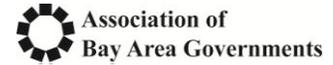




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
 Site Description for
Ferry Point



Location, Ownership, and Management: Ferry Point is located at the south end of Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline, at the tip of the Point Richmond Peninsula. Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline is owned and managed by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). The launch site at Ferry Point is a small beach located near the historic Ferry Point Pier. The site is currently popular with families, picnickers, and kayakers, as it is somewhat protected from the wind, the tide does not expose mudflats, and because of the beautiful views toward San Francisco and Marin. The beach is popular with kayakers because it is a launch for many different excursions, including trips towards Angel Island, Red Rock Island, the Richmond waterfront, and Berkeley.

EBRPD is planning to improve access at this site for non-motorized small boat users by installing a 130-foot-long accessible concrete launch ramp, a new accessible restroom with drinking fountain and outdoor shower, and improvements to existing accessible parking spaces. EBRPD has applied for a grant to the Water Trail program for the concrete accessible pathway and parking improvements. The funds for the restroom and shower have been secured from a separate grant.

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View of beach at Ferry Point	View towards the beach	View from the beach

Facility Description: Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline is a 307-acre park located in Point Richmond. It features picnic areas, two beaches (Ferry Point and Keller's Beach), a fishing pier next to the historic Ferry Point Pier, a model railroad museum, and a hilltop with trails that lead to panoramic views of the north Bay Area that includes views of three bridges. Near Ferry Point

beach in particular, there is a parking area with restrooms, three benches, and a kiosk that includes a map of the park, and tide and current information. There is a path from the parking area to a bare field that leads to the beach. The park provides a secluded shoreline experience in Richmond because the background of the shoreline is a natural, undeveloped hill.



Other Identifying or General Information:

<p>Site ID: <u>CC10</u> In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u> Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u> Ownership: <u>Public</u> County: <u>Contra Costa</u> Geo-Region: <u>Richmond Area</u> SF Bay Plan Region: <u>Central Bay North</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></p> 	<p>Proximity to Other Sites: Ferry Pt. is located near many potential Water Trail sites. The nearest location is Keller's Beach (CC9), which is located approximately one mile to the north, around Ferry Point Pier. Heading south from Ferry Point towards Richmond, it is approximately 2.25 miles to Barbara and Jay Vincent Park (CC17), 2.5 miles to Richmond Municipal Marina (CC14), SS Red Oak Victory (CC20), Shimada Friendship Park (CC16), and Rosie the Riveter (CC15). Point Isabel (CC19) is located approximately 3.5 miles south of Ferry Point. Brooks Island is located near the site but access to the island is only through a scheduled naturalist tour with EBRPD (it is not a potential Water Trail site). Angel Island State Park (M17) is located approximately four miles away across the Bay (depending on which beach you land on). Berkeley Marina (A2) is a little over four miles away.</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>No</u> Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u> Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u> Water Entry Path: <u>No</u> Beach: <u>Yes</u> Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>No (not presently, but EBRPD has applied for a grant to install a 130-foot long accessible concrete path to the high tide line).</u></p>	<p>Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>No</u></p> <p>Other Launch/Landing Notes: Boaters should be aware that this beach is located near a shipping channel (the Harbor Channel).</p> <p>Restrictions: There is a park curfew from 10pm - 5am. Access to nearby Brooks Island is through a EBRPD-led naturalist program only.</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>No</u> Outrigger Canoe: <u>No</u> Sculling: <u>No</u> Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>Yes</u> Dragonboat: <u>No</u> Other: <u>No</u></p>
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Transportation and Parking:

<p>General Spaces (number): <u>51-75</u> ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>2</u></p> <p>ADA Parking Description: <u>The ADA parking met standards when it was built, but does not meet current ADA standards. EBRPD is proposing to upgrade the lot to current ADA standards.</u></p> <p>Duration (hours): <u>Hours change seasonally, but in general the park gate closes around 5:30 – 6:00 pm in the summer and 4:00 pm in the winter. Outgoing gates stay open and are protected by a treadle.</u></p> <p>Overnight Parking Possibly Allowed: <u>No</u></p> <p>Overnight Parking Description: <u>There is a park curfew from 10pm - 5am.</u></p>	<p>Loading/Unloading Area: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Bay Trail: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Public Transportation: The nearest bus stop is AC Transit bus line 72M (which also connects to the Richmond BART station) and is located a little over a mile away at the intersection of Dornan Drive and East Richmond Ave. The park is located on Dornan Drive, south through the tunnel from Garrard Boulevard in Point Richmond.</p> <p>The Bay Trail connects Ferry Point to Rosie the Riveter World War II National Homefront Park in Richmond.</p>
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Path of Travel:

<p>Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): <u>168</u> Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): <u>168</u> Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): <u>N/A</u> Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): <u>N/A</u> Path of Travel Exists: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Path of Travel Description: From the parking lot it is paved up to the dirt area that leads to the beach. EBRPD is proposing to install an accessible concrete ramp to the high tide line.</p>
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Other Site Amenities:

<p>Total Restrooms: <u>3</u> Total ADA Restrooms: <u>0</u> Restroom Description: There are three, single use restrooms near the parking lot. The District is proposing to install a new restroom that meets ADA standards and also includes sinks and hand-washing facilities. An accessible outdoor shower will be integrated into the restroom building.</p>	<p>Boat Washing: <u>No</u> Rigging/Staging Area: <u>No</u> Picnic Tables: <u>Yes</u> Benches: <u>Yes</u> BBQ: <u>No</u> Boat Storage: <u>No</u></p> 
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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:

The restrooms and parking were accesible when installed, but do not meet current accessible standards. EBRPD has secured funding to improve the restroom and is applying for a Water Trail grant to improve the accessible parking so both meet current federal and state standards. They also propose to install a 130-foot accessible concrete ramp over the sand to make the beach more accessible to all users, including those with disabilities.

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

EBRPD owns and manages this site and is currently preparing a land use amendment for Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline. The improvements proposed at Ferry Point are consistent with the recommendation under the current Land Use Plan Amendment to maximize public amenities near Ferry Point and better incorporate Ferry Point into the park.

Kayakers are the most frequent boaters that use the Ferry Point beach and there is little seasonal difference observed in boating use. There have not been many boaters with disabilities observed launching from Ferry Point, but the proposed improvements may increase the number of visitors with disabilities.

The beach tends to have debris wash up on to it. EBRPD staff perform maintenance at the beach, including debris removal. EBRPD will also maintain the new concrete ramp.

Safety and Security, including Parking:

Boaters have reported vehicle break-ins from this parking lot and EBRPD staff confirm that auto break-ins occur. EBRPD staff expect this to decrease as the park experiences increased visitation, especially in conjunction with the new Bay Trail extension through Brickyard Cove.



Ferry Point is located along a shipping channel near the Richmond Harbor. There is a 300-foot security exclusion zone around the Chevron Long Wharf, located approximately one mile away from Ferry Point. Water Trail signage will emphasize that users need to be aware of ferry routes, shipping channels, and larger boats.

Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:

Castro Rocks is one of the largest harbor seal pupping sites in San Francisco Bay and is located approximately 2.5 miles from Ferry Point, under the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Red Rock Island is a secondary harbor seal haul-out site that is approximately three miles from Ferry Point. There are other primary haul-out sites at Bluff Point in Tiburon and at Angel Island State Park, both located approximately four miles away from Ferry Point. Brooks Island is home to nesting birds and is also home to a secondary harbor seal haul-out site. Access to Brooks Island is only allowed by reservation on a guided trip with EBRPD.

Boaters generally do not travel close to Castro Rocks because they usually go toward Red Rock or Angel Island, or along the Richmond Shoreline toward Berkeley. If Point Molate is opened to the public this could change and more boaters could travel between Miller/Knox and Point Molate, passing by Castro Rocks.

Currently there is no interpretive wildlife/habitat signage near the beach at Ferry Point.

Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage:

The tide and tidal current predictions are posted at the kiosk located near the parking lot. The Water Trail will develop a sign at the trailhead that will emphasize the need to avoid disturbing wildlife, including Pacific harbor seals and nesting wading birds. The sign will include buffer distances and will emphasize that boaters should keep their distance and avoid paddling directly at wildlife. The sign will also emphasize that boaters should not land in marshes or at seal haul-out sites, without calling attention to Castro Rocks. More detailed information about these species and how to avoid disturbing them is found in the Water Trail brochure and on the Water Trail website.

The Water Trail sign will also include 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:

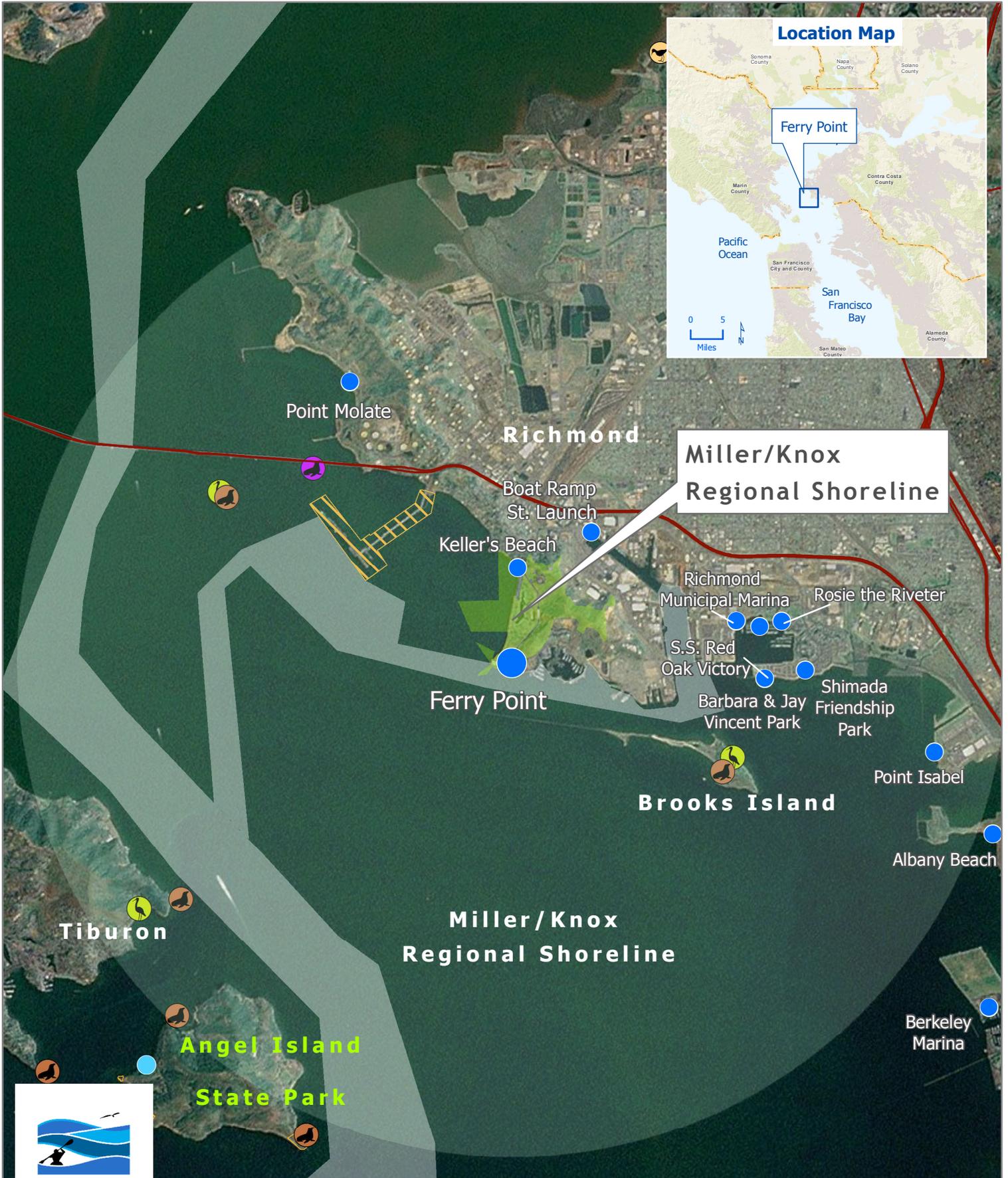
The improvements EBRPD is proposing to install at Ferry Point will provide accessible boating and beach access to under-served communities in Richmond. This launch site will be EBRPD's first formal boat launch in Western Contra Costa County and presents an opportunity in the future for EBRPD to lead their organized trips to Brooks Island from this site.



**Summary of Environmental Review (Water Trail Final EIR)
For
Ferry Point
September 27, 2013**

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Recreation <i>References: WT FEIR text.</i></p>	<p>The improvements to the site will increase the accessibility of the beach, which may increase the use at the site. The potential increased use is not expected to increase the facility use beyond its capacity, encourage motor boat use, or preclude existing recreational activities.</p> <p>The site is not within the four mile buffer from a hunting location.</p>	<p>The Water Trail (WT) website comment form will allow users to document use observations and conflicts.</p> <p>The WT sign will include safety information about hunting and the WT website to find more information.</p>
<p>Navigational Safety <i>References: WT FEIR text and Figures 3.4.2-1 and 3.4.2-2.</i></p>	<p>The site is very close to the Richmond Harbor Channel.</p> <p>WETA is proposing a ferry route between San Francisco and Richmond.</p>	<p>The WT sign on-site will include language for users to be aware of ferry routes, shipping channels, and larger vessels. WT educational materials (website and brochure) include emergency preparedness and response information, a map of shipping channels, and links to the "Rules of the Road."</p>
<p>Aesthetics: <i>References: WT FEIR text</i></p>	<p>The improvements to the site are minimal and are not expected to have aesthetic impacts.</p>	<p>A "sign program" will be developed with the East Bay Regional Park District to ensure WT signage does not result in sign clutter.</p>
<p>Biology-Vegetation <i>References: WT FEIR text and Table 3.7.2-1</i></p>	<p>Ferry Point is within four miles of Brooks Island, which has unique plant communities, including a salt marsh.</p>	<p>Entry onto Brooks Island is strictly prohibited unless with EBRPD staff. The WT educational sign will include information about not landing in marshes.</p>

<p>Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i></p>	<p>There are currently three active heron or egret rookeries located within four miles of the site.</p> <p>Many species of birds nest on Brooks Island, including terns, gulls, and ducks.</p>	<p>The WT educational sign will include information about how to paddle responsibly around wildlife and to maintain a buffer distance from nesting herons and egrets. The WT website includes more detailed information about not disturbing nesting birds.</p>
<p>Biology – Harbor Seals <i>References: WT FEIR text, Figure 3.9.2-1, and Tables 3.9.5-1 and 3.9.5-2</i></p>	<p>There are five known harbor seal haul-outs within four miles of the site, including one pupping site (Castro Rocks).</p>	<p>The WT educational sign will include information about not landing on seal haul-out locations, always staying at least 330 feet away from haul-outs (or 500 feet during the pupping season). These distances are also included in the WT website and brochure.</p> <p>The WT will work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to evaluate potential concerns about pupping harbor seals.</p>
<p>Cultural Resources <i>References: WT FEIR text</i></p>	<p>The accessible path involves minimal construction and earth-moving equipment.</p>	<p>The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.</p>
<p>Hydrology <i>References: WT FEIR text</i></p>	<p>Construction is minimal will include standard Best Management Practices for stormwater management and erosion control.</p>	
<p>Transportation, Circulation, and Parking <i>References: WT FEIR text</i></p>	<p>The improvements to the site will increase the accessibility of the beach, which may increase the use at the site. The potential increased use is not expected to increase use beyond the current traffic, circulation, and parking capacity.</p>	



Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline

Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline



Ferry Point, Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline

-  Potential Water Trail Site
-  Popping site
-  Shipping Channel
-  Primary or secondary haul out site
-  Security Exclusion Zone
-  4 Mile Buffer (From Ferry Pt.)
-  Active Heronry

Harbor seal data from WT EIR
Heronry data from Audubon Canyon Ranch 6/2012
Shipping Channel from SF Harbor Safety Committee brochure

