



# DISCOVER Pacheco Marsh

## The Bay Delta Needs Our Help

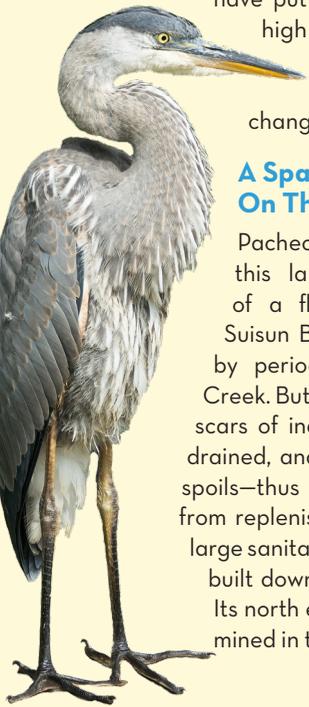
The San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is an economic and environmental resource with few equals.

- As the largest estuary on the western coast of the Americas, the Bay Delta drains 40 percent of the fresh water in California.
- More than 25 million Californians depend on the system for drinking water, and it supplies water to millions of acres of farmland.
- Over 700 native species and nearly half of California's migrating waterfowl and shorebirds depend on it.
- Salt marshes provide essential nutrients, refuge, and nursery habitat for two-thirds of the state's spawning salmon.
- Farmers and millions of residents depend on the Bay Delta for their livelihoods.

The Bay Delta is in crisis. Invasive species, pesticide runoff, nutrient pollution, industrial discharges, dredging, water diversions, levees, and poor management have put this vital natural system at high risk. Once abundant, over 90% of historic marsh lands have been lost. Climate change introduces new threats.

## A Sparkling Jewel On The Bay

Pacheco Marsh is a microcosm for this larger story. Originally part of a flourishing marshland along Suisun Bay, the marsh was nurtured by periodic overflows from Walnut Creek. But, for decades it bore the deep scars of industrial abuse. It was diked, drained, and partially filled with dredge spoils—thus blocking natural tidal flow from replenishing water and nutrients. A large sanitary sewer outfall and road was built down the middle of the property. Its north end was used to offload sand mined in the Bay.



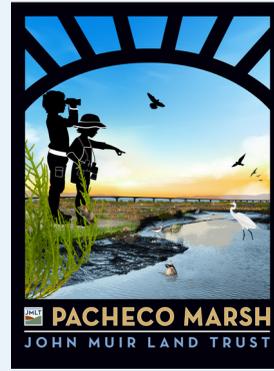
Today, that is a distant memory. Pacheco Marsh is a beautifully restored salt marsh habitat that is a testament to how we can repair and restore damage done. Responsible care and attention can catalyze nature's remarkable ability to recover. Visitors are enthralled by abundant wildlife thriving side-by-side with human communities. Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy new opportunities for recreation. Curious minds of all ages discover the joys of exploring the natural world up close.



## State-of-the-Art Restoration

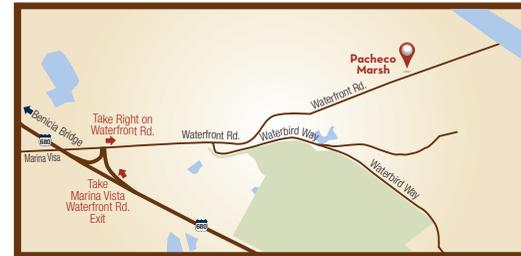
John Muir Land Trust in partnership with Contra Costa County Flood Control District brought Pacheco Marsh back to life. A temporary levee was constructed to block tidal flows. The entire site was bladed down to bare earth, and computer models designed a natural system of new channels that would produce optimal tidal flows. Engineers used sand deposits from industrial mining to shape the landscape. The largest tidal channel breaches Walnut Creek and allows storm runoff to dissipate through marsh land, a huge benefit to the ecosystem. Revitalized wildlife habitat supports diverse species of fish, birds, invertebrates, and mammals.

Low-impact public access features make Pacheco Marsh a fascinating and educational destination! Visitors discover how salt marsh ecosystems function and why they're so vital to life around the Bay. They learn how restoration efforts are strengthening the ecological resilience of our shorelines, and how natural systems provide superior solutions for community needs. Enjoy your walk!



2501 Waterfront Rd.  
Martinez, CA

Join Us Today!  
Your gift makes a huge difference.  
Thank you!  
[jmlt.org/baydelta](http://jmlt.org/baydelta)



## Getting to Pacheco Marsh

From I-680N toward the Benicia-Martinez Bridge, take exit 56, Marina Vista Waterfront Rd. Turn right onto Waterfront Rd. continue on Waterfront Rd. approximately 1.3 miles. the destination will be on your left.



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# PACHECO MARSH



**LEGEND**

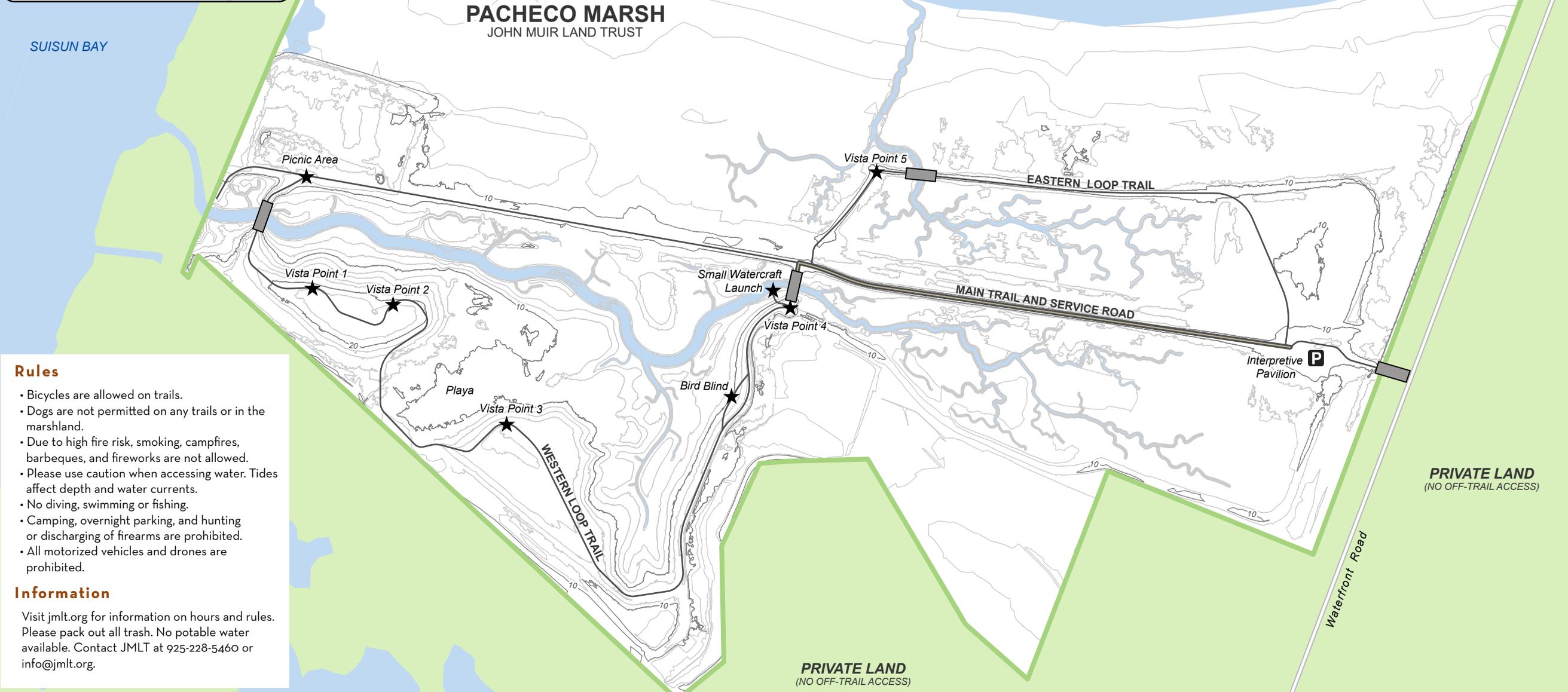
-  ROAD
-  TRAILS
-  ACCESSIBLE PATH
-  PARKING
-  POINT OF INTEREST
-  BRIDGE

**JMLT**  
  
**JOHN MUIR LAND TRUST**



2-FT CONTOUR INTERVAL

  
 0-ft 150 300 600



**Rules**

- Bicycles are allowed on trails.
- Dogs are not permitted on any trails or in the marshland.
- Due to high fire risk, smoking, campfires, barbeques, and fireworks are not allowed.
- Please use caution when accessing water. Tides affect depth and water currents.
- No diving, swimming or fishing.
- Camping, overnight parking, and hunting or discharging of firearms are prohibited.
- All motorized vehicles and drones are prohibited.

**Information**

Visit [jmlt.org](http://jmlt.org) for information on hours and rules. Please pack out all trash. No potable water available. Contact JMLT at 925-228-5460 or [info@jmlt.org](mailto:info@jmlt.org).