

INTRODUCTION

By the mid-sixties it had become national news that Bay Area residents were dissatisfied with the rate of filling San Francisco Bay. Residents protested that only five miles of Bay shoreline were open to the public, that the natural beauty which drew them to the area was decreasing, and that three-quarters of the native marshlands had been filled in or diked off from the Bay. A gradual change in public policy towards preservation and/or reclamation of the Bay shore was a result of this public outcry and the concurrent formation of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

In 1971 the East Bay Regional Park District's Master Plan defined a Regional Shoreline category with the guideline that "the primary planning and management objective should be to provide maximum public access to the shoreline recreational opportunities while preserving or, when necessary, restoring near natural shoreline environments" (p. 16). The Master Plan noted that shoreline parks would be beneficial to urban residents because of their proximity to the metropolitan area and the availability of public transportation to reach these parks. This would benefit low-income and elderly people who are often unable to utilize parks because they don't have access to automobiles.

Rising land costs and increasing land scarcity have led the District to select a number of sanitary landfill sites for Regional Shoreline development. However, the high initial development and continuing maintenance costs associated with shoreline sanitary landfill reclamation have reduced the number of shoreline sites being considered. Common problems in the conversion of sanitary landfills into recreational areas include prevention of pollution of ground and surface waters by leachate, management of methane production, control of settlement, design limitations, proper timing of development, the preservation of rebuilding of marshlands, and acquisition of topsoil or a suitable substitute. Effective long-term solutions to the above problems require adequate funding, an organized and well-informed planning effort, efficient and timely implementation, and continuing monitoring and management at the park site. It is hoped that the following reports will assist the District in fulfilling their goal of providing a balanced and equitable distribution of high quality shoreline parklands in the East Bay.