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## **RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

### **GREEN HAVEN WHARF CARTOP LAUNCH – Project# P567407**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Recreation and Parks thank you for your interest in and attention to the planned Green Haven Wharf Cartop Launch project.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) received questions and comments from 13 citizens regarding the Project's 60% Design Development. There were a total of 34 participants on the August 25, 2021 Zoom platform meeting, of which 21 were residents, and the remaining 13 included DRP and DPW staff and members of the design team. Comments were received from 13 citizens during the period following the Public Meeting.

The public comment period ended on September 8, 2021. This serves as a summary of those comments. A complete listing of those comments is posted on the DRP website at:

<https://www.aacounty.org/departments/recreation-parks/capital-projects/projects>

A recorded copy of the August 25, 2021 Zoom Public Meeting is available to view on the County's website at <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/development/community-meetings/past-meetings/>

The responses to the comments received are as follows:

1. Comment 1: Green Haven Wharf is used for docking power and sailboats via the gate in the wharf railing on the creek side. Will the proposed reef balls along the wharf on the creek side block boat docking? Will they damage boat hulls? How big are the reef balls? What is the water

depth? Green Haven is a wharf first and a kayak launch second. Also, will kids get their fishing lines caught in the reef balls? Creekside is where most families fish in the evenings.

*Response: The reef balls will be two feet in diameter and 1.5' tall. Their proposed location along the eastern and western sides of the wharf allows for the waterward edge to remain open and accessible to boaters. Where the reef balls are proposed, water depths range from -2.0 feet to -5.0 feet below Mean Low Water (MLW). Depths along the waterward edge where boats dock range from -5.0' to -7.5' MLW. Though the presence of the reef balls may result in snagging of fishing lines, the environmental regulators are requiring habitat creation and the reef balls will allow the County to meet with objective with minimal disturbance to the use of the wharf.*

2. Comment 2: Note for construction: Carrs Wharf renovation had problems with the swim ladder and wharf bolts. The swim ladder was installed flush to the side of the wharf, so the rungs were against the side of the wharf. Mike has photos. You could put your toe on the width of the ladder rungs, no more. Not safe, not usable as a swim ladder. The big bolts holding the wharf together were not recessed and were sticking out from the sides of the wharf. Docking there would be like keying your car with an axe. Definite cosmetic damage, possible structural damage to boat hulls. Again, Mike has photos. Could the Green Haven design please spec these details?

*Response: No improvements are proposed along the wharf structure except for the handrails, which will mostly likely occur on the inside of the piles and, therefore, not affect docking. A ladder is currently being discussed but will most likely be placed on the east side of the wharf instead of along the northside, which is the area anticipated for docking.*

3. Comment 3: Green Haven Wharf lacks shade. The mid-day sun is brutal. I talked with Valerie Fox and we agree that a pergola to provide shade would really add to Green Haven. The existing seating (the benches around the perimeters of the tree boxes) work really well. The tree box benches are routinely used, durable, can't be blown or thrown into the creek, discourage cars from driving on the wharf and provide a lot of seating between the six tree boxes. The downside is that by the time the trees get big enough to provide a scrap of shade, their roots are growing out the bottom of the tree boxes and heaving the wharf surface. Could the trees be taken out and three of the six boxes used as base for a triangular pergola for shade? There's an attractive triangular shaded deck at Downs Park at the osprey overlook near the visitor center that shows a triangle design. Then all six tree boxes could be used as flowerboxes.

*Response: There is currently no plan to remove the planter boxes as part of this project, however, trees will be added to the area on the east side of the parking lot that will be converted to landscaping as part of this project.*

4. Comment 4: Design looks generally good. The base Homeport model of the kayak launch beach adapts well to different environments. People may suggest tweaks.

People love, love, love being able to back up to the new kayak launch beach at Solley Cove and drop off their kayaks.

*Response: The kayak launch at Green Haven will also have an unloading area next to the launch for dropping off kayaks.*

5. Comment 5: That tiny eroded downstream beach is the only place in the area for kids to splash in the water. Eliminating the old outfall in the beach near the stairs is a big plus. People step in the outfall because it gets covered with sand. It's an ankle twister. Fixing the beach erosion would be great. I'm looking forward to stair improvement.

*Response: The design team is currently investigating the outfall in this area as it may be an artesian well which may prohibit removal. Depending on the results of this investigation, further recommendations for this area will be provided. However, it is the hope of this project that access for the water will be centered on the sandy kayak launch as that will offer the safest method for wading or entering the water.*

6. Comment 6: Green Haven needs a port-a-potty. The county recently cleared out the bushes and so forth in the trees near the existing kayak launch. The entire park is wide open. A port-a-potty enclosure would be great because it looks nice and blocks teenagers from tipping over port-a-potties.

*Response: There is currently no plan to install a similar arrangement at Green Haven as part of this project.*

7. Comment 7: The parking at Green Haven is so limited. It would be great if the collapsing cinderblock retaining wall along the access road was stabilized and additional parking created along the wall

*Response: The County is currently investigating options for improvement of the wall.*

8. Comment 8: I had a request for a public boat ramp at Green Haven. I don't think there's enough room for parking and a trailer turnaround. I advised people to ask for a public boat ramp at Stoney Creek Park instead.

People complained to me that the county recently dredged all the coves around but hadn't dredged the cove upstream of the wharf. I surmise is that the county didn't dredge that cove because of the upcoming wharf renovation.

*Response: Construction of a public boat ramp at Green Haven would not be feasible as the site does not support the needed parking area for trailered vehicles. In 2019, the County did dredge the channels around Stoney Creek to allow for a minimum of 3 feet of water depth in these coves. It appears that Stoney Creek already meets this criterion and, therefore, was not included in the dredging.*

9. Comment 9: Please provide the rationale for installing reef balls. My understanding of reef balls is that their purpose is absorption of wave energy and providing habitat for marine life, including oysters and fish. Absorption of wave energy would seem a minor concern at this location. Providing habitat for marine life is a worthy cause, but why here, where they will interfere with the use of the wharf by vessels that may want to load or discharge passengers?

*Response: Please see response 1. The reef balls are for mitigation for shallow water habitat impacts created by the sandy kayak launch. They will provide habitat for fish as wave energy dissipation is not a concern here. Mitigation has to occur in the same general area as the impacts*

*are occurring. The reef balls were positioned so as to avoid boats docking along the northern face of the wharf.*

10. Comment 10: The tree boxes at Greenhaven seem ineffective at providing shade. Tree growth does not appear to be robust, perhaps limited by the size of the planter boxes, pavement on the wharf, or salt water from Stoney Creek. The six boxes with benches on four sides provide anchors for 24 benches, probably an unnecessary number given site characteristics that limit the number of people able to use the park at one time.

If it is expected the trees will develop a canopy capable of providing shade to the wharf, I'd like to see the boxes stay. If not, I think they should be removed.

*Response: There is currently no plan to remove the planter boxes as part of this project, however, trees will be added to the area on the east side of the parking lot that will be converted to landscaping as part of this project.*

11. Comment 11: A Solly-Cove style, sandy area for launching car-top boats will be a huge improvement at Greenhaven. It is possible to launch at Greenhaven at the present, but it should be much easier. So, I very much favor the proposed Sand-filled soft launch.

*Response: Sandy kayak launches are both easier and safer to use for access. Community support is appreciated.*

12. Comment 12: Some provision for going to the bathroom needs to be made. I think the sort of porta-potty arrangement at Solly Cove would work well at Greenhaven.

*Response: There is currently no plan to install a similar arrangement at Green Haven as part of this project.*