

# Murray Harbor Marina and Resort

## Lake Murray

Oklahoma DEQ congratulates Murray Harbor Marina and Resort  
on Lake Murray for completing the  
Clean Marina Program.



November 17, 2023



**OKLAHOMA**  
Environmental  
Quality

### Clean Marina Program Site Visit Record

<b>CMP Date:</b>	November 6, 2023
<b>DEQ Staff:</b>	Cheryl Dirck – Environmental Program Specialist
<b>Marina Name:</b>	Murray Harbor
<b>Marina Address:</b>	1379 Murray Harbor Lane
<b>City/County/State/Zip:</b>	Ardmore/Carter/OK/73401
<b>Marina Contact Name/Phone:</b>	James Tillery/580-219-0831
<b>Start Date of CMP:</b>	November 17, 2023
<b>End Date of CMP:</b>	November 17, 2026

James Tillery approached Cheryl Dirck at the OK marina conference November 2, 2023, and explained to Ms. Dirck that Murray Harbor was a part of the Clean Marina Program (CMP) since they had the paperwork in office and were completing all the requirements under the self-assessment guide. Ms. Dirck advised Mr. Tillery that Murray Harbor had not been registered and she would set up an initial site visit to start the process for Murray Harbor. On November 6, 2023, Cheryl Dirck met with manager, James Tillery of Murray Harbor, and assisted him with the application for the Clean Marina Program (CMP).

Ron Howell, the owner of Murray Harbor hired Mr. Tillery to take over the management position. James was hired for his passion for minimizing environmental impacts and maximizing sustainability. Mr. Tillery's background as a forest ranger, a marine, and passion for being outdoors made him the number one candidate for this position. Mr. Tillery's expertise only enhanced the desire to apply for the Marina of the Year award from the company, Marina Dock Age, based out of St. Louise, MO. Murray Harbor won the award from a list of several marinas based in the United States.

The self-assessment guide and pledge sheet were reviewed, and Ms. Dirck and Mr. Tillery discussed the areas the marina could improve and what areas may be highlighted to become a clean marina. After completing the self-assessment, Ms. Dirck and Mr. Tillery walked the premises of the marina and discussed areas that could be improved, and which areas showed excellent best management practices (BMPs) highlighted under the self-assessment guidebook from the CMP.

#### **INSPECTION HIGHLIGHTS:**

- 1.) Well-designed shoreline with vegetation and rock formations to reduce runoff into the lake.
- 2.) No maintenance is allowed on the boat docks, around the shore, or in the parking lots. Boats are required to do all maintenance repairs away from the park area and encouraged to use an expert boat service.
- 3.) All hazardous materials are stored and locked in cabinets and only accessible to the employees.
- 4.) Continuously practice BMPs from the SWP3 guidebook and easily accessible to all employees. Employees provide a full service for boaters including fill gas tanks and disposing of their sewage onboard. Customers are not allowed to perform these services.

- 5.) The fuel tank is surrounded by fencing to prevent theft and vandalizing equipment. The area is maintained to avoid any vegetation growing around the fuel tank.
- 6.) All cleaners and products sold at the ship store and used for maintenance at the marina are continuously reviewed to make sure they are environmentally safe.
- 7.) Pet receptacles available for pet waste.
- 8.) Employers are required to take numerous training courses related to prevention of oil, fuel, and sewage spills, and how accidental spills from boaters or employees could harm the lake. Surprise scenarios are given throughout the season to keep all employees up to date on how to handle any emergencies around the marina and boat docks.
- 9.) Marina is diligent about keeping trash out of the lake. Mr. Tillery is constantly working with boaters and customers to keep the area clean and to recycle appropriate items when possible. The marina purchased sturdy trash cans that have kept the trash contained from weather, critters, and customers from overflowing the bins.
- 10.) Mr. Tillery walks the grounds several times a day encouraging boat owners to be aware of BMPs while maintaining a boat. For slip renters, the lease has stringent rules about keeping harmful chemicals out of the lake and implementing BMPs while enjoying their recreational time on Lake Murray.
- 11.) All repairs are reported to the maintenance crew and completed in a timely manner. Mr. Tillery assists with maintenance crews almost every day after his office work for Murray Harbor.
- 12.) Continue to monitor and maintain the shop on the hill by keeping it clean and organized.

Final score after November 6, 2023, site visit:

Area 1 = 94.12%

Area 2 = 100%

Area 3 = 100%

Area 4 = 100%

Area 5 = 90%

Area 6 = 100%

Area 7 = 100%

Goal is to maintain a minimum score of 85% throughout the CMP but reaching 100% is ideal.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Continue to implement BMPs provided under the Clean Marina Program. I recommend performing the following practices to bring the marina and the boat dock to CMP goal values based on the guideline of the self-assessment guide:

- a) Place a sign by the dock ladder with the possible following information regarding ladder usage: "Swimming not allowed around boat dock. Ladder for emergencies only".
- b) Continue to monitor boaters disposing of contaminated bilge water and disposing of trash in areas other than a trash can. Great job placing security cameras throughout the entire marina including the maintenance shop.
- c) Ensure employees are aware of how to handle spills and emergencies if they are alone at the marina and they have access to all emergency plans and SWP3 guidelines.
- d) Continue to sell biodegradable detergents, phosphate free, and non-toxic chemicals for cleaning and boat maintenance. CMP guidebook lists alternative eco-friendly cleaners.



- e) Possibly investigate purchasing additional spill kits for dock areas that are further away from ship store to prevent lag time in an emergency spill cleanup. Use your best judgement if the marina would benefit from additional kits.
- f) Continue to offer BMPs throughout the year through your social media and newsletters. Stay in contact with your slip renters and continue to offer great customer service to renters and potential customers.
- g) Look into rain barrels or containers in areas that rainwater would benefit the surrounding vegetation without using local water sources.
- h) If your marina would benefit, develop a compost bin. You may use the rainwater from rain barrels to help with composting.

*Response through email by James Tillery November 17, 2023:*

1. Place a sign by the dock ladder with the possible following information regarding ladder usage: "Swimming not allowed around boat dock. Ladder for emergencies only".
  - We will be placing signs in all areas that have ladder access. We do not allow swimming around the docks, but we feel the ladders are needed in case of an emergency. Signs will be in bold print and have double sided message.
2. Continue to monitor boaters disposing of contaminated bilge water and disposing of trash in areas other than a trash can. Great job placing security cameras throughout the entire marina including the maintenance shop.
  - The team and I have discussed the bilge water issue, we will continue to monitor any boats that seem to be producing a lot of bilge water and will have discussions with clients as to why their boats are pumping so often. We are also going to invest in more trash receptacles for more options throughout the marina. We do allow trash cans on the customers patio, with the understanding from the lease agreement that 'all trash must be removed from the patio at the time the customer leaves". We will continue to install more security cameras as we grow to be sure we cover all areas.
3. Ensure employees are aware of how to handle spills and emergencies if they are alone at the marina and they have access to all emergency plans and SWP3 guidelines.
  - At the beginning of the year, we insure all employees go through training in spill cleanup. We are going to be placing more spill kits throughout the dock areas, and along with that will be proper instructions on how to act in an emergency. We have guidelines available in the gas shack and they will be placed inside each spill kit.

4. Continue to sell biodegradable detergents, phosphate free, and non-toxic chemicals for cleaning and boat maintenance. CMP guidebook lists alternative eco-friendly cleaners.
  - We will continue to use all biodegradable products; we will be posting signs as to what product is suitable for use with the clean marina act. We are also going to be sending out mass text to reassure that everyone has the information needed to help maintain a safe fun atmosphere.
5. Possibly investigate purchasing additional spill kits for dock areas that are further away from ship store to prevent lag time in an emergency spill cleanup. Use your best judgement if the marina would benefit from additional kits.
  - I have investigated setting up extra spill kits for the ends of the docks as well as some placed on the new slips across the way. Along with that all material and instructions will be placed on top of each spill kit for easy guidance, and ease of use for the customer if needed in an emergency.
6. Continue to offer BMPs throughout the year through your social media and newsletters. Stay in contact with your slip renters and continue to offer great customer service to renters and potential customers.
  - We reach our slip renters through a mass text system as well as email. Murray Harbor does not use a social media platform. I am personally available to all renters at any time, we like to know our customers can reach out to us anytime with any problem or concern.
7. Look into rain barrels or containers in areas that rainwater would benefit the surrounding vegetation without using local water sources.
  - Murray Harbor has just begun a revamp of its flower gardens, we will be implementing water barrel uses in the future to help with the watering of many planters that will be located throughout the marina.
8. If your marina would benefit, develop a compost bin. You may use the rainwater from rain barrels to help with composting.
  - We will be putting a new eating facility in here at the harbor. I have spoken with the owners, and we are going to try to implement fresh produce locally grown onsite in our eating establishment. So, we have begun talking about starting compost bins to help enrich the soil on which we will be growing food. This will also allow us to use more rainwater and barrels to help in the process of growing and keeping the waste to a minimum.



Photo Series #1. Murray Harbor. Lake Murray. November 6, 2023

Front of Murray Harbor with Manager, James Tillery. Front of dock area, gas station, and boat slips.





Photo Series #2. Murray Harbor. Lake Murray. November 6, 2023.  
Fuel tank with 2 barriers around it. Unisex bathrooms to decrease waiting lines.





Photo Series #3. Murray Harbor. Lake Murray. November 6, 2023.

Recycle bins & trash cans, fire extinguisher, safety vest sign, spill kit storage, pet waste receptacle, and electrical boxes.





Photo Series #4. Murray Harbor. Lake Murray. November 6, 2023.

Fuel and Septic lines along with shutoff valve, informational sign, pump-out station next to gas pump.

