San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
Site Description for
Estuary Park/Jack London Aquatic Center

**Location, Ownership, and Management:** The Jack London Aquatic Center (JLAC) is located within Estuary Park, along the Oakland Estuary. JLAC is owned by the Port of Oakland and leased to the City of Oakland and managed by Oakland Parks, Recreation, and Youth Development.

**Contact Name:** Herbelin, Sarah, Boating Recreation Supervisor  
**Contact Phone:** (510) 238-2196  
**Contact E-mail:** sherbelin@oaklandnet.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Large low-freeboard dock</th>
<th>High-freeboard dock &amp; ramp</th>
<th>Club boat storage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Facility Description:** Estuary Park / Jack London Aquatic Center boating facilities include two primary launches: 1) A large low-freeboard dock connected to a wide ADA gangway; and, 2) A boat launch ramp with boarding pier to a high-freeboard dock. The low-freeboard dock is very popular with non-motorized small boat users and is used both by clubs and by the City of Oakland’s recreation programs.

Estuary Park is a 7-acre park located along the Oakland shoreline at the mouth of the channel connecting to Lake Merritt. It features the Aquatic Center, picnic areas, benches, and walking paths. The Aquatic Center provides boat and equipment storage for several rowing clubs and the City’s boating programs. The Aquatic Center building also serves as a community center, which is available to rent for special events.

The Oakland Estuary is generally calmer and more protected than the open Bay, making it a good location for different types of boating programs. However, boaters need to be familiar with navigational safety techniques and how to boat near other vessels.
Other Identifying or General Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID: A11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In WT Plan: Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing or Planned: Existing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ownership: Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County: Alameda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geo-Region: Oakland Waterfront</td>
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<tr>
<td>SF Bay Plan Region: Central Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launch or Destination: Launch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Home of a Club: Yes |
| Used by a Program that Assists Persons with Disabilities: No |
| Appreciated for Windy Conditions: No |
| Near Food or Drink: No |

Proximity to Other Sites: Jack London Square/CCK is located less than a mile to the northwest and Grand Avenue Boat Launch is located approximately one mile to the southeast. Tidewater Boating Center is located 3.7 miles to the south.
Description of Launch/Landing:

| Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: Yes |
| Float: Yes                         |
| Freeboard Level: Low (less than 9") |
| Transfer/Launch Assistance System: No |
| Gangway: Yes                      |
| Gangway Length (feet): 63         |
| Gangway Width (inches): 120       |
| Gangway Slope Description: Designed to meet ADA slopes at all tides. |
| Boat/Trailer Ramp: Yes            |
| Mudflats Affect Site Usability: No |
| Beach Wheelchair Available: No    |
| Stair Water Entry: No             |
| Beach: No                        |
| Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: No   |
| Fee for Launch or Parking: No     |

Other Launch/Landing Notes: There is a gangway and dock as well as a separate boat ramp that has a boarding pier on the side of the ramp. Distances and data in this report are for the low-freeboard dock.

Restrictions: This site is popular with clubs so use of the launch can become crowded during practice times.

Water Entry Path: No

The wide gangway and low-freeboard dock makes JLAC a popular facility for rowers, scullers, kayakers, and other types of non-motorized small boats.
Site Appears to be Suitable For:

| Kayak: Yes | Canoe: Yes |
| Windsurfer: No | Outrigger Canoe: Yes |
| Kiteboard: No | Sculling: Yes |
| Whaleboat: Yes | Rowboat/Dinghy: Yes |
| Stand Up Paddleboard: Yes | Dragonboat: Yes |

The relatively protected waters of the Oakland Estuary make it an ideal location for a variety of craft including larger team rowing and dragon boating. There are also a variety of nearby destinations to visit including restaurants at Jack London and wildlife in San Leandro Bay.

Path of Travel:

Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): 202
Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): 350
Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): 107
Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): 95
Path of Travel Exists: Yes

Path of Travel Description: The path from the parking lot goes up a short, curved ramp to get to the gangway. The curved ramp would be difficult to navigate with a boat. The path of travel is otherwise paved, though may be uneven in some places.
### Transportation and Parking:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Spaces (number)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA Parking Spaces (number)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA Parking Description</td>
<td>Two van accessible ADA spaces located adjacent to the Aquatic Center and closest to the top of the ADA launch.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration (hours)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight Parking</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Description</td>
<td>Parking is posted for two hours however this time limit is not enforced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loading/Unloading Area</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay Trail</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
<td>Oakland’s Jack London Square Amtrak Station is approximately 0.5 mile away. The Lake Merritt Bart Station is approximately 0.6 miles away. The Bay Trail connects Estuary Park with Jack London Square.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A large surface parking lot provides sufficient space on all but the busiest days. Parking is posted for 2 hours but time limits are not enforced.
### Other Site Amenities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Restrooms: 4</th>
<th>BBQ: No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total ADA Restrooms: 1</td>
<td>Boat Storage: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restroom Description: There are two portable restrooms near the boat ramp, one is an ADA portable. There are restrooms inside the building but the building is typically locked.</td>
<td>Boat Storage Description: Several teams/clubs store their boats at this site. Storage is reserved for City of Oakland kayaks and sailboats as well as rented to several rowing and dragon boat clubs. These clubs include Artemis Rowing, Berkeley High Crew, and UC Berkeley Lightweight Crew, East Bay Rowing, Oakland Renegades, KP Dragons, and California Dragon Boat Association.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat Washing: No</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rigging/Staging Area: No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Picnic Tables: Yes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Benches: Yes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Existing public restrooms are portables. Additional restrooms are located within the JLAC and clubs have their own gated portables.

#### Overnight Accommodations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel: No</th>
<th>Hostel: No</th>
<th>Ship: No</th>
<th>Camping: No</th>
<th>Other: No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Accommodations Description:

#### Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:

The low-freeboard dock, gangway, and path of travel are designed to be ADA accessible. Path of travel is paved, but uneven in places. The site has two ADA parking spaces at the trailhead that leads to the launch. An accessible portable restroom is provided in the parking area.
The gangway is designed to meet ADA slopes at all tides. The low-freeboard dock is comprised of wood, which can cause splinters so caution needs to be used when entering and existing crafts.

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

The site is heavily used by both club members and individuals. Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development offers courses including youth and adult sailing and kayaking. The clubs that use the site include East Bay Rowing Club, Artemis Rowing, Berkeley High Crew, and UC Berkeley Lightweight Crew, KP Dragons, Oakland Renegades, and California Dragon Boat Association.

Safety and Security, including Parking:

Shipping channels exist along the Oakland Estuary from the northern entrance until just past Coast Guard Island. There is a lot of boat activity and users need to be aware of their surroundings and familiar with how to boat near other vessels. Water Trail signage will emphasize that users need to be aware of ferry routes, shipping channels, and larger boats.

Vehicle break-ins are known to occur at this site so no valuables should be left in vehicles.
**Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:**

The Oakland Estuary is in an urbanized area with a lot of boat activity due to the shipping channels and numerous marinas. There is a pelican roost and harbor seal haulout on the jetty outside of Encinal Boat Launch, which is located on the opposite side of Alameda Island and a long paddle from the site. There are no known sensitive plant species or nesting birds within four miles of the site.

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

The Water Trail sign includes information about navigational safety emphasizing that boaters should be aware of ferry routes, shipping channels and larger boats, as well as information about personal safety. The Water Trail sign will include the Water Trail website address and have a QR code that links directly to the Water Trail website where users can find more detailed information.

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

Estuary Park is slated for improvements as part of future developments to the area, but the planning process for the park is in early design phase. Initial planning includes a facility assessment and design for replacing or rehabilitating the low-freeboard dock.

*New restrooms are being constructed at the site associated with current work on the nearby bridge. Restrooms are anticipated to be completed Spring 2019.*
### Accessibility of Sites within the Oakland Waterfront Geo-Region:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Description for Estuary Park/Jack London Aquatic Center 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail May 31, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility of Sites within the Oakland Waterfront Geo-Region:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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 Beach and Boat Launch (designated), Crown Memorial State Beach (designated), Tidewater Boating Center (designated), Elmhurst Creek, and Doolittle Drive (designated). 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Oakland Waterfront Geo-Region provides opportunities to enjoy both windy conditions and calm conditions, wildlife viewing, urban experiences, dining, and overnight accommodations. As mentioned above, numerous locations within this geo-region offer accessible features.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently, the most broadly accessible site in this geo-region is Tidewater Boating Center, which offers a long gangway with resting areas, permanent accessible restrooms, accessible parking, a long low-freeboard dock and other accessible amenities such as a drinking fountain, and loading/unloading area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Summary of Environmental Review (Water Trail Final EIR)
**For**
**Jack London Aquatic Center**
**June 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Area</th>
<th>Impacts Analysis</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>The site is not within the four mile buffer from a hunting location.</td>
<td>The WT sign will include safety information about hunting and the WT website to find more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>References:</strong> WT FEIR text.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navigational Safety</td>
<td>The site is within Oakland’s Inner Harbor Channel. There is a security exclusion zone around the U.S. Coast Guard vessel that is sectioned off by buoys.</td>
<td>The WT sign on-site will include language for users to be aware of ferry routes, shipping channels, and larger vessels. WT educational materials (maps, website and brochure) include emergency preparedness and response information, a map of shipping channels, and links to the “Rules of the Road.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>References:</strong> WT FEIR text and Figures 3.4.2-1 and 3.4.2-2.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aesthetics:</td>
<td>Water Trail signage is not expected to have adverse aesthetic impacts.</td>
<td>A “sign program” will be developed with the City of Oakland to ensure WT signage does not result in sign clutter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>References:</strong> WT FEIR text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology – Vegetation</td>
<td>The site is surrounded by rip rap shoreline. There is no marsh habitat within four miles of the site. The Oakland Estuary is urbanized with businesses, industrial complexes, and shops located along it.</td>
<td>The WT educational sign and website ask WT users to help prevent the spread of invasive species by rinsing off boats and equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>References:</strong> WT FEIR text and Table 3.7.2-1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology – Birds</td>
<td>There are no Ridgway’s rails, nesting water birds, rafting waterfowl, or roosting pelicans located within four miles (by boat) of the site.</td>
<td>The standard WT educational sign includes information about how to paddle responsibly around wildlife and to maintain a buffer distance from sensitive species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>References:</strong> WT FEIR text and map</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology – Harbor Seals</td>
<td>A harbor seal haul-out is located along the Encinal Beach jetty, which is on the opposite side of Alameda Island and a long paddle from JLAC.</td>
<td>The standard WT educational sign includes information about how to paddle responsibly around wildlife and to maintain a buffer distance from harbor seal haul-outs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Resources</td>
<td>No WT-related construction is planned at this time.</td>
<td>The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrology</td>
<td>No WT-related construction is planned at this time.</td>
<td>Improvements associated with the new restroom would comply with water quality best practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation,</td>
<td>Parking appears to have sufficient space to accommodate users on all but the busiest days.</td>
<td>Increased use is not expected to be great enough to overwhelm parking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation, and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
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