

# Marina Bay Trail Guide

*San Francisco Bay Trail*

*Richmond, California*



## **Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park**

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Richmond, California



# RICHMOND MARINA BAY TRAIL

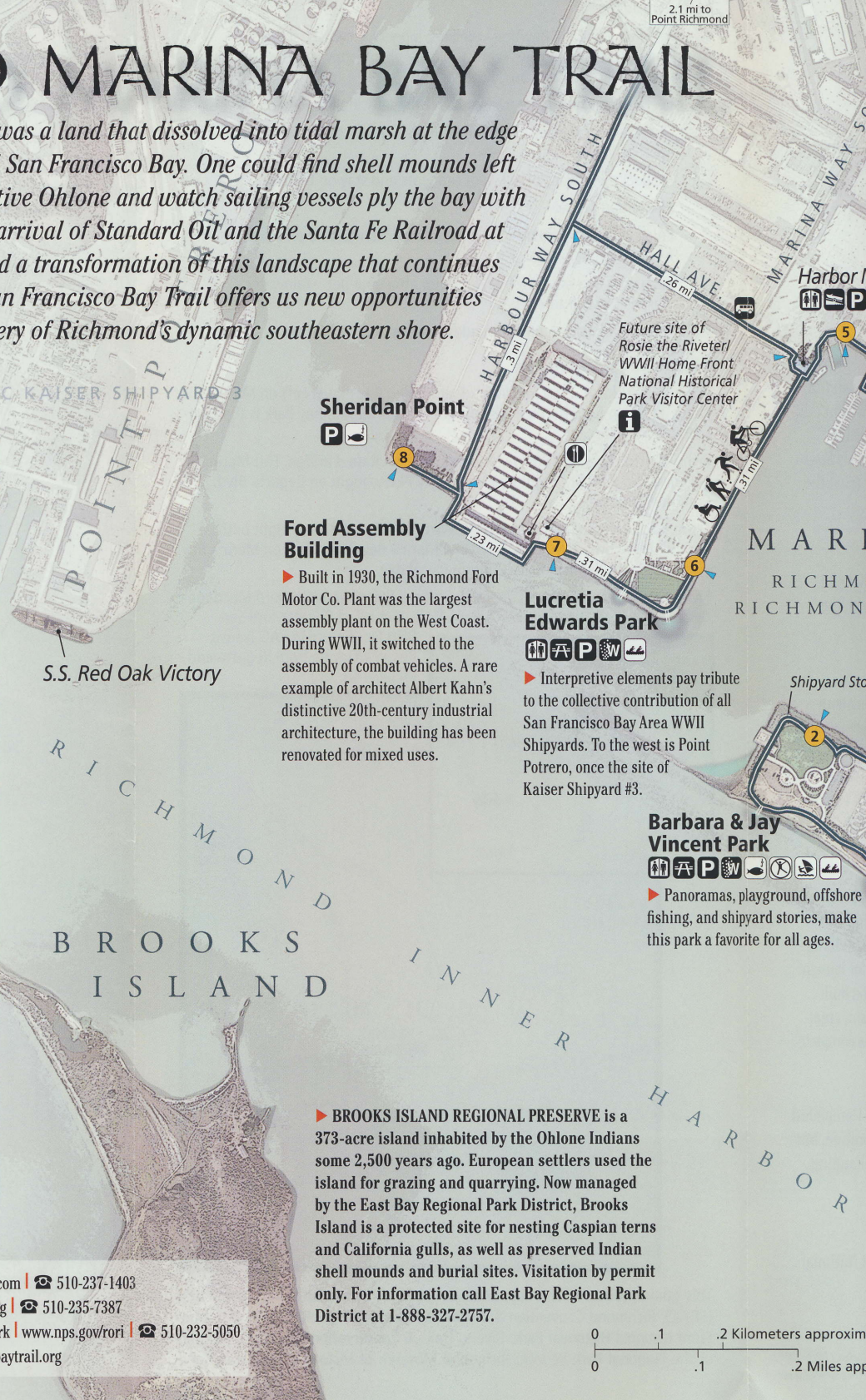


A century ago Marina Bay was a land that dissolved into tidal marsh at the edge of the great estuary we call San Francisco Bay. One could find shell mounds left by the Huchiun tribe of native Ohlone and watch sailing vessels ply the bay with passengers and cargo. The arrival of Standard Oil and the Santa 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.

## Map Legend

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | Bay Trail suitable for walking, biking, roller skating & wheelchair access |
|  | Distance markers and mileage between two markers                           |
|  | Stair access to San Francisco Bay  |
|  | Visitor Information  |
|  | Restrooms  |
|  | Drinking Water   |
|  | Picnic area  |
|  | Parking  |
|  | Bus Stop / AC Transit #74  |
|  | Boat Launch (fee)  |
|  | Small Watercraft*  |
|  | Boardsailing   |
|  | Fishing  |
|  | Tennis Court (2)   |
|  | Children's Playground  |
|  | Dining / Food  |
|  | <b>1</b> No Home on the Home Front   |
|  | <b>2</b> Transforming the Waterfront                                       |
|  | <b>3</b> Divided We Live   |
|  | <b>4</b> Americans All   |
|  | <b>5</b> Shift Change  |
|  | <b>6</b> A Deluge of Humanity  |
|  | <b>7</b> The Home Front Legacy   |
|  | <b>8</b> Recognizing the Past  |

\*Launch and landing sites for the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail



**Sheridan Point**

**Ford Assembly Building**  
 ▶ Built in 1930, 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 Edwards 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 #3.

**Barbara & Jay Vincent Park**  
  
 ▶ Panoramas, playground, offshore fishing, and shipyard stories, make this park a favorite for all ages.

▶ **BROOKS ISLAND REGIONAL PRESERVE** is a 373-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. Visitation by permit only. For information call East Bay Regional Park District at 1-888-327-2757.

Richmond Convention & Visitors Bureau | [www.VisitRichmondCa.com](http://www.VisitRichmondCa.com) | ☎ 510-237-1403  
 Richmond Museum of History | [www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org](http://www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org) | ☎ 510-235-7387  
 Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front, National Historical Park | [www.nps.gov/rori](http://www.nps.gov/rori) | ☎ 510-232-5050  
 San Francisco Bay Trail | [www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail](http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail) | [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org)

0 .1 .2 Kilometers approximat  
 0 .1 .2 Miles approx

# 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 #3 and see a ship's restoration first hand. Call 510-237-2933 or visit [www.ssredoakvictory.org](http://www.ssredoakvictory.org).
- ▶ Be a bird watcher; bring binoculars.

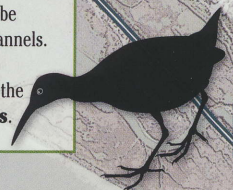
▶ **MARINA BAY PARK** was once at the heart of Kaiser Richmond Shipyard #2. The *Rosie the Riveter Memorial*, with its historic photos, drawings, and memories of shipyard workers in a framework reminiscent of a Liberty Ship's prefab construction, is located here. Dining and food services overlook the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

▶ **MEEKER TIDAL CREEK** flows through coastal salt marsh, one of the most productive ecosystems on earth. Bay and fresh water provide a nourishing brew for sediment-dwelling 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 skunk. Nearer the Bay, Marbled Godwits, sandpipers and Long-billed Curlews probe the mudflats with bills specially suited to find invertebrates hidden beneath the surface. Look for Mallards, American Wigeons and Green-winged Teals bobbing in inland pools.

## about bird watching

BIRD WATCHING opportunities are plentiful along the trail. The adjacent open bay waters, salt marsh, and tidal mud flats are important wintering and stopover sites for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. Summer resident birds and waterfowl. Summer resident birds nesting nearby include American Avocets,

Black Oystercatchers, egrets, herons, terns and gulls. The elusive Clapper 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**.



### 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.

**& Jay Park**  
s, playground, offshore shipyard stories, make favorite for all ages.

MARINA BAY  
RICHMOND MARINA  
RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

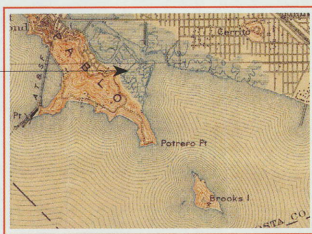
Kilometers approximate  
.2 Miles approximate

0.85 mi to Central Av. Trailhead



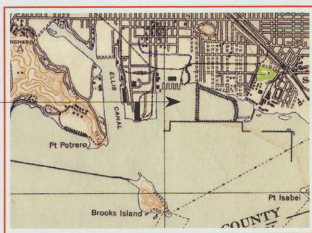
1894

Ellis Landing



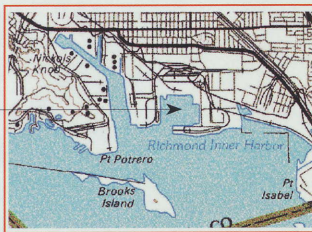
1915

Shipyard #2



1942

Marina Bay



1978

## TIMELINE | RICHMOND'S SOUTHEASTERN SHORE

### 2000 B.C.

Native American Ohlones (Huchiu) 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 slough 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

Richmond'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.

See! I am dancing!  
On the rim of the world I am dancing!

—Ohlone Song

## 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.

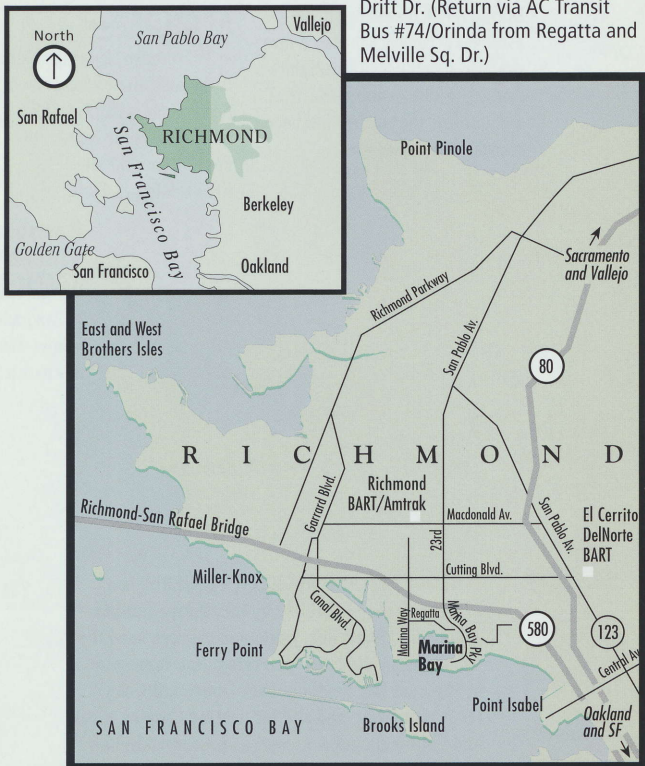
## Directions to Marina Bay

**From SF/Oakland:** Hwy 580 West; Exit Marina Bay Pkwy; 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, Exit Marina Bay Pkwy/SO.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; Left on 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/Hilltop Mall; Get off at Regatta and Sea Drift Dr. (Return via AC Transit Bus #74/Orinda from Regatta and Melville Sq. Dr.)



This guide produced with support from Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC); Richmond Convention & Visitors Bureau; Rosie the Riveter/WW II Home Front National Historical Park; Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service; Richmond Museum of History; City of Richmond.