

# Village Creek CMPA Application March 2022

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Project Description:

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## Background and Description

GA DNR

The existing boat ramp site serves as the only public boating access facility on St. Simons Island. This facility needs to be updated to provide safe access for users. This project is a partnership between Glynn County, Georgia and Coastal Resources Division of Georgia's Department of Natural Resources.

Existing site conditions offer an aged, narrow boat ramp for launching trailered boats and non-motorized watercraft. The existing ramp is made of Submar mats, cobblestone-like cabled concrete blocks that are approximately 23 feet wide and 60 feet long, or 1,380 square feet. There is not an existing boating service dock, and this coupled with the uneven boat ramp foundation makes launching and loading vessels difficult. Users are frequently forced to walk through the adjacent marsh and up the ramp itself. The sides of the boat ramp are reinforced with approximately 230 square feet of riprap on its west, and approximately 235 square feet on its east, totaling approximately 465 square feet. The entire ramp is within CMPA jurisdiction, and it is not uncommon for the site to be unable to accommodate watercraft due to a lack of water at low tide.

The proposed project will update the boat ramp by installing an approximately 23 ft. wide by 70 ft. long (approximately 1,610 square feet) concrete ramp with adjacent bottom-out floating dock that will sit on the boat ramp at low tide; the approach for the floating dock will be concrete poured on-site, attached directly to the asphalt upland at the head of the ramp. The boat ramp will be 14 ft. wide, including two 6-inch-wide curbs on either side. On the west side of the ramp, and on top of the 23ft. wide ramp foundation, the project includes a hinged, bottom-out floating dock that will be 9 ft. wide and allow access for loading and unloading vessels without sitting on the mud at low tide. The proposed infrastructure will not extend into the waterway past MLW. The floating dock will be approximately 45 ft. long and will hinge from a header poured in the northwest corner at the top of the ramp. The float will be anchored with pilings. The 23ft. wide foundation is intended to provide space for the boat ramp and boating service dock while protecting wetlands by placing all infrastructure within the footprint of the new installation. The existing ramp grade will be covered with #4 and #57 stone, approximately 24 cubic feet, to achieve the needed slope to pour the proposed ramp. Three 12-inch pilings will anchor the hinged floating dock on its west side, and one additional 12-inch piling will be placed at the end of the ramp, on the east side, as an indicator to users of the ramp's end. Work for this project will take place exclusively from the upland, as access from the water is not possible for larger vessels.

Existing impacts include 1,380 square feet for the ramp, and 465 square feet for the supporting riprap, totaling approximately 1,845 square feet.

Proposed impacts include 1,610 square feet for the boat ramp, and 1,045 square feet for the supporting riprap, totaling approximately 2,655 square feet. Approximately 800 square feet of vegetated salt marsh will be removed during grading around project perimeter.

## Alternative Analysis and Justification

The proposed modifications to Village Creek Boat Ramp are necessary as it is the only public access facility on St. Simons Island; there is not alternative for this rehabilitation. The improvements are

necessary to increase safety and accessibility at the site. Alternative designs are unable to be applied at this location given its size and tides. The bottom-out floating dock will provide access to vessels using the ramp without having to walk through vegetated marsh as is currently the case for users.

#### Erosion and Sedimentation Statement

The proposed project will be compliant with all erosion and sedimentation control responsibilities.

#### Public Interest and Project Necessity Statement

1. The project design is such that no harmful obstructions or alterations to the natural flow of navigable water will occur within the project area.
2. The project design will not introduce harmful or increased erosion, shoaling, or stagnation.
3. The project design will not unreasonably interfere with the conservation of fish, shrimp, oysters, crabs, clams, and other marine life, wildlife, and other resources, including but not limited to water and oxygen supply.

#### Marshland Component

This project is exclusively for improving the Village Creek Boat Ramp that exists entirely in marshland CMPA jurisdiction.

#### Upland Component

Project proposal includes upland components, but all activities and improvements will exist within the 50-foot buffer zone. This buffer currently includes a couple of palm trees and fish cleaning station that will remain undisturbed, along with an area of impervious parking lot that will be elevated. The project will re-grade approximately 1,500 square feet of upland parking lot immediately adjacent to the top of the ramp to prevent pooling of water after ramp renovations. These are the only permanent, impervious improvements and will exist entirely within the 50' marshlands buffer. Other temporary impacts will include the ingress and egress of heavy equipment for the project i.e. crane, tactor/backhoe, concrete trucks, and staging area for materials which will be located directly upland from the ramp improvements at the end of South Harrington Road. Stormwater will continue to sheet-flow from the upland as it does with existing site conditions.