

Hi! Thanks for the opportunity to provide my comments. I wanted to give some background so you might better understand my opinion.

I have been a resident of Rivergrove for 18 years. When I first moved in to my house Dogwood Drive dead ended up to green space. There was a park in the middle of the neighborhood. Traffic was minimal. There were no sidewalks. The neighborhood was tucked away, serene and safe. Those features and a house on the river were the major reasons we purchased our home. We knew the river would remain constant and we realistically expected some development to the east. A new play structure replaced the old wooden seesaw and swings at the park. Great! New trees and plants were added. It looked nice. I took my nephews there and threw a ball for my dog and got to know my neighbors. I helped maintain the boat ramp. We helped people carry their kayaks and canoes. We took turns closing the gate at night and cleaning up trash.

The neighborhood changed. Dogwood Drive became a busy street when Dogwood Court was developed. It was only 7 homes but it brought a lot of car traffic. The dead end street now brought constant traffic past my house. No parking is allowed on Dogwood Ct. so the street in front of my home was now occupied whenever there were multiple guests invited to these homes. There is no exit allowed onto Childs Road so it all passes my home. These were changes I objected to, they changed the feel of the neighborhood I was accustomed to. Over time I have gotten used to the increased traffic, the loss of privacy in my yard and accepted it. I love hearing happy chatter walking by my house to the park or boat ramp. I am a teacher and kids are my thing so I like these sounds. More houses were built in Rivergrove. Usage of the park and the boat ramp increased but it was still ok. As the community has grown so should access to the river especially for swimming and fishing. I think access to the river at Heritage Park is ideal for this. I don't know why this was overlooked when the park was established.

Things changed a lot one summer about 5 years ago when some geniuses decided to share the boat ramp access on social media. No longer was the ramp just used by people in neighboring homes and streets. People were driving in with trailers and trying to unload boats. My old dog liked the ramp for river access over our dock until the fishing hook in her paw. My car was blocked in my driveway 4 houses down from the ramp. Kids were dropped off with floats and would end up on my dock to take a break. I gave out life jackets one day. I doctored a kid's elbow scraped on some rocks. I called parents and waited with cold kids. Things had gotten out of control.

I willingly participated in the survey taken last summer from which the petition was created to help bring some measure of sanity back to the street. I've heard complaints that the survey wasn't broad enough. It went to those of us living on Dogwood Drive, Marlin and Tualamere since these are the three streets used to access the ramp. I was eager to see what I could do to help my neighbors who must have it worse than me being closer to the ramp. I was tired of the vitriol being launched on social media about the ramp and my neighborhood. I want people to stop saying I'm entitled and I shouldn't have moved in if I didn't want the noise. I wanted empathy from people but received dirty looks instead.

I like the boat ramp. I am a water person. I kayak, I sail, I paddle board. I want people to like the water. I like that my immediate neighbors and those in surrounding areas can use it to access the river. I want there to be more neighborhood ownership of it. I am tired of being bullied by the users who believe they can use it, go home and let me deal with the aftermath of a long summer day that has spilled into my yard and onto my dock. I don't want to get yelled at or flipped off again when I ask someone to move their car, pick up their trash or turn down a speaker. I've put out my last fire and run off my last teenagers. It is a really neighborhood issue because Dogwood Drive has no emergency number to call for quick response. Clackamas County Sheriff is our go to call, but we are at the bottom of the list.

I think the Citizen Proposal for Boat Ramp Regulations is adequate for maintaining a safe and comfortable access to the river. The ramp should be for non motorized boating access. It really is not a space for fishing or picnicking. A ramp is for putting in and taking out not hanging around on. Minors (children) need to be supervised around water not dropped off to spend the afternoon. I want the gate to be closed and unlocked during hours of operation. I want it closed so the sign is read. I want the signage on the gate to clearly designate the hours, the expectations for use and reminders that there are people living nearby and to be respectful of sound. I'd like the city to maintain the boat ramp rather than relying on those of us who live closest to do so.

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