

PORTER'S LANDING BOAT TAKEOUT – CONCRETE RAMP

Jordan River Commission Small Grant – October 20, 2022

OVERVIEW

In 2016, the City constructed the Porter's Landing Boat Takeout at 50 South Jordan River Drive in North Salt Lake. It was the first formal takeout built on the Jordan River, and there were many lessons learned from its construction. After construction of the boat ramp, best practices for design and construction of facilities along the river were created as part of the Jordan River Water Trail Master Plan, showing that concrete ramps were the best design for function and maintenance. The new designs would also provide universal access to the river for people of all abilities. A conceptual design of the Porter's Landing ramp was created for that master plan showing a realignment of the boat ramp to provide for easier boater access facing downstream and a more gradual slope on the ramp itself. The design of the boat ramp may change as the engineered drawings are created to try to utilize more of the existing ramp.

Since 2016, the City has experienced maintenance problems with the boat ramp, originally built of crusher fines. There were erosion problems with the rise/fall of the water levels in addition to boaters sinking in the mud when trying to exit their boats. In an effort to prevent this, the City installed flexible grid mats on the boat ramp to provide some traction for boaters in 2019. However, while slightly improving the performance of the ramp for boaters, it dramatically increased the maintenance burden on the City. Because there is not a hard surface beneath the grid mats, the mats have to be lifted, thoroughly cleaned, and re-installed at least every month, year-round, taking several hours to complete each time. The City plans to replace the boat ramp with a concrete boat ramp to be in-line with best practices for the river, improve the performance of the ramp for recreational users of all abilities, and to decrease the maintenance burden on the City. The concrete ramp will likely include a grid mat installed within the concrete to decrease the risk of scratching boats as they are dragged along the ramp and provide more traction.

BUDGET

The total estimated project cost is \$115,500 for the construction of the new boat ramp. In May 2022, the City was awarded \$57,750 from the Recreation Restoration Infrastructure (RRI) Grant through the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity. At this time, the City is requesting up to \$5,000 in Small Grant funds through the Jordan River Commission which would make the City's contribution \$52,750 in addition to the design and permitting costs.

TIMELINE

There are two phases to this project: Engineering/Permitting and Construction. The engineering and permitting can be done at any time of year. This phase should take a maximum of 6 months to complete, anticipating delays from permitting agencies that have been experienced with other projects recently. This phase will consist of finalizing the engineered design of the boat ramp and then submitting that design to the various agencies that require permitting. The permits required are: General Permit (on Sovereign Lands), Stream Alteration Permit, and Flood Control Permit. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is included in the sign-off for Stream Alteration Permits. In worked with USACE on a different

project in the City, we have experienced huge delays in their permitting process, so we are adding an extra few months on to our schedule for that.

Phase 2 of the project is for construction. The construction will need to occur in the low-water months, which are typically in the Fall/Winter. The contractor will have to de-water the area around the boat ramp, which can take around 4 weeks to complete if the water levels cooperate. Then, if constructed in the winter months, there has to be extra care taken to protect the concrete from snow and ice. The construction phase of the project should take about 90 days to complete. So, depending on the timing of the grant award, it should take the City under one year to complete the project. We hope to have all the construction completed in time for the Get To The River Festival in September 2023, if possible.

NARRATIVE

The reconstruction of the boat ramp at Porter's Landing Boat Takeout meets the purposes of the Blueprint Jordan River by increasing the mobility of boats on the river (pg 46), specifically by "providing launching facilities that will allow the launch of any type of non-motorized boat and accommodate wheelchair access" and by "enhancing existing recreational opportunities" (pg 49). The concrete boat ramp will facilities all-abilities access to the river, which is currently quite difficult. Additionally, it will improve the experience for all users of the boat ramp by creating a more well-maintained and easier to use facility.





Community and Economic Development

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To whom it may concern,

The Davis County Community and Economic Development Department is pleased to support the City of North Salt Lake in their effort to improve the boat ramp at Porter's Landing along the Jordan River. The re-build will make it easier to get in and out of the river with boats at this location. North Salt Lake has viewed other boat ramps and believes that implementing best practices will make this launch area more accessible. We like the idea of giving users access to a water trail and walking/cycling trail in such close proximity. Porter's Landing is the only official boat launch on the Jordan River in Davis County. We endorse the project. If you have specific questions about the role Davis County Planning will play in this project, please feel free to contact me at joyler@daviscountyutah.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeff Oyler
Planning Manager