



San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
 Site Description for
Pier 52 Boat Launch



Location, Ownership, and Management: The Pier 52 Boat Launch is located in the Mission Bay area of the City of San Francisco, south of AT&T Park on Terry Francois Boulevard. The site is managed by the Port of San Francisco. The improved Pier 52 Boat Launch was opened in 2008 with funding from the Port of San Francisco, Division of Boating and Waterways, and Coastal Conservancy.

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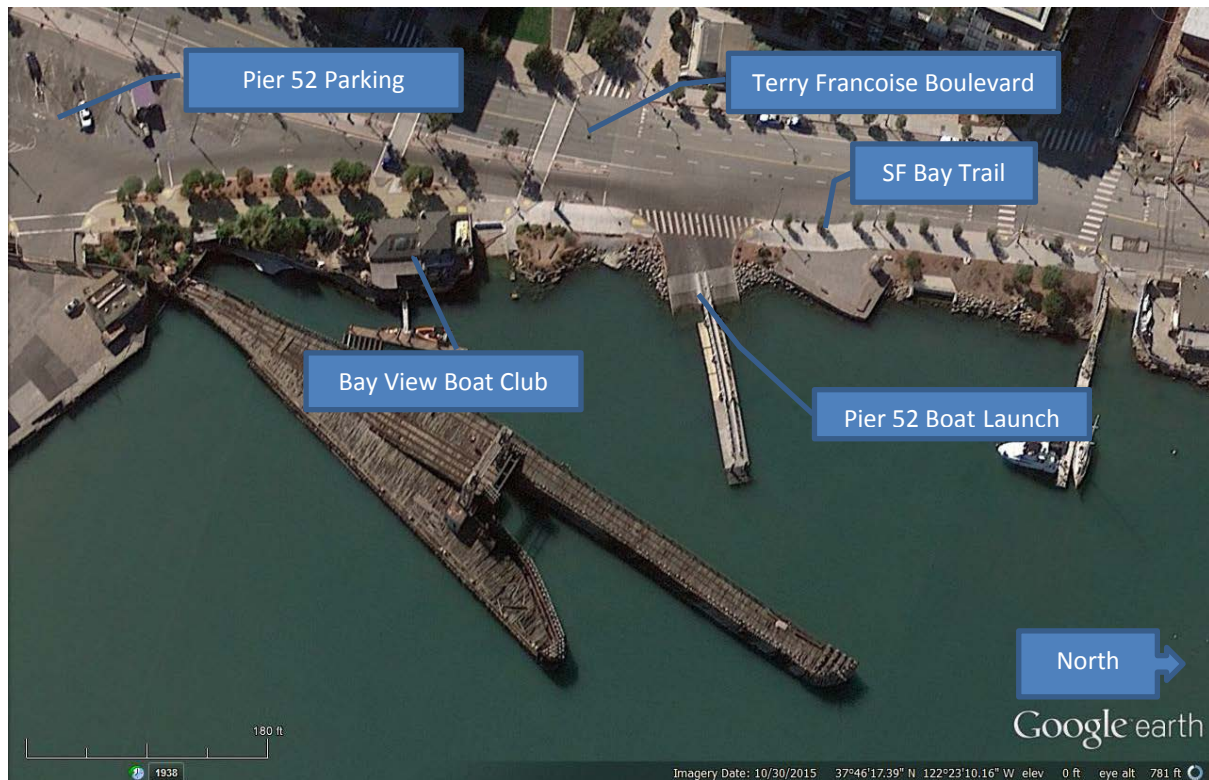
<p>Low-freeboard landing float with transfer step</p>	<p>Boat ramp and gangway to dock</p>	<p>Bay Trail provides an accessible path to the parking area and other destinations</p>

Facility Description: The Pier 52 Boat Launch features a 2-lane public boat launch ramp and a fully accessible low-freeboard landing float connected to the shore by an ADA gangway. The \$3.5 million facility was completed in 2008 and replaced a single-lane ramp built in the 1950s, which did not meet modern day boating requirements. The area also contains benches and a segment of the Bay Trail/Blue Greenway, trash/recycling receptacles, and educational signs. There are approximately 50 public parking spaces located in a lot approximately 600 feet south of the site along Terry Francois Boulevard, including six ADA spaces and 12 spaces for vehicles with trailers. There are no public restrooms at the site.


The Pier 52 Boat Launch is used by a variety of recreational boaters including kayakers and paddleboarders, sailors, anglers and power boaters. The ramp also provides access for non-motorized small boats that require a trailer (e.g., whaleboats, rowboats). Level of use varies seasonally.

Other Identifying or General Information:


<p>Site ID: <u>SF7</u></p> <p>In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u></p> <p>Ownership: <u>Public</u></p> <p>County: <u>San Francisco</u></p> <p>Geo-Region: <u>Southern San Francisco Waterfront</u></p> <p>SF Bay Plan Region: <u>Central Bay</u></p> <p>Launch or Destination: <u>Launch</u></p> <p>Home of a Club: <u>The Bay View Boat Club, a sailing club, is located next to the boat launch.</u></p> <p>Used by a Program that Assists Persons with Disabilities: <u>No</u></p> <p>Appreciated for Windy Conditions: <u>No</u></p> <p>Near Food or Drink: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Proximity to Other Sites: The closest existing site to the north is Mission Creek (SF15), which has a low-float dock and accessible gangway. Further to the north is Pier 1.5 (SF16), which is a destination site that features a high-freeboard dock and accessible gangway. Designated Water Trail site Islais Creek is approximately 2.5 miles to the south; it provides a gravel beach and a high-freeboard dock with ADA gangway.</p> <p>The Mission Bay development is planned to provide a variety of access improvements for non-motorized small boats at China Basin (immediately north of the site) and at Crane Cove Park/Pier 70 (0.5 mile south of the site).</p>
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Site Overview Map

Description of Launch/Landing:

<p>Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>No</u></p> <p>Float: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Freeboard Level: <u>Low (less than 9")</u></p> <p>Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Gangway: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Gangway Length (feet): <u>145</u></p> <p>Gangway Width (inches): <u>64</u></p> <p>Gangway Slope Description: Gently sloping and meets ADA requirements.</p> <p>Boat/Trailer Ramp: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Mudflats Affect Site Usability: <u>No</u></p> <p>Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u></p> <p>Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u></p> <p>Beach: <u>No</u></p> <p>Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>No</u></p> <p>Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Other Launch/Landing Notes: The gangway is between two boat ramps. There is an older gangway and ramp located closer to the Bay View Boat Club that is not ADA accessible.</p> <p>Water Entry Path: <u>No</u></p>  <p><i>Accessible gangway provides access to low-float with transfer step</i></p>
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Site Appears to be Suitable For:

<p>Kayak: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Windsurfer: <u>No</u></p> <p>Kiteboard: <u>No</u></p> <p>Whaleboat: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Stand Up Paddleboard: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Canoe: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Outrigger Canoe: <u>No</u></p> <p>Sculling: <u>No</u></p> <p>Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Dragonboat: <u>No</u></p>
<p>Notes: The Bay View Boat Club, a sailing club, is located next to the boat launch.</p>	
 <p><i>Interesting sights abound for paddlers along the SF shoreline near Pier 52</i></p>	

Transportation and Parking:

General Spaces (number): 26-50

ADA Parking Spaces (number): 6

ADA Parking Description: Two spaces are ADA trailer spots. All are van accessible.

Duration (hours): 9AM to 10PM

Overnight Parking Possibly Allowed: Yes

Overnight Parking Description: Parking for up to 24 hours for cars with boat trailers.

Loading/Unloading Area: Yes

Bay Trail: Yes

Public Transportation: The Muni KT-Line stops at 3rd and Mission Rock Street, about a five minute walk from the launch. The Bay Trail and Blue Greenway runs along the shoreline adjacent to the site.



ADA parking spaces are located in the northern portion of the parking lot, closest to the boat launch.

Path of Travel:

Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): 468

Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): 475

Path of Travel Exists: Yes



The path of travel is level and paved from the parking lot to the gangway or boat ramp.

Other Site Amenities:

Total Restrooms: <u>None</u>	Benches: <u>Yes</u>
Boat Washing: <u>No</u>	BBQ: <u>No</u>
Rigging/Staging Area: <u>No</u>	Boat Storage: <u>No</u>
Picnic Tables: <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: No shoreline accommodations in the vicinity of the site.				

Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:

The Pier 52 Boat Launch has been designed to meet ADA standards. Facilities include an accessible gangway that leads to a low-float dock with a transfer system. The gangway has a gentle slope and handrails. The dock has transition plates and the surface is smooth.

This site provides six ADA parking spaces and a paved path of travel from the parking area located approximately 600 feet south of the boat launch.

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

Pier 52 Boat Launch is used by recreational boaters including kayakers and paddleboarders, sailors, anglers and power boaters. The ramp also provides access for non-motorized small boats that require a trailer (i.e., whaleboats, rowboats). The San Francisco Police Department (Marine Unit), the San Francisco Fire Department, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Navy also use the public boat launch for water safety and security on the San Francisco shoreline.

Safety and Security, including Parking:

Winds and currents on the Bay 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:

The site is located in a densely urban area of San Francisco with a long history of human use. No nesting or roosting locations are known to occur in the vicinity of the site. No sensitive aquatic habitats are known to occur in the vicinity of the site.

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

Primary site improvements desired are public restrooms and a boat storage facility.

Accessibility of Sites within the Southern San Francisco Waterfront Geo-Region:

There are six potential Water Trail sites identified within this geo-region: Pier 40 (South Beach Harbor), Pier 52 Boat Launch, Mission Creek, Islais Creek, India Basin Shoreline Park, and Candlestick Point State Recreation Area. Of these, only India Basin and Candlestick Point do not have some sort of accessible launch/landing facilities.

The experiences that are available in the Southern San Francisco Waterfront Geo-Region are urban. Several sites have benefitted from the commitment of the Port of San Francisco to improved access to the public along the waterfront. As a result, there are several sites that offer a variety of accessible features. As discussed above, Pier 52 Boat Launch offers a low-freeboard dock, transfer system, accessible parking, and a loading and unloading area. Mission Creek provides an accessible gangway to a low-freeboard dock, as well as accessible restrooms. South Beach Harbor has ADA compliant gangways and high-freeboard docks, as well as accessible parking. The Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors (BAADS) serves approximately 50 participants each weekend at Pier 40. BAADS provide lessons and/or equipment for dinghy and keelboat sailing for people with disabilities and a Veterans Sailing Program for all veterans.

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

**Pier 52
March 11, 2016**

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.	Pier 52 has a low float dock with transfer step, two boat ramps and parking. Facilities are well maintained and have sufficient capacity to accommodate increased levels of use.	Regarding recreational conflict, Water Trail users may submit comments to Water Trail staff through the website if they witness or experience recreational conflict at any designated site.
Navigational and Personal Safety References: WT DREIR pp. 3-38 to 3-51, and Figures 3.4.2-1 and 3.4.2-2.	Winds and currents on the Bay can be strong, so care needs to be taken to ensure paddlers stay within their skill level. Small craft should be cautious to avoid the barges and other large ships that frequent the shipping lanes offshore.	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.	Pier 52 Landing is considered an urban launch, characterized by the developed public boat launch adjacent to commercial and recreational uses (South Beach Park, AT&T Park).	The Water Trail will require the inclusion of a Water Trail identification sign at the site. A “sign program” will be developed with the Port of San Francisco to ensure that the I.D. sign and additional educational sign do not result in sign clutter at the site.
Biology-Vegetation References: WT DREIR pp. 3-69 to 3-92 and Table 3.7.2-1 and Table 3.7.2-2.	The shoreline of Pier 52 is reinforced in some areas with riprap and bulkhead and generally developed. Wetland vegetation has not been observed by WT staff at any tide levels within or in the immediate vicinity of the boat launch.	Preventing the inadvertent spread of exotic, invasive plant species is important at all launch sites. 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.
Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i>	Due to the developed nature of the region, there are limited active nesting areas in the vicinity of the site.	The WT educational sign includes information about how to paddle responsibly around wildlife and to maintain a buffer distance from nesting birds. The WT website and brochure include more detailed information about not disturbing nesting birds.

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
Biology – Rafting Waterfowl References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Table 3.8.2-1, Figure 3.8.2-1.	This site may provide access to areas in San Francisco Bay where rafting waterfowl congregate.	Disturbance of rafting waterfowl is not addressed in existing signs on site, but is highlighted in the Water Trail educational sign, brochure, and website.
Biology – Ridgway's rail (formerly 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	Ridgway's rail and black rail depend on habitat that does not exist at Pier 52.	Signage is needed to emphasize the importance of not entering marshes, 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 and brochure include this information.
Biology –Western Snowy Plover References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figures 3.8.2-3	Unique or important western snowy plover habitat does not exist at Pier 52.	The Water Trail educational sign and brochure include bird avoidance information.
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 harbor seal primary or secondary 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. The permanent inclusion of this information in WT media is a good precaution to reach boaters who may paddle more than eight miles in one day or take a multiple-day trip.
Cultural Resources	No WT-related construction is planned at this time. NMSB users are not anticipated to land in regional wetland habitat, potentially disturbing cultural artifacts. The site has a long history of disturbance and any future construction is not likely to identify undisturbed resources.	The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.
Hydrology	No WT-related construction is planned at this time.	Future construction may require site hydrologic conditions to be addressed at that time.

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
Transportation, Circulation, and Parking	There are approximately 50 public parking spaces located in a lot approximately 600 feet south of the site along Terry Francois Boulevard, including six ADA spaces and 12 spaces for vehicles with trailers. The area also contains benches and a segment of the Bay Trail/Blue Greenway, trash/recycling receptacles, and educational signs.	Paddlers are able to drop of boats and equipment at the site, prior to parking in the adjacent lots. The site is also along the Bay Trail.



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