

Hello Rivergrove City Council,

If the past year has taught us one thing, it is to be prepared for whatever nature may bring us. The Oregon Marine Board supports the right to access public waterways. Restrictions to these waterways can be detrimental to the emotional and mental well-being and safety of people who want to access this ramp. Time on the water provides healthy outdoor social distancing activities and allows people to safely connect with others. The waterways are also important to preserve the safety of our neighbors.

The Stark Boat Ramp grants public and emergency responder access to the Tualatin River. Public access is a right, emergency responder access is a safety issue. With the recent fire and windstorm emergencies, access to the river for transportation could be a valid issue for some of the river dwelling residents. Neighbors may have trees, power lines, high water or other blockades that do not allow for transportation on the roadways.

One could reckon that city parks and waterways would reflect the message of Oregon State Parks at oregon.gov which supports making outdoor space accessible and inclusive. The following quote is taken from the previous link: “We believe everyone who visits (Oregon's state parks) should feel welcome and all people should have the opportunity to connect with outdoor experiences and special places—now and 100 years from now. This is our commitment to being an inclusive agency.”

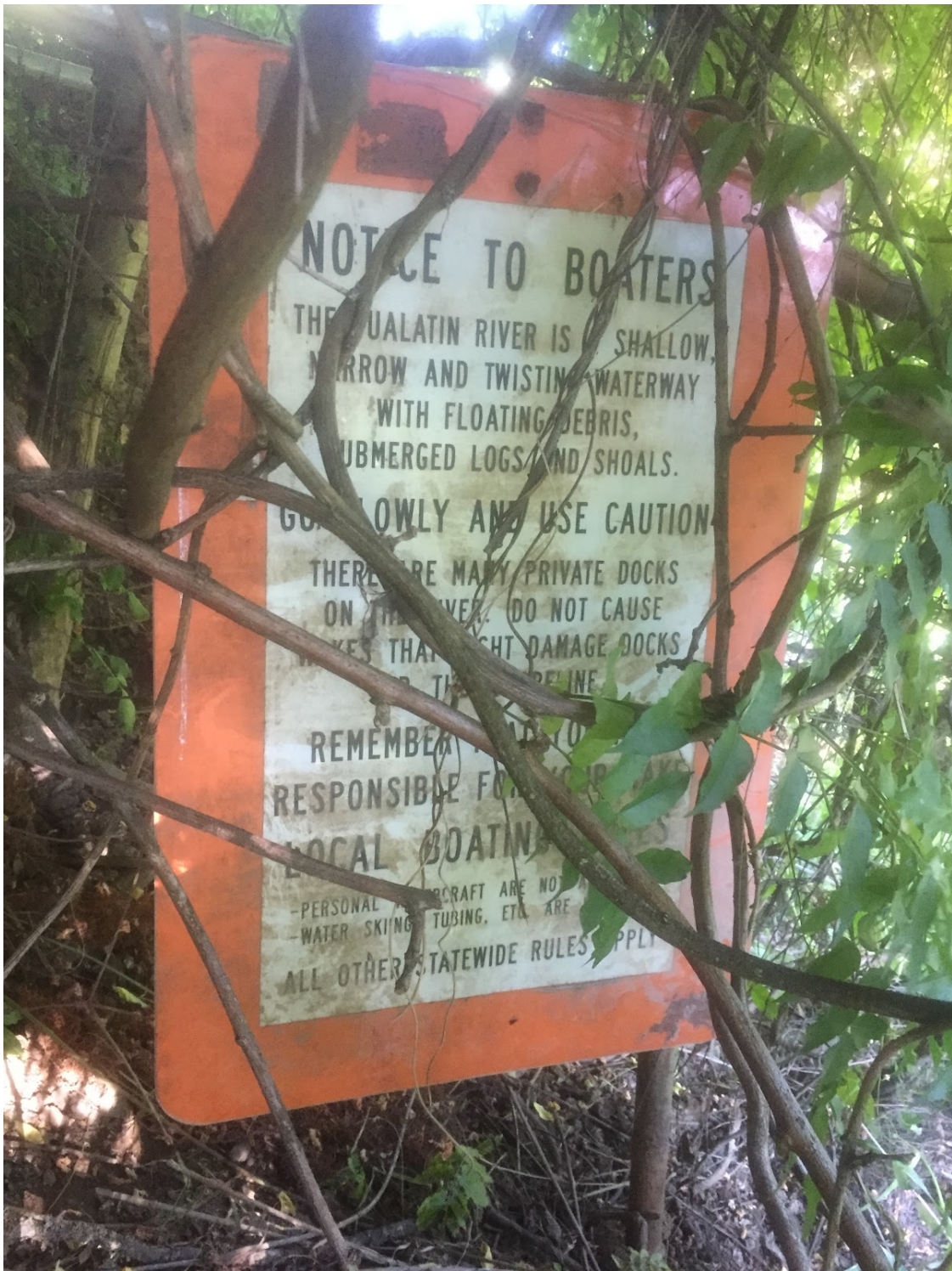
Following are the signs at the Stark Boat Ramp in Rivergrove (Lake Oswego).

T1. The first sign is on the private-looking wrought iron gate.

2. The sign on the bottom is barely seen as one is on the ramp. Note that it was covered in blackberries on July 6, 2017 when the photo was taken. Hopefully the decrepit condition of the sign has been improved.

**GATE
LOCKED**
**NOV-APRIL
8PM TO 8AM**

**MAY-OCT
9PM TO 8AM**



NOTICE TO BOATERS

THE QUALATIN RIVER IS SHALLOW,
NARROW AND TWISTING WATERWAY
WITH FLOATING DEBRIS,
SUBMERGED LOGS AND SHOALS.

GO SLOWLY AND USE CAUTION

THERE ARE MANY PRIVATE DOCKS
ON THE RIVER. DO NOT CAUSE
DAMAGE THAT MIGHT DAMAGE DOCKS
OR THE RIVERLINE

REMEMBER YOU ARE
RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN
LOCAL BOATING

- PERSONAL AIRCRAFT ARE NOT ALLOWED
 - WATER SKIING, TUBING, ETC. ARE NOT ALLOWED
- ALL OTHER STATEWIDE RULES APPLY

Here is a map of "put ins". The Stark Boat Ramp has been stricken from the [Tualatin River Keepers waterway map](#) and Clackamas county communications even though it is one of the few locations where a boater can enter this waterway with a motor boat.

I support the need for the City of Rivergrove to do the following:

- 1) keep the gate open during hours of operation;
- 2) issue a statement upholding public access and condemning the intimidation, harassment, menacing and interference of people using the boat ramp;
- 3) install a Stark Boat Ramp sign and consolidate all the signage to the Stark sign;
- 4) conduct a survey of boat ramp property lines and install a 6-foot fence to give neighbors and ramp users privacy;
- 5) reverse the neglect of the ramp by removing invasive vegetation and planting native riparian, low maintenance vegetation and installing erosion mitigation on the upstream bank; and
- 6) install angled parking on the eastern and southeastern flanks of Lloyd Minor Park and contract for a temporary porta potty in the park during the months of highest usage May-September.

Please evaluate the safety, health, inclusion and equity issues in this matter.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Heather Burden
1841 SW Greenway Circle
503-312-2267