

Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District

ADOPT-THE-BAY PROGRAM

About the Program

Humboldt Bay may be the most pristine estuarine environment in the State of California as well as the second largest in the state. The species in and adjacent to Humboldt Bay are associated to the variety of unique habitats present around the Bay, including open water, eelgrass beds in shallow water, mud and sand flats, salt marshes and ponds, agricultural lands, sand beaches and islands, man-made structures, and woody riparian vegetation. The Bay is home to 113 species of fish, 251 marine birds, 362 species of marine invertebrates and numerous resident and visiting marine mammals.

We invite you and your organization to help protect our valuable natural resources like salmon, halibut, rockfish, crabs, herons, owl's clover, eelgrass and others by participating in our Adopt-the-Bay program.

Adopting a portion of Humboldt Bay is a great way to promote civic responsibility while teaching children and adults a sense of pride in our community. A variety of adoption projects can be arranged to meet your needs and schedule.

Your efforts to help protect, maintain and restore Humboldt Bay's incredible biodiversity by adopting a piece of the Bay will help fulfill the Harbor District's mission to the community members of Humboldt County and State of California.

The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (HBHRCD) mission is:

To serve all the people of Humboldt County by promoting harbor use, enhancing recreational opportunities and protecting bay and tidal environments.

The Adopt-the-Bay Program is a means by which concerned citizens and civic organizations can become a part of enhancing and preserving Humboldt Bay's natural resources. These individuals and organizations can "adopt" unique habitats of the Bay. To adopt these areas of the Bay, an individual or organization will contract with HBHRCD to perform a variety of tasks such as litter removal, debris removal, vegetation maintenance, trail maintenance and others. In addition to contracting for up to two years of "adopting" the Bay area, the Adopt-the-Bay Program also promotes individual short-term projects such as trail construction, signage construction or placement, revegetation and others.

The Adopt-the-Bay Program creates a partnership between HBHRCD and the citizens of Humboldt County. HBHRCD, in general, will provide project design, hand tools, plants, trail materials and waste disposal while the participants provide labor, monitoring and upkeep of the adopted area. The partnerships created by the Adopt-the-Bay Program will ensure the timely cleanup and maintenance of the Bay resources and reflect HBHRCD's commitment to the preservation and enhancement of Humboldt Bay's natural resources.

This packet contains information on "how to" become a part of the Adopt-the-Bay Program. The contents of this packet include:

- Application Procedure
- Application Form
- Volunteer Project Guidelines
- Liability Waiver Form
- Example of Landowners Permission Form

Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District *ADOPT-THE-BAY PROGRAM*

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Procedure:

- ◆ Identify a portion of Humboldt Bay that you or your group would like to adopt.

- ◆ Come visit our office at 601 Startare Drive, Woodley Island, Eureka, CA and pick up an application packet or download one from the Harbor District's website at www.humboldtbay.org

- ◆ Get neighbors, friends or groups involved. Pick a project from the volunteer projects listed in the packet or propose your own project.

- ◆ Complete the application and other forms (as applicable) and return them to the Humboldt Bay Harbor District for review and approval.

- ◆ Make sure all permits (if necessary) and letters of permission are completed. Remember that rocks are slippery, bay mud can be soft and the water may be deeper than it looks. Always use a long stick to test depth and bottom hardness before wading out too far.



Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District

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APPLICATION

A. PROJECT PROPOSAL

1. Name Of Group Or Individual _____
Responsible Leader's Name _____
Address _____

_____ Phone _____
2. Description Of Area To Be Adopted _____
Location Of Project _____

3. Description Of Proposed Project _____

4. Time Limit Of Adoption _____
5. Benefits Derived From Project _____

B. SIGNATURE _____ Date _____

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

Director of Conservation
Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation
And Conservation District
601 Startare Drive
Woodley Island
Eureka, CA 95501

Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District

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Volunteer Project Guidelines

This section of the Adopt-the-Bay Program application packet contains several “ready to use” Project ideas suitable for use by Community volunteers at appropriate areas.

The following project ideas are included in this packet:

- ◆ Remove trash and debris
- ◆ Revegetation
- ◆ Survey Wildlife
- ◆ Map Vegetation of Bay
Wildlife areas
- ◆ Make up your own project

Volunteer Projects

Project One

REMOVE TRASH AND DEBRIS FROM THE BAY

Purpose:

Simply removing trash from the Bay can improve aesthetic value of the area. Removing trash also helps to reduce the impacts of pollution from decomposing trash, decreases erosion, and decreases sedimentation. When all these factors are improved, the bay will be enhanced for plants, invertebrates and fish. For this project trash to be removed includes plastics, polystyrene, grass clippings and other yard waste, auto parts, cans, bottles, and dimensional

Procedure:

Permits Required: No.

Suggested Season: Spring, summer, fall.

Landowner permission required: Yes.

Suggested Ages: 12 years and up.

Equipment needed:

Rubber boots, hip waders or old shoes for participants

Gloves

Trash containers

Use containers which can be recycled (cardboard boxes, paper bags)

Use separate containers for recyclable trash (glass, plastic, and aluminum)

Disposal of trash can be arranged by HBHRCD.

Project Two

REVEGETATION AND VEGETATION MAINTENANCE

Purpose:

The purpose of this volunteer project is to assist HBHRCD in either planting appropriate native vegetation in designated waterfront areas or maintaining vegetation. Vegetation maintenance basically involves the annual removal of exotic plant species such as broom, pampas grass, lupine and others from designated wildlife areas.

Procedure:

Permits Required: No.

Suggested Season: Spring, Summer, Fall.

Landowner Permission Required: Yes.

Suggested Ages: 12 years and up.

Equipment needed: Spade, shovel, Pulaski or McCloud, Gloves

Hard hat (when working with digging tools)

Directions:

HBHRCD will provide plant materials and planting plan. HBHRCD will also provide disposal of exotic plants.

DON'T GET IN OVER YOUR HEAD!!! USE CAUTION WHEN WORKING NEAR THE WATER EDGE. REMEMBER THAT ROCKS ARE SLIPPERY AND THE WATER MAY BE DEEPER THAN IT APPEARS.

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Project Three **SURVEY WILDLIFE**

Purpose:

Humboldt Bay's environment has a variety of invertebrates, fish mammals, and birds. Often many of these species are indicators of the environment's health. To determine the wildlife present in a given section of area, survey techniques such as transects, seining or netting and observation are used. When surveyed year after year, these surveys can show improvement or degradation of the Bay's environment.

Procedure:

Permits required: (Fish or invertebrates for scientific or educational purposes, CA DF&G).

Suggested Season: All.

Landowner permission required: Yes.

Suggested Ages: 12 years and up (with adult supervision).

Equipment needed:

4'-6" Aquarium Nets

Dip Nets

Seines

Buckets

Rubber Boots or Waders

Rock Baskets

Binoculars

Flagging (for marking stations)

Stakes (for marking stations)

Hammer (for marking stations)

Directions:

Identify the area you would like to survey.
Determine if you're going to survey invertebrates, fish, mammals, birds or any combination.
Design a sampling scheme and frequency.
Measure the survey area and place markers at intervals, which will serve as permanent stations. Use the data sheet developed by your group and HBHRCD to make your observations at each station on a regular basis (monthly or bimonthly).
Supply a copy of your data sheet to HBHRCD for permanent records.

Project Four **MAP VEGETATION** **AND/OR HABITAT TYPES**

Purpose:

When assessing the health of the bay environment, it is helpful to know as much as possible about what kinds of habitats are present. This information can provide a basis for creating new habitat types, expanding existing habitat types or discovering habitat deficiencies. By surveying identical sections of the bay from year to year, changes can be identified and information derived and management decisions made.

Procedure:

Permits required: No.

Suggested Season: All.

Landowner permission required:

Yes, if surveying on private property.

Suggested Ages: 15 years and up.

Equipment needed:

Rubber Boots

Flagging (for marking sections)

25-foot to 100-foot measuring

Tape

Wooden Stakes

Hammer

Staff Gauge (optional)

Directions:

Identify portion of waterfront you would like to survey. Measure the portion of waterfront and place markers (if appropriate) at intervals, which will serve as permanent stations. For consistency, HBHRCD staff will assist with designating a marking and mapping method. Use the data sheet developed by your group and HBHRCD to make your observations at each station on a regular basis (monthly or bimonthly). Supply a copy of your data sheet to HBHRCD for permanent records.

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LANDOWNER PERMISSION

When program activities occur on property other than Harbor District property, landowner's permission must be obtained. Remember to be courteous and responsible on private as well as Harbor District property. Be safe as landowners are not liable for injuries incurred as a result of Adopt-the-Bay Program activities.

A. **Landowner's Name** _____
Address _____ Phone _____

I, _____ agree to allow volunteers participating in the Adopt-the-Bay Program to conduct waterfront enhancement activities on my property.

B. **Group or Volunteer's Name** _____
Contract's Name _____
Address _____ Phone _____
Description of Activities _____

Date(s) of Activities _____
Number of volunteers participating _____

It shall be agreed that the above landowner, _____ shall not be liable for injuries incurred in Adopt-the-Bay Program activities.

Signed _____ Date _____

RETURN WITH APPLICATION TO:
Director of Conservation
Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation
& Conservation District
601 Startare Drive
Woodley Island

Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District

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Release, Hold Harmless and Agreement Not To Sue

ACTIVITY: _____

I, _____ (Last, First, Middle Name), fully understand that my participation in the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District activity listed above exposes me to the risk of personal injury, death or property damage. I hereby acknowledge that I am voluntarily participating in the activity listed above and agree to assume any such risk.

I hereby release, discharge and agree not to sue Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District, its employees, or agents for any injury, death or damage to or loss of personal property arising out of, or in connection with, my participation in the activity listed above from whatever cause, including transportation in a Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District vehicle, the active or passive negligence of Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District, or any other participants in the activity listed above.

In consideration for being permitted to participate in the activity listed above, I hereby agree, for myself, my heirs, administrators, executors and assigns, that I shall indemnify and hold harmless Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District, its employees, agents, and volunteers from any and all claims, demands, actions or suits arising out of or in connection with my participation in the activity listed above.

READ THIS DOCUMENT COMPLETELY BEFORE SIGNING

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS AND AGREEMENT NOT TO SUE AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT IT IS A FULL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY AND SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

NOTE: The signature of a parent or guardian is required for those guests or observers under the age of eighteen (18) years.

Date: _____ Participant's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian, if under age of 18: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

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For Office Use Only:
Date/Time of Event: _____

Approved By: _____
HBHRCD Title: _____