

SAVE OUR LAKE SEASON

**THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE,
AND SO IS OUR ANNUAL LAKE
MERRITT INSTITUTE SAVE OUR
LAKE FUNDRAISER!**



YOUR SUPPORT THIS SEASON HELPS REMOVE POLLUTION, EDUCATE LOCAL YOUTH, AND PROTECT THE WILDLIFE REFUGE AT OAKLAND'S BELOVED LAKE MERRITT. EVERY DOLLAR GOES DIRECTLY TOWARD KEEPING OAKLAND'S CROWN JEWEL HEALTHY AND VIBRANT FOR ALL.

MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT AND HELP US SAVE THE LAKE!



For the full article of *The Tidings* in color, visit <https://lakemerrittinstitute.org/tidings>

SCAVENGER STROLL

NAME: _____

DATE OF YOUR STROLL: _____

HOW DO YOU GET TO LAKE MERRITT?

- WALK
- CAR
- PUBLIC TRANSPORT
- BIKE
- OTHER: _____

WHICH LMI U-CLEAN-IT BOX IS CLOSEST TO YOUR HOME?

- EMBARCADERO
- E 18TH ST
- LAKE CHALET
- GLEN ECHO

HOW MANY MILES DO YOU LIVE FROM LAKE MERRITT?

HOW MANY OF OUR LMI U-CLEAN-IT BOXES DID YOU SPOT? WHERE ARE THEY?

HOW MANY MOSAIC-TILED TRASH CANS CAN YOU FIND AROUND THE LAKE?

WHAT OTHER KINDS OF ANIMALS CAN YOU SPOT AROUND LAKE MERRITT? THESE MAY BE WILD OR DOMESTICATED ANIMALS!
HOW MANY BIRD ISLANDS ARE THERE ACROSS FROM THE ROTARY CENTER?

LMI'S OFFICE IS AT THE LAKE MERRITT SAILBOAT HOUSE. HOW MANY DOCKS CAN YOU COUNT AT THE BOAT HOUSE?

WHAT IS THE SHAPE PAINTED ON THE PAVEMENT OUTSIDE THE BOAT HOUSE?

FIND THE "MID-CENTURY MONSTER" SCULPTURE IN LAKESIDE PARK. SHARE A 1-3 SENTENCE STORY ABOUT THE MONSTER: WHAT KIND OF WEATHER DOES IT LIKE BEST? WHAT ARE ITS FAVORITE BIRDS? WHAT MISCHIEF DOES IT GET UP TO WHEN NO ONE IS LOOKING? BE CREATIVE!

WHICH OF THESE BIRDS CAN YOU SPOT?

HERON

CORMORANT

EGRET

DUCK

COOT

PELICAN

GULL

KINGFISHER

PIGEON

GOOSE



**SUBMIT YOUR ANSWERS TO BE ENTERED
INTO OUR 2025 LMI HOLIDAY STROLL
RAFFLE!**

**MORE INFO AVAILABLE ONLINE
PRIZES INCLUDE BAYWHEELS ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP, LAKE MERRITT PUZZLES/
BOOKS, AND MORE.**



THE TIDINGS

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Rising Seas Threaten Bay Area Marshes as Local Stewards Lead Restoration Efforts

At this year’s **State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference**, a recurring and urgent theme emerged: climate change and sea level rise. These forces pose growing threats to the Bay Area’s wetlands, especially saltwater marshes that depend on a delicate balance between land and sea.

One highlight of the conference was a field trip to Peralta Park, a small but vital salt marsh along the Lake Merritt Channel. The tour was co-hosted by James Robinson, Executive Director of the **Lake Merritt Institute (LMI)**, alongside Jennifer Stern from Oakland Public Works and Jorgen and Rachel from ESA, the firm that designed and built the original wetland. Together, they shared how the site has evolved—how past encampments damaged upland areas, and how ongoing restoration efforts are helping the marsh recover.



10/29/25 - Peralta Park Tidal Wetland, a vital salt marsh along the Lake Merritt Channel

The Lake Merritt Institute will serve as long-term stewards of the wetland, helping to monitor its health and support future restoration and educational programs. Their continued involvement ensures that this urban marsh remains a living classroom and a resilient natural buffer against rising seas.

Sea level rise threatens marshes in subtle but devastating ways. If plants can’t grow upward fast enough to keep pace with rising tides, vegetation drowns, and essential habitat for fish, birds, and invertebrates disappears. Saltwater intrusion, soil changes, and increased flooding further compound the risk—particularly in low-lying areas like those surrounding Lake Merritt.

Another topic discussed during the visit was the 7th Street Flood Control Station, a critical but complex piece of infrastructure. Its tide gates protect the Lake Merritt Channel from extreme high tides and flooding, but when closed too long, they limit tidal flow and reduce oxygen levels in the lake—putting aquatic life at risk.

Despite these challenges, the tone of the visit was hopeful. Protecting and restoring tidal wetlands like Peralta Park offers one of the best defenses against sea level rise. Healthy marshes absorb wave energy, store carbon, and provide vital refuge for wildlife adapting to a changing climate—benefits that the Lake Merritt Institute will help safeguard for years to come.



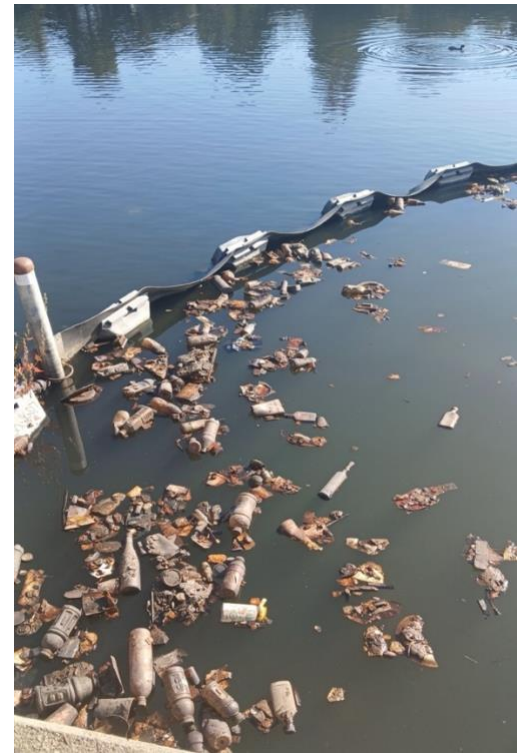
*10/29/25- State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference field trip to Peralta Park. The tour was co-hosted by James Robinson, Executive Director of the **Lake Merritt Institute (LMI)**, alongside Jennifer Stern from **Oakland Public Works** and Jorgen and Rachel from **ESA**, the firm that designed and built the original wetland. (photo left)*

LMI October Impact Report
11,010 gallons of trash removed
497 volunteer community hours

As of November 1, 2025, we've already **removed 93,960 gallons of trash** from Lake Merritt—surpassing last year's total of 75,960 gallons with two months still to go. The pollution isn't slowing down, and neither can we. This Holiday season, your support is critical to keep our cleanups going strong. Every dollar helps us remove more trash, protect wildlife, and keep our lake healthy. Please give today.

Community Power

Huge thanks to the amazing groups and individuals volunteers who joined our October cleanups: Weekly A-Team • Novartis Team • Achieve HS • East Bay Innovation Academy HS • Bishop O'Dowd HS • Oakland Tech HS • Arise HS Students



10/31/25 – Rain season brings in a surge of “flush trash” that had been stuck in the 62 storm drains, dramatically increasing the amount of trash entering the lake.

For questions and comments please email us at info@lakemerrittinstitute.org.
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