



San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
 Site Description for
Tidewater Boating Center



Location, Ownership, and Management: Tidewater Boating Center is owned and managed by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and was officially opened in March 2011. It is located in the City of Oakland, off of Tidewater Avenue in an industrial area on the Oakland Inner Harbor (Oakland Estuary), just south of the High Street Bridge. The Tidewater Boating Center is located on the Bay Trail and is part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline, also managed by EBRPD.

More than just a boat launch, this Center is both a local and regional park, part of the EBRPD's 1,200-acre Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline, which extends for five miles around the shoreline of San Leandro Bay at the end of the Oakland-Alameda Estuary. The park has picnic areas, lawns, and recreational programs, including nature study, offered by EBRPD for the general public and particularly for youth.

Tidewater Boating Center is open to the public during daylight hours and is also the home of the Oakland Strokes rowing club, a non-profit organization that provides outreach activities to neighborhood youth in the sport of competitive rowing. Oakland Strokes occupies one of the Center's two boat houses and operates its own recreational programs. It is under lease to EBRPD.

EBRPD operates additional, water-based recreational and environmental education programs at the site, including "Canoes in Sloughs" - type environmental education programs for local, under-served youth in the Oakland area. In addition, there are contractor-provided environmental paddling programs provided as part of the Park District's regular public programming, available through the EBRPD website.

Opening Day 2011	Rowing Club practice	Other site facilities

Please see attachments for additional photographs.

Contact Name: Wiese, Brian

Contact Phone: (510) 544-2321

Contact E-mail: bwiese@ebparks.org

Description of Existing or Planned Facilities:

<p>Site ID: <u>A25</u> In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u> Part of Bay Trail: <u>Yes</u> Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u> Ownership: <u>Public</u> Jurisdiction: <u>City</u> Designation: <u>Pending</u> Launch or Destination: <u>Launch</u> Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>None</u></p> <p>Type of Launch/Landing: Dock: <u>Yes</u> Float: <u>Yes</u> ADA: <u>Yes</u> Beach: <u>No</u></p> <p>Other: There is a wheeled cart that may be used by the public to transport small, non-motorized boats from the loading/unloading area to the gangways and docks. There are two gangways; one is fully accessible.</p>	<p>This entire facility is very new, having been officially opened in March of 2011. There is ample parking for the general public, and an additional, equal-sized overflow parking area for Oakland Strokes. There are three buildings - one is the main recreation office for EBRPD and includes a caretaker residence. The other two are boat houses. One boat house is leased and occupied solely by Oakland Strokes, and the other is used by EBRPD's recreational program and staff. Recreation staff is on duty 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. seven days per week, although staff may not be on site all of those hours, depending on programming.</p> <p>The onsite restrooms are large, unisex, ADA-accessible, and there is ample parking. There are two picnic tables, two BBQs, a drinking fountain, and six benches. There is lawn around the picnic area for general use and also, closer to the docks, for staging. A spacious drop-off area allows boaters to unload quite close to the gangways and docks. There is a long, low-float dock and there are two gangways. An additional, permitted floating dock will be added to existing piles in the fall of 2012.</p> <p>The site and its xeric landscaping (with bioswales to guard against parking lot water flowing directly into the Estuary) are maintained by EBRPD staff. There are both trash and recycling containers that are regularly maintained as well. The on-site caretaker opens and closes the gates in the morning and evening.</p>
--	---

<p>Parking and Staging: General Spaces (number): 50 ADA Parking Spaces (number): 6 Duration (hours): 12 Loading/Unloading Area: Yes Rigging/Staging Area: Yes Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): 300 Restrictions: No motorized boats.</p>	<p>Facilities: Overnight: No Boat Washing: Yes Picnic Tables: Yes Benches: Yes BBQ: Yes Boat Storage: Not for the general public at this time</p>	<p>Restrooms: Total (number): 4 ADA (number): 4</p> <p>Proximity to Other Launch and Destination Sites: Closest: (A18) Doolittle Drive, and (A28) Elmhurst Creek Farther: (A9) Jack London Square/California Canoe and Kayak (A11) Jack London Aquatic Center (A12) Grand Avenue Boat Ramp</p>
--	--	---

<p>Current and Expected User Groups</p>	
<p>Kayak: Yes</p>	<p>Canoe: Yes</p>
<p>Windsurfer:</p>	<p>Outrigger Canoe:</p>
<p>Kiteboard:</p>	<p>Sculling: Yes</p>
<p>Whaleboat:</p>	<p>Rowboat/Dinghy:</p>
<p>Other:</p>	
<p>Notes: Oakland Strokes rowers mostly use the facility from the early morning to about noon on weekends, and from about 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays.</p>	

<p>Notes Related to ADA Accessibility: Accessibility includes 6 accessible parking spaces, accessible path from parking to picnic tables with BBQs, to accessible unisex restrooms, to staging area, gangway, drinking fountains, benches, and floating dock.</p>
<p>Public Transportation: Not far from the Coliseum BART and Fruitvale BART stations. Also reachable by bus on AC Transit routes 98 (from Coliseum BART) or 73 (from Eastmont Transit Center).</p>

Use of Site (Boating and Non-Boating) and Existing and Planned Management: As described elsewhere, the site is used for EBRPD environmental education, school-based programs and general public recreation programs, and by Oakland Strokes, but may also be used by the general public arriving on its own. Dog walkers and bicyclists use the Bay Trail and anyone may picnic at the site, enjoying the views from the lawn area or benches. The site is maintained by EBRPD staff in charge of the entire MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline.

Safety and Security: Use by jet skis in this area is prohibited, but they are occasionally seen. Other motorized boats are rare in the Inner Harbor, but they are more plentiful in nearby San Leandro Bay. There is a caretaker residence at this site and there are boaters and EBRPD employees present almost all the time. There is a life preserver and reach pole at the site for use in case of emergency. The neighborhood is industrial, has no sidewalks, and limited street lighting. Large gravel trucks and container trucks pass through at various hours on Tidewater Street.

There is a ferry boat route from Bay Farm Island (over two nautical miles southwest of the facility) to San Francisco, although it only runs Monday through Friday during morning and evening commute hours.

Wildlife and Habitat Considerations: The Tidewater Boating Center is relatively near several valuable wildlife areas in San Leandro Bay, just to the south of the Center. East Creek Slough, Damon Slough, and Arrowhead Marsh all have sensitive wildlife habitat. Rafting birds (particularly surf scoters) are known to congregate at the tip of Bay Farm Island in winter months, and there are known occurrences of Clapper rail within Arrowhead Marsh. On the Bay-side of Alameda Island there is habitat for clapper rail and snowy plover as well as a heron rookery (these are at the Elsie Roemer refuge, which is not very close). At the Alameda Naval Station there are roosting CA Brown Pelicans and a colony of California Least Terns, although that Naval Station is even farther from Tidewater. There is an active habitat restoration program in the Arrowhead Marsh area, led by Save San Francisco Bay. The trailhead is at least four miles from any known harbor seal pupping or haul-out sites. The Tidewater Boating Center site itself does not contain sensitive wetland habitat, but does include attractive, xeric landscaping and bioswales to enhance the environment and prevent parking area pollution from entering the Estuary.

The BCDC permit issued for the development of Tidewater Boating Center, as amended (No. M06-8), has already required needed signage and education programs related to the existence of nearby wildlife areas and the potential for human disturbance. These requirements include naturalist-led education programs to educate kayak and canoe groups about the fragile environment and to instruct boaters to avoid the sloughs altogether. EBRPD is further required by this BCDC permit to place signs about sensitive habitat and sensitive species near the dock, which it has done, and to provide educational information to users of the facility about how to minimize the effects of increased human activity in marsh areas, where there are resident Clapper rail and overwintering waterfowl. An annual report on the progress of the naturalist's quarterly meetings with on-site staff, dock users, and Oakland Strokes members is also required by BCDC.

Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage: EBRPD Public Recreation Programs: These programs have been given at Tidewater at a frequency of one to two per month between April and October of this year. The schedule for 2012 has not been set yet. The programs are advertized on the EBRPD website. Kayaks and canoes are provided by EBRPD. Recreational leaders always include critical safety and wildlife-related information in their orientation and keep their groups together and away from areas where boaters could disturb wildlife.

School Programs: These programs incorporate a state-based curriculum for school kids. They are led by naturalists and have a strong focus on environmental education. They have modified the original "Canoes in Sloughs" curriculum.

Other Existing or Anticipated Water Trail-related Issues and Opportunities: Designation of Tidewater Boating Center will serve to increase publicity about existing EBRPD educational and recreational programs at the site. This is an excellent education opportunity for the general public, as the group leaders/naturalists weave safety and wildlife-related information into their outings.

EBRPD is planning to add an interpretive sign to the site to inform the general public about the natural, historic, and cultural features in the area. Park staff will work with Water Trail staff on language that would also meet Water Trail educational/signage requirements. See separate Signage Plan for details.



Additional photographs of Tidewater Boating Center