Inspiring San Francisco to discover local nature

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Nature in the City

A Map, A Journey, A Guide to San Francisco

Third Edition, 2018
What is San Francisco to you? The city is people, buildings, and views. It is also a peninsula made over millennia by soils transported from far away and uplifted from deep below by powerful tectonic forces that continue to transform and shape our natural habitat. Sunlight, weather, and geology create a biodiverse tapestry of more than 1,500 species, some of which live here uniquely. For countless generations, California Indians intertwined the landscape in harmony with wild plants and animals. In the 1800s, European colonists radically altered many natural and cultural processes which today we are working to restore. This map helps us re-see the present, and move into a more harmonious, future that of what Charles Darwin called 'evolve.' A more beautiful life.

Explore and Discover
- Natural Areas You Can Visit
- Parks & Open Spaces
- Tree Cover
- Lakes & Waterways Today
- Historic Wetlands & Waterways
- Beaches
- Native Plant Nurseries
- Nature Education Sites
- Campgrounds
- Bay & Marsh
- History & Culture
- Select Trails
Water & Reservoirs
Interdune freshwater pond in the Sunset District near present site of Sunset boulevard looking west in 1910c. Image from original glass negative. Willard Worden photographer.
Lake Merced looking west 1910c. 
Image from original glass negative. 
Willard Worden photographer.
Sea Level Rise
Tree Canopy
What is San Francisco to you? The city is people, buildings, and views. It is also a peninsula made over millennia to hills transported from far away and uplifted from near below by powerful tectonic forces that continue to shape—and shake—our region today. Sunlight, water, and the geology of the lands make it a place of beauty and bounty for more than 1,000 species, some of which live here and nowhere else. For centuries, California Indians have valued and respected the lands and waters with wild plants and animals. In the 1800s, European colonization radically altered many natural and cultural processes which today we are working to reverse. The past helps us rese the present, and move into a more harmonious future full of what Californians called endless forests, forests beautiful life.

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Have you seen these locals in the City?
- Black-tailed Jackrabbits
- Great Horned Owls
- Pacific Jackrabbits
- California Quail
- Allen's Hummingbird
- Green Herons
- Barn Swallows
- Mallards
- Yellow-billed Cuckoos
- Calfornia Thrashers
- California Thrashers
- Northern Mockingbirds
- Ruby-throated Hummingbirds
- Pacific Gulls
- Herring Gulls
- California Gulls
- Red-tailed Hawks
- Northern Flicker
- Red-shafted Flicker
- Lazuli Bunting
- American Kestrel
- Red-tailed Hawks
- Great Horned Owls
- Great Blue Herons
- Green Herons
- Snowy Egrets
- American White Ibises
- California Terns
- Western Grebes
- California Clamshell
- Pacific Tern
- Western Grebes
- Great Blue Herons
- American White Ibises
- California Terns
- Western Grebes
- Great Blue Herons
- American White Ibises
- California Terns

Contact: Download the free Naturalists’ app. Learn about species here and discover new observations.
Making the Map
Green Hairstreak Corridor
Tigers on Market Street
Adah’s Stairway
Thank You!

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