



Meredith Adaptive Paddling Launch at Leavitt Park

Top 8 Questions & Answers

General

Q1: What is an adaptive paddling launch system?

A1: It's a specially-designed system that anyone can use. Main elements include a wide, stable platform with a dock connected to the shore by a heavy aluminum gangway. Able-bodied and "differently-abled" paddlers can all use the system to get onto the water in a kayak, canoe, stand up paddle board, or in certain other paddle crafts.

Such a system also makes it much easier for those who use a wheelchair or walker, for example, to travel to and from a parking area to a paddle craft launch area. Other features often include a:

- Chute connected in parallel to the dock. This facilitates stable, safer water entry and exit by kayak paddlers;
- 'Tiered' boarding bench with a pull-out seat so a paddler can transfer from their wheelchair to their boat and then onto the water, and vice versa;
- Protective toe kicks around the perimeter of the dock. Toe kicks stop a wheelchair from accidentally rolling off the dock;
- Roll cage surrounding the boarding bench, overhead grab bars, pull bars, hand rails, and hand straps - all of which assist with entering and exiting the craft.

Installation & Cost of the Proposed Meredith Adaptive Paddling Launch System

Q2: Why was Leavitt Park selected as the installation site?

A2: All the public launch areas in Meredith were evaluated. Leavitt Park was identified as the ideal spot for several reasons, including:

- Ample parking already exists. So does an accessible (that is, ready for use by someone in a wheelchair) service road leading from the parking lot down to the water's edge. (The service road entrance is located at the north end of the Leavitt Park parking lot);
- Accessible restrooms already exist;

- The installation site (i.e, at the end of the existing service road) is a reasonable distance from residential property ;
- Space for two handicapped parking spots exists at the end of the service road. A hammerhead apron will be created there to allow for drop-offs at the dock.
- The water around the proposed dock area is quiet and shallow;
- Winter storage of the dock system components will also be readily available.

No other location in Meredith matches these important features.

Q3: How much money will this project cost? Where will funding come from?

A3: The total cost of the project will be \$119,393. This includes a 10% contingency fund, the launch itself, permit fees, site survey and design work. The Adaptive Paddling Launch Committee seeks to raise \$58,328 through grants and donations. The remainder will come from the Parks & Recreational Department Expendable Trust Fund and from the current Parks & Recreational Department operational budget.

Q4: How long will it take to install this dock system?

A4: We anticipate the project will be complete and ready for use by early spring of 2025 or sooner.

Q5: What will the Leavitt Park proposed launch look like?

A5: You can get a general sense of this by visiting the BoardSafe company website, [here](#) and in some videos [here](#). The proposed launch for Leavitt is now in the design approval phase. BoardSafe has been selected as the vendor on this project due to their commitment to safety and excellence in workmanship.

Q6: Why do we need a dock like this in Meredith?

A6: A community survey fielded in early 2022 showed strong support for this project by residents of Greater Meredith. Many respondents said they would like one here. Communities such as Dover, Rochester, and Windham all have something similar and those are very well used.

In fact, the City of Rochester has found that its adaptive paddling launch draws a good deal of business into local merchants' shops and restaurants, and therefore, the City plans to install a second such launch downtown in order to increase foot traffic that much more.

Meredith has an older population who could benefit from additional active recreational opportunities. The goal with this project is to create a way for people of *all* ages and abilities – especially those who face mobility challenges – to get out onto the beautiful waters of Lake Winnepesaukee in a paddle craft.

Q7: Who is managing this project?

A7: Meredith Parks and Recreation is managing this exciting project. A small committee of Meredith resident volunteers called the Adaptive Paddling Launch Committee initiated it. They have been supporting this effort since early 2022.

Parking

Q8: Is Leavitt Park parking available for non-Meredith residents?

A8: Any vehicle parked anywhere in the Leavitt Park lot must display a valid Meredith Solid Waste Permit decal. Decals are available from the Town for \$20 per vehicle. They are valid for two years.