

February 25, 2021

Mayor Williams and Rivergrove City Councilors,

My name is Gordan Robinson and I reside at SW Marlin Ave. The increase in usage of the Stark Boat Ramp and traffic in the neighborhood has presented a safety concern for all citizens. Children and families accessing the play structure across the street from the boat ramp, must navigate boaters and traffic that often do not follow street safety rules. Boat ramps throughout Oregon do now allow swimming, fishing or picnicking. It is concerning that Rivergrove allows this. It simply is unsafe!

Here are some facts:

- The boat ramp is a small access way to the Tualatin River directly adjacent to home-owners property lines and houses. It is the only boat ramp in the area with property owners within 15 feet.
- There are 3 other nearby boat ramps, within 5-10 minutes of this neighborhood, that are under the jurisdiction of the cities of Tualatin, Tigard and Lake Oswego park departments.
- Those facilities have rules and personnel to manage the activities at their parks
 - People leave their car on the Stark boat ramp while they go out on the river for several hours- impacting others that want to use the ramp and creating a safety hazard in the event of an emergency on the river.
 - Trucks and boat trailers larger than 30 feet try to access the river at this spot- blocking the street as they maneuver to put in or take out.
 - The rules we do have in place are blithely ignored by some folks consistently. In other words, the folks do not have respect for the current ordinance, or the neighbors in the immediate area
 - Social media is playing a role in enticing more buzz about this facility.

I am concerned of the growing appeal of this facility, the lack of respect for the rules and the adjacent neighbors, the growing incidence of confrontation, the lack of personnel to manage; either parks folks or police, and the burden this is placing on nearby residents. For these reasons I think we have a recipe for disaster.

As the primary obligation of the City Council is for general health and safety of their people, I urge City Council, to place more restrictive hours of use, limit the size of craft accessing the river and limit the use of the ramp for river access only.

This could be accomplished with better signage, the use of an electronic gate to manage access, bollards to restrict boat size and limited street parking.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Boat Ramps on the Tualatin within 5-10 minutes of the Stark Boat ramp

Brown's Ferry Park is a 28-acre (11 ha) park in the [Clackamas County](#) portion of the city of [Tualatin](#) in the U.S. state of [Oregon](#).^[1] The park is located along the [Tualatin River](#). The park includes walking paths, picnic tables, kayak and canoe rentals and a canoe ramp and dock, a wildlife viewing blind, a river overlook platform, and an old barn with interpretative signage.^[2]

Tualatin Community Park- 27 acres of active park with boat ramp, dog park, skateboard park and tennis courts

Cooks Park Tigard- 79 acres of recreation opportunity and river access on the banks of the Tualatin