

Ellendale Road boat ramp into river will remain open

*By Jack McLaughlin
Special to The Reporter*

Local boaters and water tourists in the Edgerton area worry not: the Ellendale Road

boat ramp into Rock River (leading into Lake Koshkonong) is fully accessible.

Until late April, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) had scheduled the clo-

sure of a section of Ellendale Road through mid-June, which would have seriously detoured any travelers to the access point, one of few public boat ramps in the area. The WisDOT construc-

tion, which will replace sections of the Rock River Bridge, has closed the nearby Newville Road instead.

"Ellendale Road will remain open," said WisDOT Project Communications Manager Steven Theisen. "Now all traffic will have access to the boat launch."

The move is important not only for convenience, but also local commerce. According to Jim Bowers, president of the Rock Koshkonong Business Association, a group that promotes tourism in the area, closure of Ellendale Road would have had potential ramifications on tourists in the region. He also believes that this issue has large implications for Lake Koshkonong, which has a lack of useable public access points.

Bowers claims that, due to water depth issues, the Ellendale Road launch is the only public one in the area that all boaters

can use. There are others, such as at The Anchor and Harbor Recreation, but they are private, and will often require payment for use.

"We have a real need for more boat launches in this water system," Bowers said.

Although Ellendale Road will remain open, those that use the ramp this summer should exercise care. Construction sites should cause motorists, especially those towing watercraft, to drive safely and with awareness. Additionally, once launched, boaters must take notice of special regulations. Navigation buoys are set up underneath I-39/90 in the Rock River, and this entire area is designated as a no-wake zone.

Those in the water should also be aware of workers in the construction zone. Additional information on the roadwork, in addition to updates, can be found on the WisDOT website.



The public boat launch on Ellendale Road will remain easily accessible throughout the summer, although those in construction areas should take precautions.

Photo by Jack McLaughlin