



POINTS OF INTEREST

- ▲ **1. Creekside Park.** Cerrito Creek flows in an engineered channel through this small park on Albany Hill's north side. This channel replaced a meandering slough through a marsh that originally extended from Yosemite Avenue to the bay. The marsh was once a Miwok summering place. Today, 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, which drains 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. This creek is mostly open on its journey to the bay; visit it again at the Rose Garden, Live Oak Park, under the BART tracks, and at the restoration at University Village.
- ▲ **4. Thousand Oaks Park.** This previously culverted section of Blackberry Creek adjacent to an elementary school was daylighted (removed from a stormdrain) and restored in 1995. Now, in 2009, willows have matured to form a dense thicket, alders with 10-inch diameter trunks tower overhead, and small birds flit through the shady branches. The creek serves as an outdoor classroom for the school and an attractive feature of the park.
- ▲ **5. Village Creek.** Created from the historical downstream reach of Main Creek, Village Creek flows through University Village. The creek carries less flow than it would have historically because Marin Creek's headwaters are captured in a large stormdrain that now bypasses Village Creek. In 1998, a restoration project daylighted 800 feet of the creek west of Jackson Street. Look for a meandering channel under a shady canopy of native riparian trees. After crossing under the railroad track, Village Creek pops out again in a store parking lot near the freeway.
- ▲ **6. Lower Codornices Restoration Project.** Projects in 2004 and 2006 restored the formerly straight channel of

- Codornices Creek between 3rd and 6th streets to a meandering path. The restored channel provides improved habitat for plants and animals, including pools, riffles, and a shading canopy of willows. Natural flows are further sculpting the bed and banks, making them more natural. Look for gravel and sand deposited on the inside of the bends as point bars, and deeper pools on the outside of the bends. *Riffles* are the shallows between pools.
- ▲ **7. 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.
- ▲ **8. 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.
- ▲ **9. 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.
- ▲ **10. 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.
- ▲ **11. Strawberry Creek Park.** This small section of Strawberry Creek on Allston Way west of Sacramento was daylighted in 1982. Big chunks of concrete forming 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. This demonstration of the advantages of creek daylighting has been a national inspiration for similar projects.

- ▲ **12. 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. Some flows from the Potter/Derby stormdrain network also flow into the lagoon.
- ▲ **13. 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 1970s. Walk along the pleasant pathway or bring your kids to the tot lot.
- ▲ **14. Lake Temescal Regional Park.** In the 1860s, Anthony Chabot dammed Temescal Creek creating Lake Temescal. Chabot's water company delivered water to Oakland and was purchased by EBMUD in 1928. The Hayward fault runs along the northeast side of the lake and continues southeast for about a mile running parallel to Temescal Creek and the Warren Freeway. To see a natural section of Temescal Creek, walk south along the shore to where the creek enters the lake.
- ▲ **15. 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 #16).
- ▲ **16. Ettie Street Pump Station.** Flooding was a serious problem in West Oakland after these former lowlands and marshlands were developed in the late 1800s. In 1954, construction of an extensive storm drain network and pump station improved stormwater drainage from West Oakland to the Emeryville Crescent.
- ▲ **17. 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. A ground-level parkway now replaces the freeway.
- ▲ **18. 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.
- ▲ **19. Oak Glen Park.** Glen Echo Creek is the main attraction in this lovely strip park along Richmond Boulevard.
- ▲ **20. Lake Merritt, Lakeside Park.** Lake Merritt is a tidal estuary, a mixing zone for saltwater and freshwater. It originally connected to San Francisco Bay via San Antonio Creek, a quarter-mile wide waterway. Now it connects to the Oakland Inner Harbor via a narrow channel and tide gate, so tidal flushing is greatly reduced.
- ▲ **21. 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. Plans are in place for a major reconfiguration of this waterway.
- ▲ **22. Oakland Museum of California.** 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 Bay Area creek & watershed maps in the bookstore.
- ▲ **23. 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. Earlier restorations were overgrown by invasive, alien English Ivy. New replantings were underway in 2008.
- ▲ **24. Dimond Canyon Park.** Treat yourself to a beautiful hike along Sausal Creek through a wooded canyon. Notice the concrete walls, creek dams, and other erosion control structures built by the Works Progress Administration. After 70 years, the creek dams are full of sediment, and the masonry structures are washing-out. Community organizations working with state and local government transformed the lower canyon with extensive native restoration. New projects are underway in the upper canyon.

- ▲ **25. Dimond Canyon 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 Oakland area. Enjoy!
- ▲ **26. 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 1850s. Today's redwoods are the oldest second growth redwoods anywhere. Look for "fairy rings" of redwood trees outlining the circumference of some of their giant ancestors.
- ▲ **27. 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.
- ▲ **28. Cesar Chavez Park.** A short segment of Peralta Creek is open through this park. A 2003 restoration project removed an old culvert, regraded the creek, installed a new pedestrian bridge, and planted the banks with native trees and shrubs. A storm drain bypass visible downstream from the bridge helps prevent flooding. The park attracts wildlife as well as local residents.
- ▲ **29. Mouth of Sausal Creek.** Historical records and the name *Sausal*, meaning willow grove, suggest that this creek may have ended in a large, flooded willow grove, impounded by a large sand dune, near the present-day Fruitvale BART station. Today the creek pours forth from a culvert into the dredged tidal canal between Oakland and Alameda. 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!
- ▲ **30. Mills College.** Ask for a campus map and directions to Lake Aliso at the MacArthur Boulevard entrance booth. 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 (previously *Arroyo del Leon*). 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.
- ▲ **31. Leona Quarry.** Located in the headwaters of Chimes Creek, this old quarry site has recently been converted to housing. Rainwater runs off the terraced slope via a complex network of concrete V-ditches and pipes. The network converges at a long detention basin beside the freeway, where the water passes through a filter to remove sediment before flowing under the freeway in a pipe, flowing eventually into Chimes Creek. In addition to slowing the release of heavy winter rains, the detention basin provides a small wetland habitat for plants and animals throughout the year.
- ▲ **32. Leona Canyon Regional Preserve.** From the trailhead on Canyon Oaks Drive, hike through one of the most natural watersheds in the East Bay. The retention pond at the trailhead collects creek water, helping to prevent flooding in the urban areas downstream. Most days the pond is a marsh, full of cattails and birds, but during wet winters the pond fills with water and spills into the storm drain inlets on the slope. The trail follows the Rifle Range Branch of Arroyo Viejo Creek, eventually mounting the ridge and ending at Merritt College.
- ▲ **33. Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center.** Arroyo Viejo Creek, through this large city park, underwent a major restoration in 2002, creating an attractive space for recreation and education, and a more natural creek environment. Concrete retaining walls were removed and the channel reshaped with wide, gently sloping banks, allowing for safer access and more flood capacity. A new amphitheater, native vegetation, picnic areas, and a pedestrian bridge complete the project. Regular visitors can watch for natural changes as vegetation matures, and the creek settles into its new channel.
- ▲ **34. Martin Luther King, Jr. Shoreline Park.** Visit Damon Marsh by the Creek 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 Creeks enter the Bay here. Look for pickweed and shorebirds, or stay and watch the tides.

CREEK & WATERSHED MAP of Oakland and Berkeley

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

This map shows the current waterways of the Oakland & Berkeley area, including the creek and storm drain network and present-day watershed boundaries. Also shown are the historical creeks, tidal marshes, and lagoons. Many of these historical water features no longer exist. Development resulted in the construction of underground storm drains and engineered channels, the filling of tidal marshes and the bay, and construction of reservoirs.

Notes: Only larger features are shown. Creeks and engineered channels have a minimum of 0.2 square kilometers of watershed, and storm drains measure at least 24 inches in diameter.

Engineered channels include both natural creeks significantly reinforced by concrete or rock, and artificial channels, ditches, and canals not coincident with a historical creek. Some newer engineered channels are designed to mimic natural channels.

Accuracy: 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 and fluctuations in the extent of marshes and lagoons can be expected both before and after the historical maps or photos were made. Historical marsh and lagoon boundaries are considered accurate to within 1000 feet on either side of the line shown. Historical creek locations are accurate to within 200 feet, ephemeral channels to within 500 feet. Present-day creek and storm drain locations are considered accurate to within 100 feet on either side of the line shown.

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How this map was made: Storm drains, engineered channels, flood-control channels, and present-day creeks were compiled from city and county data, Google Earth aerial photography accessed in 2008, and field inspection. The historical locations of creeks were interpreted from 1939 aerial photography, and 1850-1910 historical maps. Historical tidal marshes and willow groves were researched by the San Francisco Estuary Institute using a variety of sources including the 1853, 1856, and 1857 U. S. Coast Surveys (www.sfei.org). Complete documentation can be obtained from Janet Sowers at William Lettis & Associates, Inc. in Walnut Creek, or www.museumca.org/creeks. The base map showing present geographic features consists of portions of the following U. S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles: Richmond (1980), Oakland West (1980), and Oakland East (1980). We added major new roads and highways.

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