

SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL AREA HARBOR LAKE REGIONAL PARK

Resource Description: Harbor Lake Regional Park supports one of two remaining wetlands that once covered the South Bay area. The freshwater plants and animals found here are completely surrounded by residential and industrial facilities. This type of habitat has been filled, drained, and lost to development throughout most of Los Angeles County. In some areas, man-made lakes and ponds have created small freshwater marshes along their edges, but this is minimal when compared to the large expanses of freshwater marsh that were once found in the Los Angeles basin.

Freshwater marsh habitat supports a great diversity of wildlife. Most of the bird species found here are dependent in some way on the surface moisture and vegetation, and would not be able to survive without it. It is also a habitat that supports several species of amphibians. Frogs and toads can be found here that are becoming extremely difficult to find throughout southern California. The marsh is also an important area for migratory birds. Because Harbor Lake Regional Park and Madrona Marsh are the only habitat of this type in southern Los Angeles County, they serve as miniature wildlife refuges. Waterfowl, shorebirds, marsh birds, and others can be found on the marsh in numbers during the spring and fall migration.