



PORT OF KLICKITAT

For Immediate Release

March 29, 2013

Port Releases Marina Park Plans

Bingen, Washington – The Port of Klickitat has released its plan for improvements to the parking area at Marina Park. The design includes vehicle parking for park users and pull-through trailer parking for boat ramp users. The plan is currently available for review on the Port's web site at www.portofklickitat.com or by visiting the Port office at 154 E Bingen Point Way; Suite A; Bingen, Washington.

“The parking area for Marina Park has been in poor condition for more years than I care to remember,” said Wayne Vinyard, Port Commissioner for District No. 3. “We've known it needed repair, but we didn't want to just slap down some asphalt without a plan to make the most of the limited area available. In 2012, with the planned relocation of Marina Way and the development of lots immediately west and southwest of the park, the Commission decided it was time to invest in designing a new and better parking area.”

The plan would create 55 vehicle spaces for park visitors and future marina users and 29 pull-through trailer spaces for boaters, all in an area just under two acres in size. It would also separate vehicle, boat/trailer, and pedestrian traffic to improve safety and create a circular traffic pattern to reduce congestion for boat ramp users.

“The Commission examined the parking designs of over a dozen other small regional boat launch facilities, considered various alternatives for ingress, egress, layout, and other factors, and reviewed best practices and design guidelines for recreational boating facilities,” said Marc Thornsby, the Port's Executive Director. “Balancing the sometimes conflicting desires for more parking spaces, fluid traffic movement, a safe environment for people and vehicles, and an easy-to-understand traffic flow—all within the confines of a fairly small area—was challenging.”

Various factors including total parking spaces, pull-through trailer spaces, traffic segregation, ready and tie-down area capacities, cross-traffic points and two-way traffic areas, traffic flow, direction, and clarity, ingress and egress locations, pavement coverage, and maneuver area entry and exit points were assessed and scored before a draft design was selected. “Given our limited space and funds, I'm very happy with the design we ended up with,” said Port Commissioner Bill Schmitt. “Whatever the final design, once it's done it will be a great addition to the community and make Marina Park an outstanding place to come and enjoy the water.”

“Once a final design is approved, a preliminary budget will be completed so the project can be included in the Port's capital improvements plan and we can begin seeking funding assistance,”

At A Glance...

Who:.....Port of Klickitat

What: Marina Park Parking Plan

When:.....Mar. 29, 2013

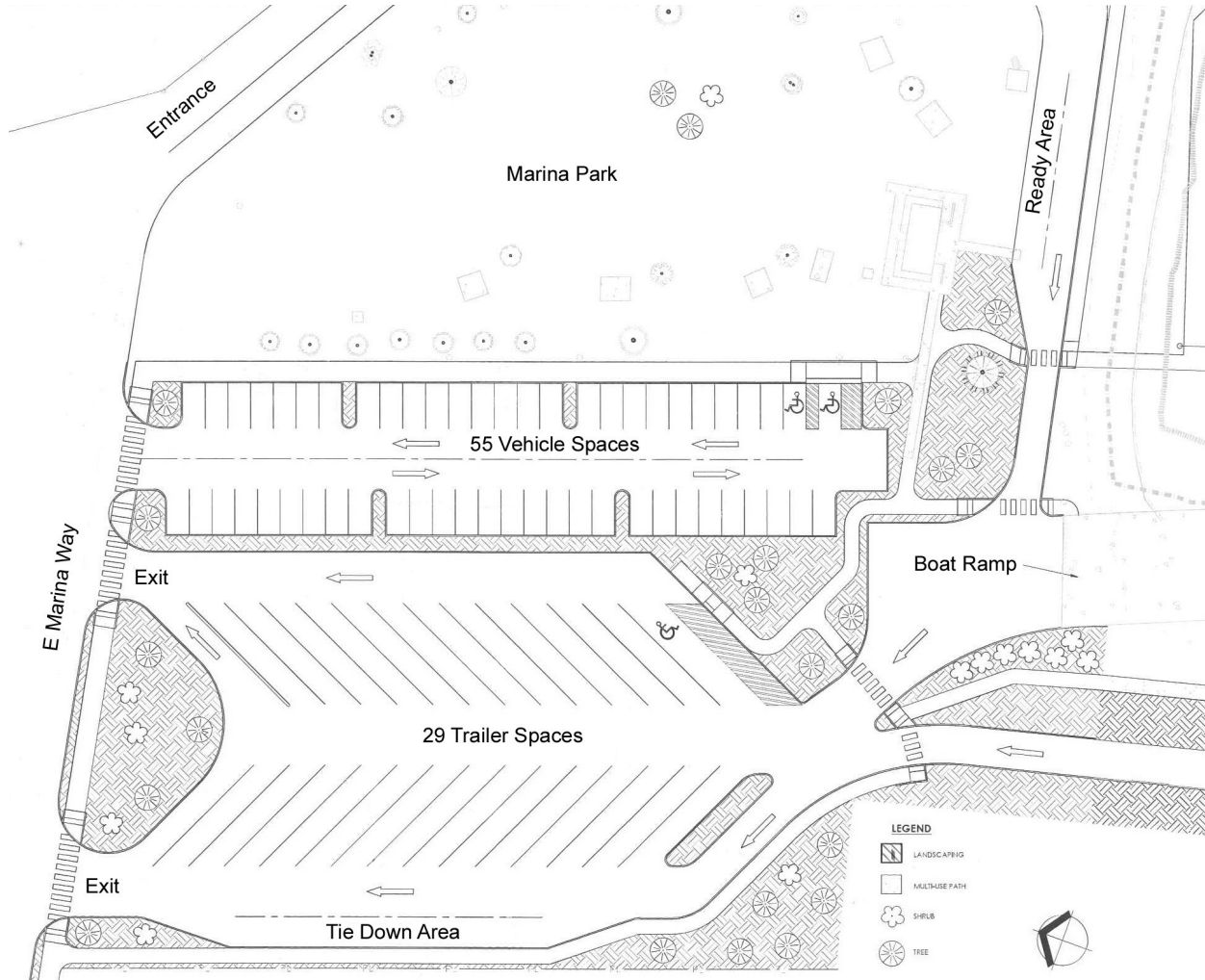
Where:.....Bingen Point

Quick Facts:.....Port releases plan for Marina Park parking area improvements and seeks comments from boaters, park users, and the public.

For more information, please contact:

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said Thornsbury. “With reductions to its income this year, the Port has become more dependent upon outside monies to fund non-revenue-generating capital improvements including this one. As a result, timing will largely depend on the funding cycles of potentially supporting agencies as well as their willingness and ability to provide substantial monetary assistance.”



The Port invites members of the community to review the plan and offer comments on it. Comments should be written and sent the Port at port@portofklickitat.com or 154 E Bingen Point Way; Suite A; Bingen, WA 98605. The Port Commission will also accept questions and comments regarding the draft design at its public meeting on April 16, 2013. “We’ve done our best to make the most of what we have to work with,” said Vinyard. “Now our constituents have the opportunity to share their opinions of the plan or suggest an option, enhancement, or alternative we may have missed.”

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About the Port of Klickitat

Economic development, transportation, and marine-based recreation are key functions of the Port of Klickitat. These are achieved through leasing industrial-zoned property, developing and renting industrial and commercial facilities, developing and maintaining rail spurs and dock facilities, assisting companies with an interest in locating in Klickitat County, creating and managing marine-based recreational facilities, and working closely with various partner organizations and agencies.

The Port of Klickitat is located in Klickitat County, Washington and was created in 1944. It is one of several port authorities located in the mid-Columbia region. It owns two industrial parks and several buildings, leases industrial property and space, operates a barge dock, and holds property set aside for a park and marina. Transportation access is provided via rail, river barge, highways 14, 35, and 197, and Interstate 84. More information can be found on the Port's web site at www.portofklickitat.com.

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