

HAAF ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

HAMILTON ARMY AIRFIELD

Restoration Advisory Board Members

Co-Chairs

Ed Keller
Army BRAC Environmental Coordinator

Thomas Macchiarella
Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator

Tunstall Lang
Community Co-Chair

Community Members

Marucia Britto

Preston Cook

Joan Dekelboum

Richard Draeger

Patricia D. Eklund

Thomas Hinman

Matthew McCarron

Manuel Mier

Sabrina Molinari

Karol Raymer

Jack Walton

Regulatory Agency Representatives

Naomi Feger
Regional Water Quality Control Board

Jim Ponton
Regional Water Quality Control Board

Lance McMahan
California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control

Theresa McGarry
California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control

Rich Seraydarian
US Environmental Protection Agency

Technical Support

Ray Zimny
US Army Corps of Engineers

Jim McAlister
US Army Corps of Engineers

ROCK AND ROLL!

REMEDIATION PAVES THE WAY FOR HAMILTON'S NEW SKATE PARK!

Hamilton's new skateboard park opened to kids young and old on June 22nd, 2002. The one-million-dollar park was built in less than six months by the City of Novato. The park immediately became a hit with local kids, and has attracted skaters and spectators from Marin County and beyond. Says Jared Vleming (pictured below), an in-line skater from Santa Rosa, "When this park first opened there were so many people, I could not even count them. Now there is usually around 30 or so all day long on the weekends."

The skate park property formerly served as the Hamilton Civil Engineering Complex, which housed space for painting, electrical

work, and carpentry associated with the Hamilton Army Air Field. The complex was demolished in May and June of 1998 and clean-up of the site began soon after. The Army removed soil that contained residual petroleum and pesticides, and imported clean soil to the site. The Army transferred the property to the City of Novato on December 31, 1999.

The addition of yet another kid-friendly venue is very much appreciated by skaters near and far. Says Matt Andrews, from Los Angeles, who was at the park visiting a friend, "There aren't many parks down south. Around here, you can travel 20 minutes in any direction and find a park to skate at." Although many kids would dispute the seeming abundance of parks in northern California, all would agree with Sofia Barchuk that new asphalt is something to be savored while it's still fresh: "I like the park because it is close to my home and it is slippery and smooth" said Sofia, a young in-line skater from Marin who has been skating for five years. Hamilton has certainly become a cool place to hang out.



A New Vision for the Future Hamilton Bay Trail

HAMILTON BAY TRAIL PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN IS RELEASED!

The Bay Trail is a planned recreational corridor that will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays with a continuous 400-mile network of bicycling and hiking trails. To date, approximately 210 miles of the alignment—slightly more than half the Bay Trail's ultimate length—has been completed. A 2.5-mile portion of the Bay Trail currently runs through Hamilton along the existing Hamilton levee.

The City of Novato is planning extensions to the Trail and released a Plan in April of this year entitled the Hamilton Bay Trail Public Access Plan. The Plan would extend the Bay Trail an additional four miles to the north and south of the levee, following the perimeter of the planned Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Area.

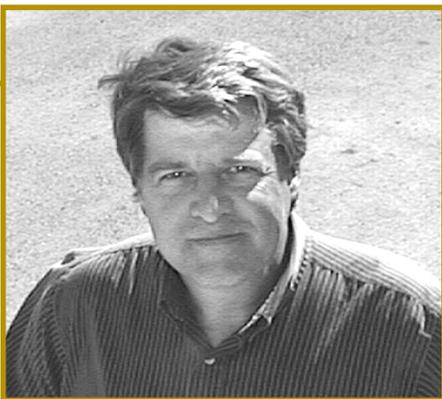
By extending the trail, Hamilton visitors and residents will have views of over 1000 acres of wildlife and wetland habitats and views of San Pablo Bay.

Once the Hamilton airfield runway and Bel Main Keys are restored to their former wetlands habitat, they will host a mix of tidal marsh, seasonal wetlands, and grasslands that will support a variety of rare plants, shorebirds, salamanders, frogs and the endangered California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse.

"The Bay Trail will be a tremendous asset to the Hamilton community by restoring valuable habitat and creating educational opportunities," says Jennifer Barrett, Planning Manager for the Novato Community Development Department.

The Hamilton Restoration Project, which includes the Bay Trail, is expected to be completed by 2015, although certain segments of the trail may be available for public use before the entire project is complete. The City of Novato is also planning a Vista Trail that will lead from the levee to the top of Reservoir Hill, offering panoramic views of San Pablo Bay and beyond.

The community is encouraged to get involved in monitoring and maintaining the Trail. Individuals and groups can also make donations for benches, interpretive signs and other amenities. For more information, please contact Pam Shinault at the City Parks, Recreation and Community Service Department at (415) 897-4323.



MEET HUGH ASHLEY *Army BRAC Office*

my work focuses on researching historical information or finding chemical results of investigations and remediation work that had already been completed prior to my arrival in July of 1999.

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

I was born and raised in San Francisco. I went to a prep school in New Jersey, where my father and uncle had gone to high school. Then I came back to California for college at UC Berkeley and studied fine arts.

WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND? WHAT OTHER JOBS HAVE YOU HELD?

As a young man I wanted to be an artist and sculptor, but soon after graduating from university I decided I didn't want to be a starving artist. So I worked in construction, mostly home remodeling, for ten years in the Bay Area. I also spent two years in Charlottesville, Virginia where I worked as a carpenter for a home restoration company. We repaired and remodeled southern mansions and historical buildings. During that time in Virginia, I became interested in solar heating and cooling for home design and went back to school to Cal State University, Sacramento for a second bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Over the years, I've worked for various environmental consulting and construction companies, overseeing soil gas surveys, managing the removal of underground fuel tanks and the installation of replacement aboveground tanks, and designing groundwater pump and treatment systems.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR CURRENT LINE OF WORK? WHAT IS MOST SATISFYING ABOUT IT?

In a way, I fell into the environmental work because it was a good fit for my temperament, training, and abilities. The work I do at Hamilton is very challenging because the federal remediation process is interwoven with the state, regional, and local regulatory frameworks. My skill set and experience are put to use daily in document editing and working through the regulatory processes. I really enjoy doing the research needed to answer questions the regulators are constantly asking.

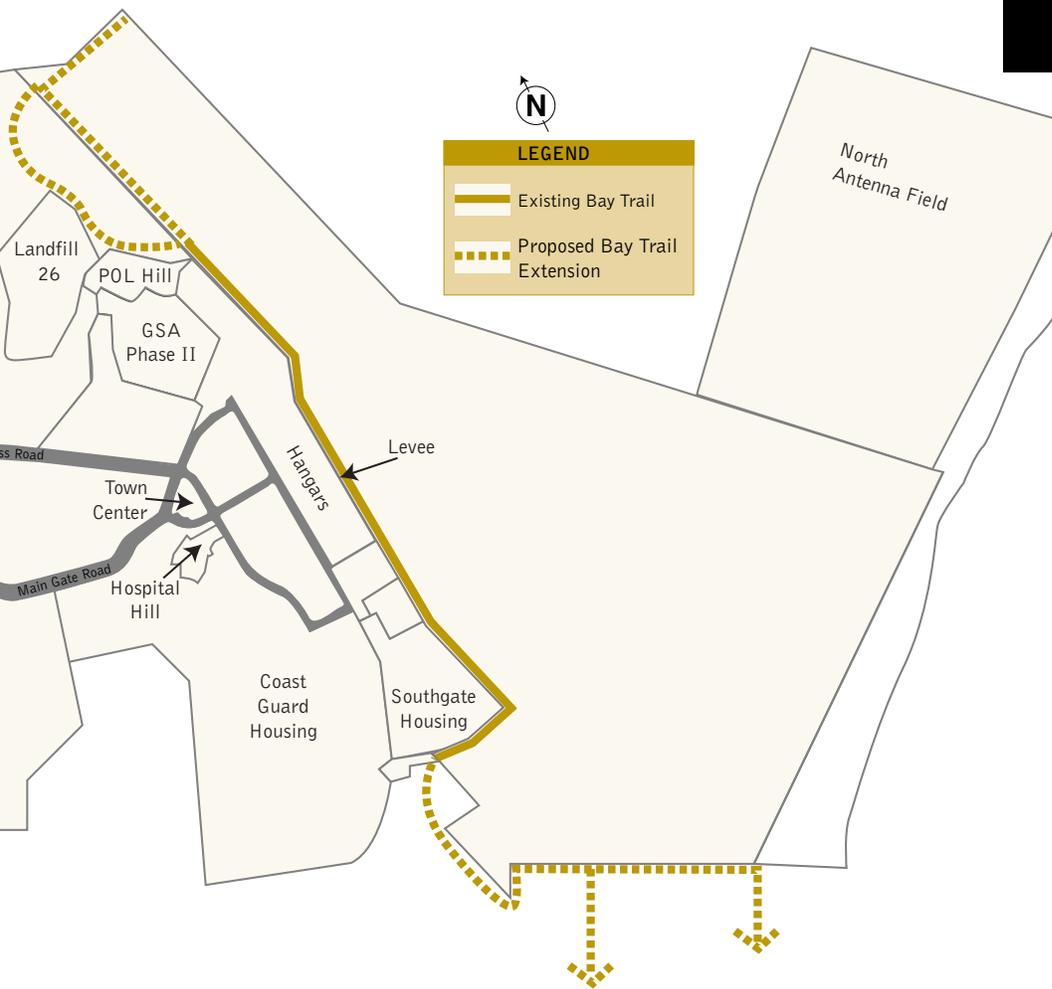
WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO OUTSIDE WORK?

I still do some carpentry on my house and woodworking. I play a pretty good blues harp (harmonica), at least I haven't been asked to sit out after being heard by the other musicians. I like to camp, hike and fly fish, and spend time with my two sons, watching them mature and helping when I can.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AT HAMILTON?

I provide technical support and environmental engineering management at Hamilton Army Airfield for the Sacramento District of the US Army Corps of Engineers. This entails whatever needs to get done to support Ed Keller, the Hamilton BRAC Environmental coordinator, in representing the technical interests of the U.S. Government in dealing with the contractors, the regulatory community, and the public.

We focus on the Army's mission to transfer Hamilton to the State of California so that the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project and other associated projects like the Bay Trail can move forward. Because we deal with the issues of residual contamination that resulted from former Department of Defense activities at the airfield, much of



Army BRAC Property

The Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) for Hospital Hill is signed, and the Army is currently reviewing the FOST for Outparcel A-4. Once the FOST is signed, both parcels will be transferred to the City of Novato.

The Army has completed remedial actions on four Inboard Airfield sites. The Army has also demolished Building 41, and removed two revetments (revetments 6 and 7) and Spoils Pile F.

The Draft General Reevaluation Report and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Bel Marin Keys Unit V Expansion of the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project was released in July 2002. The public comment period on the document was extended from September 2nd to September 13th, 2002 to allow for additional time for comment after Labor Day holidays.

Port of Oakland Dredge Project

The project is waiting for funding confirmation for the next fiscal year to determine the pace of future work. Dredging and importing wetland materials are expected to be completed by 2006.

GSA Sales Area

North Antenna Field - The remedial investigation (RI) has been distributed to the regulatory agencies for review. The risk assessment and a closure document will be prepared for the area once the review of the RI is complete.

Landfill 26 - The Army is conducting ongoing groundwater and soil gas monitoring to ensure contaminants from Landfill 26 remain contained. Representative Lynn Woolsey requested ongoing groundwater monitoring and played a key role in obtaining additional funding for this work.

Commercial Areas

Senior Rentals - 128 rental units will be available in December 2002. The units will include studios and one-and two-bedroom apartments. Applications are now being accepted. Please call 1-800-932-5777 for more information.

Meadow Parks Townhomes for Sale - The first set of affordable Townhomes is expected to be completed in March 2003. Applications for a lottery are now being accepted until November 1, 2002. For more information, please call 1-800-308-4889.

HAMILTON MEADOWS IS SAFE FOR RESIDENTS RESULTS OF THE ARMY'S RISK ASSESSMENT ARE PUBLISHED.

The Army recently completed a risk assessment to address health and human safety concerns associated with Landfill 26. Because methane and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected at Landfill 26, the Army wanted to ensure that the Hamilton Meadows properties near the landfill remain safe for residential use.

The risk assessment focused on potential chronic long-term health risks in indoor air, which would have the greatest potential to pose a threat to residents. The assessment also evaluated chronic long-term health risks in outdoor air for residents and construction workers.

In order to conduct the assessment, the Army collected soil samples from shallow soil gas probes located throughout the residential area in November and December of 2001. The samples were analyzed for VOCs. Each chemical identified was analyzed in terms of its cancer and non-cancer risk, using a model developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Based on measured concentrations of VOCs in the soil gas, the Army did not find a current health risk in either indoor or outdoor air. In fact, the level of the VOCs in the Bay Area ambient air-the air we breathe everyday-is for the most part, greater than the predicted concentrations of VOCs in indoor or outdoor air from migration of soil gas to the surface. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control agrees with the findings of the risk assessment, that the VOCs in the property that was investigated south of the landfill do not pose a human health risk to residents of Hamilton Meadows.

A copy of the Draft Final Risk Assessment Report has been placed in the Novato Public library and the BRAC library on Hamilton. Once the report is finalized and approved by DTSC it will be made part of the Administrative Record.



**BRAC Environmental Office
Hamilton Army Airfield
1 Burma Road
Novato, CA 94949**

**PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PERMIT NO. 11751**

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Update

RAB Responsibilities

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), is an advisory board made up of interested and concerned community members who reflect the diverse interests of the local community as well as representatives of state, local, and federal agencies. The RAB is designed to serve as a focal point for the exchange of information between the Army and Navy and the community regarding those restoration activities presently underway, as well as those planned for future studies and remediation.

The Hamilton RAB meets on the third Wednesday of every other month. The next RAB meeting is October 16, 2002. To receive further information regarding the RAB, community involvement, environmental clean-up at Hamilton, or to be added to the Hamilton RAB mailing list, please contact: Joy Lanzaro 415-883-6386.

Upcoming Meetings

The next **RAB Meeting** will be held at the Hamilton School Multi-Purpose Room.

- October 16, 2002, 7 p.m.

For More Information

HAAF Army BRAC Environmental Office

Hamilton Army Airfield
1 Burma Road, Novato, CA 94949
tel: 415.883.6386 fax: 415.883.1033

Ed Keller, BRAC Environmental Coordinator
haafbec@earthlink.net

Joy Lanzaro, BEC Assistant
haafasst@earthlink.net

Information Repositories

Marin County Public Library, Novato Branch

1720 Novato Boulevard, Novato, CA 94947
tel: 415.897.1141

HAAF Army BRAC Environmental Office

Please call for an appointment.

www.spk.usace.army.mil/cespk-pm/haaf/rab/rab.html
www.efds.w.navy.mil/Environmental/Novato.htm