



Collier County Government

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWLY EXPANDED 951 BOAT RAMP READY TO OPEN

Collier County will officially open the 951 Boat Ramp Park on Friday, Feb. 5 following a parking lot expansion that began in August 2009.

The Collier County Coastal Zone Management Department oversaw the expansion which took the park from just 19 trailer parking spots to 88 total parking spots including three vehicle spaces, two handicap spots and 83 boat trailer parking spaces.

“Completion of this project provides our residents with much needed additional boat launch parking capacity while maintaining the highest level of environmental and storm water protection to our fragile ecosystem,” said Coastal Zone Management Director Gary McAlpin, whose department managed the expansion project. “We installed a very sophisticated storm water collection system under the parking lots that collects and treats storm water runoff before it goes into the surrounding waters.”

Permitting for the project took six years, and the Parks and Recreation Department is thrilled to have the project completed. “This parking was added because customers were forced to park alongside the road during peak usage hours,” said Parks and Recreation Director Barry Williams. “We are pleased to have this important amenity expanded and open.”

Park hours are sunrise to dusk, and boat launch fees apply. Boaters may pay either a \$5 daily boat launch fee or may purchase a pro-rated annual recreation boat launch permit for \$75. Commercial boating companies are required to have an annual boat launch permit, and there are two types available. Commercial boat launch permits are available for \$500 and no launch fees are required. The \$500 commercial permit allows for up to five tow-vehicle permits. There is also a \$100 commercial boat launch permit, but it requires the commercial permit holder to pay the \$5 daily launch fee.

A grand opening ceremony for the expanded 951 Boat Ramp is currently being scheduled.

For more information, media may contact Camden Smith at (239) 252-5326.