

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.

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

- Grant application for design: September 2012
- Grant 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 for construction: September 2014
- Permits received: September 2015
- Construction Grant 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. 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. 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 ramp is consistently covered by a thick layer of sediment, at least 18 inches if not more. Cleaning the boat ramp is extremely laborious and damages the surface of the ramp. 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?

- South Whidbey Harbor at Langley: launch is accessible for most vessels at a +6.0' to +8.0' tide. The Harbor can accommodate approximately 12 vehicles with trailers. Offsite parking and a golf cart shuttle will be available.
- 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.
- Boat ramps maintained by Island County include Mutiny Bay and Freeland/Holmes Harbor: Island County is aware of this project and will make an added effort to keep these facilities accessible.