

City of Poulsbo

Parks and Recreation Department



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 4, 2026

City of Poulsbo
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Liberty Bay Drone Show

Poulsbo, WA - The City of Poulsbo is partnering with Poulsbo Rotary Club and Peninsula School District's Performance Drone Team to design and feature a dynamic aerial drone show on **Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at approximately 9:00 pm** over Liberty Bay. The show will be held a short distance away from Muriel Iverson Williams Waterfront Park, with 200 drones launching from the Waterfront Boardwalk. While the drone show was originally intended for demonstration on July 4th to celebrate America's 250th birthday, staffing limitations and further US Navy coordination shifted the show to a later summer date.

The drone show will follow the grand finale of the City of Poulsbo Park & Recreation's beloved Summer Nights at the Bay free community concert series, featuring a much-anticipated performance by the renowned Kalimba –The Spirit of Earth Wind & Fire from 6:00-8:00 pm. The final concert concludes what has been a record-breaking season of attendance for this summer's concert series, also seeing wide community support from sponsors and partners. Families are encouraged to enjoy world class music, dancing, and youth activities during the concert and then stay for the drone show afterwards.

"With Poulsbo voters recently approving a permanent ban on consumer fireworks within City limits, we wanted to provide a different and exciting idea for the community to gather around and celebrate. This drone show is intended to serve as an alternative to private use fireworks", said Mayor Stern. "We also heavily considered the number of veterans who experience PTSD as well as concerns about trauma to pets, fire risks, and the pollution caused from normal fireworks within City limits. This is an opportunity to offer our community a new idea which is intended to be sponsored by community partners and businesses in the future."

One of the core partners for this year's pilot demonstration is Peninsula School District (PSD). Student interns have spent months preparing for the event—evaluating the City's flight space, mastering complex synchronized software, and using digital design tools to transform the night sky into a high-tech canvas. By working with the Peninsula team to produce this professional-grade spectacle, the City is able to offer a high level experience for the community while simultaneously supporting the growth of local students.

"This is a premier example of workforce development in action, offering students a rare opportunity to bridge the gap between the classroom and a professional career," said Peninsula School District's Innovation & Technology Support Coordinator Mel Bronner. "Every element of the performance—from 3D modeling and animation to the technical logistics of flight-day operations—is a result of student-led innovation and problem-solving. By working as the primary contractors for this large-scale public event,

these interns are building a professional portfolio in aerospace, coding, and creative design while gaining the experience of a paid internship.”

Poulsbo Rotary Club is serving as the event organizer for the inaugural drone show. Rotary volunteers will be on hand before, during, and after the show to help guide people to where they can watch the show and where the temporary restricted pedestrian zone is for drone flight operations. “Rotary is privileged to support the drone show over Liberty Bay this year.” said Cheryl Harris from Poulsbo Rotary Club. “It’s a great substitute for fireworks, and an amazing celebration for our community.”

“We are thrilled to see so much community interest in the drone show, especially as it wraps up what has been up a tremendous season for our Summer Nights at the Bay free community concert series,” said Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Ozimek. “We recommend enjoying the finale summer concert with family and friends, grabbing a bite to eat downtown, and sticking around for the drone show afterwards. It’s going to be fun.”

DRONE SHOW INFORMATION

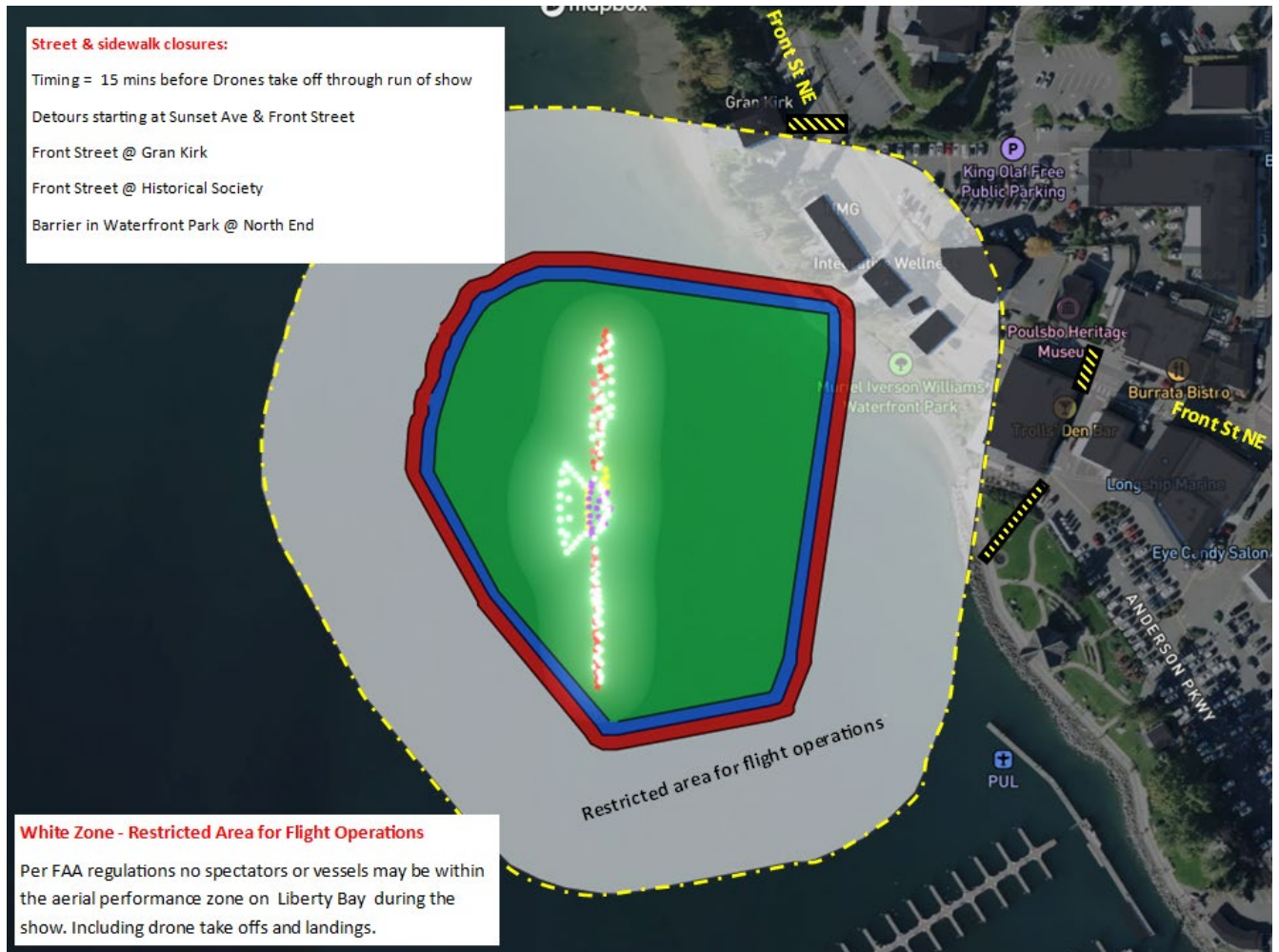
The City of Poulsbo invites the community to attend the drone show with the preferred viewing location being at Muriel Iverson Williams Waterfront Park. For those unable to watch at the park, the drone show is intended to be viewable at a distance with drones operating 200’-300’ above Liberty Bay, lasting approximately 12-15 minutes. Preferred orientation to watch the show is from the Southeast from the park. Please note, the Waterfront Boardwalk will be closed to unauthorized personnel 2:00- 10:00 pm to support drone preparations. A short term temporary restricted area will be in effect from 8:30 – 10:00 pm to support drone show operations, indicated in white on the map on the following page. For public safety, unauthorized personnel will not be allowed in the white zone during this time period. This includes a no-boat zone in Liberty Bay.

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICE – TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS

Please be advised that for public safety, a temporary restricted zone for flight operations will be active before, during, and after the scheduled aerial performance. See guidance below:

- **Restricted Airspace:** The airspace above and surrounding the event site will be reserved exclusively for the licensed drone operator. This area is indicated in white on the map listed on the next page.
- **No Personal Drones:** Personal or recreational drones are not permitted during the show. Unauthorized drones may interfere with the performance and pose safety hazards.
- **Safety Precautions:**
 - Residents and business staff located within the white area are asked to either remain indoors during the show or view the show outside of the restricted zone
 - This restriction is required to ensure safety and to maintain the controlled airspace needed for the performance.
 - Please remain indoors until the show has concluded and the flight zone has been cleared by event officials.
- **Event Perimeter:**
 - Attendees should keep a safe distance from marked equipment areas, launch sites, and operator stations.
 - The Waterfront Boardwalk will be closed to unauthorized personnel 2:00- 10:00 pm to support drone preparations.

- A small section of Waterfront Park north of the fire pit will be closed to unauthorized personnel 8:00- 10:00 pm to support drone operations.
- **Follow Staff Instructions:** Event personnel, volunteers, and safety officers will be stationed throughout the venue to support public safety and guide attendees.
- **Weather Considerations:** In the event of unexpected weather conditions, the drone show may be delayed or cancelled.
- **Road and Parking Closures:**
 - Temporary road closures and detours will be in place at Front Street / Sunset, Front Street/King Olaf Parking Lot, and Front Street/Jensen. Please plan accordingly.



The City of Poulsbo, Poulsbo Rotary Club, and Peninsula School District's Performance Drone Team deeply appreciate your cooperation in helping make this a safe and magical night for Poulsbo. If you have any questions regarding these safety restrictions or the event schedule, please contact Poulsbo Parks and Recreation at parksrec@poulsbo.gov or 360-779-9898.

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