



COVENTRY



CREW



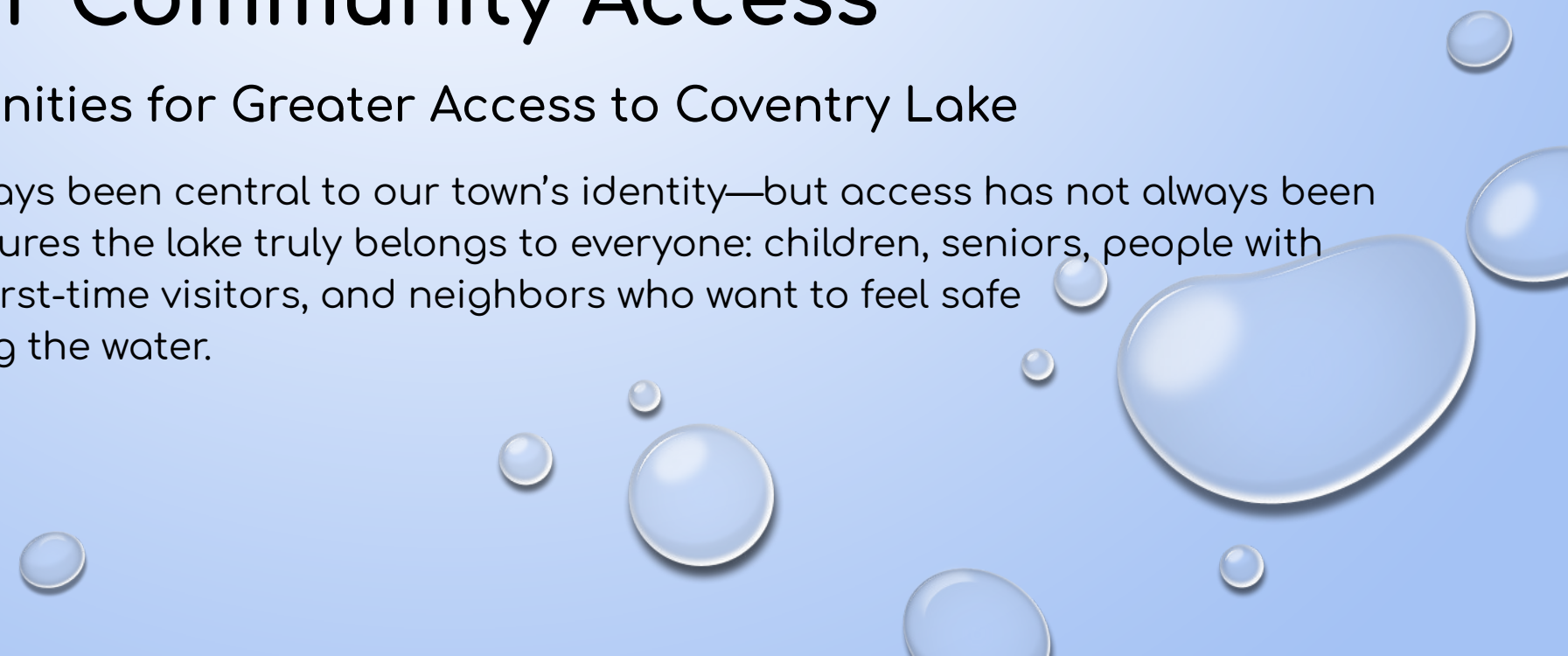
Change your perspective. Row.

Patriot's Park | Lake Wangumbaug

Coventry Lake Community Rowing (CLCR) Dock Enhancement for Greater Community Access

Opening Opportunities for Greater Access to Coventry Lake

Coventry Lake has always been central to our town's identity—but access has not always been equal. This project ensures the lake truly belongs to everyone: children, seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, first-time visitors, and neighbors who want to feel safe and confident reaching the water.



Community Need & Impact



Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake) stands out among central and eastern Connecticut lakes for its rare combination of size, accessibility, and community-centered use. As one of the region's largest natural lakes, it offers multiple public access points, a state boat launch, and designated swimming areas—features that many comparable lakes lack or provide in limited form. Unlike lakes that are primarily residential, seasonal, or conservation-focused, Coventry Lake functions as a true public resource and town centerpiece, supporting year-round recreation and organized programming but is currently under-utilized. Its scale, relatively protected waters, and existing public infrastructure make it especially well suited for structured activities such as rowing, paddling, learn-to-swim, and adaptive programs. This blend of natural assets, accessibility, and active community use positions Coventry Lake as one of the most versatile and impactful lakes in eastern Connecticut, capable of delivering broad public benefit well beyond what is typical in the region.

Partners & Engagement



Patriots Park has long served as a primary access point to Coventry Lake, supporting the Town's Parks & Recreation Summer Camp, year-round community events, EO Smith High School Rowing, UConn Women's Division I Rowing, UConn Men's Club Rowing and Sailing, the Coventry Lake Water Ski Club, and Coventry Lake Community Rowing (CLCR). CLCR also serves as the parent organization for Coventry High School competitive rowing and provides public access to rowing programs.

Historically, the docks at Patriots Park primarily served collegiate and scholastic rowing teams until 2014, when CLCR began and opened rowing to the community. During the COVID-19 shutdown, the docks, owned by UConn Men, were unapproved by UConn to put out on water, despite the park remaining open and CLCR being designated an "essential service" by the State of Connecticut. Following the pandemic, new partnerships among the Town of Coventry, UConn Men's Rowing, EO Smith High School, and CLCR were formed to restore shared access and expand public use of the docks.

Shovel-Ready & Collaborative Ready to Build. Ready to Serve.

- Spring-Summer 2026 installation
Modular, expandable design
- Town-aligned with Patriot's Park Master Plan
- Immediate public benefit

Fewer barriers means fewer people standing on the shoreline wishing they could join in. CLCR is entering into its 3rd year offering Senior Rowing 101 classes. The most common blocker has been getting in and out of the boats. CLCR also has an aging population of Master's rowers who are 60+. This project is ready — what is needed now is the catalyst to move from vision to reality.



A Public Place with Untapped Potential

- At the heart of Coventry
- A place for healing, connection, and reflection
- One of the town's most visible and used public assets
- Durable infrastructure supporting multiple users and future programming increasing the parks long-term value

Coventry Lake is where people walk, gather, and find calm. But without safe, accessible water entry, much of its potential remains locked away—especially for residents with mobility challenges or limited experience on the water. For CLCR, Coventry Lake and Patriot's Park is home. Having a dock that is worthy of our mission and to be able to share it with the town and community at large would open endless doors for programming associated with lake access and unlock a strong history of use for future funding acquisition.



What We Are Building

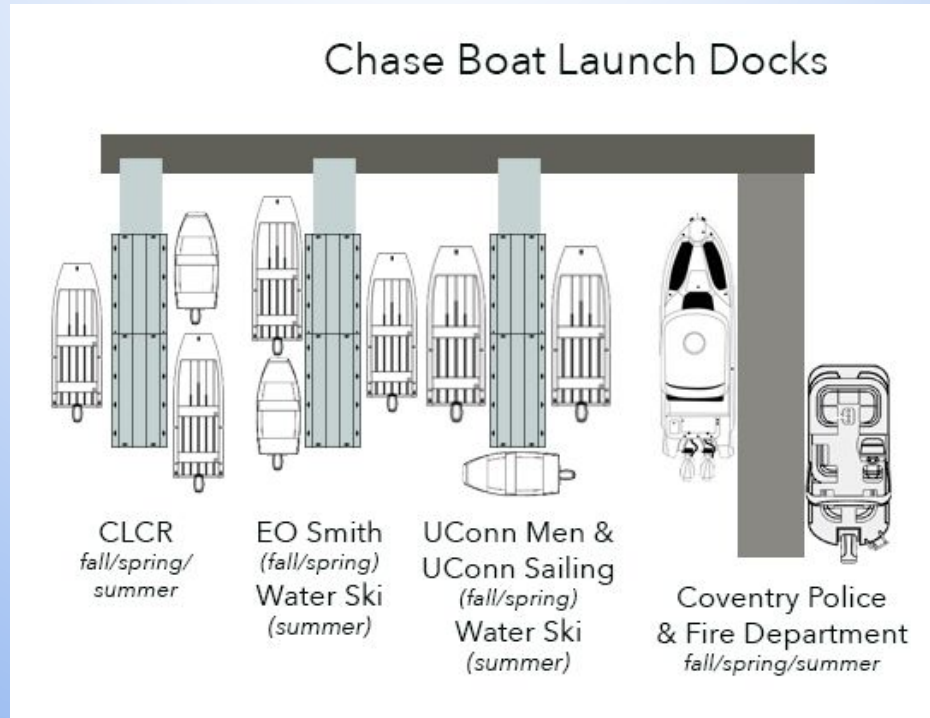
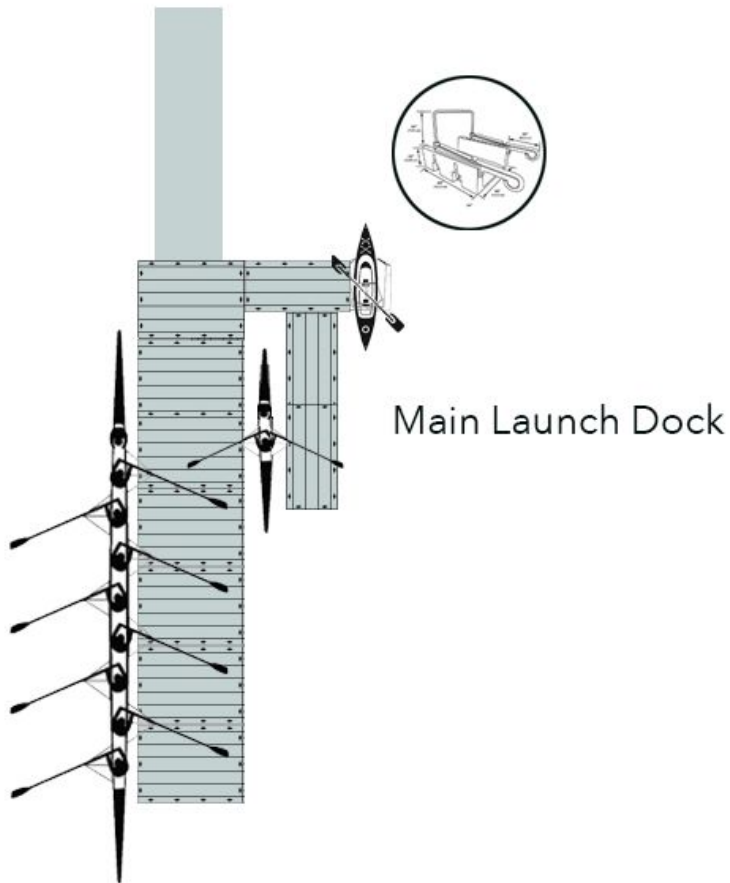
Multi-Purpose & Inclusive Access

- Removal of aging, unstable, wood and floating docks
- Installation of commercial-grade, low-mobility docks
 - stable, predictable footing
 - safer transfers and entry
 - supports independence, not assistance
- Expansion of the one existing small dock that UConn Men's Crew owns.
- Multi-use access for rowing, kayaking, SUPs, fishing, relaxation
- Shared nonprofit-municipal use

This is not a rowing dock—it's a community water access solution that helps create broader public use and future ADA compliance.



Visual Examples of New Dock



A Ripple Effect – Community Benefits Beyond the Dock



- Increased community use of Patriot's Park – a welcoming, active waterfront
- Stronger local partnerships
- Pride in shared public space
- Intergenerational connection
- Reduced isolation and loneliness

We've seen how simply being on the water can change someone's day—and sometimes their outlook. This project creates a place where people feel seen, safe, and included. When people feel welcome in a space, they show up. They bring family, support local businesses, and care more deeply about their community.

Why This Grant Is Perfect for Coventry Lake, CLCR & Patriots Park



Why partner with us? T-Mobile strives to be a force for good. This grant would immediately:

- Expand and protect equitable public access to the waterfront
- Strengthen community connection across ages, abilities and organizations
- Create a lasting public benefit through inclusive recreation
- Establish a visible, long-term community asset at Patriot's Park
- Formalize and strengthen collaboration in a small-town setting

T-Mobile's investment wouldn't just fund docks—it would unlock access, dignity, and connection for generations.

This is hometown impact in action.

1987 UConn Men/
Women Private Dock



1998, UConn
Women become D1,
and UConn Men
leave Patriot's Park.
EO Smith HS
shares with UConn
Women's Rowing



1998 UConn Men return and
share with EO Smith HS



2014 CLCR is created and creates the
first chase boat dock

2025 Use of docks has
expanded as programs grow

2017 UConn Men adds 2nd dock



2020 CLCR puts in
temporary dock and wet
launched due to UConn
Rowing shut down



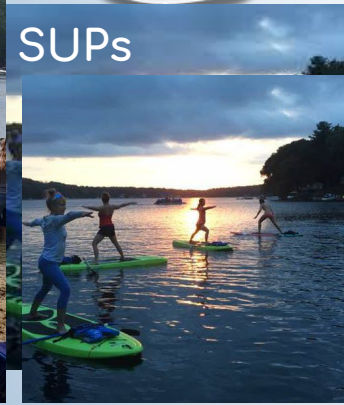
2021 CLCR & UConn
Men collaboratively
expand chase boat dock area

2021 Coventry
Police move their
dock to improved
chase boat area. In 2025,
the Fire Dept.
added their
rescue boat

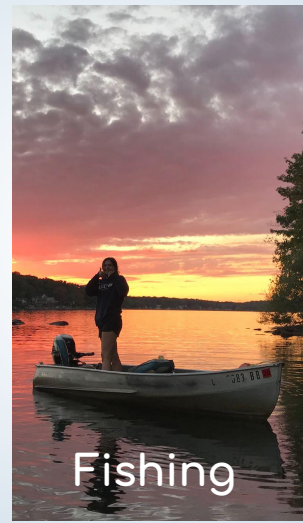




Cardboard Boat Race



SUPs



Fishing



Rowing Programs: CLCR, UConn Men & EO



Grant Funded Programs



Water Recreation Brings People Together



UConn Sailing



Senior Rowing & Kayaking



Coventry Water Ski Club



Peddle Boat