



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BIRD RELEASE EVENT - OAKLAND BABY HERONS FROM
TREE-TRIMMING INCIDENT, JUNE 7: SEE DETAILS BELOW**

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Young herons injured in Oakland tree-trimming incident to be released in East Bay

A group of orphaned Black-crowned Night Herons, including at least two of the five birds cared for after the Oakland tree-trimming incident, will be released at East Bay Regional Park District's Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline in Oakland on Saturday, June 7

OAKLAND (June 5, 2014) — At least two of the young Black-crowned Night Herons injured during an Oakland tree-trimming incident that made national headlines have healed from their wounds and are ready for release in East Bay marsh habitat on **Saturday, June 7**.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON RELEASE EVENT INFORMATION

WHEN: Saturday, June 7 at 1 P.M.

WHERE: Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline Park, Southwest entrance across from 80 Swan Way (see map on page 3). Camera crews are encouraged to arrive early to ensure suitable vantage point.

WHO: Representatives from International Bird Rescue and Golden Gate Audubon Society will be available for interviews.

The subject of extensive media attention in the New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, local TV news and NBC's The Today Show, five baby Black-crowned Night Herons — a federally protected species — were injured in early May after falling from their nests during a tree-trimming incident at a U.S. Post Office location. All herons were brought to WildCare in Marin County for initial treatment before transfer to International Bird Rescue, which specializes in herons and other aquatic species.

The injured herons have been treated for injuries sustained from the fall and have been raised at International Bird Rescue's San Francisco Bay center for several weeks, as they were unable to be re-nested. One baby heron suffered a fractured mandible requiring surgery. Ernesto Pulido, the proprietor of the tree-trimming business, immediately stepped forward to pay for the care of these animals.

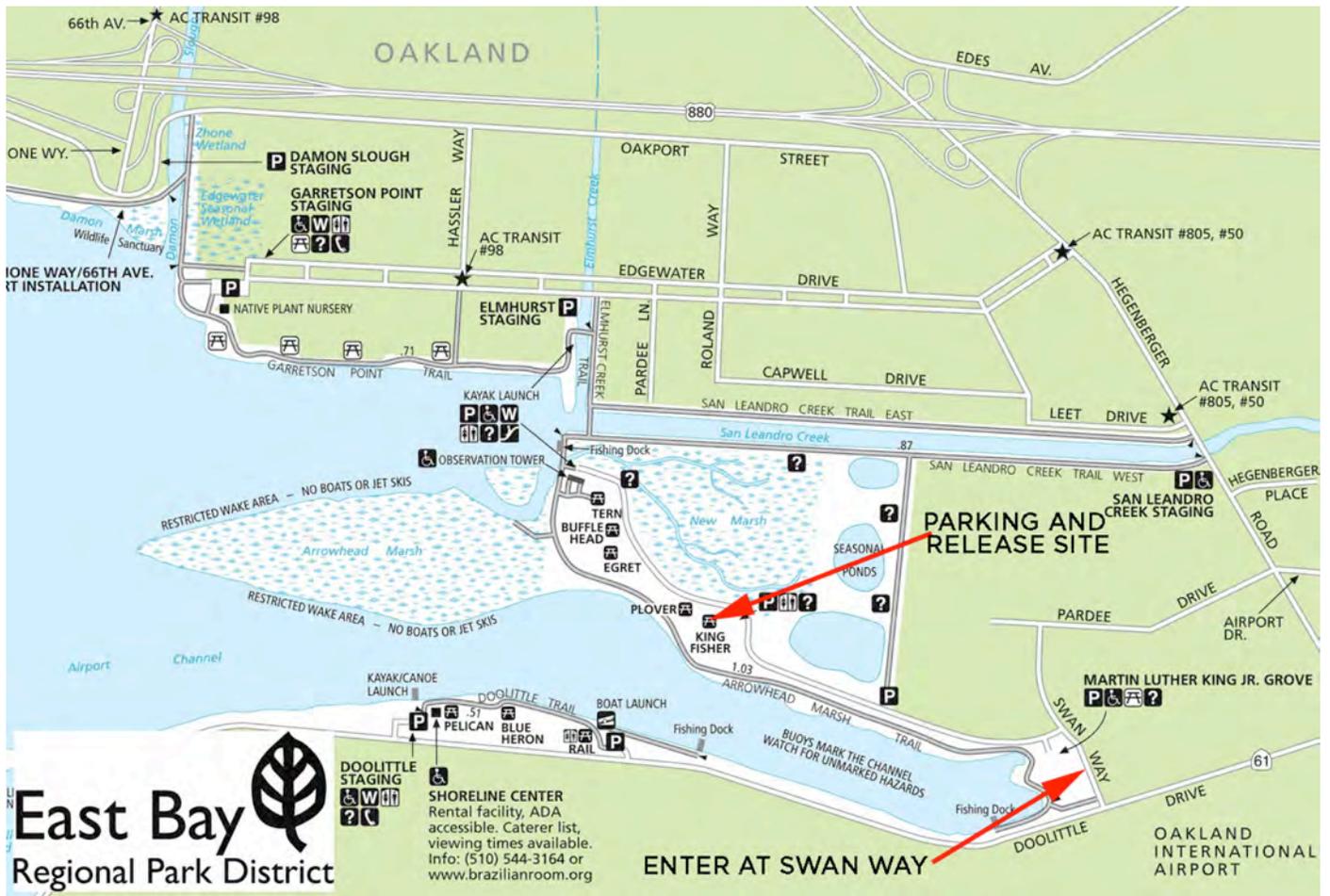
"Our team raises hundreds of orphaned herons each year, and we're pleased to see that these young patients are doing extremely well and will soon be ready for release," said, Andrew Harmon, communications director for International Bird Rescue. "A few weeks ago, we invited Mr. Pulido to our San Francisco Bay center to check in on these animals — an invitation he gladly accepted. We had a very productive meeting, and we believe this incident can serve to educate the public on the consequences of tree-trimming in the spring, when nesting is in high gear."

Several of the herons from the incident will be released during the June 7 event alongside other orphaned Black-crowned Night Herons brought from throughout Northern California to International Bird Rescue's San Francisco Bay center. The release site at MLK Regional Shoreline Park is a primary destination for birds and people who love to watch them. It is also a vibrant watershed education site for Golden Gate Audubon's Eco-Education program, which brings hundreds of low-income Oakland schoolchildren there each year. The remaining birds from this incident continue to receive care from International Bird Rescue's San Francisco Bay center until they are old enough to be released.

"We are all deeply committed to preventing harm to birds, especially during spring and summer nesting season," said Golden Gate Audubon Executive Director Cindy Margulis. "Toward that end, Golden Gate Audubon has just published an informative brochure for arborists and backyard gardeners that is available at www.goldengateaudubon.org/treecare. We will also be offering workshops for arborists on wildlife-friendly tree care."

The East Bay Regional Park District's MLK Regional Shoreline provides habitat for a wide array of wildlife, including birds such as Western Grebes, Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons, and endangered Least Terns and Clapper Rails. The herons to be released on June 7 will be banded with white bands so that researchers can track them post-release.

EVENT MAP:



About International Bird Rescue: International Bird Rescue (IBR) has been helping seabirds and other aquatic birds around the world since 1971. Our team of specialists operates two year-round aquatic bird rehabilitation centers in California, which care for more than 5,000 birds every year. IBR is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Learn more at birdrescue.org.

About Golden Gate Audubon Society: *Golden Gate Audubon is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Bay Area birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitats. We conserve and restore wildlife habitats, connect people of all ages and backgrounds with the natural world, and educate and engage Bay Area residents in the protection of our shared, local environment. Learn more at goldengateaudubon.org.*

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