A Priceless Opportunity

Whoever you are, wherever you live, whatever you do, access to parks and open space improves your life.

Neighborhoods are more stable when residents have access to natural places that provide well-being, peace, and joy. Communities are stronger and people are healthier with neighborhood parks and open space that reduce stress. Unfettered activity by children and adults combats obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

San Francisco Bay area residents are lucky to have the sparkling Bay waters as a backdrop, beckoning us to play, walk, or run along its edge or just gaze across its expanse toward the beautiful distant shore.

In appreciation of this spectacular natural feature, Citizens for East Shore Parks, CESP, emerged 24 years ago with a mission to create a necklace of parks along the Bay’s shoreline from Oakland to the Carquinez Strait. Much of CESP’s mission is accomplished, and much still lies ahead.

Today, the future of the North Richmond shoreline from Pt. Pinole to Wildcat Creek is being decided. Nowhere along the Bay is public access to parks and open space more overdue than in Richmond. For generations, Richmond’s residents have been separated from their shoreline by industrial and toxic dump barriers. Now is the time to preserve the remaining open space for future generations. No other land use provides the permanent level of benefits to our communities.

The three creeks, Rheem, San Pablo and Wildcat that empty into the shoreline’s 500 acres of marshes and 800 acres of mudflats are home to threatened and endangered species and thousands of migratory birds. When these lands are impacted by incompatible human development, these native creatures cannot simply pack up and move to another location. They disappear forever.

Now is the opportunity to save these jewels in the necklace of parks along the east shore of the Bay. Apart from the peaceful views they offer, their creeks, lands, and off shore eel grass make them vital to the health of native species, humans who live near them, and the waters that define them.

Such an opportunity to preserve this precious natural feature comes seldom and depends upon both the actions of our elected leaders and the united voice of people. Eleanor Roosevelt once said: “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” Now is our once and only opportunity to make real the beauty of our dreams.

To help Richmond residents and Citizens for East Shore Parks turn this vision into reality for future generations, contact: eastshorepark@hotmail.com or 510.524.5000 or visit www.eastshorepark.org
Breuner Creekside

ACRES 18
ZONING Light Industrial
HABITAT TYPES Coastal prairie, willow sausal, seasonal wetlands, former creek channel

When the East Bay Regional Park District acquired Breuner Marsh, they left the 18 acres that were zoned light industrial. These acres are among the richest upland habitats on the entire Breuner property. Before it was channelized in its current location, Rheem Creek flowed through this parcel. Now it contains willow sausals, seasonal wetlands, coastal prairie, and ruderal grasslands. These remaining 18 acres are critical to realizing the local community’s restoration vision for Breuner Marsh, especially the restoration for Rheem Creek. The restored Rheem Creek will flow directly through this site, close to its previous course.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS In the past, the developer has proposed office parks and residential housing and remains interested in developing the property.

APN NUMBERS 408100033
TRANSFER DATE 2001
PUBLIC SALE PRICE Not available
2009 TAX ASSESSMENT $1.5M

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Freethy

**ACRES** 23

**ZONING** Light Industrial

**HABITAT TYPES** Coastal prairie, former baylands

The Freethy parcel sits immediately adjacent to the 100-acre San Pablo Marsh, home of the salt marsh harvest mouse, San Pablo vole, salt marsh wandering shrew, and other species of concern. Several acres of the Freethy parcel are former baylands that were filled in the past century and wait to be restored. This gem of a property offers views of the San Pablo Bay from the Bay Trail and the Richmond Scenic Parkway that would be obstructed if developed.

**DEVELOPMENT PLANS** The developer has proposed a 256-unit, multi-story, residential development with some live/work and retail units.

**APN NUMBERS** 408220023, 408220024, 408220025, 408220026, 408220032, 408220033, 408220034, 408220035, 408220003, 408220006, 408220007, 408220036, 408220037, 408220038, 408220039, 408220041, 408220042, 408220043

**TRANSFER DATE** 2000

**PUBLIC SALE PRICE** $6M

**2009 TAX ASSESSMENT** $7M

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Murray

ACRES 56
ZONING Approximately 2/3 light industrial, 1/3 open space and park land
HABITAT TYPES Coastal prairie, seasonal wetlands, open water

This 56-acre open space parcel includes a seven-acre former stock pond and current wetland. Horses currently graze the site and reflect the once rural heritage of this part of the North Richmond Shoreline. When viewed from Point Pinole, this property frames a majestic view that includes Giant Marsh, Breuner Marsh, and the San Francisco skyline. Former industrial uses south of the Richmond Parkway have polluted the soils on a portion of this property and a deed restriction prevents residential development.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS There are no current, formal development plans for this site. In the past, storage units have been proposed for the site.
APN NUMBERS 408100028, 408100029, 408100030
TRANSFER DATE 2002
PUBLIC SALE PRICE $2.2M
2009 TAX ASSESSMENT $2.26M

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This 24-acre site is bisected by Rheem Creek and has seasonal wetlands. The creek is currently channelized but could easily be restored to meander across its floodplain, provide habitat for fish and birds, and improve water quality in the San Pablo Bay. Adjacent lands can be developed into athletic fields for Richmond and San Pablo youth.

**DEVELOPMENT PLANS** The developer has a fully entitled development plan for an industrial park on this site. The current market climate for light industrial property in Richmond is all that prevents development.

**APN NUMBERS** 408060017, 408060018, 408060019

**TRANSFER DATE** 2007

**PUBLIC SALE PRICE** Not available

**2009 TAX ASSESSMENT** $5.5M