

Blake Island Public Comments

April 2025 – October 10, 2025

My name is [x]. I am a kayaker, sailor and resident of Bainbridge Island. I have a masters in resource management and currently work for a non-profit focused on education innovation. I am also a member of the Port Madison Yacht Club.

This ship may have sailed....

But if there is ever any need desire for public input or voluntary participation in Master Planning work around Blake Island, I would love to be of service.

Upfront: I will say my intention is around access. Blake is becoming an urban park as the Seattle region grows. I would love to be a thought partner on how the park responds to that growth and the importance of access to nature for all communities.

OK. If this is something of value and is timely, feel free to respond. If not, no worries.

Thanks, ¹

As editors of the Waggoner Cruising Guide (the guidebook for recreational boaters) and editors of the Waggoner bimonthly eNews newsletters, we are inquiring about the current plans and status for Blake Island Marine Park. Could you please provide information regarding the following:

Blake Island Master Plan for the Uplands

1. Will there be a public engagement meeting this spring 2025 as planned for Stage One? If so what date, time, where, or by Zoom?
2. What plans/details will be provided at this public engagement?

Blake Island Master Plan for In-Water

1. Seeking RCO funding in July, 2025 for in-water design and permitting?
2. Plan is to replace the gangway and floats in a new configuration?
3. Dredging to be done to improve the existing foot print?
4. Any public engagement meetings planned?
5. Construction to begin 2027-2028?

Contact Information

1. Who is the contact for the Upland Master Plan (name, phone, email)?
2. Who is the contact for the In-water Master Plan (name, phone, email)?

Thanks for your help. We look forward to hearing from you. ²

Hi Ms Sullivan,

I watched your Blake Island presentation today. It was very thorough, except for the plans for the marina.

Does that mean that Parks has decided to proceed with the "Option 2" from the 2022 presentation?

Thanks,

Hi Alexandra,

Thanks for the prompt reply.

The link you sent did not work, so I could not see how the selection was made.

My concern with moving ahead with the Option 2 is that by creating a number of discrete (as opposed to linear) 30 foot slips, a lot of moorage space will be wasted. By boats less than 30 ft on weekends and larger boats not being able to fit at other times.

The Option 2 moorage footage will look like a great improvement from the present configuration, but the reality will be that a lot will be unusable.

As I recall the options presented in 2022, Option 1 was "do nothing". A much better option would be to renovate the existing layout at much lesser cost than Option 2.

That option should be considered in developing the new Master Plan.

I would like to see the marina design being added to the Master Plan process.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the meeting in Ballard tomorrow evening, but I hope you are open to discussing the marina plans.

Best regards,

Thank you Alexandra, that link worked.

After reading the report, I think a modified Alternative 2 is the correct way forward.

Consideration should be given to modifying the marina layout to maximize "alongside" (as in the current layout) to maximize useable dock space use and substantially reduce construction costs.

Thank you for your engagement, best regards, ³

Please add to email list. Desire to be an active participant in this process. ⁴

I would like to suggest that more buoys be installed on the western (Manchester side) of the island for moorage. The buoys on the North side are hardly ever used in my multiple trips to the island. The north side buoys are more exposed to wind /wave action and are not in close location to the beach or camping facilities so most people avoid them. Half of these buoys could be moved to the Western side which would be a minimal cost of just moving the anchor. ⁵

We used to take ou grandchildren to Blake Island for years, but then things started to change. First the snack bar/breakfast place was pared down then vanished. Then the Indian show was sold and modernized, I assume by Argosy, then that disappeared. Then the playground equipment was removed. Now there is really nothing to keep kids occupied. I don't think the flush toilet by the west campground has worked properly in twenty years. I think basic maintenance would have kept things going. Now we haven't been back in several years. Our youngest grandchild has only been there five times and is now nine years old. I don't mind the docks in the configuration they are because this way more small boats are able to use them since big boats can't hog the docks. I would like to see more power pedestals or better locating. The pump-out needs to be restored. By the way, what exactly are the pilings near the breakwater for? I suppose pushing the breakwater out and making additional moorage there wouldn't be a bad idea. ⁶

We are users of Blake Island and have volunteered there for the past 8 years. The park is highly used by boaters and is in need of redesign to accommodate increased usage. Please consider funding this project and redesign and replacement of docks. Thank you. ⁷
While I am looking forward to seeing the up-coming meeting about the future of Blake Island, I would like to suggest the following, that can be done now. 1) Install a live cam on the marina so a boater can see what dockage is available before coming into the marina, and 2) Open up the former Native American dock for the use of boaters, instead of letting it sit un-occupied. Does the park service need more than one boar space for its use? Thank you for considering my suggestions and I look forward to seeing what the future of Blake Island will be. ⁸
Blake Island is a boaters paradise. The dockside moorage is nearly impossible to access because of it's popularity. I propose 3 changes: 1. Increase the moorage area/dock space 2. Limit a stay to one night during summer months 3. Implement a reservation system much like campgrounds. Not all boaters can pivot to a buoy or anchor. Some have handicaps that limit them to using a dock. It can be a difficult situation to get to Blake Island and then have to find another marina. Bremerton, Pt. Orchard and others are a 1 hour minimum cruise away. ⁹
Part of what makes camping on Blake so special is that it is only accessible by boat or person-powered watercraft. It is a quiet, isolated island so near to the city. I'd love to hear more about what is being imagined for the island, but hope it won't become overrun by people. The amenities that are currently available on the island are great. ¹⁰
We love Blake Island and go there quite often with our boat. I hope the marina is going to be redone to accomodate more boats. ¹¹
Sure would be nice to have more mooring balls that would accommodate bigger boats ¹²
Having served as a Park Host and Visitor of Blake Island Multiple times a year, I feel Blake Island is a Jewel of the Puget Sound. The Park is in need of desperate repair to the docks rest rooms and Building. However, care needs to be done in how the marina is expanded. Upgrading and allowing commercial use of the lodge as was done in the past, could hep in generating revenue to help with upkeep of the island, but I feel creating expansion of the marina with additional docks will present a larger danger with accidents, then already exists. I also feel it opens up the opportunity for over crowding and destruction of this pristine locations. ¹³
Blake Island is a gem. Consider reconfiguring the moorage in the harbor to accommodate more boaters. ¹⁴
Blake island is a picture perfect boating spot that my family and I have frequented in the past but due to the island being overrun with raccoons we no longer feel safe going there. Can we please get a campaign together to euthanize a large portion of the population. It is extremely unhealthy for that many raccoons to be living in such a small area. ¹⁵
We love Blake Is st. park and stay there several times annuall. 1. Replace worn out boards on the dock. Some have knot holes that are dangerous especially to those using canes and small children. 2. The rest rooms need updating - new mirrors and facets that work. Also it would be great to have hooks for coats and purses in the heads. 3. Some of the designated trails need to be cleared of brush and general overgrowth to be safely used. 4. Something needs to be done with the Native American building. Clubs might like to use it for

rendezvous or events or even tours as in the past. Maybe a scheduled small ferry service in the summer for sightseeing and campers without access to a boat.

Blake is just the greatest! ¹⁶

Over the 45 years we have visited the Blake Island Marina the best period was when there was a snack bar in operation. This is a pretty subjective observation but it seems that since electrical service was added to the docks there are more big boats using the facility which reduces the amount of space available for average size boats. Perhaps restricting boats over 45 feet to one half the marina would enable more smaller boats to use the facility.

Some of the charm of Blake Island was lost when the Tillicum Village facility was closed. ¹⁷

In addition to my family visiting Blake Island 2 or 3 time a year on our own, we also participate in the Port Orchard Yacht Club Penguin Cruise in January or February every year. This event has become a tradition, and involves 15-18 boats and 35-45 people using the park at a time when it is otherwise unused. Please maintain access and expand access for larger boats to use the marina so that we can continue this tradition.

Also, please make the ramps to the docks more pet friendly. The open grates are difficult for a dog. A smaller opening grate would be much better. ¹⁸

I keep my boat at the Port Orchard Yacht Club and enjoy going to Blake Island 5-6 times per year with friends and family, usually from out-of-town. This park is a unique state asset that is easily accessible to Puget Sound boaters for day use or overnight stays. One thing I like about the marina is that it can accommodate a range of boat sizes and types. I strongly recommend that any modifications to the marine do not limit boat length to some arbitrary number but that the marina, if it is to be modified, is designed to efficiently accommodate both sail and power boats up to, say, 55 ft, to maintain the interesting diversity of boat types and users. ¹⁹

We like the marina facilities at Blake Island. The current dock layout is very flexible and allows many boats of different sizes and styles to dock. Any new dock layout should maximize flexibility for all types and sizes of boats.

My wife and I are Marine Hosts at Blake Island and have learned the importance of flexible docking arrangements. On any successive days, the boat population, by type or size, changes drastically. Flexibility is the key to allowing many to enjoy the park.

Many mooring balls at the western end of the island are missing. That is the best and most popular area to moor boats. Many more mooring balls should be added at that location. ²⁰

1. Add dingy docks to the North and East side of the island to facilitate access to the island when the marina is full.
2. Consider stern tie options to allow for more compact moorage on the East side of the island. Bow and stern mooring balls.
 - include a 'Go Slow' zone across this area to reduce wakes.
3. Limited number of reservations to allow the planning of events on the island.

4. Improve the trail guidance signage on the trails.

5. Additional campsites upland to avoid the beach traffic.²¹

We often visit the Blake Island marina during the off season, in our 45' boat. There is usually ample moorage space. I wouldn't want moorage space for our large boat limited since we don't limit others' use (since few are there Oct to June).²²

I am a Marina Host in the summer; it is exciting to hear that improvements are being planned for Blake Island. Over the last few years, the facilities have been getting run down which has been unfortunate. The facility is very busy during the summer and could use expansion keeping room for larger vessels which seem to be the most popular for over-night. It would be nice to have a section available to daytime use, especially for the smaller boats. Small boats don't typically stay over-night unless camping and usually stay for under 4 hours. Also, there should be a ROCK marker at the entrance, many smaller unexperienced boaters see the last two Markers and come through the shallows where the rocks are. As for the campers, there are typically a bunch of phones plugged into the bathroom outlet. I'd suggest some sort of charging station for their devices.²³

It is very unfair to limit boats to 40'™. I am 48'™ and love this marina. It has never been a problem staying before. Boaters are a friendly group.²⁴

Blake Island has been a favorite place for over 25 years. We visit year round on our trawler. During the winter, anchoring is less desirable so being able to be in the marina allows us the opportunity to appreciate all the island has to offer. With the proposed plan, a boat like ours (50'™) would not ever be able to go there again. Clubs would not have rendezvous'™ there. The fall, winter and spring months will find the docks nearly empty since it'™s often larger boats during those times. Many of us have been wondering why this change is being proposed as is? Why discriminate against the boaters that have supported this island for many years? Why do you only want smaller boats? I'™m having a hard time figuring out why you would want to decrease your revenue, which is what would happen if you remove boats like ours from being there. Please reconsider this proposal.²⁵

Who is the Master Mind of messing with a functioning system ? Always want to change stuff to get a that a boy! Good for you your a human and can'™t leave shit alone²⁶

Please do not limit marina boat size to 40 ft²⁷

Please do t eliminate larger slips from the Blake Island Marina. Boats over 50 feet still need access. Thank you.²⁸

Hello. I've been visiting Blake Island for the last 60+ years. The addition of the current marina was well thought out given the flexibility of "side-ties". This layout leaves total flexibility for boats of varying sizes. The vessel size of visitors using the marina vary constantly but I would guess, based on my 100+ visits in the last 20 years, that the average sized boat runs in excess of 35 feet in the cooler months and likely is the more typical sized boat to stay overnight year-round.

There is limited maneuvering room when the wind kicks up, making the side-tie a more practical docking alternative.

And last but not least, you have a decent, working marina at this point, requiring annual maintenance but in no way would cost the State anything near reconfiguring the docks.

If you emphasize slips versus side-ties, and if they are oriented to smaller sized boats, I'm guessing you will lose a lot of revenue with the larger boats choosing to no longer visit this beautiful park. I will be one

of them. Thanks.²⁹
The proposed change to the marina will mean many boater will not be able to visit the island.³⁰
I see no benefit to increasing the moorage slips for smaller vessels, reducing or eliminating larger slips. Smaller vessels are able to use the moorage as it currently is but if large vessel moorage is removed, those boat owners will be excluded. (I do not own a larger vessel which would be affected)³¹
Blake Island is one of the few State Parks assessable only by boat and human powered craft. As an avid sea kayaker, Blake Island is a wonderful retreat I paddle to often, easily accessible from the city, a place to camp and connect with nature. Since the closure of Tillicum Village, not having the island over run with people has been a blissful place to escape city life, preserving the ecology and wildlife that makes Blake Island a gem.³²
My hope is that Blake Island can continue to be utilized for marine camping and hiking, and be adequately staffed and maintained for year round use.³³
I would prefer a community meeting in the South Kitsap area of Manchester or Southworth³⁴
The trails have always been mostly ok. But having campsites in all 3 corners of the island used to be nice, before they shut them down due to pit toilets not working and lack of funding. Long, long ago, in a galaxy..there used to be a small area on the south side of the island, which had 3 sites on a fairly narrow shelf up above the water. Besides the pit toilet malfunctioning, a storm surge ate away part of the bank, and the park shut down the area. I don't know if you can fix it, but if you can, it would be nice--It is much closer to Harper for paddling than either of the other 2 sites, and feels much less crowded.³⁵
Please do not limit the marina to 40' and below Moorage. Doing so would decrease the parks revenue as well as eliminate (unjustly) the boating community's access.³⁶
Thanks
I believe that the Blake Island docks should be rebuilt with regular cleats and not restrictive to boats over 40 feet, a pump out would be a great addition³⁷
I am an avid kayak camper. Blake Island is a fairly easy paddle from my home. I urge the state to retain and provide upkeep for kayak camping sites at the park. I strongly encourage opportunities for kayak camping within shaded and more protected sites, not only the beach sites that are completely exposed to the weather, as my group (3-4 people) does paddle camps in summer AND the shoulder seasons when rain and wind is possible.³⁸
I just finished watching the presentation about the Blake Island project. It was well presented and thorough, but with one glaring exception: No discussion of the alternatives for the Marina facilities. It seems the planning staff has settled on their previous "Alternative 2" plan. Many regular marine users of the current facility believe that the "Alternative 2" plan is not a good way forward. It is expensive (~\$30 mil per the presentation) and would not be an efficient use of space. Construction a number of 30 ft slips would be very wasteful of dock space. Few visiting boats would be able to make efficient use of 30 ft slips. Many visiting boats, particularly during weekends and holidays, are smaller than 30 ft, wasting the rest of the slip space. Most regular overnight users boats are larger than 30 feet and could not use 30 ft slips. The existing marina design, with its two open "U" design, maximizes the available dock space for a variety of boat sizes, thus making for flexible use by both small and larger boats.

The presentation states that the current marina facility is in poor condition. I think that misrepresents its actual condition (I am a frequent visitor, with my last visit last week).

The visitor marina pilings are NOT creosote, but metal. The creosote pilings are in the old Argosy dock.

Both access ramps to the visitor docks are metal and in good condition. The docks themselves have good floats and would only need surface reconditioning or replacement to extend their life for many years. And such renovation would be a small fraction of the estimated cost of the "Alternative 2" plan. And it would be much more flexible for the actual users.

I recommend that in the Blake Island Master Plan development a renovation of the existing marina, with the same footprint and plan, be considered. It would be much more cost effective, make better use of the facility and be much more likely to get funded.³⁹

Considering the primary fact that this land we all enjoy, has been and currently is situated on Native American Indian land, and the tribes in this area not only continue to exist, but to thrive -

More needs to be done than simply offering an 'opportunity' for tribes to be 'involved'.

On the contrary, it is beyond imperative that any village or cultural attraction not only be sanctioned by local native tribes, but operated by them as well. If this goal cannot be achieved, the culturally focused entertainment needs to be altered to not be included at all.

However, as I do believe that Blake Island should be fully accessible by the public, and not only those with private watercraft, and I further support the cultural inclusion of the Native history and current presence, it is my strong suggestion that the land Tillicum village currently sits on, is not merely contracted to a native tribe as an outside "vendor" but the current Tillicum village as well as a portion of the forested land immediately surrounding the village, be either gifted to a tribe willing to commit to land improvement with the ability to convert into trust land status and become a tribally owned off-reservation holding, or sold to such tribe with the ability to convert into trust land.

This would enable the tribe to serve the public culturally, provide entertainment and shows as the public has already become accustomed to in the village, institute a tribally operated ferry service, as well as the ability to further develop the land including potential guest accommodations as well as temporary living quarters for performers and workers under the oversight of tribal governments, rather than state regulations.

As a full member of the Puyallup tribe, our cultural waters in which we currently enjoy fishing rights per the federal Boldt decision of 1974, are in area 26D, or what Washington state designates as fishing area 10 up to the top of Vashon Island. This puts Blake island right at our front doorstep, and without a doubt, it should be the Puyallup Tribe operating with sovereign control over the village and some surrounding wooded land, and the marina, camping areas, and majority of the park trails remaining state park jurisdiction.

simply offering the tribes a token input on planning, or potential bid as a 'vendor' in competition with everyone else is insulting to say the least. If indeed we stand on Native land, then the Puyallup tribe should not merely be invited to the table, but ought to have a fully reserved seat. anything less than that is akin to the 1626 deal of \$24 worth of trade beads in exchange for Manhattan island. Gee, thanks for heap big opportunity.

Here in 2025, we know more. We can do better. The Puyallup Tribe Of Indians has a full and active cultural department. We put on Pow Wows. We will be fully visible, front and center before every World Cup game next year. We have authentic regalia, traditional dancers and drummers, a clear and active presence on the Salish Sea. There is NO BETTER option for who should be the organization operating Tillicum village, and no need to look any farther than the Puyallup Tribal Nation ⁴⁰

Please make as much docking space as possible for recreational boats in the Blake Island Marina. There is a huge demand. It's hard to find room during summer so some people avoid going there. More docks are needed. Thank you.

Also it would be nice if the Argosy tourist boat came back so that people that don't own a boat could have a beautiful day on the water and on Blake Island. ⁴¹

As a boater who has visited Blake Is often over the past 30 years, I was interested in the the planning several years ago around reconfiguring the marina. While I agree improvements to the docks are needed, the Option 2 plan that was selected was in my view deeply flawed. The notion of finger slips and the way it was configured would drastically alter the way it's actually used. We use the park year round and my experience, as well as simple observation of the island webcam shows the most boats visiting (especially Sept to May) are in the 40' range. As I view the plan 2, there 38 slips for 30' boats and 5 for 40', the beauty of the existing docks is the linear arrangement is very flexible and most boaters cooperate to maximise space. Most current users would be unable to access docks much of the year. PLEASE involve boaters (RBAW) in any revised plan. ⁴²

I'm a volunteer for Washington Water Trails, and regularly visit Blake Island's WWTa designated campsite, by kayak, mostly as a day tripper these days. Over the years, I've done volunteer work on Blake. WWTa works with Parks to clean up the camp sites, and I helped plant eelgrass several years ago.

My hope is that Blake Island's development plan doesn't lead to more erosion of public access to what's left of our inaccessible shoreline. I would prefer the island to remain rustic, but if buildings must be erected, how about using a business model similar to that of the Dungeness Lighthouse? Volunteers from all over the country come to Dungeness as docents and volunteers, and I believe the chance of spending a week on Blake Island in the Pacific Northwest would appeal to a lot of people around the country.

I'm not in favor of cabins, as I believe the development of cabins will only benefit those with substantial financial means. It's difficult and expensive to reserve a cabin up at Bayview State Park, can you imagine how expensive and hard it would be to get one on Blake!

Dredging the harbor for bigger boats is one thing, but it's the uninformed occupants on our fragile island is what worries me the most.

Also, the start of the video compared Deception Pass State Park with Blake... bit of a stretch don't you think? I'm sure I don't have to list the reasons why this is like an apples and oranges comparison.

And please, no more casino's ⁴³

Install new, modern docks to replace the old wood docks; post public notices regarding raccoons that frequently visit the docks and boats- once, I stayed overnight on my boat and the next-door boat was "broken into" by raccoons and they stole the boat owner's dog medication; restore the sewage pump-out station; install a marina pay station that actually works- I was unable to pay via credit card a while back;

add additional breakwater to prevent ferry waves coming from the north from "waking out" the marina; find a viable restaurant business/contractor to re-open the salmon bakes at Tillicum Village ⁴⁴

Please consider adding more slips. They don't have to be electrified. In fact, might be better if not. I ⁴⁵

In the public meeting, one commenter stated that ADA compliance for dock ramps/paths was unnecessary. I want to strongly disagree, and fully support that ADA compliance ramps and pathways will benefit ALL park visitors. First : the ramps: While there may not be a ton of visitors with "wheelchairs" visiting Blake, as a volunteer at Blake I can attest that there are many visitors who have struggles walking up the current ramps, from toddlers to elders. Persons with assistance of canes and walking sticks are frequent . There are lots of wheeled devices used to move large amounts of stuff from the marina to the campground and vice versa- the park supplies yard carts and wheelbarrows and many groups bring their own wagons. People struggle with hauling them up/down, spillings item over, losing control of them, etc. An ADA compliant slope, again, will benefit all.

Second - the paths. Again, a big boon to everybody if they are ADA compliant surfaces - for the same reasons as the ramps, above. One additional suggestion is that the path(s) from the Marina to the restrooms be extended to the entrance to the campground. As people wheel their camping things, they are frequently four-wheeling across the grass and the small ditches. Having a decent path all the way to the campground entrance will really help their equipment wheeling (plus making it easier for campers perhaps to walk at night from the campground to the restrooms.). ⁴⁶

Please consider as part of the upgrades to creating some curated nesting sites for the Swallows that return every year to nest/raise young. There are at least two different Swallow varieties. Right now, they generally nest inside the upper and lower picnic shelters in the rafters. Like all Swallows they tend to make a mess on the floor below the nests and there have been instances where visitors took it on themselves to knock down the nests, which is kind of heartbreaking if you love the visiting Swallows and love to see their acrobatics. This year the staff put up reminder signs around the shelters that the nests were protected which was a good thing. If there is a way that there could be some sort of intentional Sparrow nesting "facility" that would attract them there nearby the shelters or could be somehow designed into the new restroom building. Or perhaps there could be modifications to the picnic shelters so that the Swallows could nest there in peace without being bothered by picnickers..... Bring on the state ornithologists for a consultation..... Thank you. ⁴⁷

If there is a reformat of the open field/ picnic tables uphill of the marina, suggesting that there be a number open air but low-roofed shelters over a few of the picnic tables - perhaps the picnic tables that are directly next to the marina (parallelling the walkway.). People often stage their gear there as they go in or out of the campground, and having a semi dry place for when its misty or rainy would be nice. Also in the heat of the summer, a bit of shade is always welcome as people go back and forth across the marina, or use the BBQ grills. Again, no need for "sides", just a roof atop. ⁴⁸

Don't bother with re-activating the Pumpout facility. Blake Island is small and fragile, and there is no need for people to bring their huge tanks of sewage from elsewhere and dump

it at Blake. There are pumpouts at most places where Blake visitors come FROM, and they are close by [unlike perhaps in the San Juans where pumpouts may be more rare and farther away, and people perhaps are on longer trips....]. In addition there is the 3x per week [in the summer] FREE mobile pumpout from Kitsap County, visiting Blake, which is a wonderful service. The Blake sewage system's life perhaps can be extended if the contents of tons of big yachts are not discharged into it- it could double any given day's camping/boater showers and flushes from the bathhouse.. As a reminder the boat holding tanks are often full of god knows what chemical additives [everybody doesn't use the environmental stuff, and even that is pretty nasty...]. Now those chemicals (not present in Blake's system now) would be discharged and perhaps live forever on the island. Unlike many other moorage locations- if you don't plan ahead and your poo tank is full, you have the on-island restrooms/bathhouse to use. So Blake gives everyone a backup plan. ⁴⁹

As part of the Blake Island improvements, please address the Automated Pay Machine. It has a number of elements that always confuse boaters, as it appears to have originally be designed for drive-in parks. One thing in particular is that the machines add to the printout receipt the "end time" of the payment you made, which conflicts with the actual end time (leaving time) for EVERYBODY which is 1pm on the last day you paid for. Please cause these machines to be re-programmed for the Marine state parks unique needs and regulations, as this is constantly questioned to the staff and volunteers. As a note, this improvement could be done BEFORE the big master plan improvements - but definatly, with the marina reconfiguration and reservations etc, please note a line item in the planning that the Pay Machines need to accurately reflect whatever the new reservation/drop in fees are, and all regulations about when you are supposed to leave. Likewise for the campground -I'm not familiar if those fees/times are always accurate, so please make sure all of that is dialled in specific to Blake. ⁵⁰

Currently there is no graphic published of the Marina on the Blake Island web site, where a prospective boater/visitor could study up on the shape of the marina, the entrance, the depths, where the rocks are, where they are (and are not) supposed to moor, etc. When the Marina is reconfigured, please publish a graphic on the site [like you currently have a layout of the Campground on the reservation site.]. In fact why wait ! It would be helpful now, and would increase safety within the current marina space if boaters there for the first time have some reference material to study up on. As volunteers we are often asked if such a diagram or reference material exists. ⁵¹

I feel like parks needs to focus on what it means to be a state park. Upgrading the infrastructure including the marina is already a huge undertaking without trying to install a new concessionaire. The boaters need upgraded facilities and a better meeting space than the shelters which the presentation mentions. Protecting the resources and wildlife for future generations should be key and not a tourist destination which was costly and less popular even before covid. A smaller interpretive footprint and park visitor center would be beneficial to visitors focusing on the history of Blake Island and still allow them time to enjoy the park which past tour visitors didn't really get the opportunity to do. Removing the long house should be part of the plan as it is too costly to renovate.

Increase interpretive opportunities which could be enhanced by a interpretive assistant and enhanced by volunteers. ⁵²

Hi Alexandra,

I want to pass on some thoughts and concerns that I have about the plans that I have for the PARKS Alternative 2 – Reconstruction at Blake Island.

On any given day that I have been at Blake Island or viewed it on the webcam the length of boats coming to Blake Island Marina for moorage varies greatly in size. What I have seen is that the most common size appears to be between 30 and 40-foot boats. It is uncommon to see boats shorter than 28-foot stay overnight at the marina. The Parks Alternative 2 proposal has only nine spaces for 40-foot boats (available for more than 30-foot boats but 40-foot or less), while having 20 for 30-foot or less boats. It also has ten spaces for 60-foot boats. While it appears that larger boats have been increasing in number as overnight users, from what I have seen, boats for this length slips are not very common.

The Alternative 2 plan will lessen the availability of spaces for the largest number of boats coming to Blake Island, especially if the 60-foot slips are only reserved for larger sized boats or if boats smaller than the longer slips are required to pay for the increased dock footage if there is no slip available for them on a shorter dock. Further, under this plan, the ten slips of 60 feet, if used by this sized boat, will have a difficult time maneuvering in and out of the slip without the possibility of hitting a boat docked in slips along the outer rock slope/sea wall. The proposed turning space is 90 feet is only one and one-half the length of the maneuvering boat. This certainly has potential for the maneuvering boat hitting a boat in a slip along the rock slope unless it has dual motors and bow and stern thrusters.

If a reservation system is put in place, this will also reduce the availability of space over the current first-come, first-served system. Under a reservation system, anyone who reserves a space and then cannot come or chooses to not do so will tie up dock space, which on a first-come, first-served system would be available to others coming to Blake Island to use. Also, if the boat with a reservation leaves earlier than the reservation is scheduled for, the slip will be tied up and not available for other boats. The Parks Department may receive payment for the slip, but a Blake Island Marina patron will not have a slip in which to stay whereas with the first-come, first served system this would not happen.

I believe that the best solution is to build the steeper rock walls as proposed, but instead of building the perpendicular slips on the sea wall/rock slope, only build a linear dock there, leaving more space and reducing the potential of maneuvering boats from running into the boats docked along the perpendicular dock. Rebuild or repair the existing dock, possibly increasing the length of the existing perpendicular docks. Leave the use system

on a first-come, first-served basis and do not use a reservation system which would likely reduce the availability of slips, causing fewer boats to be accommodated.

I appreciate all the work that the Parks Department does for parks across the state and especially at Blake Island and these ideas are submitted in the spirit of getting the best situation for serving the most people from around the state who use this wonderful resource.

Sincerely, ⁵³

I would love to see Tillicum Village or something similar restored as a cultural experience for people. Not only was it a fun place to go for locals and out of state visitors alike, it was a rich and unique way to see and appreciate Seattle's first people and the indigenous cultures of the Puget Sound. Partnering with the tribes to create something that honors their heritage and teaches people about those who were here first and who are still here as caretakers of their land and culture would be a wonderful use of the land and space. ⁵⁴

Blake Island State Park is one of the best places for boaters. My priority would be to maintain current services and amenities for recreational boaters. Well maintained docks with power and restroom/shower facilities ashore. The concession on the island is low priority for me.

A lot of families come to Blake Island to enjoy the camping. Do not make changes that minimize access or availability.

For boaters I like the "first come first available" rule. Please, no reservations for boaters.

⁵⁵

Blake Island is a gem! We visit regularly by sailboat, and have hiked most of her trails. I would love to see more mooring balls restored to the West side of the island, near the campsites. There used to be 5, and I believe they are down to 2. The drop off is sudden and anchoring can be tricky, so the mooring balls are really helpful. The inland trails are breathtaking, especially the Red Trail. I hope that remains untouched! Just maybe maintained. It is peaceful and this past weekend we marveled at the lush grass carpet as we walked. The Jeep Road Trails are fine - and mainly just the quickest way to check out the totem poles and art at Tillicum Village. In some ways it seems there are two sides of the island - the Seattle side, for picnickers, people who want to stay on the dock - and then the more "roughing it" West side with campsites, etc. I think it would be great to have a snack shack/beer/concession stand or Tillicum village open again, while keeping the "world away" part of the trails and other quieter, less developed parts of the island. Any services for boaters would be nice, but not necessary as most cruisers are used to simple, service-free marine parks and civilization is so close by. It would be great if Tillicum Village had Native control/direction. While I'm at it - a nature play space would be great for kids - I saw some kids scrambling up a boulder over and over again last time. Though the sand beach actually does a great job. Thanks for reading! ⁵⁶

I'd vote to keep it the same. And turn the center where telecom village used to be into an interpretive center. Or make it a part of the park. ⁵⁷

Was involved with Hewitts Tillicum Village from the start (lived worked there most of the 70s) along family members even earlier & longer Have many ideas know of the logistics and finances (will need public help) the operation needs contact by phone text or email is best

Thanks ⁵⁸