

Riffe Lake Recreational Access Improvements Update

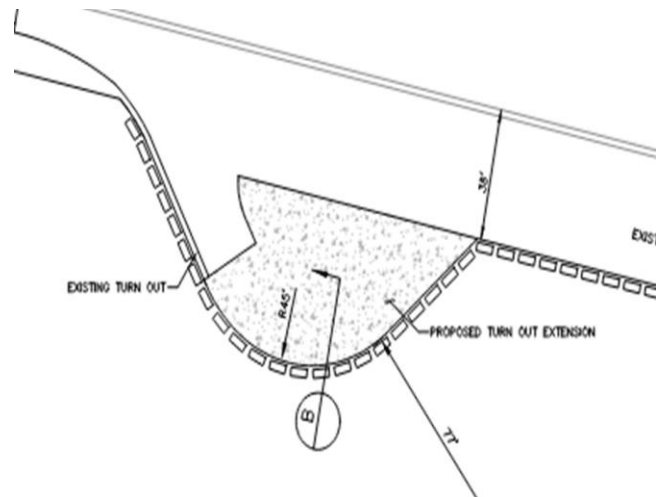
April 2023

Public safety is a top priority for Tacoma Power, so we reduced the maximum level of Riffe Lake from 778.5 to 749 feet in 2017 due to updated seismic loading concerns for the Mossyrock Dam spillway piers (not the dam itself).

Lowering the maximum lake elevation impacted recreational access, so, in 2018, we invested approximately \$850,000 into improvements at Mossyrock Park. We extended one boat launch ramp (it was usable to about 737 feet and is now usable to about 708 feet; the other ramp is usable to about 724 feet) and built a new swim area and ADA facilities, including an ADA-accessible parking lot, trail to the swim area, and restroom.

More recently, we discussed potential improvements on the east end of the lake with local elected officials and the public. After an extensive vetting process, we chose two projects that will improve the use and safety of the Taidnapam North boat launch:

- 1) **Extension of the existing turnout lane to make it easier to navigate**, including adding a retaining wall to reduce erosional sloughing onto the launch.



- 2) **Construction of a new anchor** at the bottom of the north launching lane to extend the reach of the courtesy dock to lower elevations (currently the dock is usable to about 731 feet, while the lane is usable to about 719 feet; the new anchor will make the dock usable to about 726 feet).



We are currently in the permitting process for these projects. Barring any large delays in the permitting process, or other unforeseen circumstances, we plan to complete these projects by the end of this year.

Other projects currently under consideration:

- Add **24 single-car parking spots** at the Taidnapam North boat launch.
- Add **signage** on Glenoma Road and Champion Haul Road, and on the corner of Hwy 12 and Williams Street en route to Mossyrock Park, that indicates whether the boat launches are open/closed.
- Add **webcams** at the Mossyrock Park and Taidnapam North boat launches that would be **live-streamed** on our website.
- Add a **QR code to existing signage** that would link users directly to our Lake Levels/River Flows webpage.

We will provide future updates about these projects.

Other projects that were considered during the public process:

In addition to the other projects listed below, we also considered projects at Mossyrock Park, such as adding parking adjacent to the boat launch, adding a turnaround halfway down the boat launch, and extending the current launch. These projects are not feasible due to permitting, slope, and silt issues, space, and the shape of the lake bottom (there is a large drop-off that prevents us from extending the launch). We are exploring options for ways to help people navigate the longer walk to/from the launch.

Additionally, the public feedback we received leaned in favor of making investments into the east end of the lake, so that's where we are focusing our efforts.

OPTION	RESULT
Taidnapam North boat launch extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This project is not feasible.• An extension would place the end of the ramp in the course of the Cowlitz River channel, creating flow issues across the ramp. Silt could take over the ramp at any time.• The river flows would cause unnecessary wear on the dock and launch extension, as well as create challenges for boaters trying to dock or load their boat on their trailer.• It would only increase the number of usable days to 15 per year on average.
Taidnapam North boat launch lower parking lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This project is not feasible.• There are significant cultural resources issues with this project.• Even if it was feasible, the permitting process would likely take years.• We are exploring options for ways to help people navigate the longer walk to/from the launch. Please send ideas (as well as ideas for the Mossyrock Park boat launch) to: cowlitz@cityoftacoma.org.
Build a new boat launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We could not identify a feasible location.• Even if we could find a feasible location, the permitting process and construction would likely take many years.• We are focused on projects that will still be usable under restored full lake conditions.
Extend the Kosmos boat launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This project is not feasible due to the shape of the lake bottom in that area.
Extend the Taidnapam Park boat launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This project is not feasible.• There is no way to lengthen it due to a steep drop-off at the end of it.

Have questions? Send them to cowlitz@cityoftacoma.org. If you would like to receive updates about the Cowlitz River Project, please provide your name and email address at MyTPU.org/CowlitzCurrents.