

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

May 4, 2018

For More Information:

Debbie Szpanka
Public Information Officer
Town of Bluffton
20 Bridge Street
Bluffton, South Carolina 29910
(Office): 843.706.4534
(Cell): 843.540.2274
(Email): dszpanka@townofbluffton.com

Town of Bluffton to Improve Oyster Factory Park's Boat Ramp, Drainage and Parking Lots

The Town of Bluffton will begin its Oyster Factory Park Improvement Project which involves enhancements to the boat ramp and parking lots in May. The park and its features which include the Garvin-Garvey House, the boat ramp, the Oyster Factory and the pavilion will be open during construction. The first phase, which will last through May 2018, will include improvements to the parking lots as well as improving drainage and sidewalks adjacent to the boat ramp. Repairs to the boat ramp, which will be the second phase of the project, will begin in the fall, after boating season. This project is designed to improve public safety and access to one of Bluffton's most popular historic sites and the May River. Starting May 14, crews will begin installing an underground storm water retention system, new gravel parking surface, new wheel stops and signage to the auxiliary parking lot. This lot is located on the northeast entrance to the park. The auxiliary parking lot, which fits approximately 14 vehicles, will be closed during the three-week construction period. The main parking lot will also be modified to better formalize vehicular parking and provide additional boat trailer parking. The main parking lot will be open during these enhancements.

In addition to improving parking flow, this project will also further protect the environment as the new drainage infrastructure will capture more storm water and prevent it from entering the May River. The Town will complete the enhancements to the auxiliary parking lot, drainage and sidewalks before the end of the month.

"Improving the access, safety and efficiencies of the Oyster Factory Park is a top priority for the Town because it is one of the most popular sites in Bluffton, and right now, is the only public access to the May River," Councilman Larry Toomer said. "This park is one of the most popular gathering places because it symbolizes the best Bluffton has to offer with its historic sites, beauty of the May River and amenities for countless special events."

Bryan McIlwee, the Town's director of engineering, said the Town and its contractors will finish as much of the project as possible in May.

"The Town will resume the final components of this project, such as repairs to the boat ramp, after the boating season to minimize the inconvenience to boaters and those wanting to enjoy the May River. As always, the Town appreciates everyone's support and patience as we continue to improve one of Bluffton's favorite parks."

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Please check the Town's Facebook page, "Town of Bluffton Government" for updates.

If you have any questions about this project or if you need further information, please contact the Town's Director of Engineering Bryan McIlwee at (email: bmilwee@townofbluffton.com) or (office: 843.706.7824.)