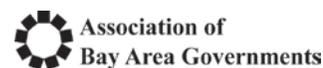




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail  
 Site Description for  
**Westpoint Harbor**

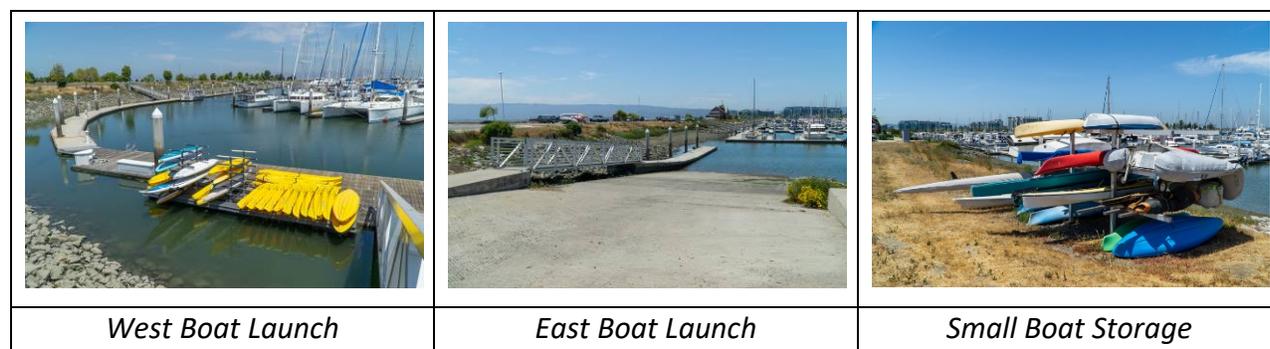


**Location, Ownership, and Management:** Westpoint Harbor is the newest recreational marina in San Francisco Bay. The harbor is privately operated by Westpoint Harbor LLC. The harbor is generally oriented towards berthers and visiting sailboats and motorboats, but the site provides a variety of facilities that make it an ideal launch or destination for non-motorized small boats.

**Contact Name:** Kevin Parker

**Contact Phone:** (650) 701-0545

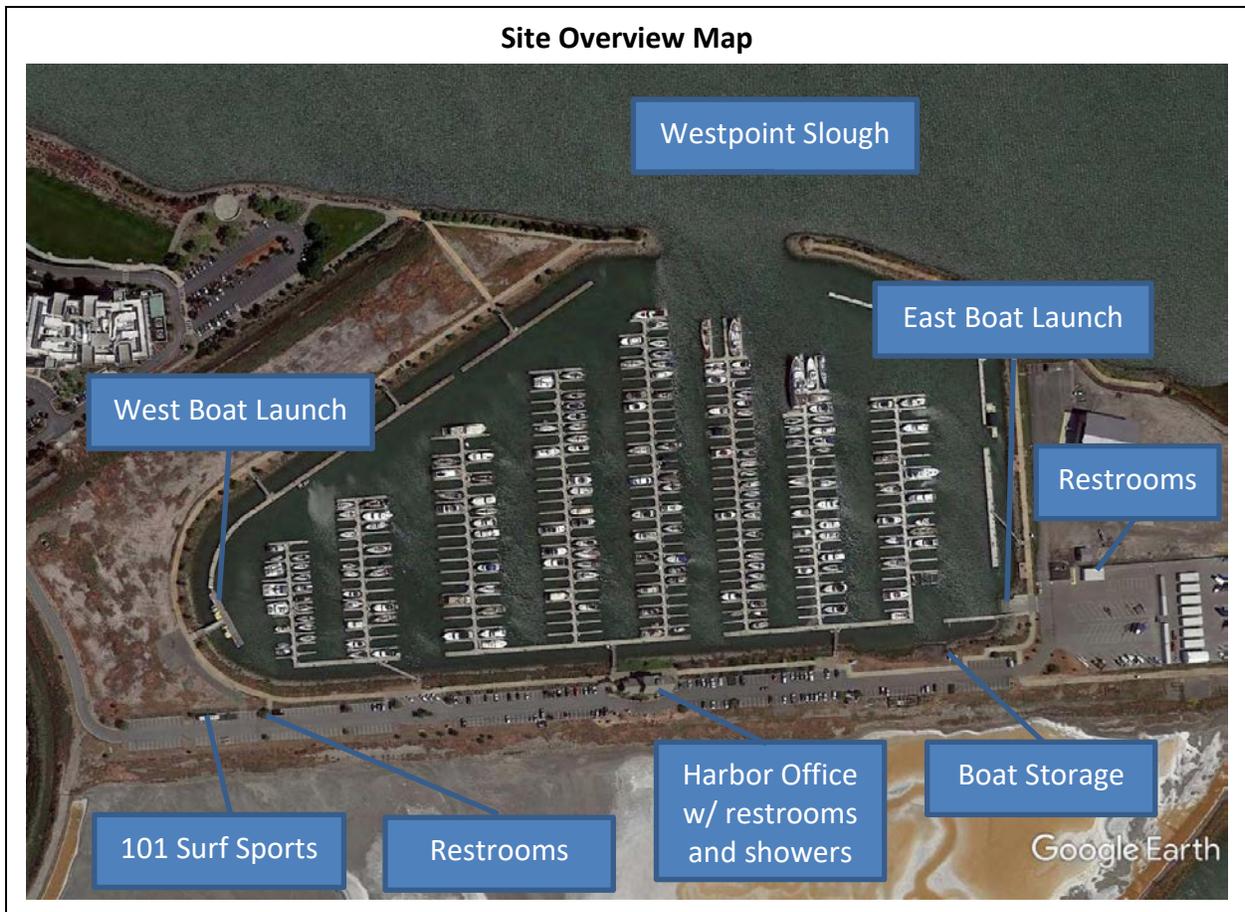
**Contact E-mail:** harbormaster@westpointharbor.com



**Facility Description:** Westpoint Harbor serves both motorized and non-motorized boat users, providing access to Westpoint Slough and Redwood Creek, which are navigable to the San Francisco Bay. Westpoint Harbor provides non-motorized small boat access at two primary locations:

**West Boat Launch** – These launch facilities are located at the west end of the Harbor and are designed for use by non-motorized small boats. The main gangway is eight feet wide and located close to parking. The main gangway is locked during weekdays to protect rental kayaks and SUPs stored on the dock. Access is available upon request or the gangway located 400 feet further north is open. The locked gate is a temporary measure and will soon be available 24x7 via a guest registration process. The gangway is currently unlocked weekends during daylight hours when 101 Surf Sports is open. 101 Surf Sports offers kayaks and SUP rentals at this location Friday-Sunday and weekdays by appointment.

**East Boat Launch** – These boat launch facilities are located at the east end of the Harbor and consist of a corrugated cement boat ramp with a high-freeboard dock. The high-freeboard dock is made of composite and extends approximately 100 feet. This launch is designed primarily for trailered boats, but is used by many different boat types. The harbor offers complimentary outdoor boat storage on a rack near this boat launch. A small gravel beach is also located just south of the dock.



**Other Identifying or General Information:**

<p>Site ID: <u>SM24</u>                  In WT Plan: <u>No</u>                  Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u>                  Ownership: <u>Private</u>                  County: <u>San Mateo</u>                  Geo-Region: <u>Peninsula and South Bay</u>                  SF Bay Plan Region: <u>South Bay</u>                  Launch or Destination: <u>Launch</u>                  Home of a Club: <u>Yes</u>                  Used by a Program that Assists Persons with Disabilities: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Appreciated for Windy Conditions: <u>No</u>                  Near Food or Drink: <u>A café that serves breakfast and lunch (M-F) is located at 1300 Seaport, near the Harbor. Additional restaurants are proposed for the second phase of development at the Harbor.</u>                  Proximity to Other Sites: Westpoint Harbor is located approximately 1.9 miles northeast of the Redwood City Municipal Marina. Bair Island Aquatic Center, is located approximately 1.3 miles further south along Redwood Creek. An informal launch at Ravenswood Open Space is located approximately 5 miles south.</p>
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**Description of Launch/Landing:**

<p>Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>Yes</u>                  Float: <u>Yes</u>                  Freeboard Level: <u>Low (less than 9")</u>                  Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u>                  Gangway: <u>Yes</u>                  Gangway Length (feet): <u>50</u>                  Gangway Width (inches): <u>96</u>                  Gangway Slope Description: Several gangways access the low-freeboard dock at the south end of the harbor. The primary gangway is located closest to the parking lot.</p> <p>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>                  Water Entry Path: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Other Launch/Landing Notes: A small beach launch is being improved at the southeast end of the harbor. The low-freeboard dock contains a marine ladder to assist people who accidentally fall in to get back onto the dock.</p> <p>Restrictions: A gate is located at the top of the primary gangway, which is locked during the week to protect rental kayaks and SUPs stored on the dock. The gate is open during daylight hours on weekends and when 101 Surf Sports is open. The lock on the gates is a temporary measure. Soon there will be a registration process through 101 Surf Sports where paddlers will be able to get a key fob to access the dock 24x7.</p> <p>The gangway 400-feet north is also gated, but remains unlocked during daylight hours.</p>
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*The West Launch's large low-freeboard dock provides an ideal launch surface, close to parking, within a sheltered part of the harbor basin.*

**Site Appears to be Suitable For:**

Kayak: <u>Yes</u> Windsurfer: <u>Yes</u> Kiteboard: <u>Yes</u> Whaleboat: <u>Yes</u> Stand Up Paddleboard: <u>Yes</u>	Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Outrigger Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Sculling: <u>Yes</u> Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>Yes</u> Dragonboat: <u>Yes</u>
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*The East Launch is used by a dragon boat club, with outdoor storage provided in the parking area near the top of the launch.*

**Transportation and Parking:**

General Spaces (number): <u>250 + 36 trailered parking spaces</u> ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>7</u> Duration (hours): No time limits are posted in the parking area. Overnight Parking Allowed: <u>No</u> Overnight Parking Description: No time limits are posted in the parking area.	Loading/Unloading Area: <u>No</u> Bay Trail: <u>Yes</u> Public Transportation: A free shuttle bus runs from Pacific Shores (all buildings) Monday to Friday to Caltrain in Redwood City.
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Public parking extends along the entire southern side of the harbor.

**Path of Travel:**

Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): 530  
 Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): 530  
 Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): 310  
 Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): 40



*The path of travel is a combination of paved and degraded gravel path around the edge of the harbor. From the parking area, access is paved from the closest ADA parking to the restrooms in the Harbor offices.*

**Other Site Amenities:**

Total Restrooms: 4  
 Total ADA Restrooms: 2  
 Restroom Description: There are full restroom facilities with running water and showers in the Harbor offices, which remain unlocked during daylight hours. Restrooms are also located next to 101 Surf Sports and at the top of the East Boat Launch.

Boat Washing: Yes  
 Rigging/Staging Area: No  
 Picnic Tables: Yes  
 Benches: Yes  
 BBQ: No  
 Boat Storage: Yes



*Westpoint Harbor offers complimentary outdoor boat storage for kayaks and SUPs at the east end of the harbor. A dragonboat team also stores their boats in the parking area at the east end of the harbor.*

**Overnight Accommodations:**

Hotel: <u>No</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: <u>No</u>	Other: <u>No</u>
Accommodations Description: Westpoint Harbor is exploring potential for yurts/small cabins that would accommodate paddlers on multi-day trips.				

**Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:**

The primary areas for water entry are from the low-freeboard dock at the west end of the harbor, which is accessed from gangways that is designed to ADA slopes. The boat ramp or high-freeboard dock at the east end of the harbor are also designed to ADA requirements. All docks are made of composite or wood and are in good condition.

The shoreside facilities offer a path of travel, sidewalks, restroom, and parking that all appear to be ADA accessible and well maintained.



*Gangways are designed to meet ADA slope requirements at all tides and include transition plates.*

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

Most paddlers use the west dock area due to the low-freeboard dock, ease of use and proximity to parking. The presence of 101 Surf Sports also contributes to higher site use.

The boat launch at the north end of the marina is used by larger craft like dragon boats as well as by users that store their boats at the storage racks located near the docks. The site is popular particularly on weekends.

Site use is anticipated to increase with development on the north end of the marina including a restaurant and boathouse. These facilities, as well as the relocation of thousands of Google employees to the adjacent office park, are anticipated to increase use in coming years.

### Safety and Security, including Parking:

Duck hunting occurs in nearby wetlands October to February. Outside Westpoint Harbor, small craft should be cautious and avoid the barges and other large ships that frequent the shipping lanes along Redwood Creek. Motorized boats, and sailboats are regularly moving along Westpoint Slough and within the Harbor, so small non-motorized boats need to take caution to avoid these vessels.

Winds and currents on the sloughs and nearby Bay can be strong; paddlers need to take care to stay within their skill level.



*Safe boating rules are posted on the West Launch dock and at the top of the East Launch boat ramp. Wind is a top safety concern.*

### Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:

Extensive marshes known to contain sensitive species and habitats occur on islands and along the shoreline in the vicinity of Westpoint Harbor. Greco Island is located across Westpoint Slough from the Harbor and Bair Island is located approximately 1.5 miles north. These areas are known to contain numerous rare and endangered species including salt marsh harvest mouse, Ridgeway's Rail, California least tern, and active harbor seal haul-outs. There is no public access onto Greco Island.

Water Trail signage should build on existing signage and educate the public about not landing on Greco Island, Bair Island, and other refuge lands, consistent with USFWS guidance. Additional signage will be helpful in educating the public about wildlife restrictions.

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

Existing signage near 101 Surf Sports and at the top of the boat ramp advises users that landing in marshes and on nearby islands is prohibited.

Westpoint Harbor is sponsoring a "birder-in-residence" to document avian species visible from Westpoint Harbor. This program will run for several months and result in a book and other outreach materials to raise awareness about the species in and around the Harbor.

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

Continued development at Westpoint Harbor will bring additional amenities to non-motorized small boaters, including a restaurant, more-permanent concessionaire building, a boathouse, and potential overnight opportunities. Construction for some of these facilities is anticipated to begin in late fall 2018.

**Accessibility of Sites within the Peninsula / South Bay Geo-Region:**

Westpoint Harbor was not included in the Accessibility Plan, but resides within the Peninsula/South Bay Geo-Region. There are twelve potential/existing Water Trail sites identified within this geo-region in the Accessibility Plan: Oyster Point Marina; Colma Creek; Old Bayshore Highway; Coyote Point Recreation Area; Coyote Point Marina; Seal Point Park; Baywinds Park; Beaches on the Bay; Redwood City Municipal Marina; Docktown Marina; Palo Alto Baylands Sail Station; and, Alviso Marina County Park. Of these, the Redwood City Municipal Marina, Palo Alto Baylands Sail Station, Westpoint Harbor and Alviso Marina County Park provide broadly accessible facilities.

The experiences that are available in the Peninsula / South Bay Geo-Region are a mixture of urban and more rural experiences in slough environments. There are several sites that offer a variety of accessible features. As mentioned above, the Redwood City Municipal Marina provides a low-freeboard dock, accessible parking, accessible restrooms, and a loading and unloading area. Palo Alto Baylands also provides a low-freeboard dock and ADA gangway and is scheduled for renovation by the City of Palo Alto to include ADA restrooms. Alviso Marina County Park has ADA high and low-freeboard docks, loading/unloading areas, and accessible parking. Westpoint Harbor also offers a low-freeboard dock, ADA gangways, ADA restrooms, and parking.

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

**Westpoint Harbor  
September 14, 2018**

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p>Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.</p>	<p>Westpoint Harbor is a developed facility with boat launching available from several locations, parking, restrooms, and a picnic area and trails. Facilities are well maintained and have sufficient capacity to accommodate increased levels of use.</p> <p>Hunting is allowed in several of the marshes within four miles of the site, including Greco Island and Bair Island.</p>	<p>Water Trail users may submit comments to Water Trail staff through the website if they witness or experience recreational conflict at any designated site. The Water Trail educational sign would include warnings about seasonal hunting in the Bay (Oct – Jan) and includes the Federal and State Fish and Wildlife website for specific information.</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, tides, and currents and how to boat near other vessels.</p>	<p>The Water Trail educational sign that would be installed provides information related to navigational and personal boating safety.</p>
<p>Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.</p>	<p>Westpoint Harbor is considered an urban/wildland interface site, characterized by the public marina adjacent to marshes across Westpoint Slough.</p>	<p>The Water Trail will require the inclusion of a Water Trail identification sign at the sites as well as the educational sign. A “sign program” will be developed with Westpoint Harbor to ensure that the I.D. signs and educational signs 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>Extensive marshes known to contain sensitive species and habitats occur on islands and along the shoreline and on islands in the vicinity of the Westpoint Harbor. Greco Island is located across Westpoint Slough from the Harbor and Bair Island is located approximately 1.5 miles north. These islands are known to contain rare and endangered plant species and habitat for a variety of birds.</p>	<p>There is no public access onto Greco Island or Bair Island. Preventing the inadvertent spread of exotic, invasive plant species is important at all launch sites. The East Launch has a boat washdown hose. 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 and by not landing in marshes or on levees.</p>
<p>Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i></p>	<p>There are no known active heron or egret rookeries located within four miles 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 herons and egrets, and to avoid landing in the marsh or on levees. The WT website and brochure include more detailed information about not disturbing nesting birds.</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 may congregate.</p>	<p>Avoiding disturbance of rafting waterfowl is addressed in the Water Trail educational sign, brochure, and website.</p>
<p>Biology – Ridgway’s rail and California black rail and high tide refugia References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figure 3.8.2-2 Personal Communication with CDFW</p>	<p>Black rail and Ridgway’s rail habitat are known to be present in the nearby marshes.</p>	<p>Signage is needed to emphasize the importance of keeping a 50-foot buffer from rail habitat (not entering channels less than 100 feet wide) and staying clear of high-tide refugia, and that landing in marshes and on levees is prohibited. The Water Trail educational sign, brochure and website include this information.</p>

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p>Biology –Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figures 3.8.2-3, Personal Communication with CDFW</p>	<p>Unique or important western snowy plover or least tern habitat does is located in the vicinity of the site.</p>	<p>Signage is needed to emphasize the importance of keeping a 650-foot buffer from snowy plover habitat and staying clear of high-tide refugia, and that landing in marshes and on levees is prohibited. The Water Trail educational sign, brochure and website include this information.</p>
<p>Biology – Northwestern Pond Turtles: References Water Trail DREIR, Personal Communication with CDFW</p>	<p>Northwestern pond turtles are generally found in freshwater ponds, not in sloughs. There is no suitable habitat in the vicinity of Westpoint Harbor.</p>	<p>Boaters are advised through the WT brochure and website to not disembark in any undesignated areas or trample sensitive habitats, including marshes. The WT educational sign emphasizes that boaters should not land in marshes or on levees.</p>
<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>There is a primary harbor seal haul-out site located on the north side of Greco Island and on Bair Island within four miles of the 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.</p>
<p>Biology – Other Species References: WT DREIR pp. 3-132 to 3-156 San Francisco Estuary Institute Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Data</p>	<p>Habitat for salt marsh harvest mouse occurs throughout the nearby marshes.</p>	<p>Boaters are advised through the WT brochure and website to not disembark in any undesignated areas or trample sensitive habitats, including marshes. The WT educational sign emphasizes that boaters should not land in marshes or on levees.</p>
<p>Cultural Resources References: WT DREIR pp. 3-163</p>	<p>No WT-related construction is planned at this time. NMSB users are advised not to land in adjacent wetland habitat, which would prevent potential disturbance of 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>No hydrological changes would occur from existing conditions.</p>

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Transportation, Circulation, and Parking	The site has several large parking lots that can accommodate users.	Increased use by non-motorized small boat users is not expected to overwhelm parking or road capacity.

# San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail



Westpoint Harbor

- Potential Water Trail Site
- Active Nesting Sites
- Pelican Roosts
- Hunting / Security Exclusion Area
- Designated Water Trail Site
- California Least Tern
- Harbor Seal Haulouts
- Shipping Channels
- 4-Mile Site Buffer
- Ridgeway's/Black Rail
- Ferry Terminal



CA Harbor Seal data from Water Trail FEIR. Ridgeway's and black rail, Western snowy plover, and herony data generalized from 2015 California Natural Diversity Database. Map Author: BB, September 2018