

New Solley Cove launch to open this summer



Public commenting works! Anne Arundel County's new public boat ramp at Solley Cove Park opens in early summer. It's the third county public boat ramp to open since 2015 when there were none!

By Lisa Arrasmith

Launching our kayaks from [Solley Cove Park](#) will be a lot more posh when Anne Arundel County opens the newest public county boat ramp there early this summer.

For decades many of us used a dirt ramp to launch our kayaks from the park onto Curtis Creek. The boat ramp project includes a spiffy kayak sand beach, a big parking lot and “dual” portapotties.

The county bought the 75-acre Solley Cove Park in Glen Burnie, MD in 1998. The new public boat ramp is the first investment in the park. The Solley Cove ramp will be the county's third public boat ramp, up from zero in 2015.

Solley Cove Park is my hurricane hole when winds are howling on the Bay. I can head upstream to sheltered Marley, Furnace and Back Creeks for miles of paddling out of the wind. On quieter days I head out Curtis Creek past the Coast Guard Yard to Curtis Bay and the Patapsco.

Solley Cove is also the favorite launch for full moon kayaking eight months of the year. Full moons attract dozens of kayakers who launch for a moonlit paddle to dinner at Rams Head Dockside, the old Reckless Ric's, on Furnace Creek. Night fishing and crabbing are popular. Kayak anglers go out before dawn. Crabbers and anglers launch jon boats and dinghies for night fishing and crabbing.

The Solley Cove boat ramp shows the benefit of kayakers advocating for public boat ramps. There are funding sources, such as the state Waterway Improvement Fund (WIF), for boat ramps. The WIF comes from the 5% excise tax on big boats. Although kayak launches don't qualify for WIF funding, a WIF funded public boat ramp usually comes with a kayak launch off to one side. A lot of WIF money went into the Solley Cove boat ramp. The end result at Solley Cove is a paved ramp on one side for trailered boats and a lovely beach for kayaks on the other side. I'm looking forward to launching there this summer.