

# San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail

Enhancing Access to the Bay Area's Largest Open Space

April 3, 2025

Shalini Kannan, Project Manager, State Coastal Conservancy

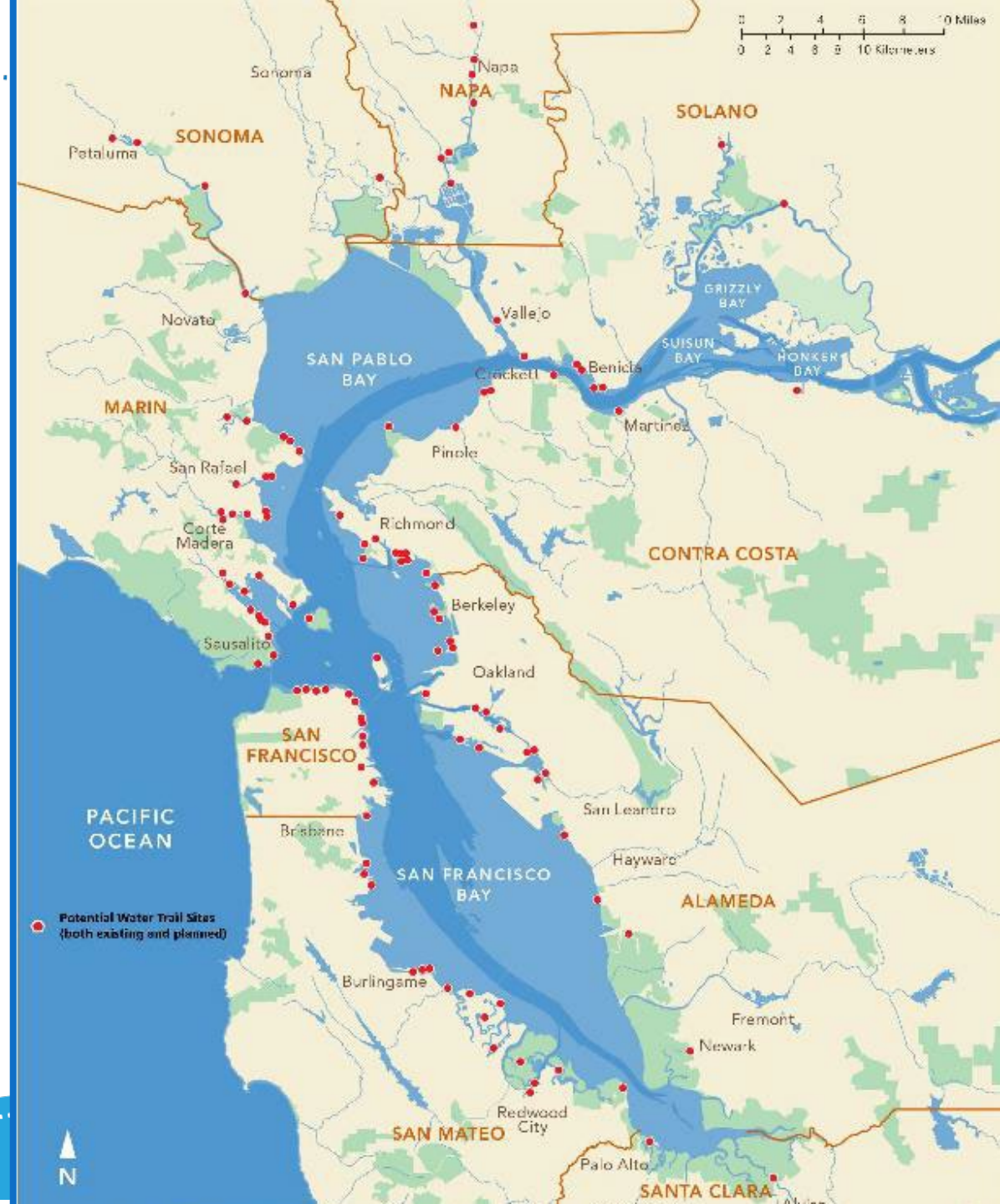
Ben Botkin, Senior Grants Manager, San Francisco Estuary Partnership

Yuri Jewett, Associate Bay Design Analyst, BCDC



# Water Trail

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

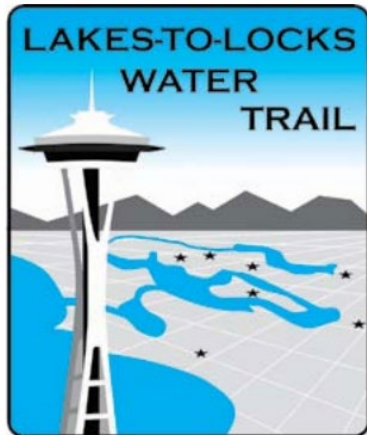




# Non-Motorized Small Boats



# Nationwide Water Trails



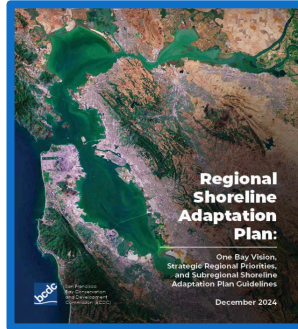


# Water Trail Planning History

- 2005 – 2007
  - AB 1296 - Water Trail Act
  - McAteer-Petris Act (66690-94)
  - Draft Water Trail Plan
- 2011
  - EIR certified
  - Enhanced Water Trail Plan adopted
  - Education and Outreach Guidance
- 2012
  - First water trail site designated at Tidewater Boating Center in Oakland



# Water Trail Planning History



- 2015
  - Water Trail Accessibility Plan
- 2019
  - Water Trail Design Guidelines
- 2022
  - 54<sup>th</sup> site designated
- 2024
  - Inclusion in the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan

# Water Trail Vision

A programmatic approach to:

- Preserve and strategically enhance **access**
- **Plan** for future growth
- Promote **safety and environmental education**
- Increase funding to create **opportunities for all**





# Program Implementation



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





# Planning + Partnerships



# Advisory Committee

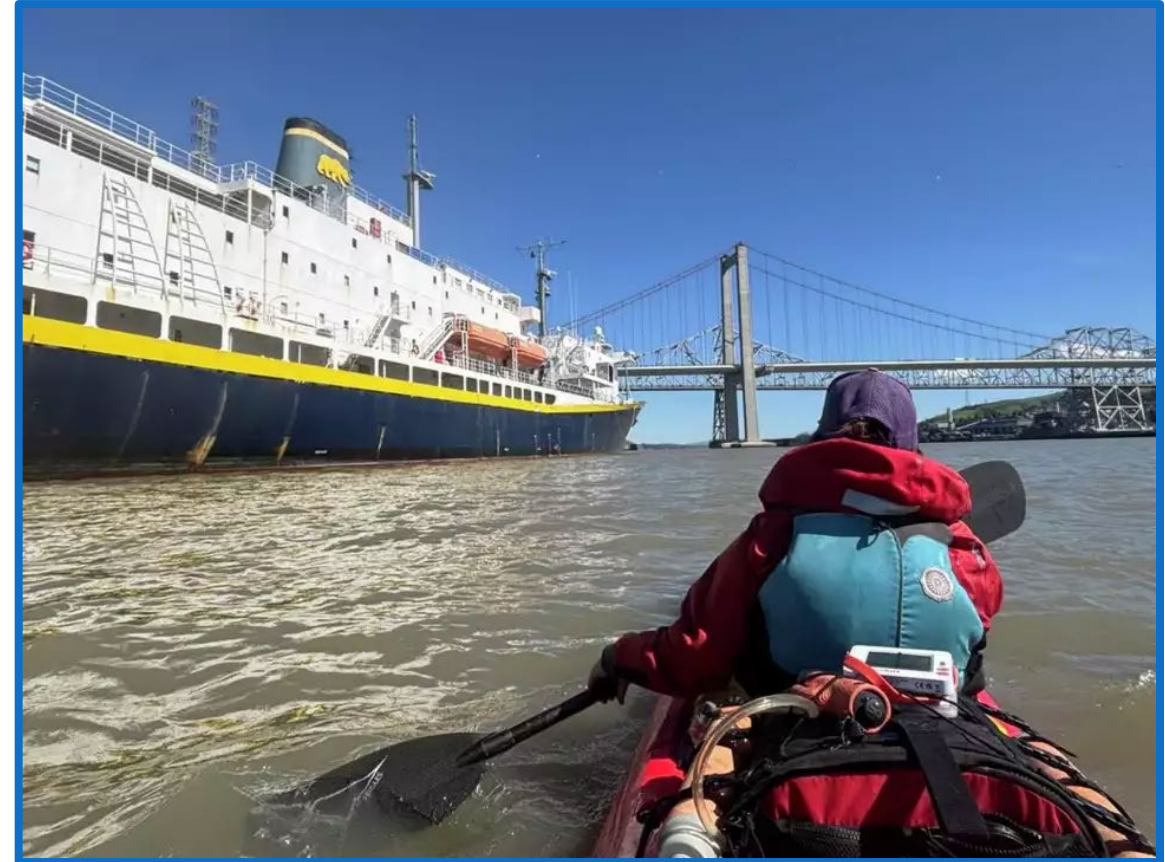
- Accessibility Experts
- Bay Access, Inc.
- CA Fish and Wildlife
- US Fish and Wildlife
- US Coast Guard
- Wildlife / Habitat Protection Organizations
- Hospitality Industry
- Outfitters / Tour Guides
- County and Local Parks
- East Bay Regional Parks
- National Park Service
- State Parks





# Partnerships

- Local users and groups
  - Bay Area Sea Kayakers
  - SF Boardsailing Association
  - Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors
- Various planning and design firms
- Resource agencies
- Site operators
  - Local government, regional parks, California State Parks, National Parks Service and the private sector





# Implementation Process

- Semi-Annual Implementation Meetings
  - Staff provides updates on trail progress
  - Planning documents are discussed
  - Sites are presented for designation



# Water Trail Site Designation

- 54 Designated Sites!
  - Eligible for Water Trail Grant Program
  - Educational signage
  - Included on website, maps, & outreach



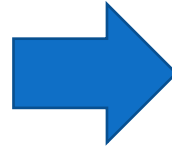


# Facilities and Grants





# Water Trail Grant Program



*Unique and important source of funding from State Coastal Conservancy*

# Grants Issued

- Ferry Point Beach Access
- Point Isabel Windsurf / Kayak Launch
- Berkeley Marina Gangway
- McNears Beach County Park





# Education and Outreach





# Education and Outreach



*Create a culture of safety and stewardship*

- New signage program
  - Identification sign
  - Site safety and navigation
  - Impacts to wildlife
- Water Trail EIR potential impacts and mitigation measures





# SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER TRAIL

Experience San Francisco Bay — the Bay Area's largest open space — through a growing network of non-motorized small boat launch and landing sites.



Find out more at  
[sfbaywatertrail.org](http://sfbaywatertrail.org)

QR code that syncs with updates to Water Trail website

## YOU ARE AT POINT ISABEL REGIONAL SHORELINE

Point Isabel Regional Shoreline is a well-loved park located in the southern portion of the City of Richmond. Point Isabel is a popular windsurfing launch due to the ideal wind direction and frequency. When conditions are calm, the site offers an ideal kayak launch or destination with picnic tables, restrooms, and a café.

For additional information to safely plan your trip, including maps, tides, currents, and nearby destinations, visit [sfbaywatertrail.org](http://sfbaywatertrail.org)

### AT THIS SITE, PLEASE BE AWARE OF:



#### FERRY ROUTES & SHIPPING CHANNELS

Stay clear of larger boats



#### TIDE AND CURRENTS

Understand forecasts and how they affect your trip



#### COLD WATER

Wear warm layers and a personal flotation device



#### SEASONAL HUNTING

October – January  
Visit [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov) for details

Safety first!  
Be aware of your surroundings.

## BE A GOOD STEWARD

- Pack out and properly dispose of trash
- Avoid landing in marshes or other sensitive habitats

### CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

- Remove dirt and plant material from hull and rubber
- Rinse equipment to prevent invasive species



#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This site and the Bay Area Water Trail are on public lands for all users — like you — to enjoy! We respectfully acknowledge the California Native Americans who have stewarded these lands and waters as their ancestral territory since time immemorial. We honor their deep and continued connections here.



### OBSERVE WILDLIFE FROM A DISTANCE

Coexisting with millions of humans is a constant challenge for our wild neighbors. As you enjoy the Water Trail, please be considerate of wildlife and fragile habitats

- Observe wildlife from a distance
- Keep a steady pace and avoid approaching wildlife directly
- Watch for signs that you're too close:



Normal behavior



If wildlife reacts to you, you are too close!



Disturbing wildlife can cause them to expend limited energy, flee from crucial feeding and resting areas, or even leave their young exposed and at risk.

Guidance on how to observe wildlife from a distance.



You are here.  
Key details about the site  
that everyone should know

Remember that we share this  
space with everyone.



# Education and Outreach



- Website - [sfbaywatertrail.org](https://sfbaywatertrail.org)
  - Comprehensive information, maps, photographs, tides, currents + more!
- Signage Installation
  - All designated sites that have completed construction
  - Installation throughout 2025-26

# Opportunities for All

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





# Contact us...

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