



City Council Agenda Item Report

FROM: Mark Ondersma - Director of Public Works

MEETING DATE: August 31, 2026

SUBJECT: Kayak Launcher

DESCRIPTION:

The City has received a request from the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC) to accept a kayak launcher funded through a grant from the local Rotary Club. ODC has proposed installing the kayak launcher at either the Spear Street Launch or the Shopper Docks near Coghlin Park.

Both locations have previously received improvements through funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which requires DNR approval prior to making additional improvements. The City Manager has received approval from Jilanne Egleston with the DNR Parks & Recreation Division for installation of the kayak launcher at the Spear Street Launch.

After evaluating both locations, Department of Public Works (DPW) staff determined that the Spear Street Launch is the preferred site. The location provides easier installation and future removal of the launcher, while also offering convenient access to the water for kayak users.

BUDGET ACTION REQUIRED:

N/A

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEW:

Parks & Public Works Committee has reviewed and recommended the installation at Spear Street Launch. The Historical District Commission will have to review.

LEGAL REVIEW:

N/A

SAMPLE MOTION:

Motion to approval the installation of the donated kayak launcher at the Spear Street Launch, subject to applicable City requirements and final coordination with the Rotary Club and Historical District Commission approval.

Wave Armor Kayak Launch Proposal



Assembly & Delivery

- Blue Vista Marine Services will fully assemble the kayak launch, and install railings.
- Installation can be done by your crew or ours. Instructions will be given for install if not done by us.
- Estimated Install Time (1-2 hrs)

Fixed Dock Installation

Large metal fixed dock installation using Wave Armor fixed-dock mounting kit with guide poles and brackets. 2 poles with be 3ft into the lake bottom



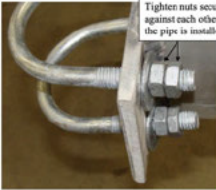
PRODUCT ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

Item # | Product Name | 300281 330282 Wave Port to Fixed Dock (Z-bracket) Instructions

Parts List:	Tools or Hardware Needed:
1. Z-brackets Galvanized qty 2	1. 1/2" wrench qty 2
2. U-bolts Galvanized qty 4	2. Screws or bolts to attach Z-brackets to the fixed dock (this hardware is not supplied)
3. 3/8" Galvanized Nuts qty 16	3. Anchoring pipe
4. 1/2" Galvanized Washers qty 8	4.
5.	5.

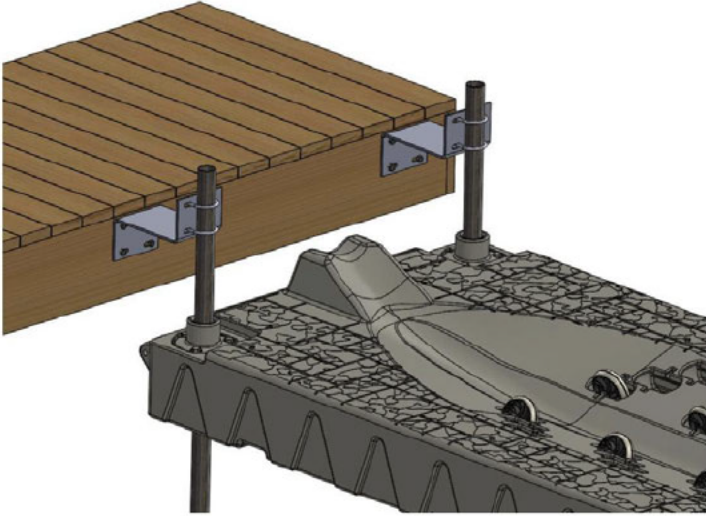
Assembly Instructions:

- Determine where the Z-brackets will be mounted on the dock. Measure the distance from center to center of the anchoring holes at the front of the port. The Z-brackets will then be mounted to the dock this same distance apart.
- Attach the U-bolts loosely to the Z-brackets using the washers and 2 nuts on each U-bolt. Position the PVC Port so the anchoring holes are aligned with the Z-brackets and U-bolts. Slide the anchoring pipe down through the U-bolts and through the anchoring holes. Secure pipe to the bottom of the waterway.
- Evenly tighten the U-bolts against the anchoring pipe. Once the U-bolts are tight a second nut should be threaded onto the U-bolt as shown below. Securely tighten the nuts against each other. This will prevent the nuts and U-bolts from working loose.



Tighten nuts securely against each other after the pipe is installed.

4. Finished installation is shown below.



Floating Dock Installation

Large floating dock installation using C-channel adapters, receiver blocks, and knuckle connections.



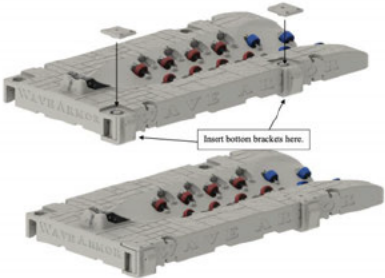
PRODUCT ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

Item #1 Product Name: 302567 Connector Kit Floating Dock to Pro Port Side

Parts List:	Tools Needed:
1. Plastic Bottom Connector qty 2	1. Ratchet and 9/16" socket
2. Plastic Top Connector qty 2	2. 1/2" wrench and 3/4" socket with ratchet
3. Galvanized Long Steel Bracket qty 2	3.
4. 1/2 x 7" bolt qty 2, 1/2" nylock nut qty 2, 1/2" washers qty 4	4.
5. 3/8 x 2" bolt qty 6, 3/8" lock washer qty 1, 3/8" heavy washer qty 6	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.

Assembly Instructions:

1. Insert bottom connector into the port as shown below. Insert top connector into the same hole and fasten securely with the 3/8 x 2 bolts, lock washers and heavy washers.



2. Attach galvanized steel bracket to the dock using at least four of the holes in each bracket if possible. Use the necessary hardware for the dock (not supplied). The brackets need to be placed the correct distance apart so they line up with the plastic brackets on the port.
3. Slide port up against the dock so it aligns with the steel brackets. Secure port to the brackets using the 1/2 x 7" bolts, washers and nylock nuts.



Safety Benefits

Stable entry and exit, improved accessibility, slip-resistant surfaces, and safer launching. Accessible by all!



Maintenance & Cleaning

-Clean using a light pressure washer setting, or scrub brush, mild detergent, CLR Calcium/Lime Remover, or all-purpose cleaner.

Dawn Dish Soap is also a great cleaner

Brush and rinse as needed.

Long-Term Ownership

- UV-resistant polyethylene, corrosion-resistant hardware, low maintenance, and long service life.
- Industry leading 8 year warranty on the port.

Why Blue Vista Marine Services

Professional installation, waterfront expertise, ongoing support, and local service.

Michigan's Largest Wave Armor Dealer

Questions

Parker Lammers, Owner
Blue Vista Marine Services



www.bluevistamarine.com

Kayak Launcher Donation – Speer Street Launch

The City has received a request from the local Rotary Club to donate a kayak launcher for installation at either the Speer Street Launch or the Shopper Docks near Coughlin Park.

Because both locations were previously improved with funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) the Speer Street Launch in 2008 and the Shopper Docks in 2018—the City would need approval from the DNR prior to proceeding with the installation. The City Manager received DNR approval to install the kayak launcher at the Speer Street Launch.

Department of Public Works staff evaluated both locations and determined that the Speer Street Launch is the preferred location. Installation and future removal of the kayak launcher would be more practical at this site. Additionally, the Speer Street Launch provides convenient access for users, allowing kayaks to be launched without requiring them to be carried a significant distance.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Park and Public Works Committee approve the installation of the donated kayak launcher at the Speer Street Launch, subject to any applicable City requirements and final coordination with the Rotary Club.







