



# Hidden Treasures

Look around and you will find a hidden treasure along the trail—a saltwater marsh. It is a small remnant of the thousands of acres of wetlands that once ringed San Francisco Bay. Under appreciated for much of the past century, wetlands were regarded as “wastelands” and were systematically filled in to make “useful” land. This marsh is now a wildlife preserve.

**Wetlands 1894**



**Wetlands 1996**



Historic salt marshes were largely lost to agricultural conversion and landfill for industrial and residential development. In some areas, new marshes developed as sediments built up from rivers and creeks flowing into the Bay. These marshes support an amazing diversity of wildlife.



**Enjoy your visit along the paved trail.**

Today we are aware of the critical role wetlands play in maintaining a healthy marine environment. Marshes provide nutrients for animals, temporary homes for migrating birds and act as nurseries for baby fish. You are participating in the protection of this marsh by staying on the paved trail and keeping your dog on a leash. Thank you!



The Pt. Isabel to Miller/Knox trail is part of the San Francisco Bay Trail, a hiking and bicycling trail system that extends around San Francisco Bay.



Threatened and endangered species specially adapted to this environment have been seen along this trail. One of them is the secretive California clapper rail. Sounding like an old-fashioned clapper toy, it creeps through the marsh and tidal channels in search of crabs, mollusks, worms, insects, and other marine animals. Protected habitats, such as this one, are crucial to their survival.