

Proposed Spinney Creek Tide Gate Schedule

To all interested parties:

After several years of interruptions to the tide gate operation due to aged and broken infrastructure and other maintenance challenges, DOT has mostly rebuilt the tide gate as of November 2023. Over the past several years, we have seen dramatic growth of *Rupia maritima*, also called widgeon grass and other fouling marine species that thrive in eutrophic (over nutrified) environments such as Spinney Creek. We believe this degradation of the Spinney Creek environment is the direct effect of reduced tide gate openings and increased nutrient flow due to excessive rainfall events which seem to be our new normal. Although impactful around much of the shoreline of Spinney Creek, the headwaters of Spinney Creek has gotten to a point where the fouling has killed off most other marine life under the vast floating weed mats it creates. If you have gone and looked on a warm summer day, it is not a pleasant sight, or smell.

To combat this we recommend increasing the length of the openings, while still maximizing recreational activities for the weekends and holidays. We believe that with lengthier openings, especially in the Spring and Fall months, we can start to mitigate the excessive nutrients which have built up over time. It is also needed to remove the nutrients that enter Spinney Creek during the more extreme rainfall/runoff events we have been experiencing. This strategy has worked before and should, over time, get the excessive nutrient load under control and benefit all stakeholders.

The tide gate will remain closed and scheduled openings canceled during the presence of red tide. Tide gate openings may be shortened during extreme temperature events.

Gate Opening		Gate Closing		Duration
4/1	5:40 pm	4/4	8:04 am	2.5 days
4/15	5:32 am	4/19	9:40 am	4 days
4/29	4:29 pm	5/2	7:28 pm	3 days
5/13	4:54 pm	5/16	7:42 pm	3 days
5/20	10:33 am	5/23	12:38 pm	3 days
6/17	9:00 am	6/20	11:25 am	3 days
7/15	7:13 am	7/18	10:01 am	3 days
8/12	5:35 am	8/15	8:26 am	3 days
8/27	6:41 am	8/29	8:56 am	2 days
9/9	4:20 pm	9/11	6:01 pm	2 days
9/30	11:08 am	10/2	12:20 pm	2 days
10/7	3:02 pm	10/10	5:29 pm	3 days
10/28	9:51 am	11/1	12:17 am	4 days
11/4	12:57 pm	11/8	4:06 pm	4 days