



San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
Site Description for
Belden's Landing



Location, Ownership, and Management: Belden's Landing Boat Launch is located along Grizzly Island Road, just south of the bridge crossing Montezuma Slough. Formerly a private harbor, the launch was purchased by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the 1980s and developed into a popular boat launch. The site is owned and managed by Solano County Parks.

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<i>Corrugated cement boat ramp</i>	<i>Access to Montezuma Slough</i>	<i>High-Freeboard Dock</i>

Facility Description: Belden's Landing provides a wide launch ramp for motorized and non-motorized boats and a high-freeboard dock. The facility also provides parking (including trailer parking), restrooms, trash receptacles, informational signage, a fish cleaning station, and picnic tables. A fishing pier and boardwalk are located south of the launch, though the fishing pier was damaged during the Branscombe Fire and is currently closed and awaiting repair. There is a parking fee but launching is free for non-trailerred crafts.

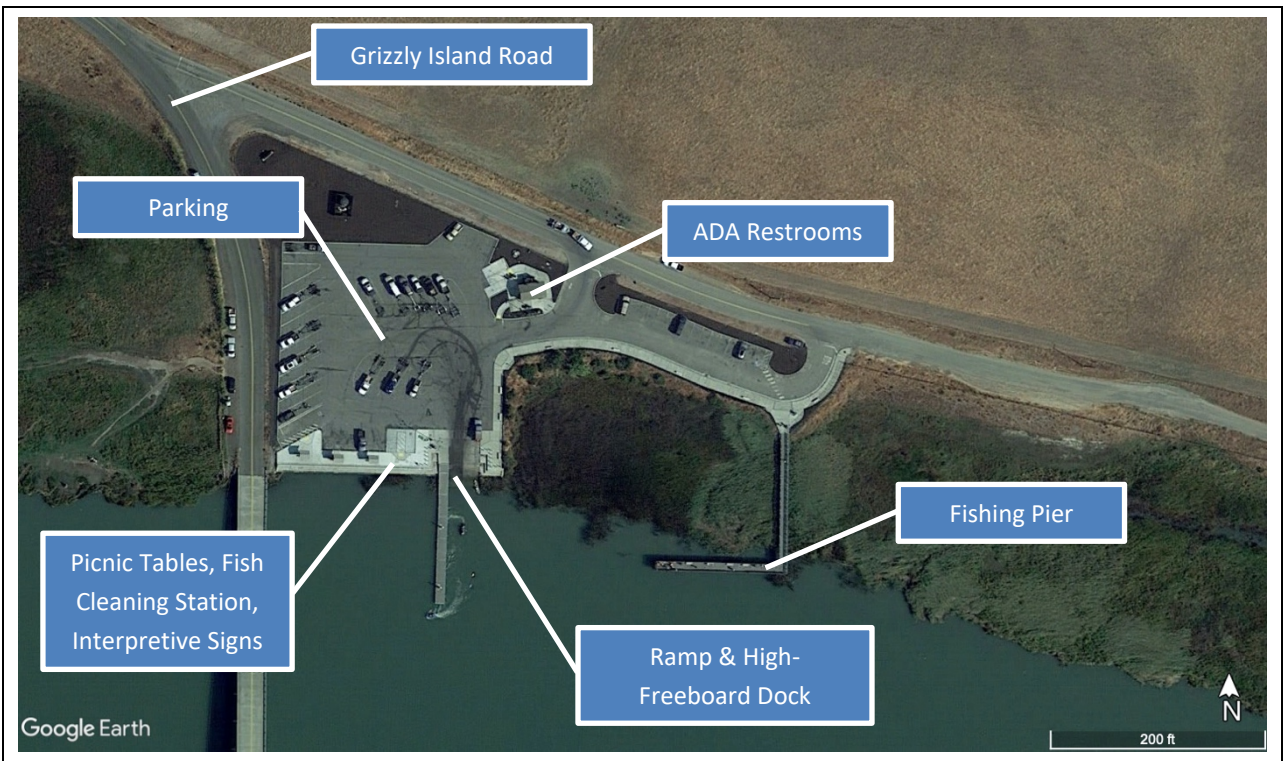


Belden's Landing offers access to miles of scenic sloughs

Vicinity Map



Site Map



Other Identifying or General Information:

Site ID: <u>So5</u> In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u> Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u> Ownership: <u>Public</u> County: <u>Solano</u> Geo-Region: <u>Suisun/Delta</u> SF Bay Plan Region: <u>Suisun Bay-Marsh</u> Launch or Destination: <u>Launch</u> 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>No</u> Proximity to Other Sites: Belden's Landing is approximately 8.5 paddling miles from the Suisun City Marina. Montezuma Slough to the west is 6.6 miles to Grizzly Bay and 13 miles east to the San Joaquin/Sacramento River. Other water access locations, including the Antioch Marina, Big Break, and Bay Point are all over 15 miles away.
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Description of Launch/Landing:

Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>No</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>Yes</u> Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u> Beach: <u>No</u> Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>Yes</u>	Other Launch/Landing Notes: Dock is 7-feet wide. Tidal correction on Port Chicago is low 46 min; high 37 min. Restrictions: \$12 to launch, \$8 day use. Launch fee excludes car-topped, hand-carried boats. Water Entry Path: <u>No</u>
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Site Appears to be Suitable For:Kayak: YesWindsurfer: NoKiteboard: NoWhaleboat: NoStand Up Paddleboard: YesCanoe: YesOutrigger Canoe: NoSculling: NoRowboat/Dinghy: YesDragonboat: No

The lack of nearby launch/landing sites makes Belden's Landing most suitable for shorter day trips for wildlife viewing and fishing the nearby sloughs.

Transportation and Parking:

General Spaces (number): ~35

ADA Parking Spaces (number): 5

ADA Parking Description: Spaces near restroom, picnic tables, and boat launch ramp. One is a trailer ADA spot.

Loading/Unloading Area: Yes

Duration (hours): 24

Overnight Parking Possibly Allowed: Yes

Overnight Parking Description: Call 707-374-2097 or 707-784-7905 for parking information

Bay Trail: No

Public Transportation: None

**Path of Travel:**

Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): 60

Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): 60

Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): 200

Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): 30

Path of Travel Exists: Yes



Other Site Amenities:

Total Restrooms: <u>2</u>	Rigging/Staging Area: <u>No</u>
Total ADA Restrooms: <u>2</u>	Picnic Tables: <u>Yes</u>
Restroom Description: ADA accessible vault toilets	Benches: <u>Yes</u>
Boat Washing: <u>No</u>	BBQ: <u>No</u>
Boat Storage: <u>No</u>	

**Overnight Accommodations:**

Hotel: <u>No</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: <u>No</u>	Other: <u>No</u>
Accommodations Description:				

Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:

The parking, restrooms, ramp, and path of travel appear to be accessible. The dock is a high-freeboard dock. There is also an accessible fishing pier, though it is currently closed due to damage.

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

The quality facilities, central location, and lack of nearby public water access makes this a highly popular launch site. According to Solano County Parks staff, kayak use at the site has increased substantially in recent years for both recreational paddling and kayak-fishing. Due to the popularity of the site for many types of boats, small craft users are encouraged to launch on the west side of the dock (if using the dock) or to minimize space and time occupying the ramp during launching and landing.

Unless paddling to a formal public launch/landing (i.e., Suisun City Marina), boaters should remain in their boats throughout their trip from Belden's Landing and should plan their trips accordingly. Nearby private property and restoration projects are off-limits.

**Safety and Security, including Parking:**

Frequent winds and tidal currents make Suisun Marsh most suitable for kayaking, though canoes and SUPs could be used during calmer conditions. Paddlers should always be aware of the tides and weather forecasts and how they may impact their ability to return to the launch. CDFW regularly patrols the area.

Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:

Suisun Marsh is one of the last large fragments of a relatively intact prehistoric tidal marsh. Salt marsh harvest mice and black rail are found throughout the marsh. Ridgeway rails have been detected near Rush Ranch. A heronry exists within four miles of the launch site. There are also endangered and rare plant species found in the area, including the Suisun thistle and soft bird's beak. Rafting waterfowl may be present.



The Water Trail educational sign directs users not to land in marshes and to keep a distance from sensitive species.

Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage:

Interpretive signs at the top of the launch provide information on the local ecology and fishing regulations. Additional Water Trail signage and maps would be provided upon designation.

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

Most of Suisun Marsh is private property or sensitive habitat restoration areas that do not allow public access. Paddlers should plan their trips accordingly to ensure they only launch and land from public facilities.

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

**Belden's Landing Boat Launch
September 18, 2020**

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.	Belden's Landing has a boat ramp and high-freeboard dock which can accommodate heavy use. There is no hunting within several miles of both sites.	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 includes warnings about seasonal hunting in the Bay (Oct – Jan) and includes the State Fish and Wildlife website for specific information.
Navigational and Personal Safety References: WT DREIR pp. 3-38 to 3-51, and Figures 3.4.2-1 and 3.4.2-2.	Belden's Landing is popular with motorized boaters. Small boat users should be aware of tides and currents and how to boat near other vessels.	The Water Trail educational sign provides safety information related to navigational and personal boating safety.
Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.	The marina has sign boards with safety and environmental messages. Belden's Landing is a rural environment.	The Water Trail will require the inclusion of a Water Trail identification sign at the site. A "sign program" will be developed with Solano County to ensure that the I.D. signs and educational signs do not result in sign clutter at the sites.

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>There is marsh habitat surrounding the launch and boaters could explore the Montezuma Slough and the sloughs surrounding it. Endangered and rare plant species such as Suisun thistle and soft bird's beak are found in the area.</p>	<p>Preventing the inadvertent spread of exotic, invasive plant species is important at all launch sites. There is existing signage about how 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 is currently one active heron or egret rookery 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. 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 – 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 Personal Communication with CDFW</p>	<p>Black rail are present throughout Suisun Marsh. Ridgway's rail have been detected near Rush Ranch. Marsh habitat surrounds the launch site.</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), of 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>

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
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	Not a concern for this location.	
Biology – Northwestern Pond Turtles: References Water Trail DREIR, Personal Communication with CDFW	Northwestern pond turtles are present in the area, but generally found in freshwater ponds, not in the sloughs. There is little woody debris where the turtles would bask in the sloughs.	
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 primary or secondary harbor seal 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.
Biology – Other Species References: WT DREIR pp. 3-132 to 3-156 San Francisco Estuary Institute Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Data	Salt marsh harvest mouse are found throughout Suisun Marsh. Marsh habitat surrounds the launch site.	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.
Cultural Resources	No WT-related construction is planned at this time. NMSB users are not allowed to land in adjacent wetland habitat, potentially disturbing cultural artifacts.	The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.
Hydrology	No WT-related construction is planned at this time.	

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
Transportation, Circulation, and Parking	Belden's Landing has a large parking lot that can accommodate users and there is a loading zone to drop off and pick up gear.	Increased use by non-motorized small boat users is not expected to be great enough to overwhelm parking.