

## Program Summary:

A new fully accessible paddle boat launch for a summer camp for children with special needs.

## Program Statement:

The Captains' Launch transforms a shaded cove into an accessible waterfront haven for campers facing the greatest barriers to boating. Custom-designed floating ramps and slip bumpers let wheelchair users gently roll aboard pedal boats outfitted with remote-controlled trolling motors—empowering participants to enjoy open water without ever leaving the safety of their own wheelchairs.

By repurposing reclaimed houseboat floats, jet dock modules, and 55-gallon drums, the floating deck adapts to changing water levels and revives a once-inactive portion of the lake. Additionally, an adjacent amphitheater was restored, and a new fishing jetty expands on-site programs.

Drawing inspiration from the humble tugboat, this simple, inviting form features a pointed bow in the floor plan, sloping guardrails that echo a hull's profile, and a gear-storage "bridge" for paddles, life jackets, and supplies. A sturdy steel roof crafted from donated drill stem and rod offers shelter and supports a 1.2 kW solar array that powers evening lighting and recharges boat batteries. Every detail underscores safety and dignity: an expanded-metal ribbon in the deck, paired with a matching linear skylight overhead, marks the moment campers become captains of their own vessels.

Named for the final stanza of William Ernest Henley's "Invictus," The Captains' Launch lives its motto: "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul." By offering universal access to the water and celebrating each participant's journey, it invites admiration for both its humble materials and its profound impact.

# SP-220.01

Building Area: (sf)  
1600 sf

Cost per Square Foot:  
\$22/sf

Construction Cost  
\$35,200

Date of Completion:  
5/23/25

# SP-220.02

The Captains' Launch transforms a shaded cove into an accessible waterfront haven for campers facing the greatest barriers to boating.



property map



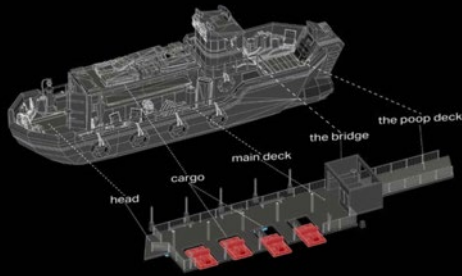
existing site



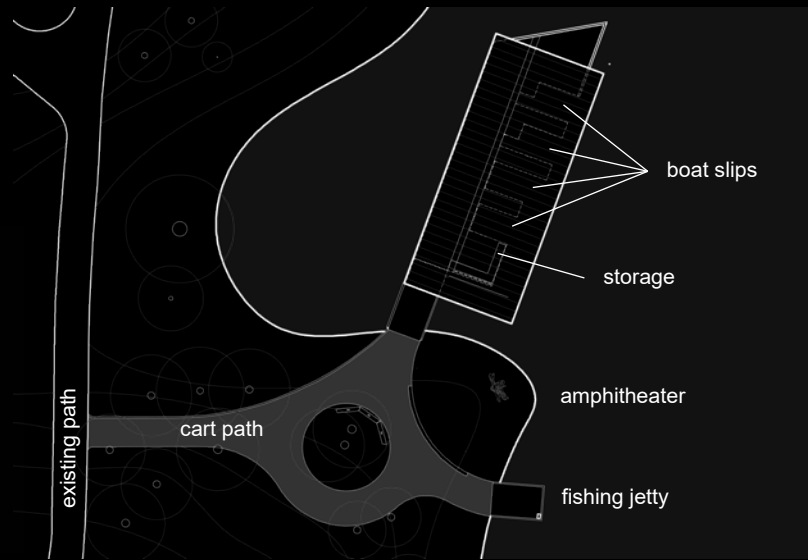
# SP-220.03

The Captains' Launch transforms a shaded cove into an accessible waterfront haven for campers facing the greatest barriers to boating.

Drawing inspiration from the humble tugboat, this simple, inviting form features a pointed bow in the floor plan, sloping guardrails that echo a hull's profile, and a gear-storage "bridge" for paddles, life jackets, and supplies.



ship concept



site plan



proposal rendering



## SP-220.04

The Captains' Launch transforms a shaded cove into an accessible waterfront haven for campers facing the greatest barriers to boating.



completed project



## SP-220.05

Custom-designed floating ramps and slip bumpers let wheelchair users gently roll aboard pedal boats outfitted with remote-controlled trolling motors—empowering participants to enjoy open water without ever leaving the safety of their own wheelchairs.





## SP-220.06



By repurposing reclaimed houseboat floats, jet dock modules, and 55-gallon drums, the floating deck adapts to changing water levels and revives a once-inactive portion of the lake.

Additionally, an adjacent amphitheater was restored, and a new fishing jetty expands on-site programs.







## SP-220.07

A sturdy steel roof crafted from donated drill stem and rod offers shelter and supports a 1.2 kW solar array that powers evening lighting and recharges boat batteries.







## SP-220.08

Every detail underscores safety and dignity: an expanded-metal ribbon in the deck, paired with a matching linear skylight overhead, marks the moment campers become captains of their own vessels.





## SP-220.09

Sustainability is core to the design: the roof's playful form is oriented north for extended shading and is fabricated entirely from reclaimed steel from local natural gas drilling operations.







## SP-220.10

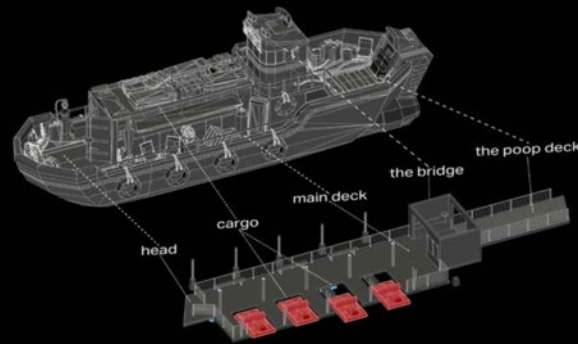
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# SP-220.11

Named for the final stanza of William Ernest Henley's "Invictus," The Captains' Launch lives its motto: "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul." By offering universal access to the water and celebrating each participant's journey, it invites admiration for both its humble materials and its profound impact.





## SP-220.12

The project has transformed the accessibility, comfort, and excitement around boating for its special needs users. Pro bono design services, educational labor, and abundant community support kept costs remarkably low for the non-profit client.







## SP-220.13

At night, the gentle glow of solar powered lights reminds campers of their time here, adding to the magic and memory of this special place.