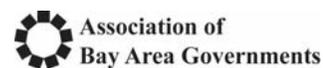




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
 Site Description for
Doolittle Boat Launch



Location, Ownership, and Management: Doolittle Boat Launch is located in Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, east of the Oakland International Airport. The Regional Shoreline, including the boat launch, parking area, and restrooms, are managed by the East Bay Regional Park District. Major site improvements to the boat launch and nearby Bay Trail are planned for 2019/2020.

Contact Name: Takei, Kevin

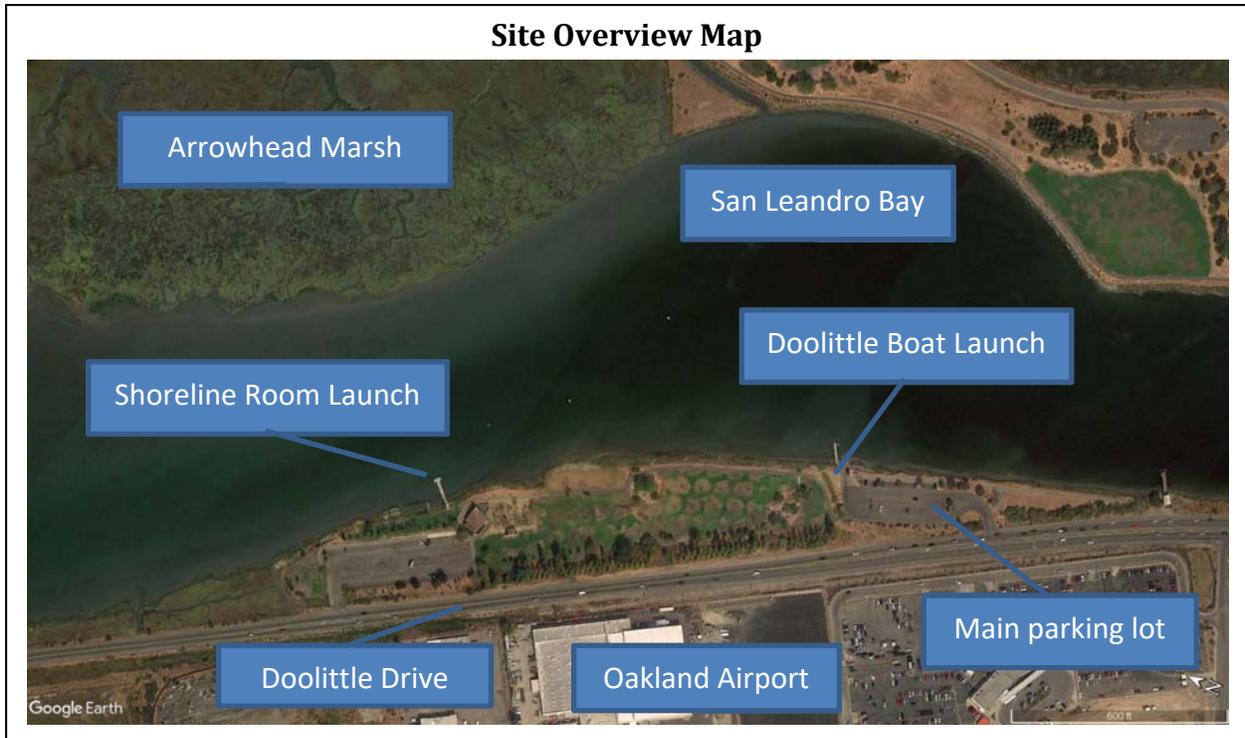
Contact Phone: (510) 544-3172

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Doolittle Boat Launch	Shoreline Room Launch	Parking

Facility Description: Doolittle Boat Launch provides access to San Leandro Bay via two high-freeboard docks and a boat ramp. A large parking lot, adjacent park, and location near Arrowhead Marsh make Doolittle an ideal launch location. An additional low-freeboard dock is located 1/4 mile north of the primary boat launch, adjacent to the Shoreline Room. The Doolittle Boat Launch provides water access to this serene section of San Leandro Bay and adjacent marshes and is popular for both motorized and non-motorized watercraft users.

The dock and ramp at the Doolittle Boat Launch are deteriorated and do not meet current accessibility standards. The East Bay Regional Park District is planning improvements that would replace the existing deteriorated high-freeboard docks with a new high-freeboard dock and a low-freeboard dock to American with Disabilities Act standards, repave the boat ramp and the parking lot, and install a kayak laydown area near the top of the launch.



Other Identifying or General Information:

<p>Site ID: <u>A18</u> In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u> Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u> Ownership: <u>Public</u> County: <u>Alameda</u> Geo-Region: <u>Oakland Waterfront</u> SF Bay Plan Region: <u>Central Bay</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>No</u> Appreciated for Windy Conditions: <u>No</u> Near Food or Drink: <u>No</u> Proximity to Other Sites: Tidewater Boating Center is located approximately 1.6 miles north across San Leandro Bay. Crown Beach is located approximately 2.5 miles to the northwest.</p>
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Paddlers on San Leandro Bay

Description of Launch/Landing:

<p>Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>No</u> Float: <u>Yes</u> Freeboard Level: <u>High (9" and above) at Doolittle Boat Launch and Low (9" and below) at Shoreline Room</u> Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u> Gangway: <u>Yes</u> Gangway Slope Description: 34 feet length includes transition plate. The gangway and docks are deteriorated and do not appear to meet ADA standards. Boat/Trailer Ramp: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Mudflats Affect Site Usability: <u>No</u> Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u> Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u> Beach: <u>No</u> Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>No</u> Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>No</u> Other Launch/Landing Notes: There is no paved path of travel from the Shoreline Room dock to the parking lot or nearby trails. Water Entry Path: <u>No</u></p>
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Site Appears to be Suitable For:

<p>Kayak: <u>Yes</u> Windsurfer: <u>No</u> Kiteboard: <u>No</u> Whaleboat: <u>No</u> Stand Up Paddleboard: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Outrigger Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Sculling: <u>Yes</u> Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>Yes</u> Dragonboat: <u>No</u></p>
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A boat ramp and high freeboard docks provide access for motorized and non-motorized small boats to San Leandro Bay.

Transportation and Parking:

<p>General Spaces (number): <u>~50</u> ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>3</u> ADA Parking Description: Three marked spaces located near the top of the boat launch. Duration (hours): <u>12</u> Loading/Unloading Area: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Overnight Parking Description: No overnight parking currently allowed. Hours vary seasonally – please check the park website for information. Bay Trail: <u>Yes</u> Public Transportation: No public transportation serves the site.</p>
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Path of Travel:

<p>Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): <u>92</u> Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): <u>213</u> Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): <u>205</u> Path of Travel Exists: <u>Yes at Doolittle Boat Launch; No at Shoreline Room</u></p>
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No paved path of travel occurs between the parking area at the Shoreline Room to the dock.

Other Site Amenities:

Total Restrooms: 1
 Total ADA Restrooms: 1
 Restroom Description: 1 male and 1 female, running water and soap.
 Boat Washing: No
 Rigging/Staging Area: Yes
 Picnic Tables: Yes
 Benches: Yes
 BBQ: Yes
 Boat Storage: No



Existing flush restrooms and picnic tables near the Doolittle Boat Launch

Overnight Accommodations:

Hotel: <u>No</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: <u>No</u>	Other: <u>No</u>
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Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:

Dock is in poor condition and gangway does not meet modern ADA standards. The Shoreline Room dock is low-freeboard but does not have a path of travel from the parking area to the dock. EBRPD has planned improvements that will create an ADA accessible launch in 2019/2020.

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

The boat launch is popular with kayakers, canoeists, and paddleboarders. Additionally, this site is utilized by motorized boats. Water is generally calm in San Leandro Bay. Paddlers can explore arrowhead marsh and the Oakland Estuary, while enjoying shoreline views of Alameda, Oakland, and San Leandro in close proximity.

Safety and Security, including Parking:

Extensive mudflats can be exposed in San Leandro Bay at low tides. Traveling to the open Bay or Alameda Island will require crossing a relatively narrow channel, so boaters need to be aware of other boat traffic and take precautions to avoid collisions.

Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:

Marsh along San Leandro Bay is being restored so that tidal action can reestablish essential habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Ridgway’s rails, salt marsh song sparrows, northern harriers, and salt marsh harvest mice use the marsh as important feeding, nesting, and resting habitat. Increased signage encouraging boaters to be aware of sensitive species would reduce potential for boaters to affect these habitats.

Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage:

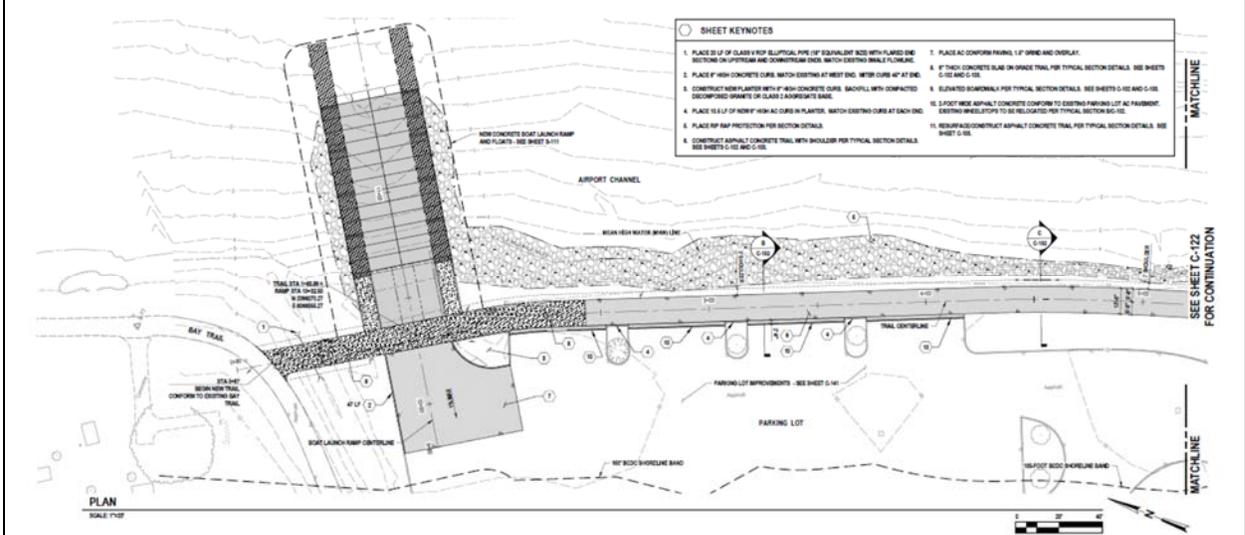
Site redevelopment will include interpretive panels and materials.

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

The boat launch facility at on Doolittle Drive within Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline is in need of replacement. The dock and ramp are deteriorated and the parking lot and restrooms do not meet current accessibility standards. The boat launch improvements are part of a larger project to close a gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail along Doolittle Drive between Swan Way and the Shoreline Center.

The project would replace the existing deteriorated docks with a new high-freeboard dock and low-freeboard dock, repave the boat ramp and parking lot and install a kayak loading/unloading zone and staging area, all to American with Disabilities Act standards.

No improvements are currently planned for the Shoreline Room Launch.



Accessibility of Sites within the Oakland Waterfront Geo-Region:

There are nine potential/existing Water Trail sites identified within this geo-region: Middle Harbor Park, Jack London Square/CCK, Jack London Aquatic Center, Grand Avenue Boat Ramp, Encinal Launching and Fishing Facility (designated), Crown Memorial State Beach (designated), Tidewater Boating Center (designated), Elmhurst Creek, and Doolittle Boat Launch. Of these, Middle Harbor Park, Jack London Square/CCK, Jack London Aquatic Park, Crown Memorial State Beach, and Tidewater Boating Center provide a variety of accessible facilities.

The Oakland Waterfront Geo-Region provides opportunities to enjoy windy conditions, calm conditions, wildlife viewing, urban experiences, dining, and overnight accommodations. As mentioned above, numerous locations within this geo-region offer accessible features. The most broadly accessible site is Tidewater Boating Center, which offers a long gangway with resting areas, permanent accessible restrooms, accessible parking, a long low-freeboard dock and other amenities such as picnic tables, drinking fountain, and loading/unloading area. With completion of planned improvements, Doolittle Boat Launch will also be constructed to ADA standards.

**Summary of Environmental Review
based on the
San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan Final Environmental Impact Report**

**Doolittle Boat Launch
March 9, 2018**

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.</p>	<p>Doolittle Boat Launch has a boat ramp, and two high-freeboard docks, parking, restrooms, and picnic areas. Facilities are deteriorated but are planned for improvement and have sufficient capacity to accommodate increased levels of use. Although the launch facilities are primarily designed for trailered motorized boats, non-motorized small boat use is compatible and increased use would not be anticipated to result in conflicts.</p>	<p>Regarding recreational conflicts, Water Trail users may submit comments to Water Trail staff through the website if they witness or experience recreational conflict at any designated site.</p>
<p>Navigational and Personal Safety References: WT DREIR pp. 3-38 to 3-51, and Figures 3.4.2-1 and 3.4.2-2.</p>	<p>Small boat users should be aware of winds and currents and must always avoid impeding large vessels at the Boat Launch. No major shipping channels occur in the immediate vicinity of the Boat Launch. If paddling north to Alameda Island, the channel can become narrow so boater need to always be aware to avoid impeding larger vessels.</p>	<p>The Water Trail educational sign provides safety information related to navigational and personal boating safety. It is likely that most non-motorized small boat users launching from the Boat Launch will want to paddle close to shore in either direction; however, some experienced kayakers may paddle out onto the Bay or up the Oakland Estuary.</p>
<p>Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.</p>	<p>Doolittle Boat Launch is considered an urban launch, characterized by the developed public boat launch adjacent to park land and across the street from the Oakland International Airport. The Boat Launch currently has sign boards near the launch, which will be updated with completion of new facilities.</p>	<p>The Water Trail will require the inclusion of a Water Trail identification sign at the site. Signs will be developed in consultation with the East Bay Regional Park District to ensure that the I.D. sign and additional educational sign do not result in sign clutter at the site.</p>

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Biology- Vegetation References: WT DREIR pp. 3-69 to 3-92 and Table 3.7.2-1 and Table 3.7.2-2.</p>	<p>The shoreline of the Doolittle Boat Launch is reinforced in some areas with riprap and generally developed. Tidal mudflats occur at low tides along much of San Leandro Bay.</p>	<p>Boaters should keep recommended distances from sensitive habitats.</p> <p>Preventing the inadvertent spread of exotic, invasive plant species is important at all launch sites. The WT educational sign and website ask WT users to help prevent the spread of invasive species by rinsing boats and equipment immediately after use</p>
<p>Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i></p>	<p>Arrowhead Marsh, an important feeding ground for a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, is located approximately 0.2 miles to the across San Leandro Bay to the north. Due to the developed nature of the region, there are limited other active nesting areas in the immediate vicinity of the site.</p>	<p>The WT educational sign includes information about how to paddle responsibly around wildlife and to maintain a buffer distance from nesting birds. The WT website and brochure include more detailed information about not disturbing nesting birds.</p> <p>Mudflat habitat is important to species when exposed, which limits boaters' ability to come into proximity to feeding shorebirds. It is anticipated that most boaters launching from the Boat Launch will seek the open waters of San Leandro Bay and visitation to nearby sensitive shorelines is not anticipated to substantially increase. Signage could inform paddlers to avoid entering Arrowhead Marsh.</p>
<p>Biology – Rafting Waterfowl References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Table 3.8.2-1, Figure 3.8.2-1.</p>	<p>This site provides access to areas where rafting waterfowl congregate.</p>	<p>Disturbance of rafting waterfowl is not addressed in existing signs on-site, but is highlighted in the Water Trail educational sign, brochure, and website.</p>
<p>Biology – Ridgway's rail (formerly California clapper rail) and California black rail and high tide refugia References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figure 3.8.2-2</p>	<p>Ridgway's rail and black rail have been known to occur in Arrowhead Marsh, within four miles of the Doolittle Boat Launch.</p>	<p>Signage is needed to emphasize the importance of not entering marshes, keeping a 50-foot buffer from rail habitat (not entering channels less than 100-feet wide), importance of staying clear of high-tide refugia, and that landing in marshes and on levees is prohibited. The Water Trail educational sign and brochure include this information.</p>

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
Biology –Western Snowy Plover References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figures 3.8.2-3	Unique or important western snowy plover habitat does not exist at or in the immediate vicinity of the Doolittle Boat Launch.	The Water Trail educational sign and brochure include bird avoidance information.
Biology – Harbor Seals References: WT DREIR pp. 3-132 to 3-156, Figure 3.9.2-1, and Tables 3.9.2-1, 3.9.2-2, 3.9.5-1, and 3.9.5-2	No harbor seal haulouts are located within four miles of this site.	The WT educational sign, brochure, and website all advise boaters not to land at haul-out sites and to always stay at least 330' away from hauled-out harbor seals and at least 500' away from March to July when seals are pupping. The permanent inclusion of this information in WT media is a good precaution to reach boaters who may paddle more than eight miles in one day or take a multiple-day trip.
Cultural Resources	Site improvements are planned for Doolittle Boat Launch, but the site is currently disturbed and appropriate cultural resource protection measures would be implemented during construction.	The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.
Hydrology	Site improvements are planned for Doolittle Boat Launch and appropriate water resource protection measures would be implemented during construction.	There would be no potential for changes to site hydrology from site designation.
Transportation, Circulation, and Parking	Doolittle Boat Launch has a large parking lot. The entry road has sufficient capacity for existing and foreseeable future use.	The Boat Launch manages high visitor numbers during summer months. Increased use by non-motorized small boat users is not expected to be enough to overwhelm parking.