call out or ring your bell when approaching other trail users, especially from behind. Stay on the trail. Please don't litter. Keep your trail clean and beautiful. Enjoy watching wildlife from a respectful distance, and please don't feed the animals.

Dogs are not permitted on the Landfill Loop Trail. On other trails, keep your dog on a leash and pick up after your pet – rainwater washes waste into the bay.

HOURS: The Landfill Loop Trail is generally open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. The trail will be closed on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Easter, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Some trail sections may be closed for routine maintenance. Call 510-262-1660 for trail information. Wildcat Creek Trailhead and Landfill Marsh Trail are open dawn to dusk.

Directions to Landfill Loop Trail/Sanitary Landfill

1 Parr Blvd, Richmond, CA 94801

From South: Take I-580/E toward Richmond. Take I-580 toward Pt. Richmond / San Rafael Bridge. Continue toward Pt. Richmond/ Richmond Parkway. Turn right onto Richmond Blvd. Richmond Blvd becomes Garrard Blvd which becomes Richmond Parkway. Turn left onto Parr Blvd and follow road to parking area.

From North: Take I-80 W take Fitzgerald Drive exit, EXIT 20 toward I-580/ San Rafael. Turn Right onto Richmond Parkway. Turn Right onto Parr Blvd and follow road to parking area.

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:

- Do not feed the animals.
- Keep to the right of the trail and save the left side for passing.
- Observe posted bike speeds. Adjust your riding speed.
- Call out or ring your bell when approaching other trail users, especially from behind.
- Stay on the trail. Please don't litter. Keep your trail clean and beautiful.
- Enjoy watching wildlife from a respectful distance, and please don't feed the animals.
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