

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PROJECT BASED BUDGET FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE SILVER LAKE BOAT LAUNCH AT SILVER LAKE PARK**

**WHEREAS**, the County has identified a need for the renovation of the boat launch at Silver Lake Park, given that the ramp is in such condition that it must be repaired or closed,

**WHEREAS**, park closure would negatively impact the recreation of approximately 320,000 annual visitors; and,

**WHEREAS**, initial costs would include the design and engineering of solutions to address ramp effective length and boarding float deficiencies and bid document development; and,

**WHEREAS**, additional funding is anticipated for the construction phase of the project; and,

**WHEREAS**, costs may be initially funded by a transfer from the REET II fund; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 6.80 of the Whatcom County Home Rule Charter allows for project-based capital budget appropriation ordinances that lapse when the project has been completed or abandoned or when no expenditure or encumbrance has been made for three (3) years.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that a new fund is hereby established effective immediately, titled Silver Lake Boat Launch Renovation Fund. This fund shall be used to account for the revenues and expenditures of the improvements described above.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that the Silver Lake Boat Launch Renovation Fund is approved with an initial project budget of \$97,750 as described in Exhibit A.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kaylee Galloway, Chair of the Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

( ) Approved      ( ) Denied

Approved by email/G Roche/A Tan  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Exhibit A

## Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

### Parks & Recreation

Suppl ID # 4904 Fund Cost Center Originator: Rod Lamb

Expenditure Type: One-Time Year 1 2025 Add'l FTE  Add'l Space  Priority 1

Name of Request: Silver Lake Boat Launch Renovation - Comp to 4909

X  2/28/2025  
Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission) Date

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	6190	Direct billing rate	\$12,500
	6630	Professional services	\$85,250
	8397.C.32402401	Transfers in	(\$97,750)
	<b>Request Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>

#### 1a. Description of request:

This request seeks funding to make needed capital repairs to the boat launch at Silver Lake Park. Approximately 320,000 visitors annually recreate at Silver Lake Park, many of which make use of the popular small boat launching facility. This is especially true during opening weekend in April of each year. It has been decades since the last major improvement was made to the facility, and it now exhibiting serious deficiencies that must be repaired. Repairs include replacement of the concrete launch ramp and boarding float, as well as mandated ADA accessibility accommodations.

#### 1b. Primary customers:

Residents and visitors to Whatcom County are the primary customers of this project.

#### 2. Problem to be solved:

The condition of the boat launch at Silver Lake Park is poor. The concrete ramp that accommodates the launching of boats from a trailer is constructed of precast concrete planks that are tied to each other with a steel hook and loop mechanism. Several of the most waterward planks have delaminated, causing the panels to separate from ramp assembly. This significantly shortens the effective length of the ramp and reduces the service level of the launch especially for mid to larger sized vessel.

The lake level has also changed over the last two decades which causes a section of the boarding float to become submerged and therefore inaccessible to boaters. This project will identify a target float elevation that will remain accessible during annual fluctuations of the lake level.

#### 3a. Options / Advantages:

The department has pushed this project due to other competing interests, but the facility is now at a state that the ramp must be repaired, or the facility needs to be closed to public use. Closing this facility would negatively impact the recreating public. The park launch is one of only two public ramps available on Silver Lake. The second is operated by WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife and is located at the northernmost point of Silver Lake two-miles from Silver Lake Park. Although, this would provide boating access for visitors to Silver Lake Park, there would be added inconvenience to park customers because of the travel distance and they would be required to display a Discovery Pass to lawfully use the facility.

#### 3b. Cost savings:

Addressing the needed repairs now rather than in the future will likely reduce future repair costs because the nature of the ramp failure is likely to get worse. Repair costs are expected to increase over time due to escalating construction costs.

#### 4a. Outcomes:

The outcome of this effort will be final engineering and bid documents that describe the needed repairs to

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**Fund**

**Cost Center**

**Originator:** Rod Lamb

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the launch that will be used for public bidding purposes. Due to the lengthy timeline expected for permit approval, this request provides funding for design, engineering, and bid document development. A separate budget will be requested to fund construction at a later date.

**4b. Measures:**

The project will have been designed, procured permit authority, and bid documents including and engineer's estimate have been developed for the proposed repairs.

**5a. Other Departments/Agencies:**

Yes, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife and Whatcom County Planning & Development Services will be engaged to obtain permit approval.

**5b. Name the person in charge of implementation and what they are responsible for:**

Rod Lamb, Design & Development Manager will be responsible for project and contract administration for the boat launch renovation project at Silver Lake Park.

**6. Funding Source:**

REET II