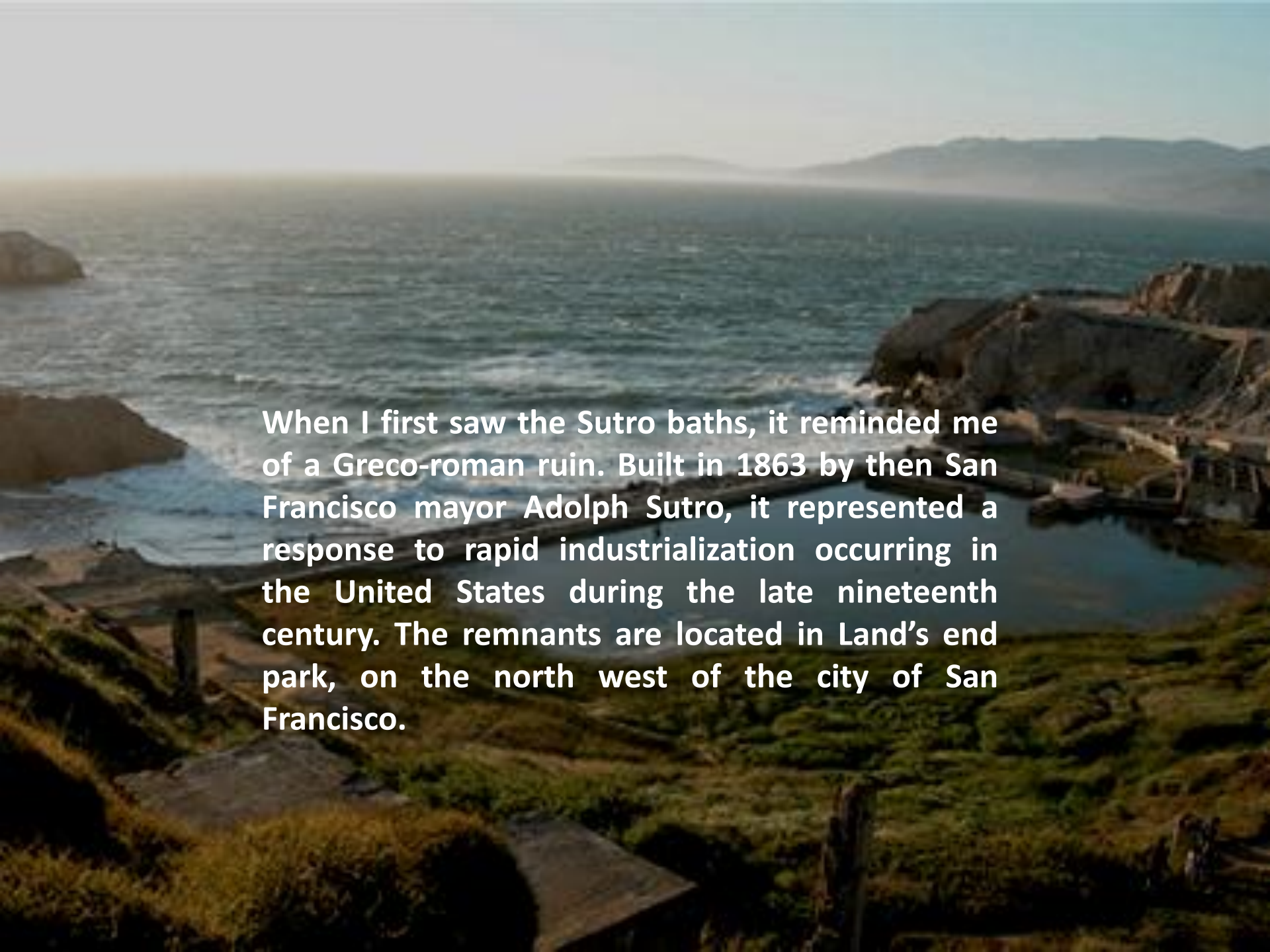
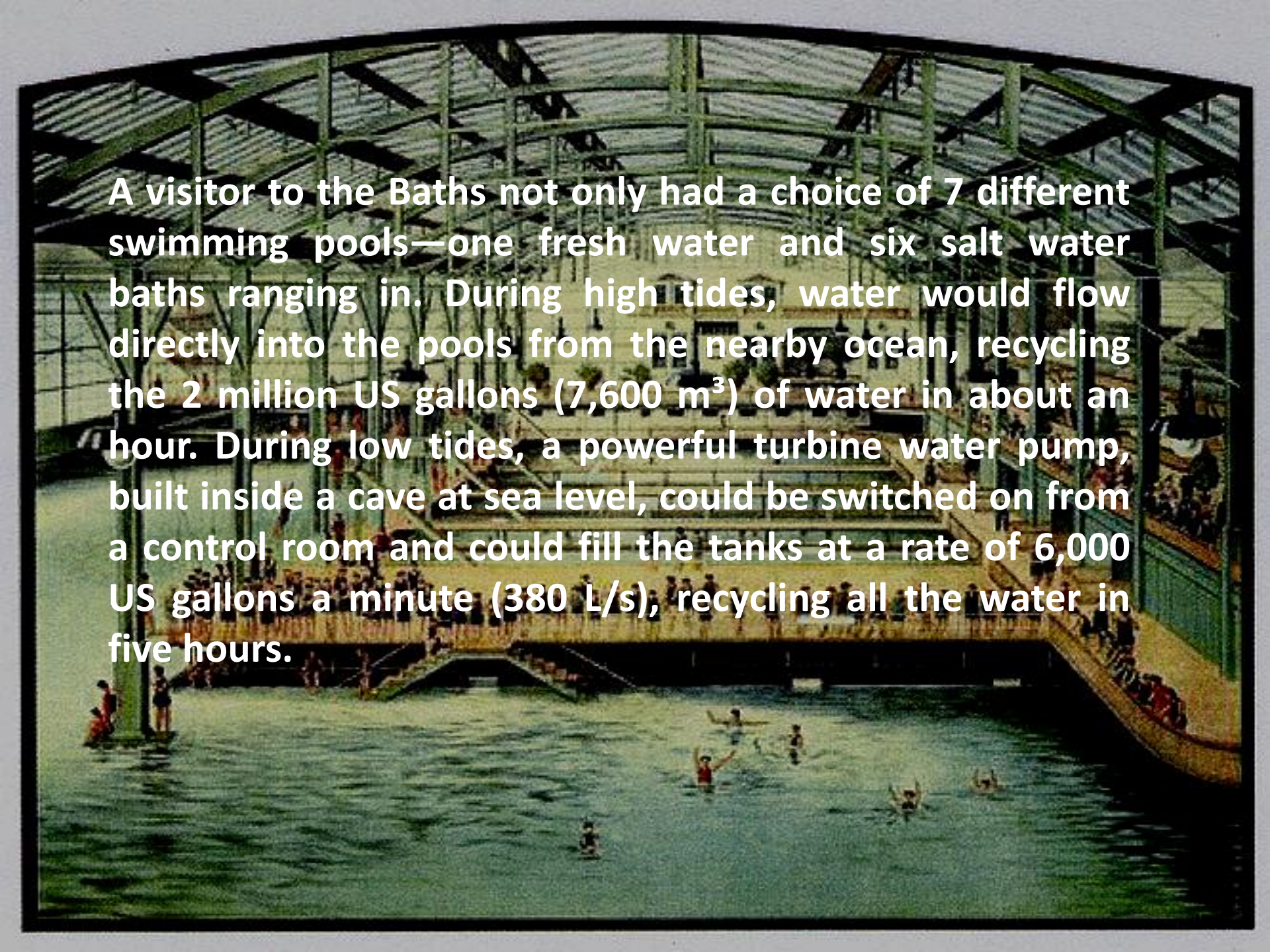


SUTRO BATHS



A scenic view of the Sutro Baths ruins in Land's End Park, San Francisco, overlooking the ocean at sunset. The ruins are visible on the right side of the image, and the ocean extends to the horizon under a hazy sky. The foreground shows a grassy hillside with some wooden posts.

When I first saw the Sutro baths, it reminded me of a Greco-roman ruin. Built in 1863 by then San Francisco mayor Adolph Sutro, it represented a response to rapid industrialization occurring in the United States during the late nineteenth century. The remnants are located in Land's end park, on the north west of the city of San Francisco.

A historical illustration of a large, covered swimming pool. The structure is a massive, arched metal framework with a corrugated metal roof. The pool is filled with water, and several people are swimming. A large crowd of people is gathered on a wooden walkway or bridge that spans across the pool. The scene is set outdoors, with a building visible in the background. The overall style is that of a vintage postcard or historical photograph.

A visitor to the Baths not only had a choice of 7 different swimming pools—one fresh water and six salt water baths ranging in. During high tides, water would flow directly into the pools from the nearby ocean, recycling the 2 million US gallons (7,600 m³) of water in about an hour. During low tides, a powerful turbine water pump, built inside a cave at sea level, could be switched on from a control room and could fill the tanks at a rate of 6,000 US gallons a minute (380 L/s), recycling all the water in five hours.

Demise

An aerial photograph showing a coastal area. In the foreground, there is a large, multi-level concrete dam or retaining wall structure. Behind it is a body of water, possibly a reservoir or a bay. In the background, a steep cliffside is visible with several buildings, including a prominent white building with a glass facade. The ocean is visible on the right side of the image.

- High costs for operating and maintenance eventually forced the location to close its doors in 1966
- Fate stepped in and a fire burned the place down later the same year it closed.
- A developer had plans to erect a housing and shopping complex on the site, but in 1980 the National Park Service bought the land for over five million dollars, adding it to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area

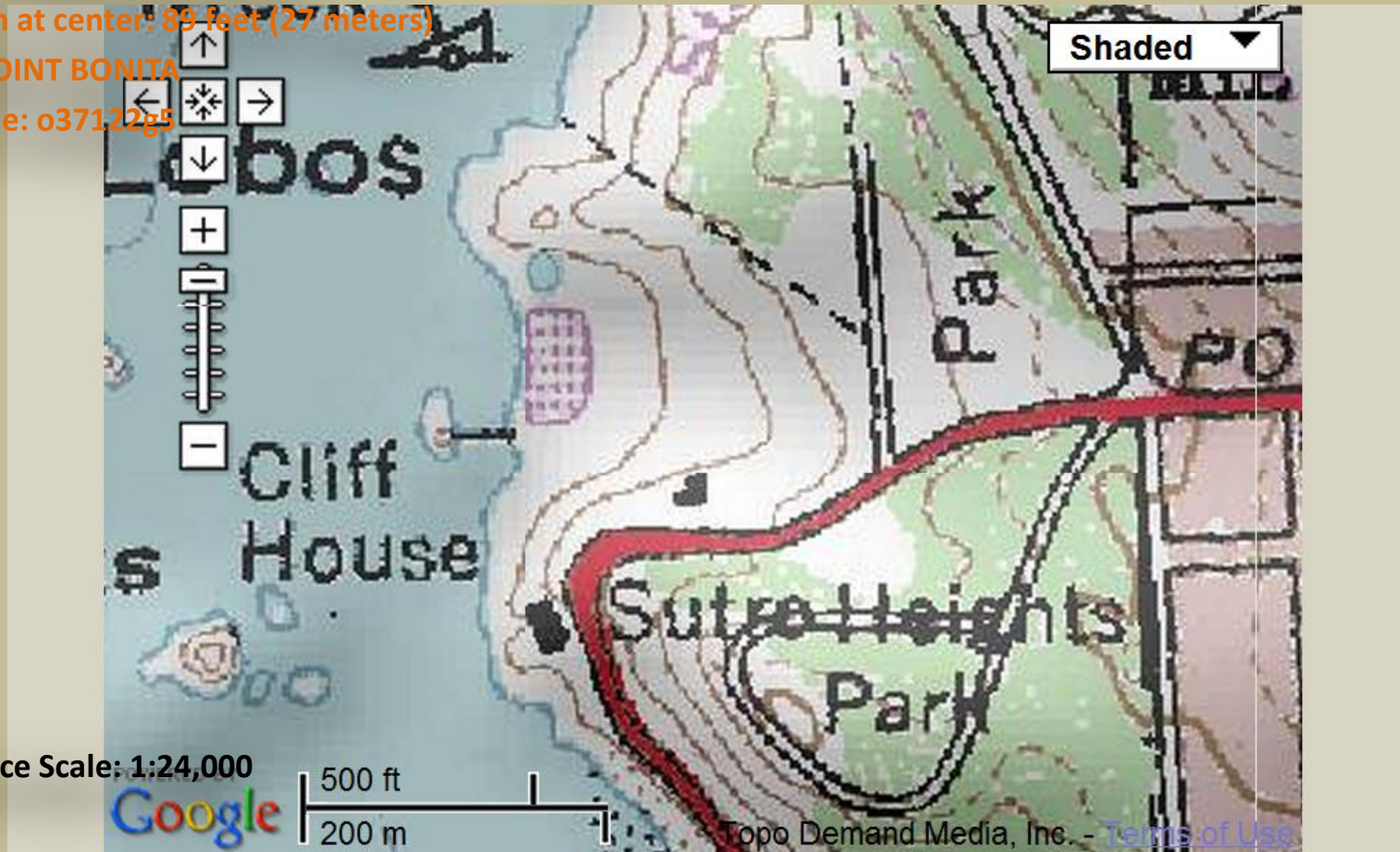
Topography

Center: 37.7797°N 122.5127°W

Elevation at center: 89 feet (27 meters)

Quad: POINT BONITA

Drg Name: o37122g5



Drg Source Scale: 1:24,000



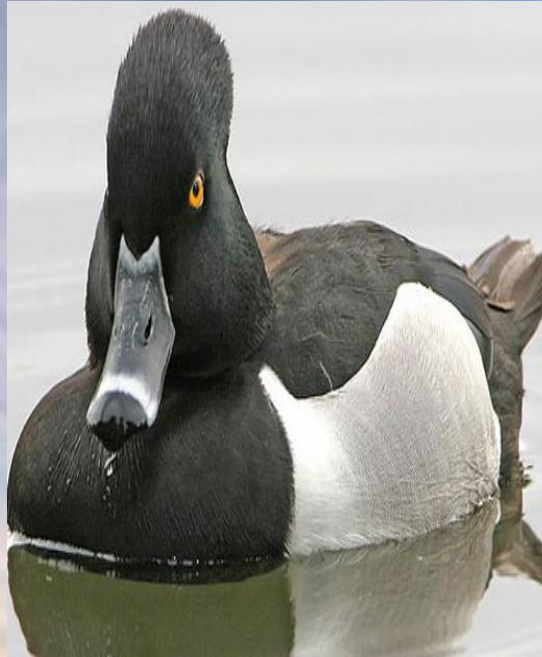
Topo Demand Media, Inc. - [Terms of Use](#)

Geology

The cliffs surrounding the ruins are characterized by dark, hard rock rising in immensely detailed formations up to 300 feet high before yielding to a softer, decaying rock and soil. Since the water table leaks out of the cliffs, there is an abundance of interesting plants which seem to exploit the watershed dribbling down, among them douglas iris, plumes of cow parsnip with huge leaves, and some very nice flowering mallow bushes. This is another great feature of the cliffs. The area is especially good for watching pelicans on flyby

Ecology

Sutro baths ruins are home to resident species such as White-crowned Sparrow and migrants such as Townsend's Warbler, the Great Blue Heron, Gadwalls, Ring-necked Ducks that use this site as a resting stop and feeding place during their long journey.



A close-up photograph of several bright yellow, spherical flower heads of Dune Tansy (Tanacetum camphoratum). The flowers are densely packed and have a textured, almost spiky appearance. They are surrounded by vibrant green, finely divided foliage, likely ferns or similar plants, which provides a rich contrast to the yellow. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture of the petals and the surrounding leaves.

Ecology

Between June and September, the native Dune Tansy (*Tanacetum camphoratum*) blossoms brightening the cliffs around Sutro Baths with its golden yellow flowers.



ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

- During the time that the baths were open to the public, several nonnative species were introduced into the area as a way to attract people.
- Currently, this area is under heavy relandscaping to get rid of invasive nonnatives.
- Drop in program where volunteers can help in restoration:
- <http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/volunteer/>

Acknowledgements

- Western Neighborhood Project
<http://www.outsidelands.org/index.php>
- Sutro Baths, Wikipedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sutro_Baths
- Sutro Historic District, Golden Gate National Recreation Area “Statement of significance”
<http://www.nps.gov/goga/historyculture/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=190714>
- Golden Gate Audubon Society
<http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/volunteer/>
- Sutrobaths.com