

FAQ's: Big Rock Boat Ramp Upgrade

Work is now complete on Phase 1 of the Big Rock Boat Ramp upgrades. Here are some common questions about the project:

1. What is the project?

This project focused on in-water upgrades to the Big Rock Boat Ramp – located at 985 South Island Highway – which is a free public use facility for boaters in Campbell River.

The design of the new ramp offers improved safety and accessibility. The refinished ramp has been paved with a high-traction finish and the higher breakwaters will reduce wave action in the launch area, meaning fewer boat ramp maintenance requirements in the future.

The floating dock system improves year-round water access, especially during low tides, and allows for temporary, time-limited moorage on both sides of the ramp. Temporary, additional parking has also been added at the facility.



2. Who completed the work on the project?

In 2005, Lanarc Consultants Ltd. prepared a South Island Highway (19A) Conceptual Design, which included conceptual plans for the ramp. In 2013, Outlook Engineering and Landscape Architecture developed the improved ramp design through public consultation, including a ramp user group.

In 2017, as a result of increased regulatory requirements, the design team was expanded to include Highland Engineering Services Ltd. and CR Engineering Inc., who led the completion of the final design. The construction work for Phase 1 of the project was completed by Upland Contracting Ltd., and the floating dock system was built by CR Metal Fabricators.

3. How long did construction take?

The first phase of the project started in June 2018 and was completed in early October 2018.

4. What was the cost of the project?

The approved budget for the project is \$2.1 million. The project has been completed within this budget with the civil works valued at \$1.6 million, the dock supply at \$300,000 and the balance of costs for engineering and regulatory approvals. The project has been funded by the Community Works Fund Reserve (Federal Gas Tax Funding) rather than local property taxation.

5. Were alternate locations considered for a new ramp, rather than upgrading Big Rock?

Campbell River's unique location on Discovery Passage, as well as local ferry traffic, make it challenging to find a suitable place to construct a public boat launch. Plans for the Big Rock facility – including the assessment of other boat access options – have been underway for many years, and improvements to the Big Rock Boat Ramp were determined as the best option for a safe and accessible facility.



6. Why did the Phase 1 works happen during summer?

The summer months were the only time that Department of Fisheries and Oceans regulation allowed for in-water work to be completed. It was important that work occur during the lowest tides of the season to minimize any potential impacts to the marine environment.

7. Is there a cost to launch/park at the new facility?

There are no fees to launch or park at the new ramp.

8. How will parking be improved in the future?

There was an exciting update to Phase 1 of the Big Rock Boat Ramp project: the lot to the south of the existing parking area has been graded and a new parking lot and exit added. This update to the plan increases parking at the facility by 50 percent. The work was accommodated within the existing project budget, thanks to the diligent work of contractor Upland Contracting Ltd.

This temporary solution will be in place while long-term planning for the parking lot area is considered in 2019.

9. What's next for the Big Rock Boat Ramp project?

The Big Rock Boat Ramp upgrade includes two separate phases of work. The first phase – in-water work – was completed in October 2018. The second phase – parking lot area upgrades – will include expansion of the upland areas to improve the surface area of the ramp. This next phase of construction will be considered by council for delivery in the future.



Want to learn more?

All project information can be found at: www.campbellriver.ca/bigrockboatramp

