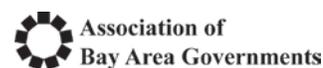




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
 Site Description for
Petaluma River Turning Basin



PRELIMINARY DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES

Location, Ownership, and Management: The Petaluma River Turning Basin is located on the Petaluma River and is owned and managed by the City of Petaluma. The Turning Basin is located near the heart of downtown Petaluma, with many restaurants, shops, and a hotel nearby. The site is currently popular with kayakers and stand up paddlers.

The Petaluma Small Craft Center (PSCC), a non-profit organization representing boating clubs, river organizations, businesses, and individuals interested in the Petaluma River, is partnering with the City of Petaluma to create a small craft rental center at this location. The plans for the small craft rental center include an additional 120-foot low freeboard dock, a floating office and boat rental center, restrooms and showers, a boat washing station, and parking improvements. The PSCC would build the small craft rental center and manage its operation. The PSCC has submitted a grant application to the Water Trail program for the low freeboard dock portion of the project. They will continue fund-raising for the remaining parts of the project.

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<p>View from the Petaluma River Turning Basin dock looking towards Weller St.</p>	<p>View from the dock looking south towards Downtown. The low freeboard dock would extend from here.</p>	<p>View from Weller St. ramp and gangway. A proposed restroom would be located to the right of the ramp.</p>

Facility Description: The Petaluma Turning Basin area is located in Downtown Petaluma, along the Petaluma River. There is a large, U-shaped dock in the Turning Basin. There are two gangways leading to the dock located on opposite sides of the "U". Gangway #1 is near the River Plaza and Gangway #2 is near Weller St. (see map below).



Site Map

Parking is available along Weller Street and in the small lot off Weller street at Cavanagh Park (near Gangway #2) or in the River Plaza Shopping Center (near Gangway #1). The Weller St. lot has two-hour parking from 8AM - 6PM, except Sundays and holidays. The Petaluma Small Craft Center is negotiating a parking agreement with the owner of the River Plaza Shopping Center for dedicated parking spots for boaters and a loading/unloading area.

The proposed restroom will be located near the Weller St. parking lot and gangway in Cavanagh Park. The City and regional bus system is one block away and the proposed SMART station stop will be approximately two blocks from the Weller St. parking lot.

There is a guest dock used by motorized boats located along Water St. across the basin along the railroad trestle. This area is not included in the site designation.

Other Identifying or General Information:

<p>Site ID: <u>Sn7</u> In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u> Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u> Ownership: <u>Public</u> County: <u>Sonoma</u> Geo-Region: <u>Petaluma River</u> SF Bay Plan Region: <u>N/A</u> Launch or Destination: <u>Launch</u> Home of a Club: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Used by a Program that Assists Persons with Disabilities: <u>Unknown</u> Appreciated for Windy Conditions: <u>No</u> Near Food or Drink: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Proximity to Other Sites: Petaluma Marina (Sn6) is located 1.5 miles downriver and Papa's Taverna/Lakeville Marina (Sn 5) is located 6 miles downriver.</p>
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Description of Launch/Landing:

<p>Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>No</u> Float: <u>Yes</u> Freeboard Level: <u>High (9" and above)</u> The PSCC is proposing a low freeboard dock as part of their proposed project. Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u> Gangway: <u>Yes</u> Gangway #2 Length (feet): <u>36</u> Gangway #2 Width (inches): <u>36</u> Gangway Slope Description: <u>Unknown</u> Boat/Trailer Ramp: <u>No</u> Mudflats Affect Site Usability: <u>No</u> Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u> Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u> Beach: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Water Entry Path: <u>No</u> Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>No</u></p> <p>Other Launch/Landing Notes: <u>There is another dock across the river near the Yacht Club for visiting power and sailboats.</u></p> <p>Restrictions: <u>Unknown</u></p> <p>Gangway #1 does not meet ADA standards because the gangway is too narrow and there are stairs at its entrance. Gangway #2 located near Weller St. appears to meet ADA standards.</p>
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Site Appears to be Suitable For:

Kayak: <u>Yes</u> Windsurfer: <u>No</u> Kiteboard: <u>No</u> Whaleboat: <u>No</u> Stand Up Paddleboard: <u>Yes</u>	Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Outrigger Canoe: <u>No</u> Sculling: <u>No</u> Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>Yes</u> Dragonboat: <u>No</u> Other: <u>No</u>
Notes: Turning basin used by motorized boats. Tidal correction: high +2:10; low +3:10	

Transportation and Parking:

General Spaces (number): <u>1-25</u> ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>1</u> ADA Parking Description: There is one accessible spot in the lot on Weller St. leading to Gangway #2. Duration (hours): 2 hours from 8am – 6pm, except Sundays and holidays (Weller St. lot). There is ample street parking along Weller St. with no parking from 2am – 6am. Overnight Parking Possibly Allowed: <u>Yes</u> Overnight Parking Description: It is possible that overnight parking is allowed between 6pm and 8am in the Weller St. lot. Overnight parking opportunities will need to be explored with the City of Petaluma. Loading/Unloading Area: <u>Yes</u>	Bay Trail: <u>No</u> There are five parking spots in the Weller St. lot, one of which is an accessible parking spot. The Weller St. lot needs a few improvements such as re-surfacing the lot and removing the flagpole in the path of travel. The striping for the accessible spot appears to be newly painted. There is parking in the River Plaza Shopping Center. An agreement with the PSCC is still being negotiated to formalize parking for boaters, including accessible parking, and to create a loading/unloading area. Public Transportation: There is a planned SMART station stop on Lakeville and East Washington Streets (approximately two blocks away). Sonoma County Transit runs bus Route 44 and 48 between Santa Rosa and Petaluma and route 40 between Sonoma and Petaluma, with stops in downtown Petaluma.
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Path of Travel:

Distance to Existing High Freeboard Dock from Weller St. Parking Area (feet): Less than 50
 Distance to Existing High Freeboard Dock from Weller St. Accessible Parking (feet): Less than 50

Path of Travel Exists: No

Path of Travel Description: Right now the path of travel from the parking lot to Gangway #2 (Weller St.) is blocked by a flagpole. The City has indicated they will move the flagpole and upgrade the parking lot. Once on the dock from Gangway #2, the distance to the proposed low float docks is approximately 350 feet.

Other Site Amenities:

Total Restrooms: 0

Total Accessible Restrooms: 0

Restroom Description: Currently there is no public restroom available. The PSCC Center is proposing to construct an accessible unisex restroom and shower at Cavanagh park on Weller St. near Gangway #2. The City of Petaluma will maintain the restrooms.

Boat Washing: No

The PSCC is proposing to include boat washing as part of the rental center project.

Rigging/Staging Area: No

Picnic Tables: No

Benches: No

The PSCC is proposing to add benches on the rental center docks for people to sit.

BBQ: No

Boat Storage: No

The rental center project will not have public boat storage, but people will be able to tie up their boats along the dock, provided there is space, while they explore downtown Petaluma.



Gangway #1, looking towards the River Plaza Shopping Center

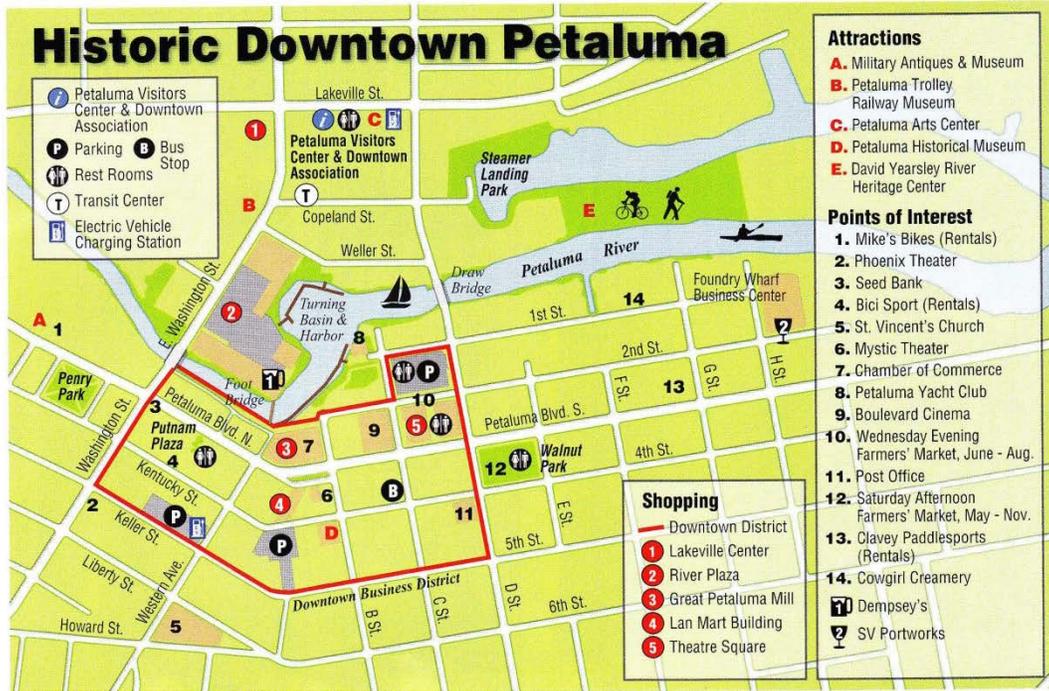


Looking towards the pier and Gangway #1

Overnight Accommodations:

Hotel: <u>Yes</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: <u>No</u>	Other: <u>No</u>
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Accommodations Description: Hotel Petaluma is located downtown, less than a half-mile away. There are many points of interest in downtown Petaluma, including restaurants, port tasting, cheese tasting, shopping, theatres, and farmer’s markets. See map below from the Petaluma Visitor’s Bureau.



Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:

The gangway located on Weller St. appears to meet ADA requirements. The range of slopes on the gangway at various tides is not yet known. There is a flagpole located near the entrance to the gangway which impedes passage by persons using wheelchairs or canes. The City will move the flagpole to a new location to improve the route of travel. The gangway near the River Plaza Shopping Center is not accessible, per ADA standards, because it has a set of stairs leading to it and it is too narrow. The City would like to improve the River Plaza gangway by adding a ramp to bypass the stairs and replacing the gangway with a wider one, but this improvement is not part of the proposed PSCC project.

Additional Notes on Use of Site (Boating and Non-Boating) and Existing and Planned Management:

The site is very popular and is used by motorized and non-motorized boats. Clavey Sports, a local outfitter, uses the dock for kayak and stand up paddleboard classes. The PSCC will enter into an agreement with the City of Petaluma to operate and maintain the rental center. They plan to have both staff and volunteers available on-site during daylight hours.

Safety and Security, including Parking:

For emergencies, users may call the Sheriff's Marine Unit at (707) 433-0728 or 911. It is believed that once the rental center is in operation, the presence of the rental center will increase the security of the site.

Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:

Nearby there are active heron and egret roosting sites located near the Petaluma River. The City of Petaluma will need to carry out an environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) before commencing any construction on site (and before the Water Trail program can fund or designate the site). Listed fish species in this area are another concern that will be considered in relation to the removal or addition of pilings.

Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage:

Currently there is little signage and the signage that exists is related to regulations and dogs on leashes. The Water Trail educational sign will provide information for boaters. Once the rental center is in operation, there will be more opportunities for education and outreach because there will be someone on-site to interact with the public. There will also be a location for brochures and maps.

Other Existing or Anticipated Water Trail-Related Issues and Opportunities:

The PSCC rental center will also provide non-motorized small boats and a location to expand the classes, camps, and youth programs they currently run. The rental center would be staffed with paid staff and volunteers that would also serve as a resource for people accessing the water and downtown Petaluma, even if they are not renting, but simply visiting.



View of Gangway #1 and the Turning Basin



View of parking lot at Cavanagh Park, (off Weller St.) leading to the ramp and Gangway #2, with flagpole in path.

**Summary of Environmental Review (Water Trail Final EIR)
For
Petaluma River Turning Basin
June 28, 2013**

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Recreation <i>References: WT FEIR text. Also, see map for hunting location.</i></p>	<p>The proposal to add additional dock space, a rental center, and restroom will increase the facility and expand recreational use. There is a potential for conflict to occur between motorized and non-motorized users and between non-motorized small boat users.</p> <p>The edge of the hunting area falls just within the four mile buffer from the site. However, to reach the site by navigable waters requires a distance greater than four miles. Therefore a Water Trail sign on-site warning users of hunting locations will not be required.</p>	<p>The Water Trail (WT) website comment form will allow users to document use observations and conflicts. The rental center is expected to have on-site staff and volunteers who can observe use patterns. If the WT is presented with information about use conflicts, the WT will consult with staff and volunteers from the Petaluma Small Craft Center and City of Petaluma staff to determine if additional physical or management measures are necessary to alleviate use conflicts. A plan for implementing the appropriate measures shall be developed collaboratively with the City of Petaluma, the Petaluma Small Craft Center, and WT staff.</p>
<p>Navigational Safety <i>References: WT FEIR text and Figures 3.4.2-1 and 3.4.2-2.</i></p>	<p>The site is not near commercial shipping or ferry routes.</p>	<p>WT educational materials (website and brochure) include emergency preparedness and response information.</p>
<p>Aesthetics: <i>References: WT FEIR text</i></p>	<p>The launch site is considered an urban boat launch because it is located near Downtown Petaluma.</p>	<p>The City of Petaluma will evaluate potential aesthetic impacts of the rental center, low freeboard docks, and restroom under their CEQA document. The low-freeboard dock itself will have virtually no aesthetic imprint, but the larger project, including the</p>

		<p>rental center, will.</p> <p>A “sign program” will be developed with the Petaluma Small Craft Center and City of Petaluma to ensure WT signage does not result in sign clutter.</p>
<p>Biology- Vegetation <i>References: WT FEIR text and Table 3.7.2-1</i></p>	<p>There is a potential for boaters to inadvertently spread invasive species.</p>	<p>The rental center will have a boat wash. The WT website explains how WT users can prevent the spread of invasive species by rinsing boats and equipment.</p>
<p>Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i></p>	<p>There are currently two active heron or egret rookeries located within four miles of the site.</p> <p>There are no other known sensitive bird species near the site. The Petaluma Small Craft Center is preparing a biological assessment and the WT will use the information contained in the report to determine if additional signage is necessary.</p>	<p>Signage will emphasize the importance of not landing in an unauthorized location and not disturbing rookeries. Given the width of the Petaluma River in the vicinity, it will not be feasible for non-motorized small boat users to maintain a buffer distance of 200m. The WT sign will emphasize that boaters should keep as wide a distance as possible and ways to avoid disturbing rookeries during the breeding season.</p> <p>The City of Petaluma will evaluate potential biological impacts due to construction of the low freeboard docks, rental center, and restrooms under their CEQA document.</p>
<p>Biology – Harbor Seals <i>References: WT FEIR text, Figure 3.9.2-1, and Tables 3.9.5-1 and 3.9.5-2</i></p>	<p>There are no known harbor seal haul-outs within four miles of the site.</p>	<p>WT educational materials (website and brochure) include information about avoiding disturbance to harbor seal haul-outs.</p>
<p>Cultural Resources</p>	<p>The WT EIR includes mitigations for potential cultural impacts due to</p>	<p>The WT website includes information about avoiding</p>

<p><i>References: WT FEIR text</i></p>	<p>construction.</p>	<p>disturbance to cultural artifacts.</p> <p>The City of Petaluma will evaluate potential cultural impacts due to construction of the low freeboard docks, rental center, and restrooms under their CEQA document. WT staff will coordinate with the City to ensure the Water Trail cultural mitigation measures are included in their CEQA document.</p>
<p>Hydrology <i>References: WT FEIR text</i></p>	<p>The WT EIR includes mitigations for potential hydrological impacts due to construction.</p>	<p>The City of Petaluma will evaluate potential hydrological impacts due to construction of the low freeboard docks, rental center, and restrooms under their CEQA document. WT staff will coordinate with the City to ensure the Water Trail hydrology mitigation measures are included in their CEQA document.</p>
<p>Transportation, Circulation, and Parking <i>References: WT FEIR text</i></p>	<p>The WT EIR includes mitigations for potential transportation impacts due to expanded use.</p>	<p>The City of Petaluma will evaluate potential transportation impacts due to construction of the low freeboard docks, rental center, and restrooms under their CEQA document. WT staff will coordinate with the City to ensure the Water Trail transportation mitigation measures are included in their CEQA document.</p>