

A Shoreline Story

Middle Harbor Shoreline Park, built by the Port of Oakland, comprises 38 acres and more than two miles of pathways encircling Middle Harbor Basin. It is a place for learning about local history, the natural environment, maritime activities, and environmental stewardship. In addition, the park provides shoreline access, with views of the bay, natural habitats, and maritime activity.

HISTORY The park is built on the site of the former Oakland Naval Supply Depot, an important supply center for the Navy's Pacific Fleet from World War II. Civilian and military workers shipped a wide variety of cargo to support the war effort, until 1998, when the depot was closed and transferred to the Port of Oakland. This 541-acre facility was equipped with warehouses with a combined floor area of over 7 million square feet.

Building 122, which has left its "footprint" at Middle Harbor Shoreline Park, was a 190,000-square-foot warehouse (4.3 acres) built as one of two primary storage and supply facilities for the Navy's Pacific Fleet. Its irregular shape allowed for rail service on all sides. You can find the footprint of Building 122 by finding the clues in the park's landscape: look for a "ghost" structure marked by wall markers, zig-zag walls, and changes in pavement (even in the parking lot).

Most of the other buildings on the Supply Depot were warehouses and offices, although the Depot had its own fire and police stations, library, post office, bank, chapel, bowling alley, movie theater, barracks, and coffee roasting plant, which at its peak supplied all of the armed forces in the Pacific. This self-contained "city" included 42 miles of train tracks and 26 miles of paved roadway.

Middle Harbor itself was dredged to create a 40-foot-deep berthing area for naval ships, and fill was placed to create the land for the depot.

Oakland was chosen as the site of this important supply center because of the city's extensive rail and highway connections leading almost directly to the bay and its shipping lanes. The Oakland Naval Supply Depot even had its own internal railroad transportation system with a roundhouse and rail car repair shops.

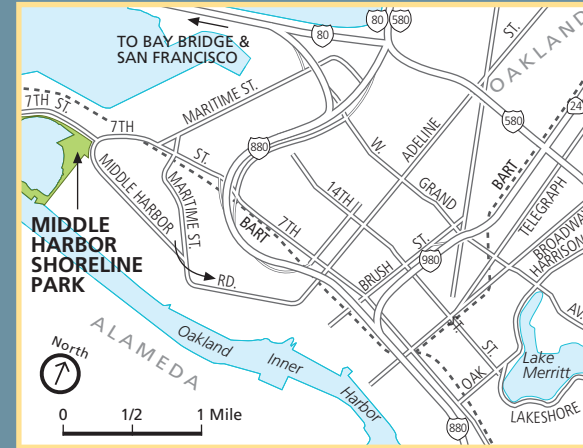
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ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION In its natural state, Oakland's waterfront was covered by hundreds of acres of salt marshes and shallow tidelands that provided food, shelter, and other benefits to a variety of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, insects, and mammals. Dredging and fill for military, Port, and commercial uses have greatly reduced the habitat in size and quality. Middle Harbor is located on some of these former tidal wetlands, most of which were under water at high tide. The Port of Oakland and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are working to restore shallow wildlife habitats to Middle Harbor.

The 180-acre Middle Harbor Enhancement Area adjacent to Middle Harbor Shoreline Park will restore shallow water habitat and provide habitat enhancement and an opportunity for the study of marine biology and habitat restoration efforts. During your visit, you may see some of this work underway. Dredged sediments have been used in the Middle Harbor Enhancement project, and a jetty has been constructed near the mouth of the harbor to reduce tidal energy and promote revegetation.

The park's shoreline pathways allow for wildlife observation year-round. Numerous shorebirds, diving ducks, and sea birds can be seen just off shore. Year-round residents include the Forster's tern, western gull, double-crested cormorant, and brown pelican. Summer visitors include the Caspian tern, least tern, California gull, Canada goose, and snowy egret. Winter visitors include the common goldeneye, ruddy duck, bufflehead, scaup, western sandpiper, dunlin, surf scoter, Western/Clark's grebe, and eared grebe. During your visit here, take time to look for the many species of birds in this area. As the habitat is restored and improved, many animals will return, giving us the chance to observe wildlife in the city.

MARITIME Middle Harbor Shoreline Park is situated in the heart of an active container seaport. Visitors can see the direct loading and unloading of a ship, and observe the different pieces of equipment it takes to move cargo. For nearly a century, the Port of Oakland has managed the efficient movement of goods and people in and out of the region. The surrounding 665-acre seaport is the fourth busiest container port in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world. It includes 25 active deepwater berths and 33 gantry container cranes. This adjacent seaport handles 98 percent of all the containerized cargo that passes through California ports. The Port of Oakland is primarily an export port; Containers arrive and depart on ships that circumnavigate the globe.



To Reach Middle Harbor Shoreline Park:

From the East Bay: Take Hwy. 24 west to I-980 west, towards Oakland. Exit at the 11th/12th Street off-ramp onto Brush Street. Continue straight, and turn right (northwest) at 7th Street. Continue straight on 7th Street and past Maritime Street to the stoplight at Middle Harbor Road. Proceed through the intersection and take the first right turn into the MHSP parking lot.

From the South Bay: Take I-880 north towards Oakland. Take the 7th Street exit towards West Grand Ave. Turn left onto 7th Street. Follow 7th Street, heading west, past Maritime Street. Continue straight on 7th Street to the stoplight at Middle Harbor Road. Proceed through the intersection and take the first right turn into the MHSP parking lot.

From the North Bay: Take I-80 west to I-880 south towards Alameda/Airport/San Jose. Exit at 7th Street/West Grand Ave. Continue straight, through the light and along the frontage road to the light at 7th Street. Turn right onto 7th Street, heading west, past Maritime Street. Continue straight on 7th Street to the stoplight at Middle Harbor Road. Proceed through the intersection and take the first right into the MHSP parking lot.

Public Transit: Take AC Transit #13, hourly from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. week-ends, from Park/14th Street along Broadway and 7th Street in Oakland. Call to confirm bus schedule—AC Transit: 817-1717; TDD/TTY: 800-448-9790; Para Transit: 510-287-5000. Bike/Pedestrian Access: Bike/pedestrian access is available along a trail on 7th Street connecting the 8th Street Bay Trail at Wood Street in West Oakland to the park.

If you would like this information in an alternative format, please contact the EBRPD Public Affairs Department at (510) 544-2200, fax (510) 635-3478, TDD (510) 633-0460, or info@ebparks.org.



East Bay Regional Park District

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Port of Oakland Middle Harbor Shoreline Park

East Bay
Regional Park District

