

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

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For More Information:

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Town of Bluffton to Improve Oyster Factory Park's Boat Ramp & Drainage

The Town of Bluffton is scheduled to begin the Oyster Factory Drainage and Boat Ramp Improvement Project which will enhance drainage, install new sidewalks and replace the gravel portion of Wharf Street which approaches the boat ramp with concrete. The work, scheduled to begin January 7, 2019, will require the closure of the boat ramp at Oyster Factory Park through the middle of February.

This project will improve the park's drainage, pedestrian access, and permanently stabilize the access road to the boat ramp for boaters and visitors. The contractor, JS Construction Services, expects the project to last 30 days, weather -permitting.

"While there is no perfect time to schedule work on the boat ramp, this project was postponed to January and February because it is the least disruptive to water activities on the May River." Bryan McIlwee, the Town's director of engineering, said.

Town Manager Marc Orlando said it is a priority to keep the Town's parks functioning at a high standard.

"The Town's parks and open spaces are an important component to Bluffton's quality of life," Orlando said. "More sidewalks, better drainage and a smoother road to the boat ramp will improve the park's walkability and accessibility to its amenities."

While the Oyster Factory Park boat ramp is closed, boaters can use the following public boat ramps: Alljoy Public Dock (off Alljoy Road), the H.E. Trask, Sr. Boat Landing (off Sawmill Creek Road), Buckingham Landing (off Fording Island Road), and C.C. Haigh, Jr. Boat Landing (off Highway 278 across from Pinckney Island).

“As a boater myself, I realize we all must sacrifice a month of convenience for the overall good of the park and a better experience for all who come here to boat, enjoy festivals, visit the Garvin-Garvey House or just watch the sunset,” Mayor Pro Tempore Larry Toomer said. “Rest assured, town staff and its contractors will do all they can to finish this project as soon as possible.”

The Bluffton Oyster Factory and the Garvin-Garvey House will remain open and operate their regular business hours during the project. Residents and guests are encouraged to use the parking lot adjacent to Bridge Street to avoid the construction zone. Parking access for patrons will be available to the Bluffton Oyster Factory. Please follow signs and directions from construction crew members.

Signage will be installed directing pedestrian access along both sides of the construction zone to allow visitors safe access to two of the park’s signature establishments.

For more information about the Oyster Factory Park Drainage and Boat Ramp Improvement Project, contact Bryan McIlwee, the Town’s Director of Engineering, at (843) 706-7824 or bmcilwee@townofbluffton.sc.gov or visit the Town’s website to track the project: <https://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov/engineering-department/cip-projects/oyster-factory-park-parking-lot-and-ramp-improvements>.

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