In every walk with nature, one receives more than he seeks.
—John Muir

THE EDGE OF THE MARSH
CURLEWS SEEN ON LANDS
Photo: PNNL

HISTORY
Over a century ago, the Palo Alto Baylands salt marshes extended inland approximately to the location of the Bayshore Freeway. The marshes were a valuable resource providing Native Americans and early city residents with fish, shellfish, small mammals, seawater and plants for food, medicine, and construction materials.

Palo Alto’s stewardship of the Baylands began in 1921 with the purchase of 40 acres. In the 1930s the yacht harbor clubhouse, a saltwater swimming pool (now the Duck Pond), and the lagoon were constructed.

Today the Baylands covers 1,940 acres—1600 acres are protected in the Baylands Nature Preserve. The preserve includes some of the last remaining salt marsh/mudflat habitats on the West Coast. It is home to the endangered Ridgeway Rail and the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse.

Unlike other Bay marshes which have plants that grow in distinct zones, the Palo Alto marshes have a mixed plant distribution. This includes pickleweed and cordgrass habitats that are intermixed between mudflats.

Bird watching in the Baylands is excellent year-round. In winter time extreme high tides bring bird watchers from around the world. In the spring and fall this is a prime stopover or destination for birds traveling on the Pacific route of their migratory flyway.

FACILITIES
• Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center
  Call 650-329-2506 for open hours
• Byxbee Park
• Emily Renzel Wetlands
• Baylands Athletic Center (baseball and softball)
• Wildlife observation platforms and benches
• Picnic facilities and barbecues (First-come, first-served for groups up to 24 persons.)

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES
• Walking and biking trails, bird watching, sailboarding and boating with non-motorized, hand-launched watercraft such as canoes and kayaks.
• Nature walks and programs on ecology and natural history are presented for all age groups and are offered on weekends throughout the year. A schedule of programs is available in the City’s Enjoy! catalog or on the Internet at http://enjoyonline.cityofpaloalto.org
  Call 650-617-3156 for information.
  • School programs are offered September through June, Monday through Friday. Call 650-339-2506 for information.

PRESERVE RULES
• Dogs on leash permitted, except during guided nature walks.
• No smoking
• Park in designated parking areas
• Speed limit 15 MPH
• Because roadways are narrow, skates and coastering devices are not allowed on Preserve roads
• Bicycles must be walked on multi-use trails
• Remote-controlled aircraft are prohibited.
• Wildlife feeding is prohibited
• No hunting or collecting
• Park facilities are open 7am to sunset, every day.
• Interpretive Center is open Tuesday through Saturday.

THE BAYLANDS
PRESERVE
HOURS
Open to the public 8 am to sunset, every day.

Baylands Preserves HOURS
Bounded by
Pearson-Foothills
Palo Alto
Arastradero Preserve
Byxbee Park
ARASTRADERO BAYLANDS THE PARK PRESERVE

850-617-3156 for information.
email open.space@cityofpaloalto.org

CUDLEYS ARE OFTEN SEEN ON THE EDGE OF THE MARSH AT THE BAY LANDES

The Baylands
Palo Alto
Adobe Creek Trail
Renzel Ponds
No dogs allowed on trails around Renzel Ponds

ACCESS INFORMATION
- Open to the public 8 am to sunset, every day.
- Dogs permitted on leash, except where posted.
- Feeding wildlife is prohibited.
- Park in designated parking areas.
- Hunting is not permitted.