



San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail  
 Site Description for  
**Shorebird Park**



**Location, Ownership, and Management:** Shorebird Park is a small beach on the Emeryville shoreline, at the base of the peninsula that forms the Emeryville Marina. The park is owned and managed by the City of Emeryville.

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<i>Sandy beach</i>	<i>South beach access</i>	<i>North beach access</i>

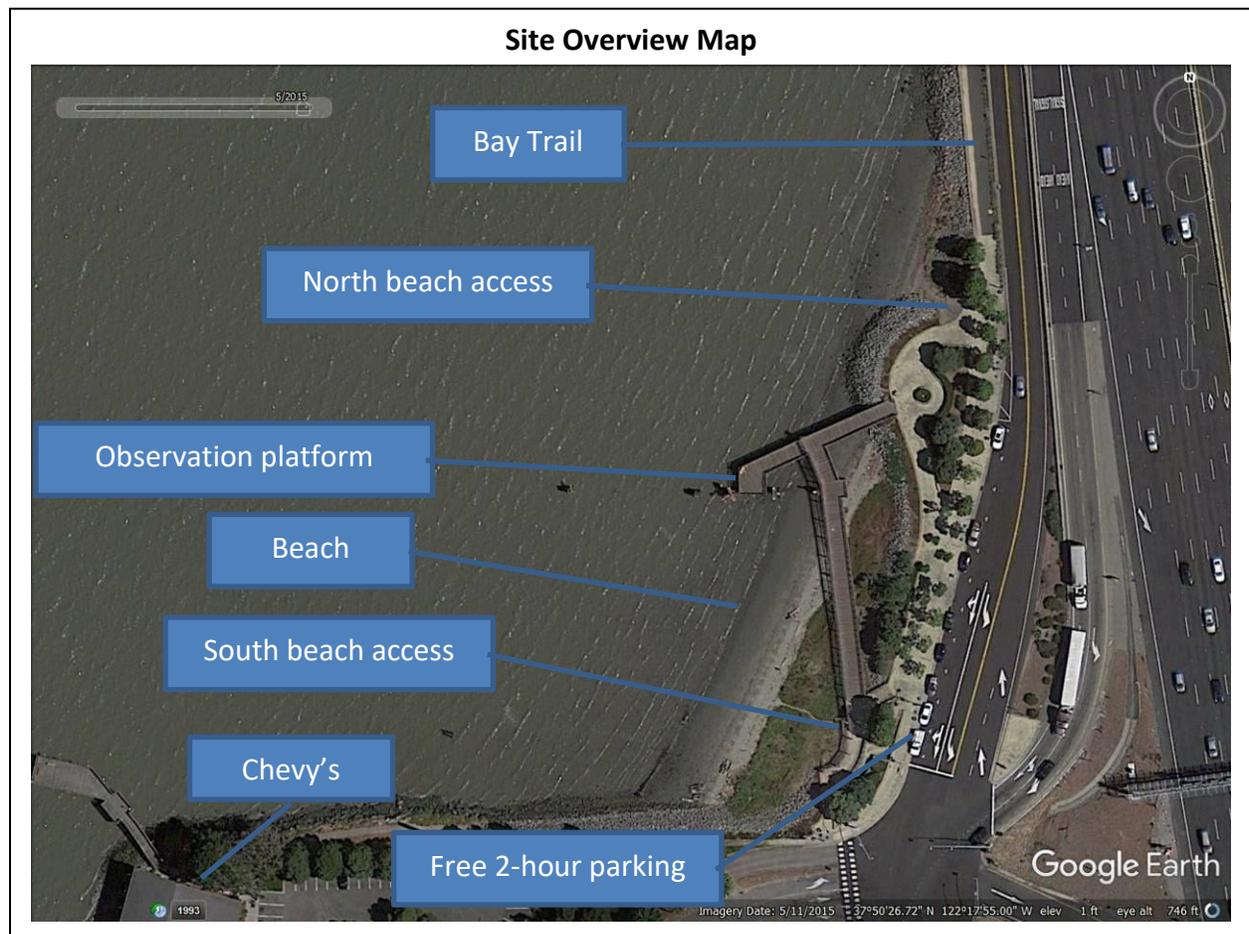
**Facility Description:** The Shorebird Park launch is from a pocket beach located approximately 130 feet from streetside parking. Access to this beach is available from two sets of stairways at the northern and southern ends of the beach. There are eleven roadside parking spaces. Parking is limited to 2 hours. There are no restrooms.

Although Shorebird Park has limited facilities, it provides a variety of amenities that make the site a good destination or emergency egress for non-motorized small boats. The beach is located a short walk to a Chevy's restaurant or a little longer walk to other restaurants in the marina complex. The small park also includes benches and seating areas.

Shorebird Park currently receives limited use due to limited, short-term parking, limited facilities, and the presence of mudflats at low tides. Paddlers can only launch or land on the beach at higher tides. The beach is typically too sheltered from the wind to be utilized by windsurfers or kite boarders; however, the beach can be used as an emergency egress for windsailors launching from the Berkeley Marina, Point Emery, or the Emeryville Marina.

**Other Identifying or General Information:**

<p>Site ID: <u>A5</u>                  In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u>                  Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u>                  Ownership: <u>Public</u>                  County: <u>Alameda</u>                  Geo-Region: <u>Albany/Berkeley/Emeryville</u>                  SF Bay Plan Region: <u>Central Bay</u>                  Launch or Destination: <u>Launch/Destination</u></p>	<p>Home of a Club: <u>No</u>                  Used by a Program that Assists Persons with Disabilities: <u>No</u>                  Appreciated for Windy Conditions: <u>No</u>                  Near Food or Drink: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Proximity to Other Sites: This site is located in close proximity to Point Emery (A4) and the Emeryville Marina (A6), approximately 0.4 miles north and 0.3 miles west from the Park, respectively. The Berkeley Marina Small Boat Launch Water Trail site is located approximately 1.7 miles north.</p>
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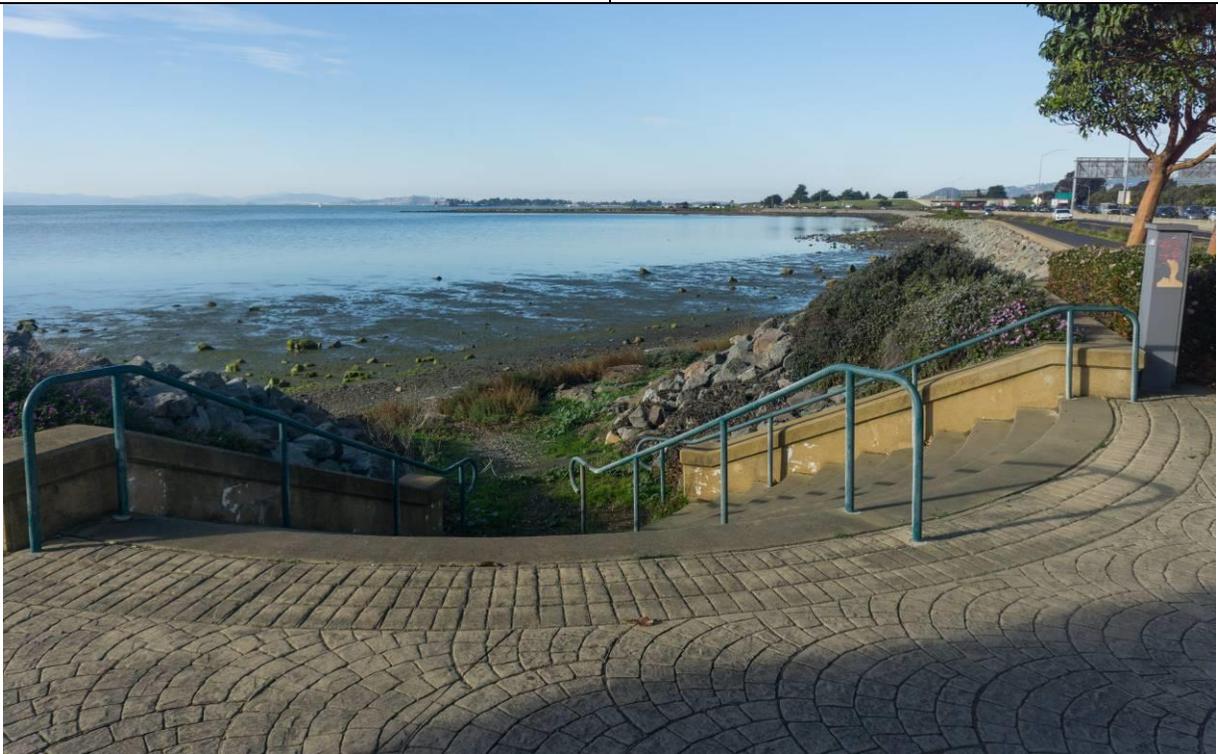


**Description of Launch/Landing:**

<p>Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>No</u>                  Float: <u>No</u>                  Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u>                  Gangway: <u>No</u>                  Boat/Trailer Ramp: <u>No</u>                  Mudflats Affect Site Usability: <u>Yes</u>                  Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u>                  Stair Water Entry: <u>Yes, access to the beach launch requires use of stairs</u>                  Beach: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>No</u>                  Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>No</u>                  Other Launch/Landing Notes: The only way to get to the beach is down the stairs.                    Restrictions: Mudflats at low tide can make site unuseable.                    Water Entry Path: <u>No</u></p>
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**Site Appears to be Suitable For:**

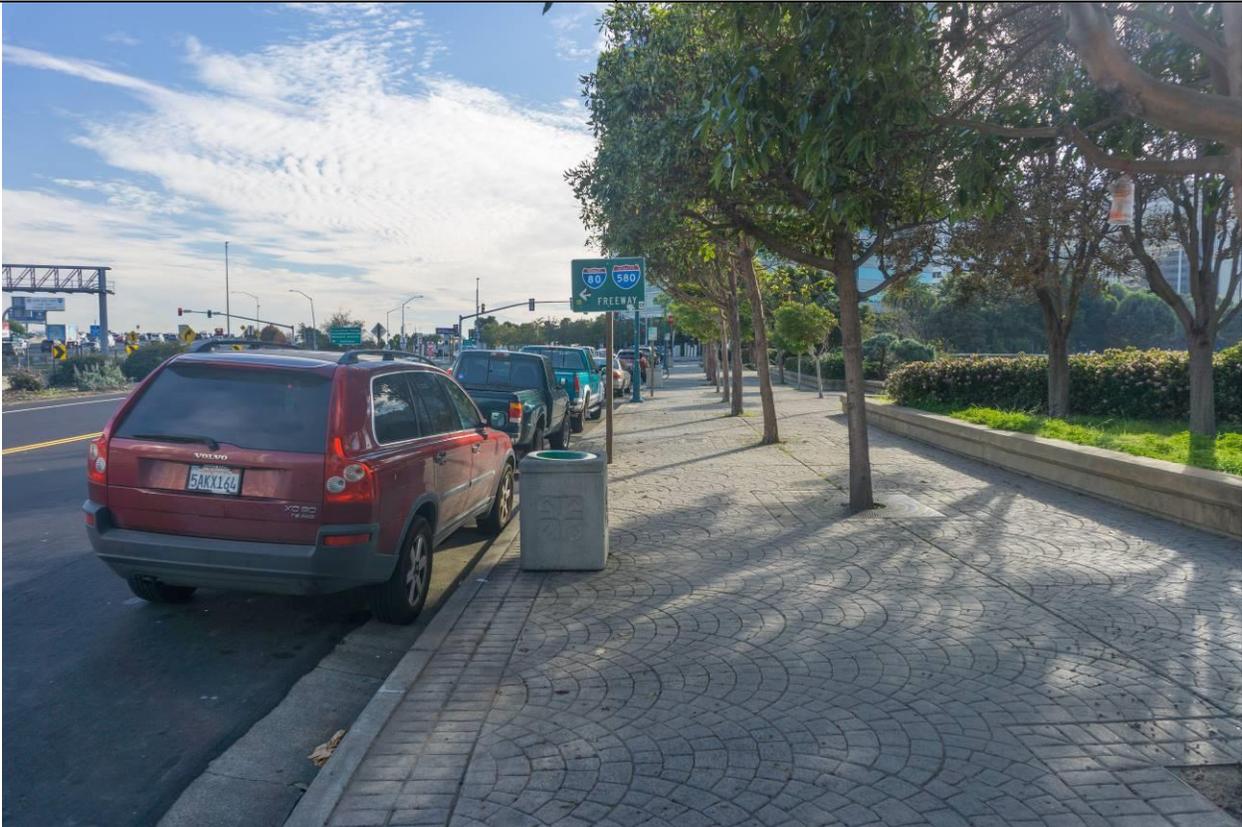
<p>Kayak: <u>Yes</u>                  Windsurfer: <u>No</u>                  Kiteboard: <u>No</u>                  Whaleboat: <u>No</u>                  Stand Up Paddleboard: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Canoe: <u>Yes</u>                  Outrigger Canoe: <u>No</u>                  Sculling: <u>No</u>                  Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>No</u>                  Dragonboat: <u>No</u></p>
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*Boats must be carried down stairs to the beach.*

**Transportation and Parking:**

<p>General Spaces (number): <u>11</u>                  ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>0</u>                  Parking Description: Free street parking - 2 hours max.                  Duration (hours): <u>2</u>                  Overnight Parking Allowed: <u>No</u>                  Loading/Unloading Area: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Bay Trail: <u>Yes</u>                   Public Transportation: The Emery Go-Round Watergate Express line stops on Access Road, approximately 500 feet from Shorebird Park. This line connects to numerous locations (and other transit options) within Emeryville and Oakland.</p>
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*There are eleven roadside parking spaces. Parking is limited to 2 hours.*

**Path of Travel:**

<p>Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): 130                  Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): <u>0</u>                  Path of Travel Exists: <u>No</u>                  Path of Travel Description: There is no accessible path to the beach - just stairs from the viewing platform. There is no ADA parking. Once on the sidewalk, there is a ramp that leads from street level down to the viewing platform.</p>
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**Other Site Amenities:**

Total Restrooms: <u>0</u>	Rigging/Staging Area: <u>No</u>
Total ADA Restrooms: <u>0</u>	Picnic Tables: <u>No</u>
Restroom Description: None.	Benches: <u>Yes</u> BBQ: <u>No</u>
Boat Washing: <u>No</u>	Boat Storage: <u>No</u>

**Overnight Accommodations:**

Hotel: <u>Yes</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: <u>No</u>	Other: <u>No</u>
Accommodations Description: Hilton Garden Inn is location approximately 0.3 miles south of the beach.				

**Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:**



*No ADA parking on street. ADA access is provided via ramps from the sidewalk down to the viewing platform.*

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

Shorebird Park is primarily utilized by kayakers and paddleboarders, but currently experiences limited use. The proximity of the beach to Chevy's restaurant makes it a good destination for paddlers looking to rest or grab food. The beach is typically too sheltered from the wind to be utilized by windsurfers or kite boarders; however, the beach can be used as an emergency egress for windsailors launching from the Berkeley Marina, Point Emery, or the Emeryville Marina.

**Safety and Security, including Parking:**

*Mudflats at low tide are extensive at this site. Boaters must be aware of tides and only use the site during high tide.*

**Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:**

Shorebird Park and the cove to the north are very shallow and large areas of mudflats are exposed at low tides. Mudflats are important habitat for foraging shorebirds. Birds foraging in the mudflats would not be affected by boaters, as boaters would not be able to paddle in these areas at low tide. Increased signage encouraging boaters to be aware of tides and the potential for getting stranded in the mud would reduce potential for boaters to affect these habitats.

**Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage:**

The beach and viewing platforms are popular for birdwatching.

**Accessibility of Sites within the Albany/Berkeley/Emeryville Geo-Region:**

There are six potential Water Trail sites identified within this geo-region: Albany Beach, Berkeley Marina Ramp, Berkeley Marin Small Boat Launch, Point Emery, Shorebird Park, and Emeryville City Marina.

The experiences that are available in the Albany/Berkeley/Emeryville Geo-Region are predominantly urban, but provide a variety of different facilities including beach launches, docks, and ramps. Several sites within this geo-region provide accessible features, including the Berkeley Marina Ramp and the Berkeley Marina Small Boat Launch, but none are currently considered broadly accessible.

The Berkeley Marina Small Boat Launch will provide a broadly accessible site upon completion of scheduled improvements in 2017. These improvements include a new ADA restroom, improved path of travel, paving/repaving the parking area, and a Water Trail Grant funded accessible gangway to the existing low-freeboard dock.

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

**Shorebird Park  
December 9, 2016**

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.	Shorebird Park has a sandy beach accessed by a water entry path (stairways) and parking. Facilities are well maintained, but the roadside parking area is small and often full. Non-motorized small boat use is compatible with the uses of this site, and, when parking is available, increased use would not be anticipated to result in conflicts.	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.
Navigational and Personal Safety References: WT DREIR pp. 3-38 to 3-51, and Figures 3.4.2-1 and 3.4.2-2.	Small boat users should be aware of mudflats, winds, and currents. Low tide exposes extensive mudflats, which can cause boaters to become stranded. No major shipping channels occur in the immediate vicinity of Shorebird Park.	The Water Trail educational sign provides safety information related to navigational and personal boating safety. Other access point are available nearby, allowing boaters to exit the water at low tide, if needed.
Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.	Shorebird Park is considered an urban launch, characterized by the developed park that provides access to a beach. Shorebird Park does not currently have signs except for parking restriction signs, an educational box for beach cleanups, and an entry sign.	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 Emeryville to ensure that the I.D. sign and additional educational sign do not result in sign clutter at the site.
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 Shorebird Park is reinforced in some areas with riprap and generally developed. Tidal mudflats occur within the basin of Shorebird Park.	Boaters should keep recommended distances from sensitive habitats.  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.

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p>Biology – Birds  <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i></p>	<p>Due to the developed nature of the region, there are limited active nesting areas in the vicinity of the site. Mudflats near Shorebird Park and within the Emeryville Crescent are an important feeding ground for a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl.</p>	<p>The WT educational sign includes information about how to paddle responsibly around wildlife and instructing NMSB users 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 most important to species when exposed, which limits boaters' ability to come into proximity to feeding shorebirds. It is anticipated that most boaters launching from Shorebird Park will seek the open waters of the Bay and visitation to nearby sensitive shorelines is not anticipated to substantially increase. Signage could inform paddlers to avoid entering the Emeryville Crescent or getting stuck in the mud.</p>
<p>Biology – Rafting Waterfowl  <i>References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Table 3.8.2-1, Figure 3.8.2-1.</i></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  <i>References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figure 3.8.2-2</i></p>	<p>Ridgway's rail and black rail have been known to occur near Radio Beach, within four miles of the Shorebird Park.</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>
<p>Biology –Western Snowy Plover  <i>References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figures 3.8.2-3</i></p>	<p>Unique or important western snowy plover habitat does not exist at or in the immediate vicinity of the Shorebird Park.</p>	<p>The Water Trail educational sign and brochure include bird avoidance information.</p>

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p>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</p>	<p>A secondary haul-out site is located on Treasure Island, within four miles of this site.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Cultural Resources</p>	<p>No WT-related construction is planned at this time. NMSB users are not anticipated to land in regional wetland habitat (i.e., are not expected to enter areas where they could potentially disturb cultural artifacts).</p>	<p>The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.</p>
<p>Hydrology</p>	<p>No WT-related construction is planned at this time.</p>	<p>There would be no changes to site hydrology from designation.</p>
<p>Transportation, Circulation, and Parking</p>	<p>Shorebird Park has 11 on-road parking spots.</p>	<p>Parking is already at capacity in this small park. Parking will continue to be first-come, first-served.</p>

