

Encinal Beach Shoreline Recreation Improvements: Final Programmatic Report (AMENDED)

Recipient Organization/Agency: East Bay Regional Park District

Date Submitted: 3/1/2021

Award Amount: \$200,000

Matching Contributions: \$934,705.22

Total Disbursements: \$200,000

Project Number: 8006.20.064042

1. Summary of Accomplishments

The project implemented a range of public access improvement and habitat enhancements to improve public recreation experiences at Encinal Beach. This included:

- Demolition and removal of approximately 0.014 acre of site debris
- Removal of a derelict barge
- Stabilization of shoreline
- Improvement of water access and egress
- Installation of a paved trail to link the existing Alameda Point Trail, the Encinal Boat Ramp, and the parking area and jetty facilities
- Implementation of upgrades to the parking lot, trails, and beach access point, making them ADA compliant
- Eradication of ice plant
- Nourishment (addition) of beach sand to encourage dune habitat establishment
- Restoration of approximately 0.32 acres of native dune habitat
- Landscaping of approximately 0.30 acres using native grasses and shrubs
- Establishing native dune and upland habitat to provide functional habitat for sensitive, endangered, and special status species while also protecting critical habitat

2. Project Activities & Outcomes

Activities

The project activities included:

- Contractor mobilization and demobilization at the project site
- Site preparation that consisted of the removal of debris on the beach and the derelict barge
- Stabilization to the beach slopes
- Creating a cobble pocket beach for kayak put-in/pull-out
- Establishing a beach nourishment project to encourage establishment of dune habitat
- Public access improvements involving fence installation, trail development, beach access points that are ADA compliant, and sign installation

There were no substantive discrepancies between the project proposal and the project as implemented.

Benefits

Locals call the beach a hidden gem. However, the beach's dunes were dominated by invasive species and an old rusting barge was embedded within the shoreline presenting a public access hazard. Additionally, the beach was covered in various organic and inorganic debris, and the sandy area was eroded. The project enhanced the recreation and habitat value at the site by improving safety and accessibility of water access and egress, as well as linking the existing Alameda Point Trail, the Encinal Boat Ramp, the parking area, and jetty facilities. Finally, this project established native dune and restored upland habitat to provide functional habitat for sensitive, endangered, and special status species while also protecting critical habitat. The achievements of this project balanced conservation efforts with the need for compatible recreation. Without the improvements, the site was at risk to disappear over time due to sea level rise.

As the habitats recover, native plants and animals will return to Encinal Beach Park. This is expected to open up additional recreational activities, such as bird watching. The site may also become a great location for hands-on environmental education for East Bay schools through the District's naturalist programs.

3. The Future

Some areas that were not included in the original renovation plan were added as change orders. New elements that are expected to be added to the site in the near future using other funds include: a new single rail fence, new picnic tables, and new bike racks.

4. Lessons Learned

This project went very smoothly. The contractor had experience doing similar work and was able to complete each task without setback. COVID-19 and fall fires did not interrupt the timeline. One issue that did occur during construction was that dune seeding was damaged by flocks of pigeons, visitors, and dogs entering the site during and after construction. The Park District installed "restoration in progress" signs surrounding the rope fence to help curb access during the establishment period. The Park District is looking at reseeding at that site using an alternative technique.

5. Project Documents

Photos included below.

POSTING OF FINAL REPORT: *This report and attached project documents may be shared by the Foundation and any Funding Source for the Project via their respective websites. In the event that the Recipient intends to claim that its final report or project documents contains material that does not have to be posted on such websites because it is protected from disclosure by statutory or regulatory provisions, the Recipient shall clearly mark all such potentially protected materials as "PROTECTED" and provide an explanation and complete citation to the statutory or regulatory source for such protection.*



Image 1: BEFORE PROJECT: *This picture depicts the derelict barge wedged into the slope of the shoreline. Additionally, concrete debris is also seen here. Both the barge and concrete debris were removed during construction because both were public safety hazards and eyesores. This area of the project is parallel to the Alameda Point Trail (Photo by: East Bay Regional Park District staff).*



Image 2: AFTER PROJECT: *This photo shows the improved shoreline where the derelict barge and concrete debris were once located. The shoreline is now properly stabilized with cobble rip-rap. The public can now safely access the area without the eyesore of shoreline debris (Photo by: East Bay Regional Park District staff).*



Image 3: BEFORE PROJECT: *This picture shows additional debris on Encinal Beach. Not only is this an eyesore and safety concern for the public, it also prevents or minimizes public access and use of the beach area. This debris was removed during construction of the project (Photo by: East Bay Regional Park District staff).*



Image 4: AFTER PROJECT: *This picture depicts a beach clean of debris. To the left is the dune restoration area. There are two types of fencing seen here: the outside fencing is for site protection and the inner, taller fencing is placed around dune areas to help stabilize the area. Once the dune area is established, the outer fencing will be removed (Photo by: East Bay Regional Park District staff).*



Image 5: BEFORE PROJECT: *This photo is looking north towards the parking lot and the Alameda Point trail. The dune area is visible in the upper-right corner. The picture depicts public use of the Encinal Beach area (Photo by: East Bay Regional Park District staff).*



Image 6: AFTER PROJECT: *This photo is looking north towards the fenced off dune restoration area. The outer fencing is to protect the dune area while it establishes. It will be removed at a later date (Photo by: East Bay Regional Park District staff).*



Image 7: BEFORE PROJECT: *This photo is looking south. The dune area is covered in the invasive ice plant species. The restoration work in this area included the removal of the invasive species, which will help allow native species to return and reestablish (Photo by: East Bay Regional Park District staff).*



Image 8: AFTER PROJECT: *This photo is looking south towards the restored dune area. Also pictured is a new accessible beach access pathway. The fencing around the dune area will eventually be removed. The signage includes COVID-19 related messaging, which will also eventually be removed. Signage for park user safety will remain (Photo by: East Bay Regional Park District staff).*



Image 9: AFTER PROJECT: *This picture shows the newly paved portion of Alameda Point trail, stabilized shoreline on the right, new fencing on the left, and a new bench. The public has an unimpeded view of the shoreline. Debris eyesores have been removed, and the public has a new place to sit and rest. The improved trail section also provides a smooth ride or walk along the shoreline (Photo by: East Bay Regional Park District staff).*