



*Invite your friends to a Nature Party!*

### BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Interested in having your birthday party at the cove? Special Nature Party programs can be scheduled for week-ends. Party includes guided outdoor exploration, gift bags, nature craft, and free parking. Your choice of Reptiles or Creatures of the Bay theme. For more information call 510-544-3187.

### CRAB COVE VISITOR CENTER

1252 McKay Ave.  
Alameda, CA 94501  
ccove@ebparks.org

Crab Cove Visitor Center is open Wednesday through Sunday. Hours of operation change depending on season.



*Endangered California clapper rail in the marsh.*



*Relax and enjoy the expansive views.*

Dogs are not allowed on the beach at Crab Cove or Crown Beach.

The Crab Cove Visitor Center is located at the north end of Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach. The Visitor Center is named for the cove located just west of the Center. This small cove was designated in 1980 as the first Marine Reserve in a California estuary. This special status helps ensure that this environment remains as is for generations to come. Within the cove, plants and animals are strictly protected from all forms of collecting. No bait or food organisms can be taken. Rod and reel fishing is allowed with a California Fishing License. Help protect the creatures and their homes at Crab Cove. Move only small rocks, then be sure to return them to their original position. Exposure to sun and wind can kill these delicate creatures. Explore the Cove fully—but carefully! Thank You!

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This brochure is provided as a public service of the Interpretive and Recreation Services Department of the East Bay Regional Park District.

# Crab Cove Visitor Center and Aquarium



East Bay   
Regional Park District



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# Crab Cove Visitor Center and Aquarium

Welcome to Crab Cove Visitor Center, Aquarium, and Gift Shop, where admission is always free! Come on in and explore the history, habitats, and creatures of this special place on San Francisco Bay. Through our interactive exhibits you can journey from Alameda's rocky shore and mudflats into the brackish waters of the Bay and out into the deep Pacific Ocean. State of the art interpretive displays highlight the creatures of these unique habitats, and a variety of beautiful aquariums allow you to get up close to many of the creatures within.



Meet intertidal animals—like crabs.

Children will love the Discovery Area where hands on activities engage their natural curiosity. Puzzles and puppets will delight young visitors, but parents beware! Kids have been known to disappear *like a clam at low tide* into the mudflat hole—a secret spot just for



Enjoy hands-on exhibits.

toddlers! Visitors can also sail into the past to explore the colorful history of Crab Cove. Pretend to navigate a ship as you explore the history of the area in the 1940's when it hosted the Maritime Academy, or listen to Andy Pagano's fascinating account of what life was like when Crab Cove had it's heyday as the "Coney Island of the West"—Neptune Beach Amusement Park.



Explore our exhibits and learn about San Francisco Bay habitats and history.

On weekends, a variety of drop-in interpretive programs are offered. Friendly Visitor Center staff members will let you know of any walks or programs that will happen that day.



Friendly staff will introduce you to local wildlife.

For a list of upcoming programs look for the *Regional in Nature* publication, which highlights programs and events in all the East Bay Regional Parks.

No trip is complete without a browse through the gift shop. Birders and budding biologist alike can find plenty of books, maps, tools, and treasures to keep them exploring throughout the year.

## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Crab Cove offers a variety of Educational Programs for schools and organized groups. These Naturalist-led programs are correlated with the California State Standards for Education and are conducted both at Crab Cove and within other East Bay Regional Parks. Educational Programs are by reservation only.

Call 510-544-3187 or visit [www.ebparks.org/activities/educators](http://www.ebparks.org/activities/educators) for an application form and complete list of programs offered.



Plan a school field trip.