Enhancing Access to the Bay Area's Largest Open Space

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
WATER TRAIL

September 5, 2019

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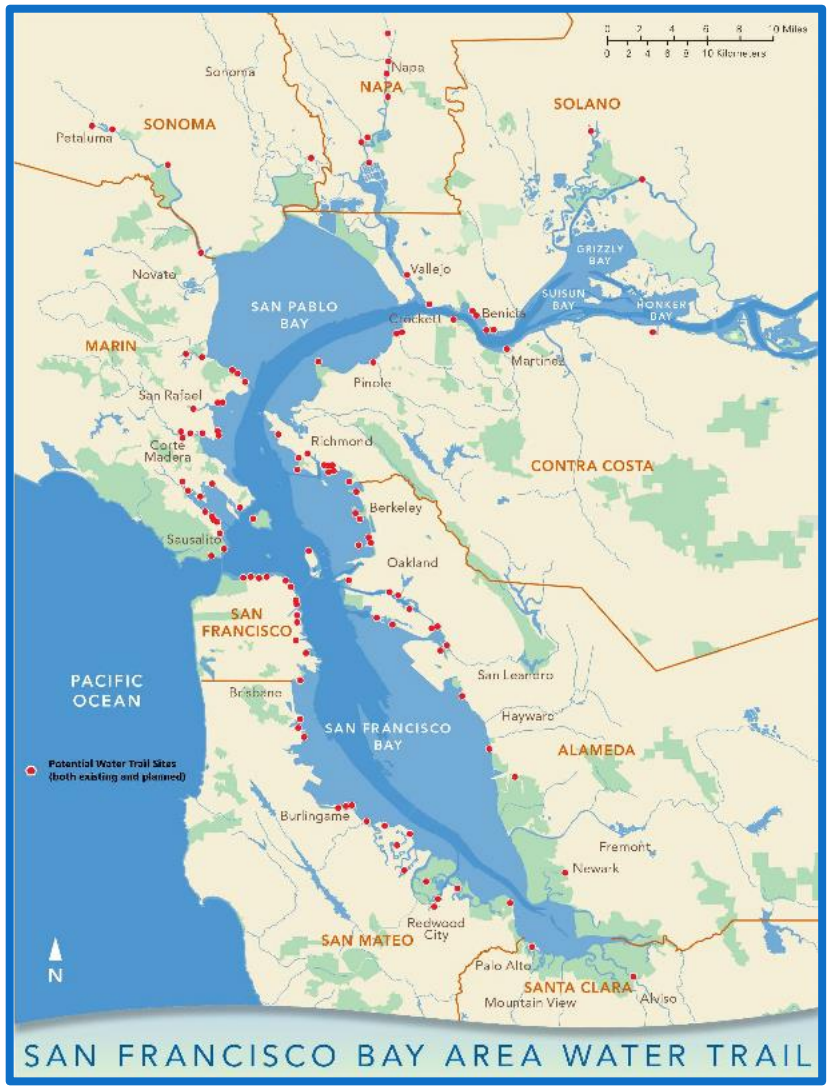
Making San Francisco Bay Better

Water Trail Vision

- Over 500-square miles of navigable waters - by far the region's **largest open space**
- A network of launching and landing sites around the nine-county Bay Area for non-motorized small boats



Non-Motorized Small Boats

Water Trail Vision

A programmatic approach to:

- Preserve and strategically enhance **access**
- **Plan** for future growth
- Promote **safety and environmental education**
- Increase **funding**
- Create **opportunities for all** for single-day and multiple-day trips

Water Trail History

- 2005
  - AB 1296 - Water Trail Act
- 2011
  - Water Trail Plan adopted
  - EIR Certified
  - 1st site designated
- 2015
  - Water Trail Accessibility Plan
- 2019
  - Water Trail Design Guidelines
  - 45th site designated

BCDC - Water Trail History

- Established the Steering Committee (2006)
- Convened meetings, workshops, and white papers (2006-07)
  - Vision statement
  - Access issues and site management
  - Wildlife and habitat issues
  - Principles and strategies for access, wildlife, and improvements
  - Safety and education
  - Program organizational structure and designation process
- Draft Water Trail Plan (2007)
- Enhanced Water Trail Plan Adopted (2011)

BCDC- Water Trail Planning

- Enhanced Water Trail Plan (2011)
  - Guides program planning and implementation
  - 28 development and management strategies
    - Launch locations
    - Linking access points
    - Design guidelines
    - Accessibility
    - Overnight accommodations
    - Habitat restoration and access
    - Stewardship

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Program Implementation

1. Planning + Partnerships
2. Facilities + Grants
3. Education + Outreach

Planning + Partnerships

Project Management Team

- State Coastal Conservancy - Lead
- Association of Bay Area Governments / Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- California State Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways

Advisory Committee

- Accessibility Experts
- Bay Access, Inc.
- CA Fish and Wildlife
- US Fish and Wildlife
- US Coast Guard
- Wildlife / Habitat Protection Organizations
- Hospitality Industry
- Outfitters / Tour Guides
- County and Local Parks
- East Bay Regional Parks
- National Park Service
- State Parks

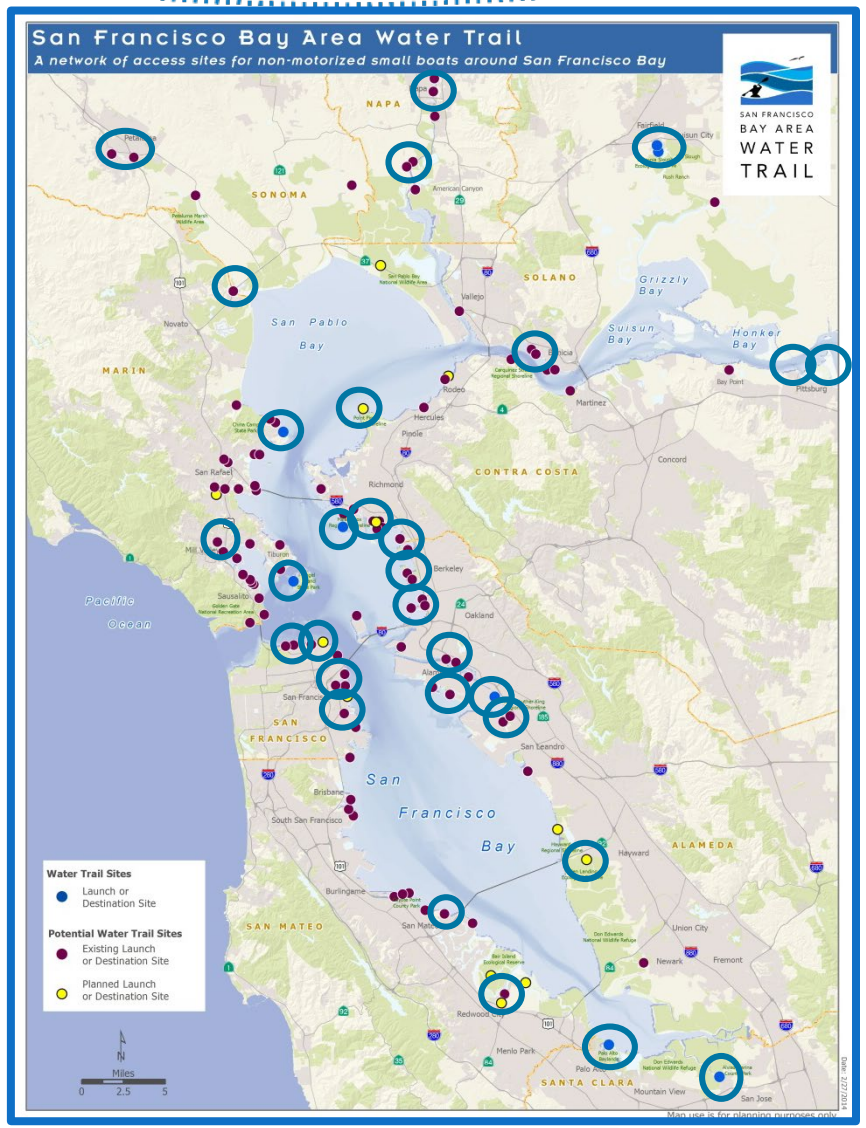
Implementation Process

- Quarterly Implementation Meetings
  - 31st Meeting - September 20
  - Staff provides updates on trail progress
  - Planning documents are discussed
  - Sites are presented for designation
    - Advisory Committee makes recommendations
    - Project Management Team votes

Site Designation

45 Designated Sites

- Angel Island
- Alviso Marina
- Crown Beach
- Marina Bay
- Palo Alto Baylands
- Pier 39
- Antioch Marina
- Baywinds Park
- Petaluma Marina
- Suisun Boat Launch
- Many more…



Access

- Growing network of designated launching and landing sites
  - Access
  - Facilities
  - Accessibility
  - Safety / Environment
  - Advocate for improvements
- Designated Sites
  - Eligible for Water Trail Grant Program
  - Educational signage
  - Included on website, maps, & outreach

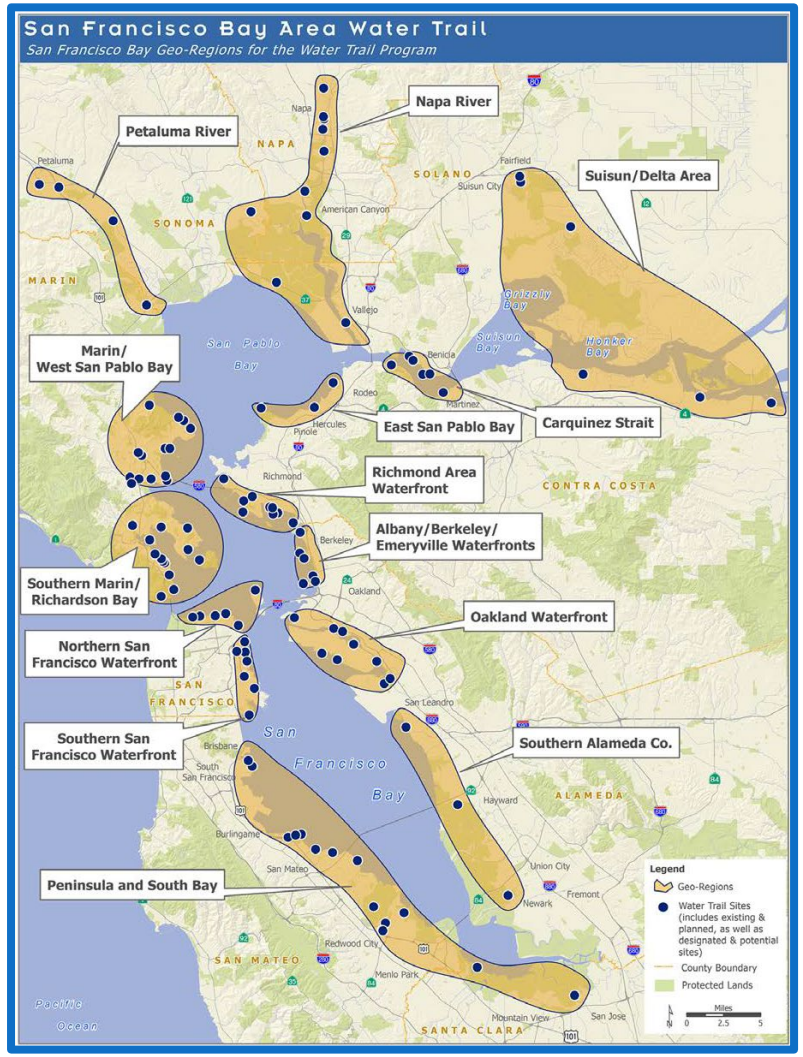
Planning

- Water Trail Plan
  - Guides implementation
- Accessibility Plan
  - 14 Geo-regions
- Implementation Plans
  - EBRPD
  - Boardsailing Plan
- Design Guidelines
- BCDC DRB Meetings

Accessibility Plan

- 14 Geo-Regions
- Goal of at least one broadly accessible site per geo-region
- Provide grants to enhance site accessibility

Site ID	Site Name	Beach	Firm Surface Beach	Low-Freeboard Dock	High-Freeboard Dock	Transfer System	Boat/Trailer Ramp	Water Entry Path	Accessible Parking	Accessible Restrooms	Loading/Unloading	Public Boat Storage	Boating Concession	Club
A1	Albany Beach	■							■		■			
A2	Berkeley Marina, Ramp				■		■		■	■	■			
A26	Berkeley Marina, Small Boat Launch			■	■				■		■		■	■
A4	Point Emery	■							■					
A5	Shorebird Park	■												
A6	Emeryville City Marina				■			■	■	■			■	
Total		3	0	1	3	0	1	1	5	2	3	0	2	1



Design Guidelines

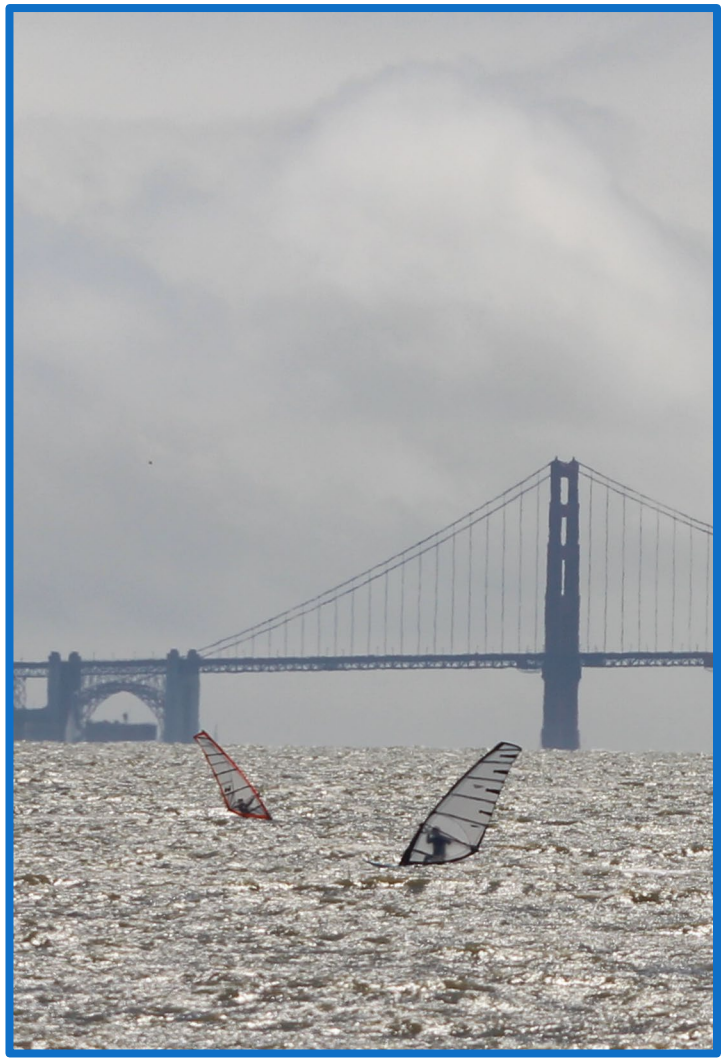
- Share best practices in a user-friendly format
- Summarize boat types and facility needs
- Identify major and minor design concepts
- Highlight quality Bay Area launch designs
- Links to website for more information

Planning

- Pt Pinole Accessible Kayak Launch
- Gateway Park
- Baywinds Beach Restoration
- Doolittle Boat Launch Improvements
- Candlestick Point State Park
- Burlingame – State Lands Commission
- Vallejo Waterfront

Partnerships

- BCDC!
- Local users and groups
  - Bay Area Sea Kayakers
  - SF Boardsailing Association
- Planning and Design firms
- Resource Agencies (DWR, USFWS)
- EBRPD, County Parks, and other shoreline managers



Facilities and Grants

Water Trail Grant Program

- Unique and important source of funding
- From the Coastal Conservancy
  - $627,980 awarded to six projects (~$487k disbursed)

Grants

- Ferry Point Beach Access
- Point Isabel Windsurf / Kayak Launch
- Petaluma Small Craft Center
- Berkeley Marina Gangway
- Antioch Marina
- McNears Beach County Park

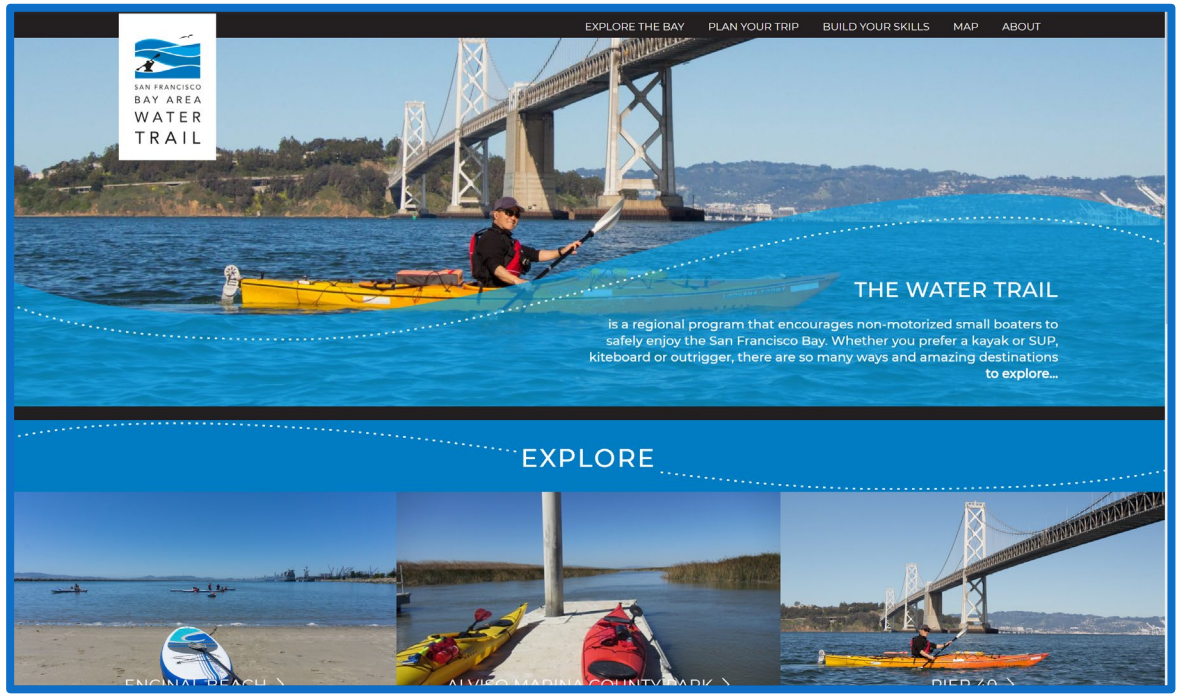
Education and Outreach

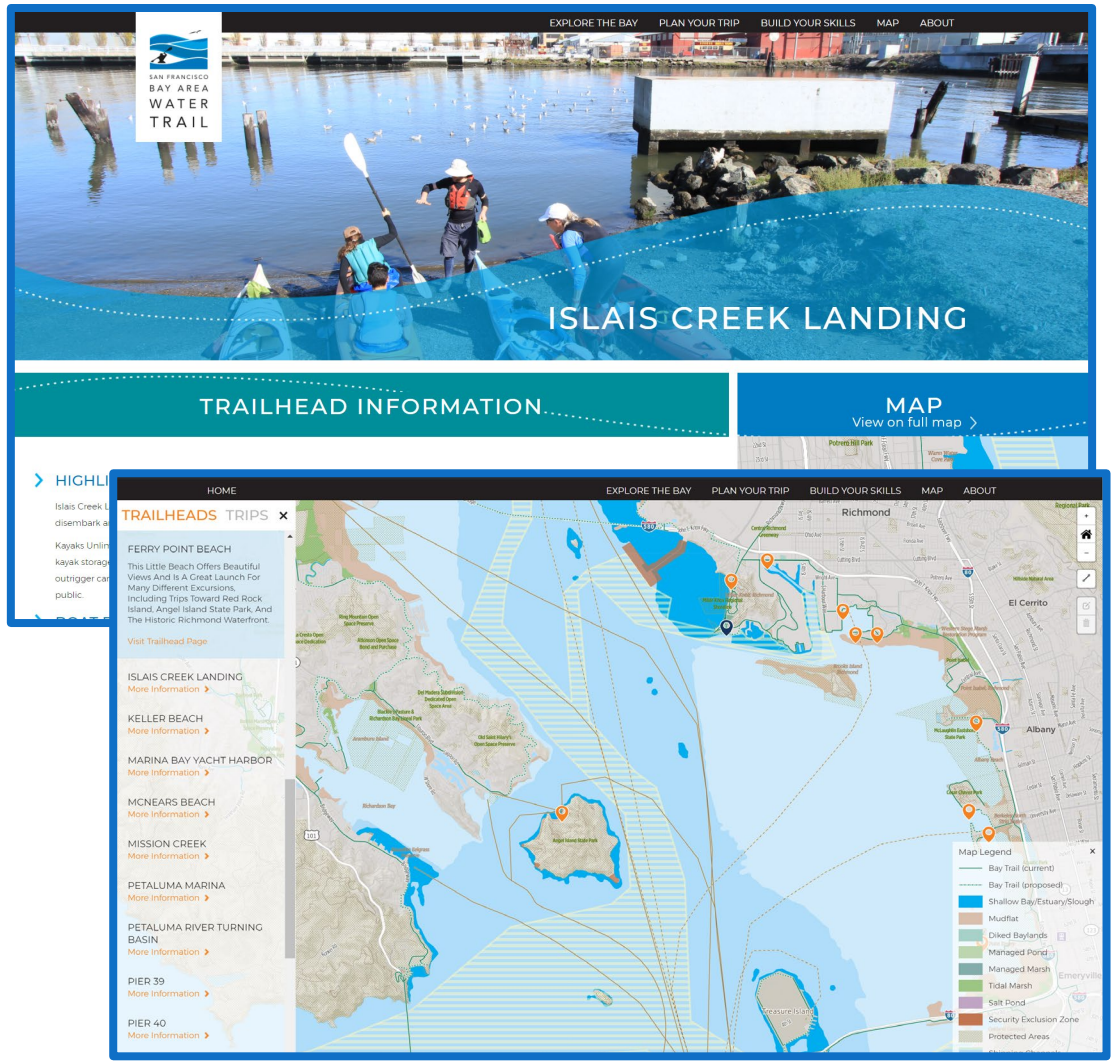
Education and Outreach

- Create a culture of safety and stewardship

Education and Outreach

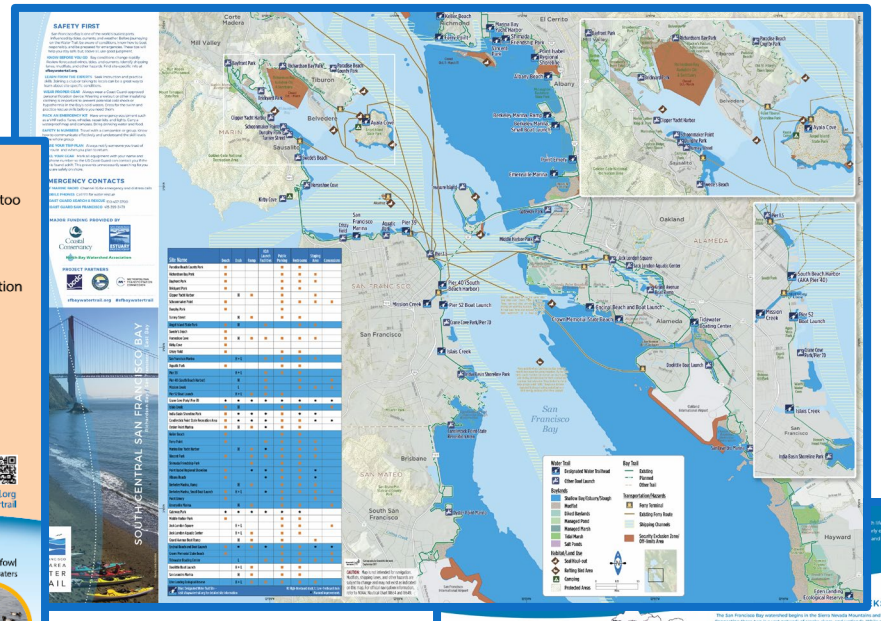
- Website - **sfbaywatertrail.org**
  - All designated sites
  - Comprehensive information, maps, photographs, tides, currents + more!

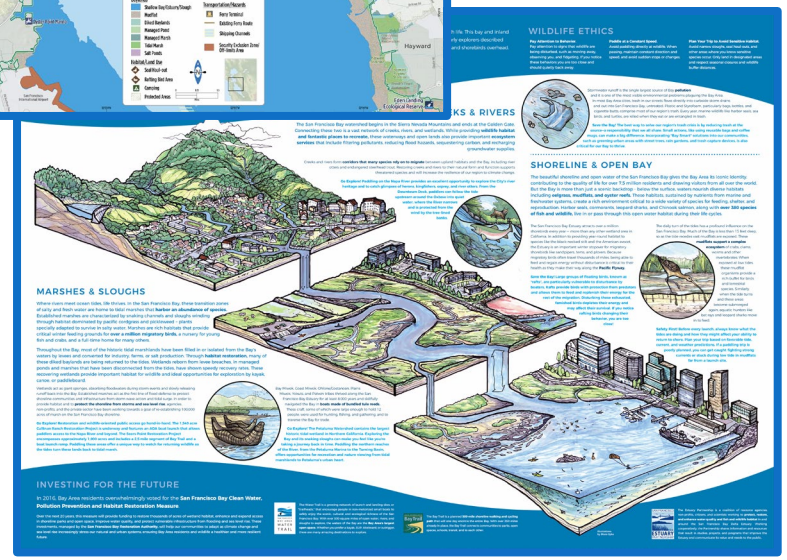




Education and Outreach

- Maps
- Signage
- Brochure





Outreach

- Presentations, Tabling, & Events
  - Bay Day
  - Day on the Bay
  - Visions of the Wild Film Festival
  - Flyway Festival
  - Clubs and organizations

Outreach

- Interpretive Programs
  - Sea level rise
  - Shoreline adaption strategies
  - Wildlife and habitat

Opportunities for All

- Plan, Build, & Enhance Facilities in/near SDACs
- Lower-Cost Programs
- Lower-Cost Overnight Accommodations

Environmental Justice

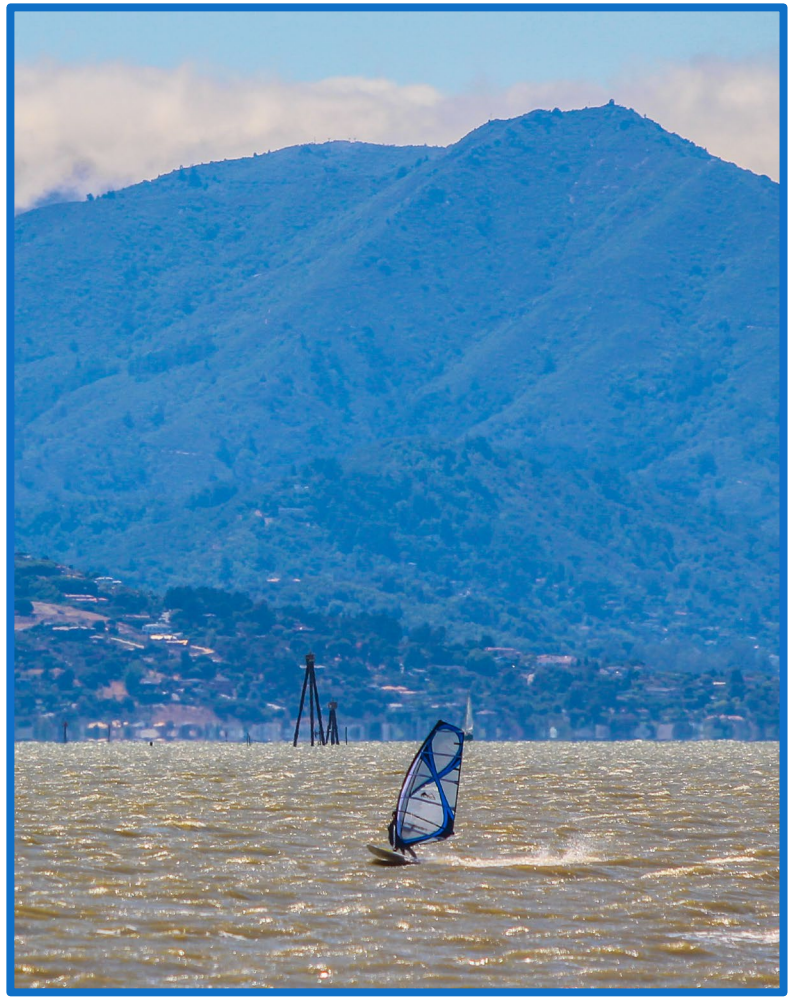
GROUNDWORK CHANGING PLACES CHANGING LIVES

etc

Wilderness Inquiry's CANOEMOBILE

BCDC Partnership

- Thank you!
- Continued involvement on PMT
- Require Water Trail public access improvements, where appropriate
- Continued coordination with Water Trail staff to ensure project design meets user needs



Thank you

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