

What's Happening with the Levee Park Dock project?

Thank you for the question. This project is one of the final segments of Red Wing's overall River Town Renaissance project, a multi-year project we started planning for 25 years ago. The first construction phase happened in 2015, when we utilized local, state, and federal funds to rebuild Levee Road and add the scenic Riverfront Trail connecting Bay Point Park and Levee Park. Now, with help from additional state dollars, we're ready to implement this final piece, which includes improved riverboat and recreational boat docking.

When the project is complete later this summer, almost the entire riverfront frontage at Levee Park will be more attractive, accessible, and available for boats to dock. That includes docking capacity for smaller recreational boats and two large riverboats at the same time. Other improvements are part of the project, as well.

A new circular overlook with space for public art will be constructed at the intersection of Broad Street and Ikata Drive as pedestrians' primary access to the river's edge. To the east of the overlook, a 600-foot long promenade will line the river, complete with benches, lighting, and flood-resistant landscaping. Two wheelchair-accessible pedestrian routes will lead into the main park, as well.

Ikata Drive (which runs parallel with the river) will remain a multi-use roadway for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. Half of Ikata Drive will be concrete and half will be asphalt, and in the future, the asphalt section will serve as a portion of the new Mississippi Blufflands State Trail that will connect Levee Park to Colvill Park along the river.

A second part of the project may not be as noticeable to some residents, but it will greatly improve the area near Red Wing Marina at Vogel Harbor adjacent to the historic boathouses and Riverfront Trail. First we'll be removing the current harbor wall, approximately 240 feet tall, and replacing it. Then we'll be installing a new parking lot, adding landscaping, and resetting the Red Wing Marina's Caboose in place. Of note, Red Wing Grain will be reconstructing its own riverfront bulkhead, approximately 80 linear feet long, at the same time.

The entire project requires us to unfortunately close the Riverfront Trail and Levee Park at various times during construction. We greatly appreciate your cooperation and patience during this inconvenient time, and we will notify you of closings and openings as they happen.

Barring unforeseen conditions, the project is expected to be substantially complete by August 2, 2019, with the work fully completed on or before September 6, 2019. The wait will be worth it. When this final portion of the River Town Renaissance Project is complete, the riverfront will be more beautiful, accessible, safe, and inviting for everyone—locals and visitors alike.

We have much more information on this multi-year project, including the plans, concept pictures, and more; go to <http://www.red-wing.org/167/Levee-Park>. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact me, Ron Seymour, at 651-385-5193 or ron.seymour@ci.red-wing.mn.us.

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