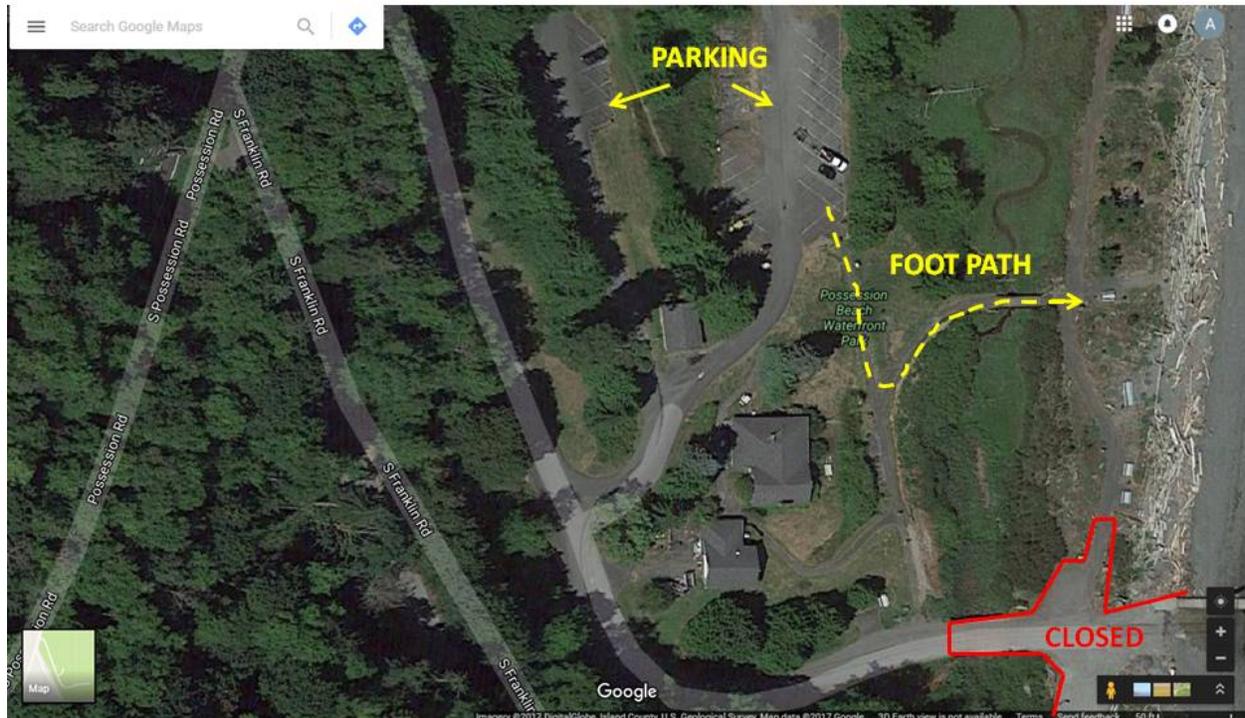


POSSESSION BEACH WATERFRONT PARK BOAT LAUNCH TEMPORARY CLOSURE

The boat launch at Possession Beach Waterfront Park will be closed from approximately June 12 through July 31, 2017. We will be renovating (re-building) the ramp for increased accessibility.

The park portion of the property is still open, accessible by the foot traffic bridge that connects the parking lot to the park, as depicted here:



We've been working on this project for 5 years. Here is a brief synopsis of the history/timeline:

- Grant application submitted for design: September 2012
- Grant funding award for design and permitting work: June 2013
- Contract let for design and permitting work: November 2013
- **Workshop to gather public feedback on proposed design for the Possession Beach Waterfront Park Boat Ramp Renovation Project: June 2014**
- Local (County), State and Federal Permit applications submitted: September 2014
- Construction Grant application submitted for construction: September 2014
- Permits received: September 2015
- Construction Grant funding award: May 2016
- Final design: June 2016
- Contract let for construction: January 2017
- Permits expire: March 2018 (original expiration March 2017; extension granted)

FAQ's

Why is the Port doing construction in June and July?

The weight limit for Possession Road is 10,000 pounds, preventing our ability to ship materials to the site, as landslides are a potential for the road. Island County is willing issue a waiver for the weight limit for the dryer, summer months, but was not willing to issue this waiver during the wet months (i.e., this past winter). In addition, we are prohibited from performing in-water work between March 15 and June 15 according to our permits. This significantly limits when the work can be completed. We are also facing expiring permits at this time. Lastly, the toe (end) of the boat ramp needs be replaced when it is exposed, and not under water. The extreme low tides, which expose the end of the ramp, only occur on an occasional basis and add to the scheduling complication.

How will the ramp be improved?

The surface of the ramp is currently badly damaged from years of scraping from cleaning the ramp, with exposed rebar. It is consistently covered by a thick layer of sediment, at least 18 inches if not more. Cleaning the boat ramp is extremely laborious; this project will bring the ramp up closer to the profile of the beach, which will decrease the need to have the ramp cleaned, and increase its accessibility drastically.

What are my options while construction is occurring?

- Bush Point: launch is accessible for most vessels at a 0.0' tide. With 4 wheel drive, boaters can launch to the end of the boat ramp.
- South Whidbey Harbor at Langley: launch is accessible for most vessels at a +6.0' to +8.0' tide. The Harbor can accommodate parking for approximately 12 vehicles with trailers. Offsite parking and a golf cart shuttle will be available.
- Boat ramps maintained by Island County include Mutiny Bay and Freeland/Holmes Harbor: Island County is aware of this project and has specifically committed to keeping these facilities accessible. The Freeland and Mutiny Bay boat ramps are accessible for most vessels at a +5.0' to +6.0' tide. These ramps are and will be cleaned every Thursday and then after a big storms from May through September.
- Other crabbing locations: Clinton Fishing Pier by the Clinton Ferry, South Whidbey Harbor fishing pier