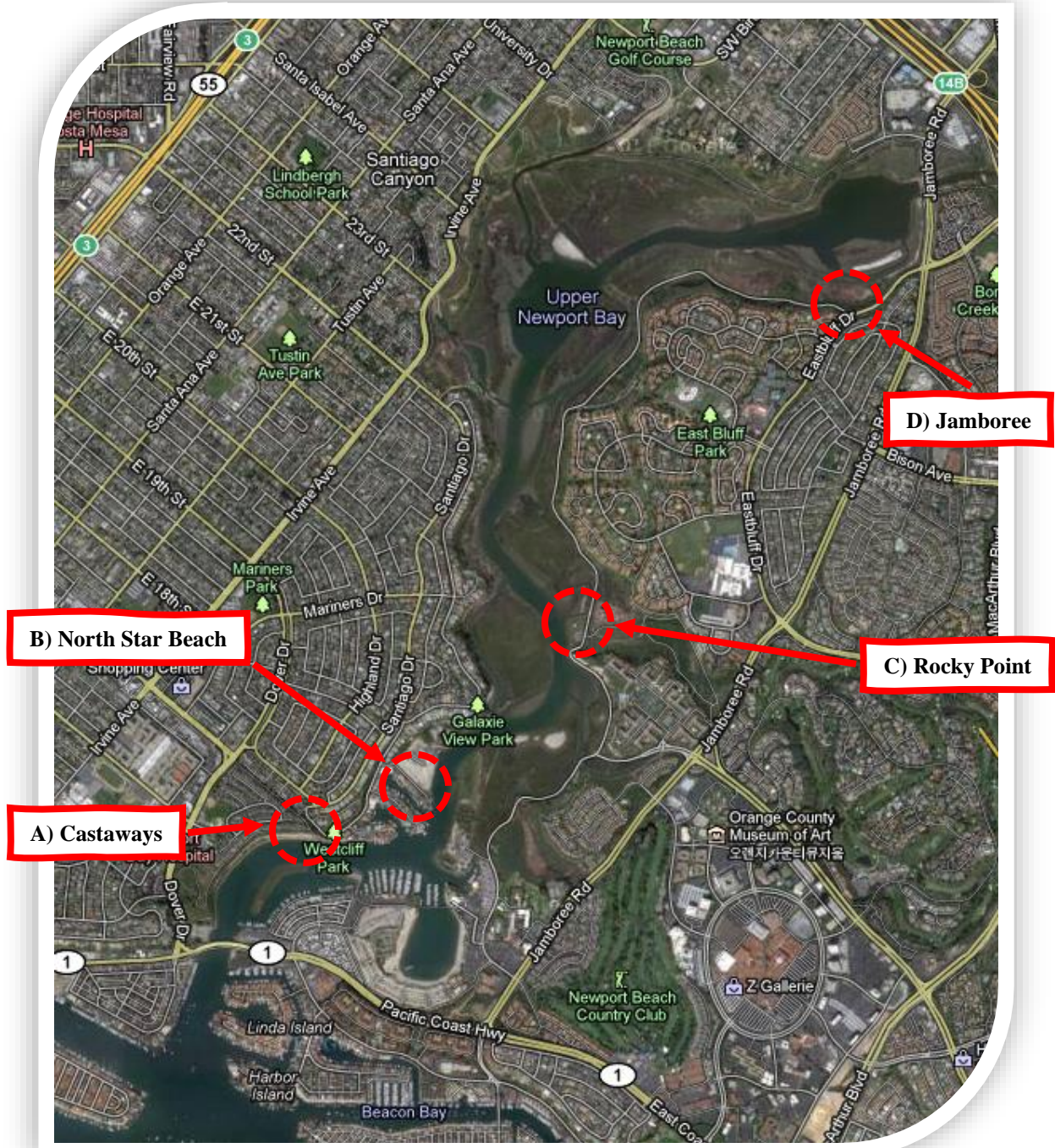


# Upper Newport Bay



**Background Information:**

In 1989, Orange County finally accepted the 140 acre Upper Newport Nature Preserve, one of the last few remaining estuaries in Southern California and home to nearly 200 different species. An estuary is a place where freshwater and saltwater meet and mix. Upper Newport Bay can be partitioned into six habitats: open water, mudflat, saltmarsh, freshwater, upland, and riparian — all of which house species like birds, mammals, fish, native plants, and many endangered species.

Upper Newport Bay is both a recreational area as well as an ecological reserve. The common recreational activities around the bay include: paddle boarding, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, fishing, rowing, bird-watching, jogging, bicycling, hiking, horseback riding, and a 10.5 mile circular trail around the bay. Although there are several recreational activities that are permitted, certain regulations must be followed. To name a few, only recreational fishing is allowed by hook-and-line around North Star Beach, Rocky Point and Castaways. Swimming in the bay is only permitted between North Star Beach and Mid-Channel. Marine aquatic plants except for kelp are allowed to be collected. Boats are limited to speeds less than five miles per hour, while shoreline access is limited to established trails and paths or other designated areas.

Not only are there tons of recreational activities at the bay, but plenty of community activities around the bay as well. Located around the bay are facilities like the Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center (exhibits and interactive displays illustrating special features of Upper Newport Bay), Back Bay Science Center (water quality lab, educational exhibits, end point and lower staging area for Mountains and Sea Trail), and Newport Aquatic Center (kayaking, rowing, paddle boarding, canoeing). Additional activities include movie nights at the Muth Center, nature loop, restoration program, nature's adventures, bayside buddies, tideland tykes and many more.

**Proposed Allowed Uses:**

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited, except for aquatic plants (not including kelp) and finfish by hook and line on the shore. Swimming is allowed between North Star Beach and Mid-Channel, the boating speed limit is 5 mph, shoreline access is limited, and use fees apply.

**Boundary Description:**

MPA is bounded by northeastward of Pacific Coast Highway approximated by a line between the following two points:

33° 37.02' N. lat. 117° 54.24' W. long.;  
33° 37.02' N. lat. 117° 54.32' W. long.

MPA is also bounded by southwestward of Jamboree Road approximated by a line between the following two points:

33° 39.07' N. lat. 117° 52.02' W. long.;  
33° 39.03' N. lat. 117° 52.01' W. long.

## Surveys:

- A) Castaways
- B) North Star Beach
- C) Rocky Point
- D) Jamboree

## Distances:

Castaways → North Star Beach = 1 mile

North Star Beach → Rocky Point = 4 miles

Rocky Point → Jamboree = 2.5 miles

## Parking:

- A) Castaways: park at Westcliffe Park
- B) North Star Beach: free parking in the designated parking lot
- C) Rocky Point: park at the Big Canyon Ecological Reserve parking lot
- D) Jamboree: park along Eastbluff Drive, right before hitting Jamboree Road, and walk to the bridge or see if you can park at the Marriott located after the bridge

## Directions:

### Castaways

Directions: left onto Red Hill Avenue; left onto University Drive; right onto Irvine Avenue; left onto Santiago Drive; left onto Polaris Drive; park in Westcliff Park

Address: Westcliff Park, Newport Beach, CA 92660

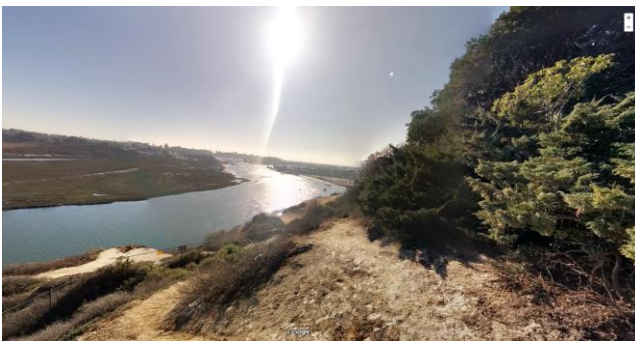




### North Star Beach

Directions: left onto Whitecliffs Drive

Address: 1 Whitecliffs Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660



### Rocky Point

Directions: continue on Polaris Drive up the hill; left onto Westcliffe Drive; left onto Dover Drive; left onto Pacific Coast Highway; left onto Jamboree Road; left onto Back Bay Drive/ Mountains to the Sea Trail & Bikeway; destination on the left

Address: Newport Bay Marine Protected Area, Newport Beach, CA 92660



## Jamboree

Directions: continue on Back Bay Drive; left onto Eastbluff Drive; destination on the left

Address: Vista Point, Newport Beach, CA 92660



