



Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

Pewaukee Lake Access Launch Reconstruction Project Frequently Asked Questions

Fast Facts about this Project

The Pewaukee Lake Access Site, located on the western end of Pewaukee Lake, is the largest public boat launch on 2,493-acre Pewaukee Lake, which is a very popular and busy lake for recreational boating activities, including pleasure boating, skiing/tubing, canoeing and kayaking, and fishing. The launch consistently fills to capacity on ideal weather days from late spring through early fall. This lake access site provides four launch lanes, an asphalt parking lot (for 71 vehicles with trailers and 4 cars for carry-in), and modern toilet facilities. The property was acquired in 1960 and the launch was constructed in 1964. A restroom/vending building was constructed in 2000 and the parking lot was repaved in 2009. Years of extensive launching of recreational boats and commercial barges have had a detrimental impact on the launch ramps, which are now in need of reconstruction.

Why not just repair the launch rather than totally reconstruct it?

The current state of the launch ramps requires annual repairs, which have proven to be temporary. The concrete bars that attach together to make up the framework of the ramps are in a state of deterioration. The base gravel continues to wash out of open spaces between the concrete bars, and substantial ice heave has caused buckling and uneven ramp slopes. The proposed reconstruction will replace the existing 2-foot wide concrete bars with more substantial linked precast concrete panels that are 15 feet wide. These panels will provide a larger surface area to better support the weight of the heavy vehicles and trailers that have done considerable damage to the existing concrete bars, and they will also provide better resistance to ice heave. The existing ramps have a continuous 13% slope, which presents challenges to floating boats off of trailers without requiring tow vehicles to back into the water. The new launch slope will be 10% for the first 15 feet, then 15% for rest of the launch, which is typical of launch construction. This improved slope will facilitate launching and minimize instances of tow vehicles having to back into the water. The project also will include dredging to remove sediment deposits that accumulate.

Why can't the launch be reconstructed one half at a time so it can stay open?

The most cost-effective way to reconstruct the launch is to completely shut it down and to dewater and construct all four ramps at the same time. A phased construction approach would increase equipment mobilization costs, and it would result in a longer period of disruption to the launch users from construction. The launch closure is planned for the end of the boating season to try to minimize the impact on lake users.

How is the project being funded?

This project was awarded 50% funding from a WDNR Recreational Boating Facilities Grant. The remaining 50% of the project costs will be sourced from Waukesha County's Tarmann Fund.

When will construction begin?

The launch and public access to the entire site/facilities will be closed starting September 20th, 2021 and remain closed until construction is completed. Construction completion is anticipated by December 2021.

Is there other boat launch access to Pewaukee Lake?

There are two other launch accesses to Pewaukee Lake, but parking is limited. See locations on WDNR website: <https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/LakeDetail.aspx?wbic=772000&page=boating>

What if I purchased an annual lake access sticker but cannot use the Pewaukee Lake launch after Sept. 20th due to construction?

The lake access permit fees are to support the continued operation and maintenance of the boat launch site, ramps, dock, and parking lot. In addition to the Pewaukee Lake access, annual lake access stickers are valid for all County-owned lake access properties, including those at Nagawicka, Nemahbin, and School Section Lakes, all of which will remain open during the Pewaukee Lake launch closure.

How do I purchase a lake access permit?

Daily lake access permits can be purchased through use of the park pay tank. Annual lake access stickers can be purchased through use of the park pay tank or at www.waukeshacountyparks.com under "Online Services."

Where can I find out more information about this project?

For more information about the Pewaukee Lake Access Launch Reconstruction Project, visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/currentparkprojects.

For questions or comments, you can call Waukesha County Park System at **(262) 548-7803**.