



San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
Site Description for
Pacheco Marsh

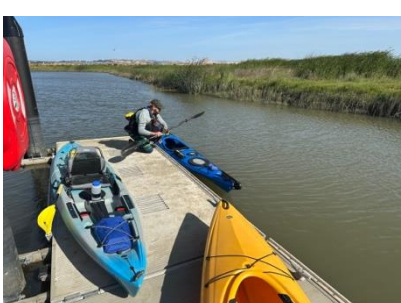


Location, Ownership, and Management: Pacheco Marsh is located in Martinez, California, along the southern edge of Suisun Bay. It is owned and managed by the John Muir Land Trust (JMLT). Restoration of the site was made possible through a partnership with the Contra Costa County Flood Control District. The marsh is part of a major tidal wetland restoration project.

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Launch on the main channel	Dock from the water	Lowfreeboard Dock

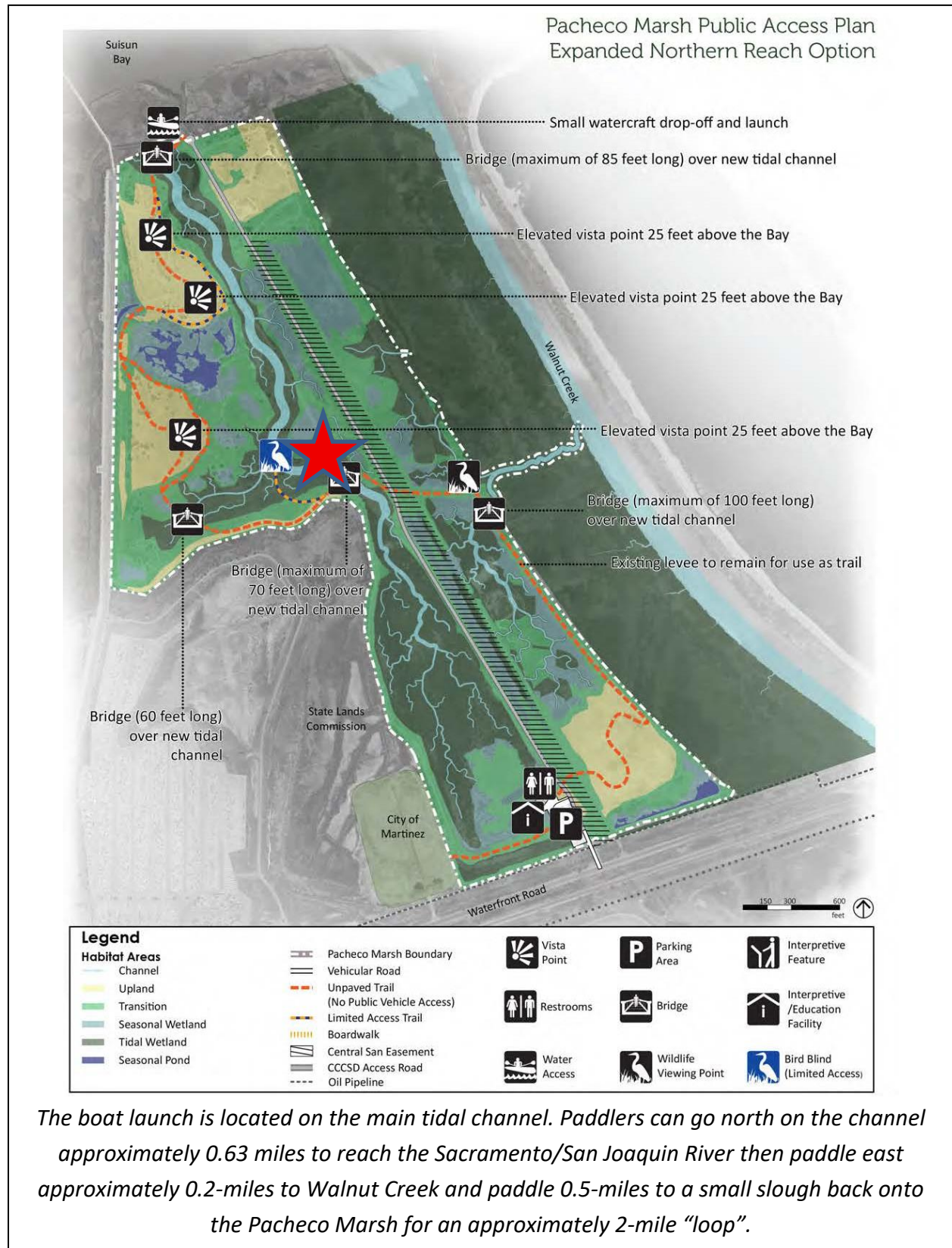
Facility Description: Pacheco Marsh is utilized by kayakers, canoers, and stand up paddleboarders to enjoy the sloughs of Pacheco Marsh and to access the San Joaquin/Sacramento Rivers, Walnut Creek, and Suisun Bay. Water access facilities include a paved path that leads to an ADA accessible dock on a sheltered tidal channel. The low-freeboard dock has water at all tides, though it can be very shallow at low tides. The launch is located approximately 0.5-miles from the parking area, so bringing a boat dolly is highly recommended.

Once on the water, the launch that enables paddlers to explore a unique 2-mile “loop” through the marsh and into Suisun Bay. This launch provides immersive access to restored tidal channels and wetland habitats, offering an opportunity for water-based recreation in a protected natural setting.

Additional public access amenities include:

- 2.4 miles of trails and bridges, including a wheelchair-accessible trail
- Bird blinds for wildlife observation
- Outdoor classroom for environmental education
- Interpretive signage highlighting marsh ecology and restoration efforts

Map



Other Identifying or General Information:

Site ID: In WT Plan: <u>No</u> Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u> Ownership: <u>Public</u> County: <u>Contra Costa</u> Geo-Region: <u>Suisun / Delta</u> SF Bay Plan Region: <u>Suisun 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: The nearest locations include the Martinez Marina (2.5 miles west, the Benicia Marina (3.5 miles west), and Bay Point Regional Shoreline (7.6 miles east).
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Description of Launch/Landing:

Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>Yes</u> Float: <u>Yes</u> Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u> Gangway: <u>Yes</u> Boat/Trailer Ramp: <u>No</u> Mudflats Affect Site Usability: <u>Yes</u>	Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u> Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u> Beach: <u>No</u> Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>No</u> Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>No</u> Water Entry Path: <u>No</u>
 <i>ADA gangway to the lowfreeboard dock</i>	 <i>Lowfreeboard dock</i>

Site Appears to be Suitable For:

Kayak: <u>Yes</u> Windsurfer: <u>No</u> Kiteboard: <u>No</u> Whaleboat: <u>No</u> Stand Up Paddleboard: <u>Yes</u>	Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Outrigger Canoe: <u>No</u> Sculling: <u>No</u> Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>No</u> Dragonboat: <u>No</u>
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**Transportation and Parking:**

General Spaces (number): <u>48</u> ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>2</u> ADA Parking Description: The parking area includes two ADA spots located closest to the trailhead. Loading/Unloading Area: <u>No</u> Bay Trail: <u>No</u>	Overnight Parking Allowed: <u>No</u> Overnight Parking Description: Pacheco Marsh is open daily from dawn until dusk. Parking lot hours are 9am - 5pm. After hours parking is available on Waterfront Road. Public Transportation: No public transportation is available to the site.
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Path of Travel:

Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): 2,455
 Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): 2,455
 Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): 2,500
 Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): 20
 Path of Travel Exists: Yes



Path of Travel Description: From the parking lot, a paved level path goes along the west side of the trail for 0.39 miles along the main trail then crosses the bridge (which includes transitions plates) and a paved path continues to the top of the ADA gangway to the boat launch.

Other Site Amenities:

Total Restrooms: 2
 Total ADA Restrooms: 2
 Restroom Description: Unisex vault restrooms.

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

Overnight Accommodations:

Hotel: <u>No</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: <u>No</u>	Other: <u>No</u>
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Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:

Facilities within the staging area appear broadly accessible, including ADA parking, paved paths of travel, ADA restrooms, and ADA picnic facilities. Within the parking area, paved paths connect the paved ADA parking spaces to the restroom, interpretive areas, and continue all the way to the second bridge, approximately 0.85-miles north of the parking area. The trail on the west side of the bridges, excepting the path the boat dock, are compacted dirt and graded to accessible slopes.

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

Pacheco is an important water access location due to the lack of water access on the south shore of the Sacramento / San Joaquin River in Contra Costa County. Water access use may be limited due to distance from parking to the launch facilities; however, the 0.5-mile walk is easily accessible with a kayak dolly or with an inflatable.

Once on the water, the kayak launch supports a unique 2-mile “loop” through the marsh. The eastern end of the “loop” does not have a formal water exit so most paddlers would likely prefer to return to the main boat launch.



Safety and Security, including Parking:

Mudflats are a substantial consideration when paddling from Pacheco Marsh. While there is always water in the main sloughs, they can become narrow and very shallow at lower tides. Paddles should be timed for when tides are 3-feet or higher to ensure sufficient draft.

There is heavy industry located near Pacheco Marsh – paddlers should maintain a distance from the long wharf located west of where the main channel enters the Sacramento/San Joaquin River. In addition, winds and currents on the Sacramento/San Joaquin River 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. Pacheco Marsh is a restored tidal marsh that is important to a growing number of species of birds and several species of mammals, including many wading birds and shorebirds. Great blue herons, great egrets, snowy egrets, green herons and white-faced ibis, forage in the tidal sloughs and freshwater marshes. Pacheco Marsh provides extensive interpretation and outreach to enhance knowledge of sensitive species and habitats in the region. Additional Water Trail signage will further user education about appropriate wildlife practices.



Accessibility of Sites within the Suisun/Delta Geo-Region:

There are six potential/existing Water Trail sites identified within this geo-region: Suisun City Marina (designated); Downtown Suisun City (designated); Belden's Landing; Antioch Marina; Big Break Regional Shoreline; and Bay Point Regional Shoreline. Of these, the Suisun City Marina, Downtown Suisun, Antioch Marina, and Big Break Regional Shoreline provide a variety of accessible facilities. The Suisun City Marina provides accessible parking, accessible restrooms, and a loading and unloading area. Downtown Suisun City also provides an ADA gangway to a high-freeboard dock and ADA parking. The Antioch Marina provides accessible parking and accessible restrooms.

The experiences that are available in the Suisun/Delta Geo-Region are primarily more rural experiences in slough environments.