

Hi! Thanks for the opportunity to give comment.

We are Rivergrove residents and we live around the corner from the boat ramp. We drive by the ramp every day. We use the boat ramp year-round for various activities from launching kayaks to simply watching the river go by. We support full and open access to the ramp. We agree with the majority of Rivergrove residents who think the ramp is a great asset for our community. Indeed it was a major selling point when we bought our house.

We'd like the council to consider several changes to the ramp to improve the experience for people like us -- the majority of us -- who are using the boat ramp. We'd like to remind councilors that most Rivergrove residents don't have private access to the river and that the majority of residents use the ramp to access the river.

We know cost is a big concern for council members so I'll begin with a couple changes that cost nothing.

- 1) **Change #1. We'd like the gate to remain open during hours of operation.** This is for a number of reasons. If there is a medical emergency or trauma at the boat ramp, a closed gate delays critical, time sensitive access to care. Another reason is that individuals with disabilities may not be able to pull up and reposition the pinion at ground level and push open the gate -- a closed gate may violate the ADA. A closed gate creates a bottleneck and high touchpoint for users who are trying to maintain covid precautions. It also interferes with boaters who are carrying boats up and down the ramp and may open up liability issues for the city by creating a barrier to river access. A closed gate sends a message contradictory to the city's stated goal of increasing public access to the river and violates the spirit of the public trust doctrine.
- 2) **Change #2. We'd like the council to issue a statement** upholding public use of the boat ramp and condemning the intimidation, harassment, menacing or interference of people lawfully using the boat ramp. We've seen an increase in these types of activities over the last five years. It's time to return to peaceful, neighborly relations in the spirit of "live and let live."

These next two changes have some cost.

- 3) **Change #3. We'd like a Stark Boat Ramp sign installed.** This supports wayfinding and emergency personnel. We'd like council to remove all current signs and have posted rules and regulations consolidated to the Stark sign.
- 4) **Change #4. We'd like the city to conduct a property survey** of boat ramp property lines and install a 6-foot fence on property lines that don't already have a 6-foot fence to create privacy for adjacent neighbors and ramp users. This could be a cost-share project with adjacent neighbors and the city.

Finally, we propose that the city apply for a grant to fund long overdue capital improvements.

- 5) **Change #5. We'd like the city to reverse the neglect** to the ramp. We'd like to see the city remove all invasive vegetation and replant with native riparian, low maintenance plants. We'd also like to see the city install mitigation measures for the upstream bank erosion. We believe a maintained ramp will encourage good public behavior.
- 6) **Change #6. We'd like the city to install angled parking spots** in Lloyd Minor Park on the southeastern and eastern flanks. This will get park and boat ramp users out of the street for their safety and allow roadway access. We'd also like the city to contract for a temporary

portable potty in Lloyd Minor Park during the months of highest public use, from May to September.

Our main message is this: We'd like to see council spend some energy and resources to improve the experience for boat ramp users like us. We'd also like to see council put this matter of ramp regulation to rest in order to heal community divisions and have peace among neighbors.

Use of the boat ramp will begin to increase in April, and we'd like to see improvements underway and have this matter be on its way to resolution. Dave's report is an excellent step in that direction. Dave, thank you so much for the time and effort you spent researching and writing the report.

It makes us sad that a few neighbors continue to complain about the boat ramp on a yearly basis and monopolize council time. The city council is not a HOA board representing a private group of homeowners. We'd like to see the council spend time on matters that benefit the entire community and uphold the public good.

It's time to return to peaceful, neighborly relations in the spirit of "live and let live." It's time for the community to be able to enjoy its public spaces.

Thank you for your consideration of these changes.

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