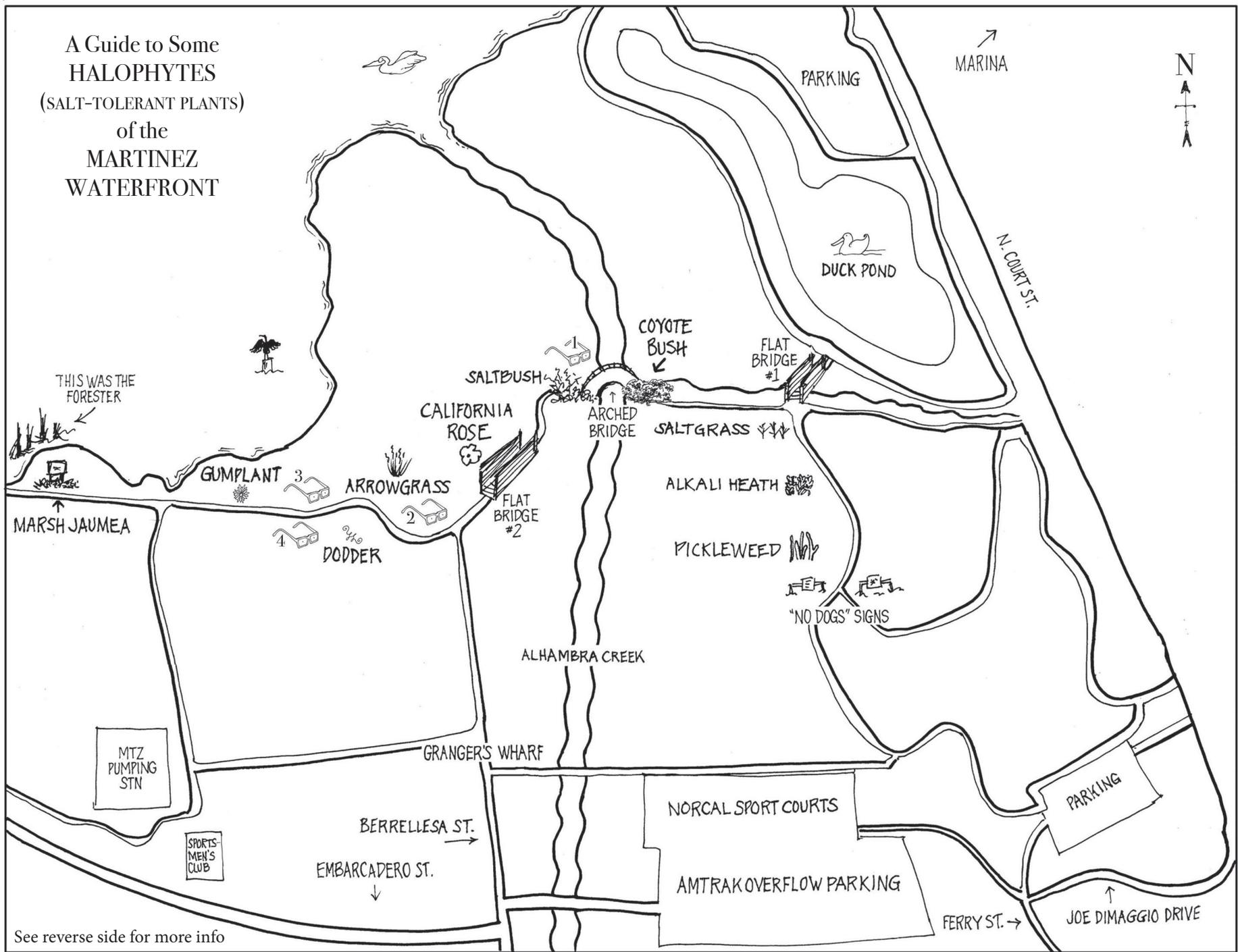


A Guide to Some
HALOPHYTES
 (SALT-TOLERANT PLANTS)
 of the
MARTINEZ WATERFRONT



See reverse side for more info

Alkali Heath (*Frankenia salina*)



Plants form a low-growing, gray-green mat with tiny leaves: about 1/8 inch long at most. Blooms May to October: light purple, pink, or white flowers about 1/8" in diameter.

There's plenty of it at the waterfront. On the map it's marked about halfway between the "no dogs" signs and the intersection with the path to the arched bridge (38.0224233, -122.1389355*)

Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*)

This member of the Juncaginaceae family (not actually a grass) grows in bunches. The leaves are dark green, rounded, a little fleshy. It blooms April to August in tall spikes. Plants are 8 to 30 inches tall, plus the flower spikes.



You can see lots of it at the waterfront. On the map it's marked after the second flat bridge, north of the path that goes west toward the wreck of the *Forester*.** (38.0219466, -122.1419470)

California Rose (*Rosa californica*)



A thorny bush that looks a lot like what you would see in a garden, but wild. They can grow up to 10 feet tall and 10 feet wide. Blooms from May to August. Flowers are flat with five petals. Flower color ranges from white to magenta—the ones here are bright pink.

There are just a couple at the waterfront. On the map there is one marked just before the west end of the second flat bridge, north side. (38.0222334, -122.1412892)

Coyote Bush (*Baccharis pilularis*)

Also called Coyote Brush, this shrub with small, glossy, green leaves can be 1½ to 10 feet tall. It blooms from September to January. The huge number of small white or yellow flowers look like fuzzballs.

There are quite a few at the waterfront, a dozen or more. They "volunteer" (plant themselves) easily. On the map there's one marked just before the arched bridge, on the south side. (38.0228446, -122.1401861)

Dodder (prob. *Cuscuta pacifica* or *C. salina*)

It's hard to believe this mass of bright orange is a plant. In fact, it's a parasitic plant that wraps its stems around other plants, such as Pickleweed, Jaumea, and Grindelia, to get nutrients from them. Some species of Dodder kill their host plants, but the native species usually do not.



Dodder is marked on the map, on the south side of the path that leads to the *Forester*, but you will probably see it elsewhere too, starting at the west end of the arched bridge. (38.0218401, -122.1420137)

Gumplant (*Grindelia stricta*)



Gumplant's bright yellow, daisy-like flowers, about an inch wide, really stand out. The buds are round, green, and spiky, with white, sticky resin oozing out when they open. Blooms from May to October. The leaves are glossy, green and serrated (like the teeth of a saw), about 2 inches long. The plants are about 3 to 5 feet tall.

On the map, Gumplant is marked on the north side of the path that leads to the *Forester*, a few feet before the path that leads back to the Martinez Pumping Station. It really likes this area where there's a lot of water, but it's all over the waterfront. (38.0220208, -122.1438973)



Marsh Jaumea (*Jaumea carnosa*)



Marsh Jaumea forms a low mat with curved, succulent leaves about 1 to 2 inches long. It blooms from May to July. Its yellow flowers are about ½ to ¾ of an inch wide. At first they look like tiny pincushions and when they open all the way they look similar to Gumplant flowers but smaller and more scraggly.

This plant is another one that grows all over the waterfront. On the map you'll find an easy-to-spot bunch of it marked under the sign about the *Forester*. (38.0218745, -122.1456947)

Pickleweed (*Salicornia pacifica*)

This plant is hard to miss. It grows in big patches from about 4 inches to 2½ feet tall. It's green like a pickle with some dull red also. Tiny bud-like flowers appear from July to November. Pickleweed is well known as an important food for the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. On the map it's marked on the west side of the path right after the "no dogs" signs. (38.0218887, -122.1386750)



Saltbush (*Atriplex* spp.)

This shrub grows to about 9 feet tall and even wider than that. The leaves are a pale gray-green color. From late spring to early summer it gets clusters of very small yellow-brown flowers all over its branches, which stick out all over the place.

There are several Saltbushes around the waterfront—maybe a dozen. You'll find a huge one at the east end of the second flat bridge, and others nearby. (38.0227572, -122.1406209)

Saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*)



This grass is so stiff it hardly bends. It is a dull green and dries out in summer unless it's near water. It blooms in July and August and grows from a few inches to about 1½ feet tall. It is all over the waterfront. On the map it's marked on the west side of the "no dogs" path where it intersects with the path leading to the arched bridge. (38.0227934, -122.1392205)

Viewpoints



Once you find a few of these special plants that can live where there's salty water and/or soil, you'll see them all over the marsh. At the spots on the map that are marked with the eyeglasses icon, you can see beautiful masses of several of the plants described above.

1. From the bench on the right, at the west end of the arched bridge, you can see Marsh Jaumea right by the path, as well as Pickleweed and Saltgrass. (38.0230239, -122.1407356)
2. Just to the north of the path leading to the *Forester*, just past the intersection with the path that leads to Granger's Wharf, you can see Saltgrass, Gumplant, Pickleweed, and Dodder, with Arrowgrass

and Marsh Jaumea nearby. Landmark: if you turn around and look south you can see the tall, dark brown house at Granger's Wharf. (38.0219495, -122.1418655)

3. Here is another nice view—a wealth of halophytes!—with *Frankenia*, Gumplant, and Marsh Jaumea on the north side of the path, along with Saltgrass, Arrowgrass, Pickleweed, and Dodder. (38.0220414, -122.1425317)
4. Across the path from #3, there's a Jaumea patch right by your feet. You can also see Dodder, Arrowgrass, and Pickleweed. There is a huge stand of Phragmites in the background. This is a non-native reed that gets to be about 12 feet tall. (38.0220414, -122.1425317)

* Numbers in parentheses are GPS coordinates from Google Maps.

** You can learn more about the *Forester* at <https://martinezhistory.org/forester/>, or visit the Martinez Museum.