

Doolittle Boat Launch at MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline & East Bay Regional Parks District

This location has no address. [HERE is a Google Pin Drop](#). It is just south of the Shoreline Center and across the street from the Oakland Airport Car Rental.

<https://www.ebparks.org/parks/martin-luther-king>

Thanks to the generosity of the California Coastal Commission and the Whale Tail Grants Program, BORP Adaptive Sports & Recreation is proud to share resources that help paddlers with disabilities plan accessible kayaking adventures.

Overview

Who knew that nestled between the Oakland Coliseum and the Oakland airport's rental car center there would be beautiful paddling? This area features the 50-acre Arrowhead Marsh, a stopover on the Pacific Flyway and part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. In this unassuming location, EBRPD offers supported paddling trips and it is also a publicly available boat launch.

Facilities (as of June 2025)

This area does permit power boats and jet skis. There is accessible parking and a rather accessible bathroom (it's just over 30" wide and has 2 grab bars.) The boat ramp itself consists of a large concrete boat ramp which can be quite slippery at lower tides. It also has 2 docks on either side of the boat ramp. Both are plenty wide enough for wheelchairs but have a steep section and no railings. Most wheelchair users would probably need assistance to back down the ramp, and go back up. The freeboard (the distance between the dock and the waterline) varies with the tide but can be easily 1 foot. .

East Bay Regional Parks District

EBRPD is a well-resourced group with ample experience supporting BORP programs and users with disabilities. They have acquired a substantial amount of adaptive

paddling equipment including transfer benches, kayak chariots, grip supports, and supported paddles. While not adaptive rec experts, their staff are consistently helpful, capable, and kind. They are excellent at serving people who have a good sense of what they need to be successful and are committed to growing and improving their capacity to serve folks with disabilities.

Contact Megan Seccombe or Kelsey Gielen for more information about paddling with EBRPD at: MSeccombe@ebparks.org

Summary

The MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline is a hidden gem in Oakland. While the boat ramp and dock may be difficult to navigate for many paddlers with disabilities, it is a site where EBRPD operates programs which they have made welcoming to paddlers with disabilities. The tools they bring (transfer benches, chariots, staff etc.) make the launch navigable for all.