

Good Evening Mayor and City Councilors

My name is Ken Marlow, I live at 5548 Dogwood Drive and I have lived in this neighborhood and in this house for over 40 years. In the past, I have participated in governance of Rivergrove, including my stint on the budget committee for a couple of years. I appreciate your time in this role and the changes you face with a growing small city.

I live 3 doors down from the boat ramp and I can tell you that the activity associated with it, the amount of traffic coming into this neighborhood, and the noise from it has increased substantially, most noticeably in the past 5 years.

The community of Rivergrove is a special one – particularly with all of the new residents moving into the Portland metro area. My guess is that the small-town charm and rural nature of Rivergrove is what attracted the new 50 plus households that have moved here the past several years.

As many of you know, the characteristics of our small community is that we treat our neighbors kindly, we help out when help is needed and we are considerate and mindful of the concerns of others. Many of you may recall how this manifested itself during the floods of '96 and '97, and how we all relied upon one another as well as others during that time. At that time, I had to borrow a boat from Hank Piatek to get to my front door and also the use of his hip-riders that allowed me to wade three feet of water to coax my cat off of the roof–good neighbor.

The boat ramp, its increased activity, the noise and the disrespectful attitudes of some of the users is having a disproportionate impact on the adjacent neighbors. We bear the brunt of this facility and frankly many of the users don't hold the neighborly values, nor do they care since they don't live here.

On the weekends during the summer months, the boat ramp can be busy and noisy. Just as we are sitting down to dinner outside, people are trying to launch large boats, running toy power boats off of the ramp or shouting to one another. Last summer, my daughter and her friend were swimming in the river when some users on the boat ramp threw fish at them, twice.

It's a problem and for these reasons, I support modifying the hours to 9-6pm so we can enjoy our evenings and dinner hours outdoors during the summer and not face unwarranted harassment in our own neighborhood. Further, I support limiting the use to boat access only and for small craft, Kayak and paddle boards because the ramp was never built for large motor boats or other uses, such as fishing.

I want to emphasize that as adjacent neighbors, we receive the greater impact. We are on the front lines if there is an emergency, as there has been in the past, and because we bear the great burden of this use, our concerns and recommendations should be addressed.

This is not the only boat ramp in the community, it is not the only access to the Tualatin River and frankly it's a privilege to have it and we need to treat it that way, not as an entitlement.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.