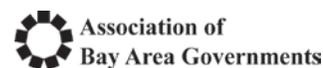




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
Site Description for
West 9th Street Boat Launch



Location, Ownership, and Management: The West 9th Street Boat Launch is located west of downtown City of Benicia at the end of Ninth Street. The facility is owned and managed by the City of Benicia.

Contact Name: Vic Randall, Parks and Community Services

Contact Phone: (707) 746-4191

Contact E-mail: vrandall@ci.benicia.ca.us



Facility Description: The West 9th Street Boat Launch is used by both motorized and non-motorized boaters, providing access to the Carquinez Strait and open waters of the Bay. Boat launch facilities consist of a corrugated cement boat ramp with two high-freeboard docks located on the sides of the ramp. The high-freeboard docks are made of composite. A 100-foot long fishing pier is located adjacent to the boat launch. The site is designed primarily for trailered boats, but is used by many different boat types. Non-motorized small boats observed at the site include kayaks, rowboats, paddle boards, and canoes. Other boat types include powerboats, sailboats, and small boats with outboard motors.

Although the launch facilities are oriented towards trailered boats, the site provides a variety of amenities that make the site a good launch for non-motorized small boats. The Ninth Street Park contains a picnic area, restrooms, BBQ pits, and a sandy beach. The sandy beach is accessed from a steep paved trail from the park, approximately 400 feet from the parking area. Trash cans and recycling bins are provided at the picnic area and outside the restrooms.

The two ADA-accessible restrooms are located approximately 220 feet east of the ramps. The restrooms have an accessible path of travel from the parking area, but no accessible path exists between the parking area/restrooms and the docks.

Free parking is available in a large lot. The parking area has 2 ADA spaces.

Other Identifying or General Information:

<p>Site ID: <u>So8</u> In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u> Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u> Ownership: <u>Public</u> County: <u>Solano</u> Geo-Region: <u>Carquinez Strait</u> SF Bay Plan Region: <u>Carquinez Strait</u> Launch or Destination: <u>Launch</u> Home of a Club: <u>Yes</u> Used by a Program that Assists Persons with Disabilities: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Appreciated for Windy Conditions: <u>Yes</u> Near Food or Drink: <u>No</u></p> <p>Proximity to Other Sites: The nearest locations are within also within the City of Benicia and include Matthew Turner Park (0.4 miles west), Benicia Point Pier (1.1 miles southeast), and the Benicia Marina (1.4 miles southeast). Across the Carquinez Strait is Eckley Pier, located 1.5 miles to the southwest.</p>
---	--



Description of Launch/Landing:

<p>Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>Yes</u> Float: <u>Yes</u> Freeboard Level: <u>High (9" and above)</u> Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u> Gangway: <u>No</u> Boat/Trailer Ramp: <u>Yes</u> Mudflats Affect Site Usability: <u>No</u> Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u> Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u> Beach: <u>Yes</u> Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>No</u> Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Other Launch/Landing Notes: A beach is located within the park north of the boat launch. This beach serves as a great destination, but likely won't be heavily used as a launch due to the distance (~400 feet) and steep slope from the parking area.</p> <p>Restrictions: Signs notify users about the potential for submerged hazards on the boat ramp during low tides.</p> <p>Water Entry Path: <u>No</u></p>
---	---

Site Appears to be Suitable For:

<p>Kayak: <u>Yes</u> Windsurfer: <u>Yes</u> Kiteboard: <u>Yes</u> Whaleboat: <u>Yes</u> Stand Up Paddleboard: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Canoe: <u>No</u> Outrigger Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Sculling: <u>No</u> Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>Yes</u> Dragonboat: <u>No</u></p>
--	--



Benicia Outrigger Canoe Club uses this launch and stores their boats nearby. Benicia Outriggers has an adaptive paddling program.

Transportation and Parking:

<p>General Spaces (number): <u>75</u> ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>4</u></p> <p>ADA Parking Description: Two van-accessible ADA spaces located adjacent to the restrooms and two spaces located closer to the upland park trails.</p> <p>Duration (hours): Sunrise-sunset Overnight Parking Allowed: <u>No</u></p> <p>Overnight Parking Description: Parking hours are half hour before sunrise to half hour after sunset.</p> <p>Loading/Unloading Area: <u>Yes</u> Bay Trail: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Public Transportation: No public transit services the West 9th Street Launch. The closest SolTrans bus station is location at Military West and West 7th Street, approximately 0.5 miles from the launch.</p>  <p><i>The large surface parking lot has sufficient capacity to accommodate additional Water Trail users.</i></p>
--	--

Path of Travel:

<p>Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): <u>200</u> Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): <u>220</u> Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): <u>210</u> Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): <u>40</u> Path of Travel Exists: <u>Yes</u></p>  <p><i>The paved path of is a cement sidewalk from the parking area. It is steep to the launch and appears to exceed ADA slopes. The path of travel from the parking area to the restrooms and upland park areas appear more level and are well maintained.</i></p>

Other Site Amenities:

<p>Total Restrooms: <u>2</u> Total ADA Restrooms: <u>2</u> Restroom Description: One male and one female restroom with flush toilets. Boat Washing: <u>No</u> Rigging/Staging Area: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Picnic Tables: <u>Yes</u> Benches: <u>Yes</u> BBQ: <u>Yes</u> Boat Storage: <u>No</u></p>
 <p><i>ADA accessible restrooms are clean and well maintained</i></p>	 <p><i>Ninth Street park provides picnic tables and BBQ pits with a spectacular view.</i></p>

Overnight Accommodations:

Hotel: <u>No</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: <u>No</u>	Other: <u>No</u>
------------------	-------------------	-----------------	--------------------	------------------

Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:

The boat launch is not currently ADA accessible. There is a paved path of travel from the parking area to the launch; however, the slope is quite steep and appears to exceeds ADA standards. The existing high freeboard dock also lacks transition plates.

The landside facilities offer a number of ADA amenities, including restrooms, parking spaces, trails within the park, picnic tables, and drinking fountains.

The Benicia Outrigger Canoe Club has an adaptive paddling program and is open to paddlers of all ages and abilities.

Safety and Security, including Parking:

Winds and currents on the Carquinez Strait can be strong; paddlers need to ensure that they stay within their skill level. Small craft should be cautious and avoid the barges and other large ships that frequent the shipping lanes offshore.

Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:

No nesting or major roosting sites are known to occur in the immediate vicinity of the site; however, small islands and wetland habitats within four miles of the site are known to provide habitat for a variety of species including herons, Ridway's rail, black rail, and western snowy plover.



The site and adjacent shoreline is fairly urban, with limited natural habitat occurring in the immediate vicinity. Less developed areas occur nearby in the Benicia State Recreation Area and across the Carquinez Strait in the Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline.

Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage:

The Water Trail educational sign includes information about safety precautions, not landing in sensitive habitats, how to boat responsibly near wildlife, and buffer distances from sensitive species. More detailed information about boater safety is found on the Water Trail website and in the Water Trail brochure.

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

The West 9th Street Boat Launch is used by recreational boaters including kayakers and paddleboarders, sailors, anglers and power boaters. The ramp also provides access for non-motorized small boats that require a trailer (i.e., whaleboats, rowboats).



The beach located within Ninth Street Park serves as a great destination, but likely won't be heavily used as a launch due to the distance and steep slope from the parking area.

Accessibility of Sites within the Carquinez Strait Geo-Region:

There are six potential/existing Water Trail sites identified within this geo-region: Matthew Turner Park; West 9th Street Boat Launch; Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline (Eckley Pier); Benicia Marina; Benicia Point Pier; and the Martinez Marina. Of these, the Martinez Marina and the Benicia Marina provide the most accessible facilities; however, neither can be considered broadly accessible.

The experiences that are available in the Carquinez Strait Geo-Region are a mixture of urban and more rural experiences. There are several sites that offer a variety of accessible features. The Benicia Marina provides accessible parking, accessible restrooms, and a loading and unloading area, but the public launch is from a high-freeboard dock or ramp. The ramp is gently sloped and could provide barrier-free access to the water. Similarly, the Martinez Marina also provides accessible parking, accessible restrooms, and a loading and unloading area, but the public launch is from a high-freeboard dock or ramp.

The City of Benicia intends to update its waterfront plan, at which time there may be opportunities to enhance the accessibility of sites within the City.

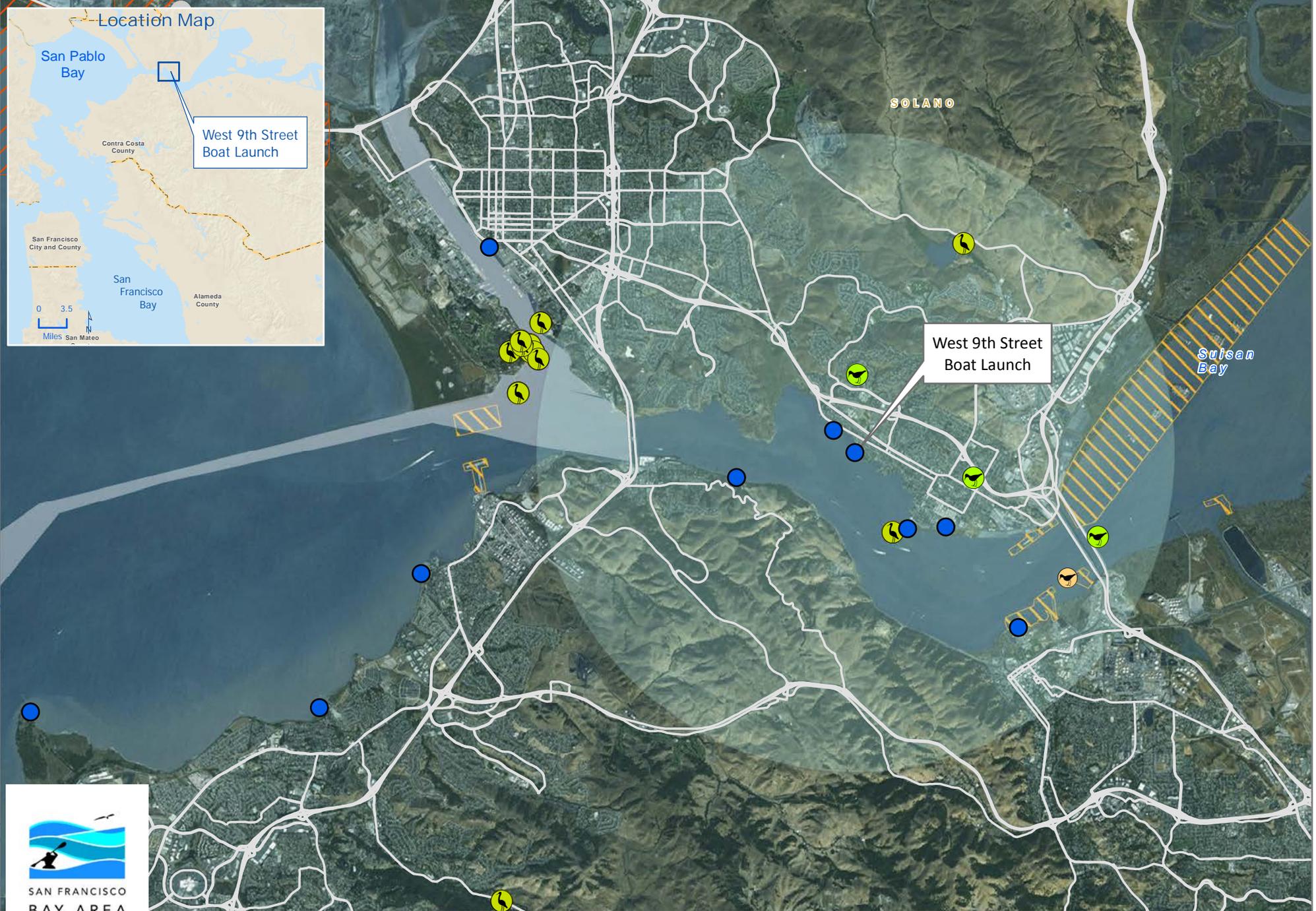
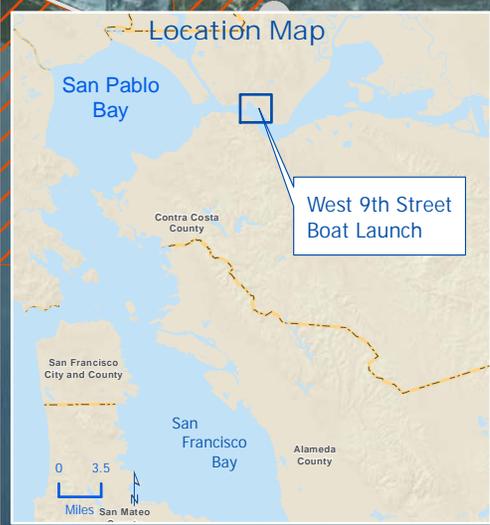
**Summary of Environmental Review
based on the
San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan Final Environmental Impact Report**

**West 9th Street Boat Launch
September 16, 2016**

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.</p>	<p>The West 9th Street Boat Launch has a boat ramp and two high freeboard docks, parking, restrooms, and a picnic area. Facilities are well maintained 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 in Carquinez Strait.</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 site will want to paddle close to shore; however, some experienced kayakers may cross the channel to Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline.</p>
<p>Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.</p>	<p>West 9th Street Boat Launch is considered an urban/wildland interface site, characterized by the public boat launch with views of open space across the Carquinez Strait and towards the Benicia State Recreation Area. The launch does not currently have signs except for parking restriction signs, a boaters' map, fishing information, and place-name signs.</p>	<p>The Water Trail will require the inclusion of a Water Trail identification sign at the site. A "sign program" will be developed with the City of Benicia 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
Biology- Vegetation References: WT DREIR pp. 3-69 to 3-92 and Table 3.7.2-1 and Table 3.7.2-2.	The shoreline of the West 9th Street Boat Launch is reinforced in some areas with riprap and generally developed. Wetland vegetation has not been observed by WT staff at any tide levels within or in the immediate vicinity of the launch.	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.
Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i>	There are limited active nesting areas in the vicinity of the site; however, small islands and wetland habitats within four miles of the site are known to provide habitat for a variety of species including herons, Ridway's rail, black rail, and western snowy plover.	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.
Biology – Rafting Waterfowl References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Table 3.8.2-1, Figure 3.8.2-1.	This site provides access to areas where rafting waterfowl congregate.	Avoiding disturbance of rafting waterfowl will be highlighted in the Water Trail educational sign, brochure, and website.
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	Ridgway's rail and black rail depend on habitat that does not exist at or in the immediate vicinity of the West 9th Street Boat Launch. The nearest identified location for Ridgway's and black rail is across the Carquinez Strait within an area that is off limits due to industry security.	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 is prohibited. The Water Trail educational sign and brochure include this information.
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 West 9th Street 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	There are no harbor seal primary or secondary haul-out sites 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.

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
Cultural Resources	No WT-related construction is planned at this time. NMSB users are not anticipated to land in wetland habitat (i.e., are not expected to enter areas where they could potentially disturb cultural artifacts).	The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.
Hydrology	No WT-related construction is planned at this time.	There would be no potential for changes to site hydrology from site designation.
Transportation, Circulation, and Parking	West 9th Street Boat Launch has a large parking lot, which is managed by City staff. The parking area has sufficient capacity for existing and foreseeable future use.	Increased use by non-motorized small boat users is not expected to be great enough to overwhelm parking.



Path: N:\GIS\WaterTrail\2012_WaterTrail_Marset\GIS\Solano\Benicia\Benicia_W9thSt_Sep2016\Designations.mxd



**SAN FRANCISCO
BAY AREA
WATER
TRAIL**

West 9th Street Boat Launch, City of Benicia

-  Designated Water Trail Site
-  4 Mile Buffer (from Point Isabel)
-  Security Exclusion Area
-  Ridgway's/Black Rail
-  Potential Water Trail Site
-  Shipping Channel
-  Active Heronry
-  Western Snowy Plover



CA Harbor Seal data from Water Trail FEIR. Ridgway's and black rail, Western snowy plover, and heronry data generalized from 2015 California Natural Diversity Database