

Fisherman's Park, North Beach, and Marina
An Active Approach

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It has been brought to the Port Washington Police Department's attention of numerous problems that exist within the Marina, North Beach and Fisherman's Park. After scanning the area and identifying actual problems we were able to analyze and come up with solutions specific to the problem.

Such issues as littering, garbage removal, open intoxicants, public drunkenness and cleaning of fish during the spawning season are affecting the quality of life in Port Washington specific to these areas. The following recommendations will show solutions to these problems and others affecting these areas and I encourage you to go through and implement them before the next season.

North Beach

The North Beach is experiencing problems concerning after hours activities, litter and animal waste located on the walkway.

I suggest a gate that can be closed and locked during the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am. This gate should be located at the main entrance from the Filtration Plant crossing over the walkway and attaching to the boulder ledge, near the dog bag receptacle. This will not completely resolve the problem but greatly reduce the amount of traffic after the beach closes.

Pets are not allowed in Upper or Lower Lake Park however have been allowed on the beach. An ordinance preventing pet access to the beach area will reduce the animal waste located on the sidewalk as well as prevent future problems; i.e., unleashed animals and dog bites. The doggie "poop bags" have not shown an added reduction to this problem.

Adding extra waste receptacles and having them emptied more frequently will also aid in curbing the amount of litter.

The Police Department will also actively walk this area during peak hours (noon until 6:00 pm) and also walk through after 12:00 am. There should be more visible signs showing the ordinances affecting this area. Educating and informing the public of the local laws will assist in keeping up the quality of this area.

Marina

Fishermen fishing in the marina are cleaning and leaving fish entrails on the docks, which has led to staining of the wood and a lingering odor. Hoses have been installed to encourage fishermen to clean up after themselves. Adding more signs showing the littering statute along with directions to the nearest fish cleaning station will also encourage fishermen to use the facilities provided. I suggest adding housing units along the docks which house bags, similar to plastic grocery bags, to encourage carrying out waste to receptacles. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources adopted a carry-in, carry-out policy for garbage. This has seen tremendous success and can be adopted for this area as well.

Consuming alcohol on the docks is a large problem and has been overlooked by Marina staff as well as the police department. Signs erected advising people of the ordinance will serve in advising the public and also serve as a warning. Active policing

in these areas as well as heavily enforcing the statutes will put an end to this problem which has previously been ignored. Added awareness by Marina staff will help eliminate these problems and allow proper notification to the police department to address these issues.

Adding extra lighting to the docks will illuminate the areas to make it easier to see and help prevent problems from occurring. People will be less inclined to commit a crime if they think they could be easily spotted. Lighting will also aid in the security of individuals using our facilities at night, particularly in the area of the north dock where lighting is non-existent.

Fisherman's Park

The problems that plague Fisherman's Park can also be easily rectified. I suggest adding a welcome sign, which will welcome fishermen to Fisherman's Park and let individuals know of the local ordinances, DNR regulations, and information pertaining to the fish cleaning station.

After speaking with 15 fishermen, both local and out of town, the most verbalized problems were open intoxicants and public drunkenness. Once signs have been placed advising of the ordinance, police can actively enforce and issue citations for this problem. More walk-throughs from the police department was also requested. I suggest Officers walking through this area from 5:00-6:00 am, 12:00-9:00 pm, and from 12:00-2:00 am.

I also suggest adding extra waste receptacles, as what is currently there is minimal, and having them emptied on a more frequent basis. This will help encourage a cleaner environment and encourage people to take care of the area.

Adding and maintaining lighting there is also crucial. Lighting is at a minimum and what is there has been non-functioning. Illuminating this area will add a great benefit to fishermen and police.

The steel wall which barricades the park from the lake has holes located to allow water to flow freely from the sidewalk to the lake. Debris and gravel have plugged the holes and have built up enough that water cannot empty into the lake. Attention needs to be given to this wall several times a year to clean this up and maintain the wall in proper condition. This is especially crucial during the spring thaw when backed up water is in need of draining. Not only will this make the area more easily accessible in the spring, but extend the life of the sidewalks, and curb future litigations for law suits if someone were to get hurt.

Fishermen complained about the bathrooms located at the Fish Cleaning Station. The doors to the bathroom are locked at 10:00 pm and are not opened until 7:30 am. Fisherman have been urinating and defecating in the park and along the walkway. I suggest that the bathroom doors be opened up earlier or portable bathrooms need to be installed for the fishermen's use.

WE Energies allows a small portion of their property to be used by the public. This is to the south of the walkway into the park. This area is not kept up by WE Energies and the sign provided stating the rules of the property are not enforced. If WE Energies is to allow this area to be used, it must be kept up by them or contracted to the City of Port Washington and allow us to maintain the property.

It was also brought to the Police Dept.'s attention during a recent suicide attempt that there isn't a public phone. The use of cell phones is becoming quite common; however, not everyone has access to a cell phone or can get adequate service. A payphone should be installed either at the park or at the fish cleaning station to allow people to contact the police department if there is an emergency.

A request for extra patrol was made for the WE Energies parking lot located to the east of the fish cleaning station on S. Wisconsin St. This lot is used by fishermen as well as others aside from employees. Apparently, there is a large amount of marijuana usage in vehicles during the early evening hours. The police department will make an extra effort to saturate this area during their patrol duties and enforce the laws accordingly.

In conclusion, enacting extra signs, enforcement as well as extra attention to these areas will allow for the above problems to decrease, and safety, cleanliness and the overall quality to increase. The City of Port Washington will be able to provide the public a nicer access to these areas and provide a better sense of community. I encourage you to actively implement the above recommendations and continue to get the public's ideas and opinions regarding these areas. Also, committing ourselves to follow up and engage the community in identifying and addressing future issues will help engage the community in a meaningful partnership with the City of Port Washington. I received a tremendous, positive response when I walked through and spoke with people and they received a great satisfaction knowing that their problems and concerns were not only being heard but being addressed as well. Small efforts on behalf of the city will allow for great rewards!