

Wyndham – Carseland Boat Ramp Improvements

Alberta Parks is in the planning process to repair the Johnsons Island boat ramp and evaluate the options for a more substantial upgrade to both the Johnsons Island and the proposed addition of the Carseland Weir service boat ramp to the Wyndham-Carseland Provincial Park.

Johnson Island Boat Ramp:

Plans are in place to repair the existing boat ramp that has been undermined by high flows in recent years. We propose to angle the boat ramp downstream 30 to 45 degrees and add rocks along the upstream edge of the ramp.



A more comprehensive upgrade should be considered to the river access site in the future. This should consist of a hydrological engineering assessment of the site and the location of the boat ramp to better protect it from high flow years. Certainly, relocating the boat ramp further upstream into the back eddy closer to the western edge of the parking lot would appear to be the best option. Consideration should be given to expanding the size of the parking lot.

Wyndham-Carseland Boat Ramp:

The AEP Carseland Weir service boat ramp is available to be used as a public river access site. Access to the boat ramp would be through the Wyndham-Carseland Provincial Park where the existing parking lot and adjoining toilets and park benches appear to be adequate for the increased truck-trailer traffic from boar ramp access.

Option 1: The boat ramp could be upgraded with the addition of interlocking concrete mats above the existing concrete boat ramp slabs.



Figure 1: Existing Boat Ramp



Figure 2: Calgary Ogden Bridge Boat Ramp

The grade of the boat ramp above the concrete slabs (Figure 1) could be reduced by extending the top portion of the ramp back into the service corridor.

The Calgary Ogden Boat Ramp (Figure 2) grade is as steep as the Carseland boat ramp. It is also outside of the generally recommended grade for boat ramps. A seepage barrier from the old petroleum refinery is under the ramp made it impossible to reduce the ramp grade. It is steeper than most river users are accustomed to but has generally been well received.

The existing boat ramp has been in place for some time with limited erosion by higher river flows. Therefore the location of the ramp appears to be acceptable.

Option 2: An alternative to upgrading the existing boat ramp is to construct a new lower grade ramp angled downstream at the same site location. Although more expensive it would offer greater convenience for all riverboat users.



The boat ramp needs to be angled downstream 30 -45 degrees (Figure 3)

Figure 3 Ogden Boat Ramp



Concrete rocks were added to the upstream edge of the ramp to deflect river flow away from the end of the boat ramp (Figure 4)

Figure 4 Ogden Boat Ramp



There is adequate space adjacent to the river to use as a staging area to prepare the boat for access to the river or leave the site. (Figure 5)

Figure 5 Staging area to the west of the Wyndham- Carseland PP.