

**Some environmentally friendly changes at the Port**  
By Chris Keuss, Executive Director, the Port of Edmonds

People have been questioning the traffic cones and equipment they have been seeing at the Port lately. So what's going on?

First of all, let me put some of the speculation to rest. Here are a couple of things that are NOT going on. I have heard people wonder if we are beginning construction of the new Edmonds Yacht Club building. No, that will be built in an entirely different location, more than a hundred yards to the north, closer to the Arnie's building.

Neither is it preparation for the arrival of Jacobsen's Marine. Sadly, Jacobsen is not coming. Market conditions have slowed the retail boat business to the point where they have had to cancel their plans.

What IS happening is the beginning of work on a major environmental landscaping upgrade. The trees and shrubbery are being replaced in the public parking lot between the Port administration building and the Anthony's building. It is the first part of a three phase project in the mid- and north-marina areas. The south marina will not be affected.

According to Port landscape specialist, Debbie Eckholt, the trees have simply outgrown their space. They are not getting sufficient water and nutrients and—at the same time—their roots are out of control and causing damage to the sidewalks and paved surfaces surrounding them.

After a competitive bidding, the Port Commission selected a private firm to remove the existing trees and replace them with new, more suitable ones before more extensive damage occurs.

The process is an interesting one: The old trees and other plants are removed, along with approximately three feet of depleted soil. Then root barriers are installed to keep the new trees from undermining the sidewalks and pavement. Next fresh, clean soil and the trees themselves

are placed in the trenches and, finally, shrubs and other plantings will be installed in the newly prepared beds.

The trees—like the ones they are replacing—will be deciduous, meaning with leaves not needles. City of Edmonds requirements specify the kind of trees that can be used. Our new ones were also chosen for their ability to flourish in confined spaces and have much slower growth. The present phase of the project is scheduled to be complete by the end of October. The other two phases will follow.

The Port landscaping is one of our signature features. We regularly replace various plants to keep the environment healthy and attractive. This replacement project is essentially no different, just significantly more visible, since it affects the largest plants we have, our trees. We are doing all we can to keep any inconvenience to a minimum.

The result will be a brighter, airier, and more environmentally friendly Port. And one we can all enjoy for years to come.

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