

Boating Community Open House - June 6, 2018
Q&A

Topic	Question	Answer
Boat access	How are large boats able to run under the "walking sitting" bridge?	The plan is for the clearance to be 25 to 30 feet to allow larger boats to pass underneath the bridge.
	New boat ramp is open to the west. In winter months and fall, winds are coming from the west, northwest, which will blow up ramp "enabling" offloading of boats. Boats will crash into one another causing major problems.	The breakwater shown to the west and northwest of the boat ramps is intended to mitigate this issue.
	How long will the ramp be closed due to renovations?	The details will be evaluated during the design process. However, our intent would be to have little, if any, disruption to boat launching activities during construction. We are also considering the new ramps prior to closing the existing ramps to minimize disruption to access.
	Both options limit ability of sailboats to visit waterfront attractions. Can you adjust to allow sailboat access?	While sailboats may not be able to get under the arc bridge, they would be able to dock west of the arc and walk to the canal district amenities.
	Have the offshore power boats and room for cranes been considered? These are necessary for raising money for Suncoast Charities.	Some coordination has previously occurred with the Suncoast Grand Prix organizers. Additional coordination is intended to occur to accommodate that use.
	Is there any decision on landing for water ferry to islands?	The Bay is currently coordinating with the City and possible boat taxi operators. Our organization supports improved water access in the future, including use of water ferry or taxis.
	Will the proposed site options accommodate more than one commercial boating operation (i.e. water taxi, rentals, charters, etc.)?	These details are yet to be determined, but it is possible that multiple operations will be provided at final build-out.
	Where and what type of docking facilities will exist?	The plan currently provides for multiple day dock locations to visit the site and the canal district.

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	Is the boat basin being made wider?	Widening the basin is one option that is being discussed with the boating working group.
	What are the dimensions of the canal?	The current dimentions of the canal are approximately 700 by 160 feet.
Parking	Why are you cutting down on parking lot - the spaces shown are too close.	Our intent is to maintain the existing number of boat parking spaces, or provide additional boat parking spaces.
	Paid parking - why?	We are currently evaluating funding options for our project. One option could include user fees for boaters outside the county. More information on those funding options will be presented at a later date.
	Are any considerations able to be made for fees? Why are commercial users given access at no cost?	We are currently evaluating funding options for the site while maintaining low cost or free access to some of the amenities of the park. It is possible that there will be some user fees for use of amenities on the site, but that possibility is still being evaluated.
	You're letting everyone park at the boat ramp parking lot, even if they don't have a boat.	We are currently evaluating ways to encourage park users to park in other areas of the park. We are also working with FPL to expand the number of boat parking spaces on the site.
	Move jet skis and single axle trailers to north end/east parallel to 41.	Thank you for your input.
	Do you realize, and have you accounted for, overflow parking which uses the Van Wezel parking lot?	Yes we are considering where overflow parking for events will occur while maintaining the boat ramp parking lot for ramp use.
	How many parking spots are planned in the garage?	1,200 to 1,400 parking spots are currently planned.

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	Are annual parking passes a thing that will be available?	Possibly; we are still evaluating both our parking and funding strategy for the site.
	Where will workers park during construction?	This is yet to be determined, but the park will be built in phases and construction will accommodate existing use during construction as much as possible.
	In option 2 we are pushing into the park to the north. Can we get more parking from that park?	We are working to add additional parking on the FPL site to the north to accommodate more trailer parking than currently exists.
	Why is the plan including equal number of places to park if you want to draw more people here?	Our goals provide additional site parking as well as boat trailer parking in the future.
	Will overnight parking be allowed?	Likely not, but that option can be evaluated if there is a strong demand for it.
	Will there be lighting at night?	Yes.
	Will there be security for late night launch and retrieval?	We will evaluate that potential as we move forward.
Traffic	What will it be like when all those boat trailers enter the roundabout at the end of the day?	The roundabout has been designed to accommodate tractor trailers per state standards, and will therefore accommodate large boat trailers. Additionally, roundabouts will accommodate more vehicles per hour than standard signal intersections.
	Have you accounted for the net increase in traffic and how do you intend to address it?	FDOT is building roundabouts to better accommodate increases in traffic. Our site at buildout will accommodate a modest amount of additional parking spaces. We are also designing enhanced connections to our site through our overpasses.

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	Ambient noise - how will you control noise from boat engines, motorcycles and trucks? Potential distractions for performance hall performances.	The performance hall consultant has noted that ambient noise issues can be addressed with effective design.
Food	Why restaurants now instead of food trucks?	We are anticipating restaurant, small food kiosks and food trucks in the future.
	Sarasota has few waterfront dining options and only one or two accessible by water for larger boats (40'+). What thought has gone into developing a unique dining/shopping/entertainment destination optimized for boaters?	We have aspired to create a great boater destination on our site. We are currently working with the boating community and boater working group to work through those details.
	How many slips will be available for outside boater docking? What about the plan for those of us who want to park the boat and leave it there for a couple of hours to go to a restaurant or go downtown?	While the exact number of slips has not yet been determined, we want to provide for a substantial number of transient slips to accommodate that exact use.
	Option 2 shows a new boat launch area. Why can't you create an inlet and "canal district" in the middle of the main parcel instead of around the existing boat basin?	We did evaluate a plan to create a canal through the site, and the community preferred other alternatives.
Facilities	Why are there no restrooms?	There will be multiple restroom areas on our site.
	Homeless situation - is there a safety issue, and would underground garage funnel the homeless in.	Our organization has heard concerns about the homeless issue, and are working with our team and city to activate security that will address the homeless issue on the site.
	Move electrical grid to Central and 10th - does it need to be waterfront?	FPL owns the substation site, and has said it would be extremely costly to relocate all the electrical service to and from their site. We are, however, working with them to accommodate additional boat trailer access across their site and on the site.
	Policing? There is not enough policing now.	Our future park will include enhanced security to provide a safe destination for users.

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Environment	What is the environmental impact and permitting with the Army Corp? Is Mote Marine and the marine science organization involved?	Modifications to the canal and boat ramp area will require COE (Corps of Engineers) permits. We have environmental permitting experts on our team. We have had several conversations with Mote Marine and are collaborating to provide Marine education on our site.
Funding	How are you going to fund all of this?	Like similar projects, this project will take 10 to 15 years to build out, and will utilize 20 to 25 funding sources.
	How long will each phase look finished until the next phase begins?	It is likely several of the phases will overlap depending on complexity of implementation and funding.
World Class Destination	What does a world class and inspirational urban waterfront look like in your opinion?	We are currently working with the community to develop a high quality waterfront destination that meets our community's aspirations.
	How do you balance businesses coming to this new area with existing businesses?	From a restaurant perspective, we have met with and will continue to meet with local restaurateurs as a part of our process and planning.
	From a navigational standpoint, how will this be marked and managed for increased boat traffic in the bay?	While this has not yet been determined, we have an excellent marine consultant on our team that will be working on this with us.
	Would a harbor master or something equivalent be of benefit?	Potentially, we are still evaluating how to create an improved boater destination in the future.
	Have you put more thought into a pier to activate waterfront? Something along the lines of the Navy Pier (Chicago), Santa Monica Pier (CA)?	We will continue to evaluate these alternatives as part of our boater working group process.