

# Port Walk #21



## Protecting the Coast

All around the San Francisco Bay Area, volunteers are making a difference in the health of coastal and bayshore ecosystems. Hundreds of citizens' groups, from school-children to retirees, are busy restoring wildlife habitat, monitoring human-caused disturbances, and educating others about the value of preserving natural environments.



## A Trail by the Bay

The San Francisco Bay Trail is a 400-mile public hiking and cycling trail extending around the entire Bay. The Bay Trail is a work-in-progress. Local governments, the Coastal Conservancy, and citizen volunteers are building it piece by piece. Once completed, it will link the shoreline's many cities and towns, parks, piers, and wildlife preserves.

## Hike the Bay

You can walk or cycle the Bay Trail, traveling northwest through San Francisco across to Marin County. For hikes at higher elevations, follow the Bay Trail to the Ridge Trail, which connects the mountain peaks that surround the Bay.



## Caretakers of the Coast

Before 1965, more than one-third of the Bay had been filled to make land. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) works to prevent further filling of the Bay and to provide public access along the Bay's edge. In 1976, the State Legislature created the Coastal Conservancy to protect and restore wetlands, streams, and watersheds, and to expand public access along the coast.



## David Hayes, Project Manager

"I love this place. This waterfront is crusty, not genteel, and it's always changing. Early mornings, especially, it's busy with trains, trucks, forklifts, cranes, ships.... Fishermen and longshoremen move fish, equipment, and containers from ship and shore while ferries bring commuters from across the Bay. I work for the Coastal Conservancy, a state agency. It's a great job. We work to improve access to the shore for the public's enjoyment and to preserve California's beautiful coast for future generations."