



Seaport Landing - Community Benefits

- Reconnect our community with its waterfront by creating a positive user-friendly facility that will instill a sense of community pride to the citizens of Aberdeen, and South Aberdeen in particular
- Establish a permanent home on the Aberdeen waterfront for a Historical Seaport Development, a homeport for our tall ships and their programs
- Create a site where Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority it can develop a maritime heritage center similar to what was envisioned in the original charter of GHSA
- Return GHSA and its vessel-based programs for local schools (and residents) to the Aberdeen waterfront.
- Renovate and develop of the south side boat launch and adjacent areas as outlined in the *City of Aberdeen Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plans 1990-2004*
- Create new recreational opportunities within easy walking distance from neighborhoods (including public fishing, boating, kayaking, picnicking, etc.)
- Historical redevelopment on the south shore of the Chehalis River that will compliment redevelopment efforts on the north shore and along F Street
- Create a substantial public transient moorage facility (500 tons + capacity) providing an opportunity for visiting tall ships, large yachts, heritage vessels or small cruise vessels to tie up in the heart of Aberdeen.
- Upgrade and improve a deteriorated section of the Aberdeen waterfront, help the city create a sense of momentum for waterfront revitalization efforts
- Phased development of a destination tourist attraction that will include waterfront activities and exhibits to help our community and our visitors reconnect with the rich maritime heritage of Grays Harbor

We have an abundance of degraded industrial waterfront properties. We intend for Seaport Landing to serve as a shining example of how we can celebrate our heritage as we build for the future. We will incorporate best practices and innovative approaches to create a first class waterfront facility that will serve the needs of our community, and draw visitors to our community.

- ADA Accessible waterfront facility
- Boat launch (two lanes with floats)
- Canoe/kayak launch (separate)
- Small vessel moorage
- Large vessel moorage
- Public restrooms, showers and laundry
- Fish cleaning station
- Boat and trailer wash-down area
- Interpretive elements integrated throughout the site design

It is time for this project.

The *City of Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan* has listed development and improvement at the south side boat launch as needed since 1990, yet nothing has been done. There is currently no "maintained" public waterfront for South Aberdeen.

Seaport Landing will be the only public waterfront facility in South Aberdeen and the only designated public canoe and kayak launch in Aberdeen, Cosmopolis and Hoquiam. This site would serve a large local population, as well as the South Aberdeen neighborhoods, and visitors to our community.

Describe the size, topography, location natural amenities, shoreline, wetlands, etc., of site.

This 2.3 acre site is a degraded industrial waterfront site on the Chehalis River, adjacent to Alder Creek between the Chehalis River Bridge and the Weyerhaeuser Sawmill. This is currently a very low quality shoreline area. Failing wooden bulkheads, deteriorating industrial infrastructure and debris make this site too hazardous for public access at this time. Converting this deteriorated industrial waterfront into a public access waterfront will result in a major improvement in ecological function.

Centrally located between Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge and the Chehalis Basin Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve, this site is ideally suited for a public waterfront / canoe and kayak launch. There are more than 36 miles of navigable waterways within a 6.5 mile radius of this site. The canoe and kayak launch will be adjacent, but separated from the boat launch and the large vessel moorage. By clustering these uses, the support infrastructure and related interpretive opportunities will effect a much broader population at less expense than if the uses were separated.

Initially, (as part of this first phase) the site will provide direct public access to a restored “natural” cobble beach and a launching site for human powered vessels. Picnic tables, trash receptacles and limited interpretive signage will be a part of this first phase. Eventually, as the adjacent boat launch is upgraded, the site will also include public restrooms, showers, boat wash-down area, fish cleaning station, covered picnic area, and expanded interpretive opportunities.

Phase I Project Goals:

- Restore a degraded industrial waterfront property for public use.
- Create a user friendly public waterfront that will enhance and be enhanced by future development of the public boat launch, pier and dock and other amenities.
- These goals will accomplished by the following:
 - Remove degraded industrial infrastructure and related debris, including creosoted pilings and a sunken vessel, from the Chehalis River.
 - Replace a dangerous decaying wooden bulkhead with a steel sheet pile wall, backfill flush with pit run river rock 7:1 slope wave attenuation slope landscaped in native vegetation, root wads, etc.
 - Create a twelve-foot wide, crushed rock canoe and kayak “beach”.
 - Fence off boatyard area and any potentially dangerous areas.

We will provide the citizens of South Aberdeen and others with their first public waterfront in decades.

This 2.3 acre site will directly connect to the City of Aberdeen trail system as has been outlined in the past two City of Aberdeen Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plans.

In addition to the City of Aberdeen’s efforts related to the development of their *Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan*, the Historical Seaport published a survey and received more than 250 responses to that survey. The Historical Seaport also produced the **Seaport Landing Master Planning Workbook**, a 75-page planning tool that was sent out to 110 identified stakeholders including local businesses, tribal fisheries and cultural committees, regulatory agencies, local educators, water-related clubs and environmental groups, soliciting their input. After receiving their input the Historical Seaport hosted a community Design Charrette over a two-month period. The Seaport Landing design was the result of that process.

About GHSA – *The Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) public development authority based in Aberdeen, Wash. that owns and operates the tall ships **Hawaiian Chieftain** and **Lady Washington**, the Official Ship of the State of Washington. GHSA’s mission is to provide educational, vocational, recreational and ambassadorial activities and experiences that promote and preserve the maritime history of Grays Harbor, the Pacific Northwest, and our nation while serving the needs of the community.*