

City of Clearwater

# DO?WNT?OWN BO?AT SLIPS

## FACT SHEET



On Tuesday, March 13, Clearwater voters will have an opportunity to choose the future they want for the downtown waterfront. Envision an active, dynamic waterfront that becomes a destination for visitors cruising the Florida coast and locals out for a day of fun. Imagine a waterfront that's a destination point for families and visitors throughout the year, and what the destination could do to help revitalize Cleveland Street and surrounding areas.

In the last five years, boat registration in Pinellas County has risen 15% while the number of available public slips has shrunk by 23%. With more than 120,000 registered boaters in the Tampa Bay area, there is a critical need for public access.\* By adding at least 129 public slips and more than 2,500 linear feet of daytime and overnight dockage, the new downtown Clearwater boat slips can be a vital component to the future of the region.

\* - Source: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council



Clockwise from top left: View looking south from the water, view from bridge looking east from the water, view from Coachman Park, view from Drew Street looking northwest, view from top of Main Library, view looking northeast from the promenade, view looking west from Causeway Bridge parking lot.

FOR INFORMATION & UPDATES, VISIT [WWW.MYCLEARWATER.COM/BOATSLIPS](http://WWW.MYCLEARWATER.COM/BOATSLIPS)

# QUICK FACTS

## What it includes:

- 129-140 public boat slips on the downtown waterfront
- Over 1700' of overnight "side-tie" mooring for visitors
- Over 800' of free "side-tie" mooring for daytime visits and special events
- Renovations to the Drew Street Pier building for restrooms, showers, security office and laundry
- Parking improvements and landscaping
- Landing for ferry service to the beach and commercial pickup/dropoff

## What it does NOT include:

- Permanent fencing along the waterfront or anywhere else in the park
- Permanent commercial tenants
- Dockside storage lockers or other visual impediments
- Fuel docks (these are available at the Beach Marina)

## What it costs:

- \$11 million (approx. \$10 million construction & bonding and \$1 million for associated upland improvements)

## How it will be paid for:

- A 20-year bond, paid back with revenues from slip rentals will pay the majority of the cost. This means that users of the facility will bear the costs.
- \$50,000 annually for 10 years from the Clearwater Downtown Development Board and a \$500,000 contribution from the city's Community Redevelopment Agency.
- The city has applied for a \$1.2 million state/federal grant and will pursue additional grant opportunities.
- Based on the amount of grant funding received, initial slip rentals are projected at \$15.50/foot per month, which is a competitive market rate.

# FAQ

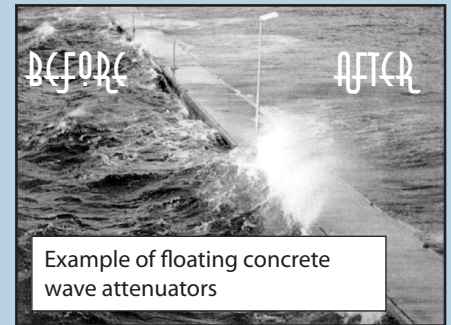
Between now and March, you'll likely hear a lot of assertions about what the project may or may not be. It's important for you to know the facts of the project so that you can judge for yourself. For updated questions and answers, you can log on to our website at [www.myclearwater.com](http://www.myclearwater.com).

## Q: What process was used to determine the feasibility of the project?

A: The city hired a national firm to conduct a market study and financial feasibility analysis of the project. Engineering experts have examined everything from the wind and wave effects in Clearwater Harbor to the seagrasses along the waterfront. These studies are available on our website.

## Q: What about hurricanes?

A: The facility is being built to withstand the effects we may see if directly hit by a high Category 2 storm. The floating concrete construction allows the docks to rise and fall with the tides, greatly increasing their durability in storm events. The exterior sections of the docks are protected by "wave attenuators," specially designed to reduce wind and wave impacts in the facility.



Example of floating concrete wave attenuators

## Q: How will the city decide who gets a slip at the new facility?

A: Those interested in renting a slip will be asked to register their interest in advance. The city will then hold a random "lottery" drawing for slip selection. First priority will be given to residents of Clearwater.

## Q: What about the effects on the environment?

A: The new facility will actually help to protect seagrasses both north and south of the Memorial Causeway Bridge. Boaters will no longer be able to pull in to the seagrasses on the shore, which has been a primary source of damage.

## Q: What's the timeline for the project?

A: Should the project be approved, formal construction documents and permitting would immediately follow, with a goal to begin construction in October of 2008 and completion in December of 2009.

## Q: Is the water deep enough?

A: Yes. As part of the study, engineers looked at mean low tides at the project site. These tides range from 4.5 feet at the smallest slips (closer to shore) up to 15.5 feet where the larger slips are located.