



Parks Progress Report

VOL 2, ISSUE 1

Fall 2000

Welcome

Every six months, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), distributes this Parks Progress Report to keep you up to date on the status of park programs, new construction, and improvement projects.

In this, our third issue, you will begin to see a pattern that demonstrates how we are enhancing your state park system. Support from the legislature and Oregonians has provided funding through the lottery-backed Parks and Natural Resource Fund. However, our work to rebuild the state park system goes beyond mere dollars spent.

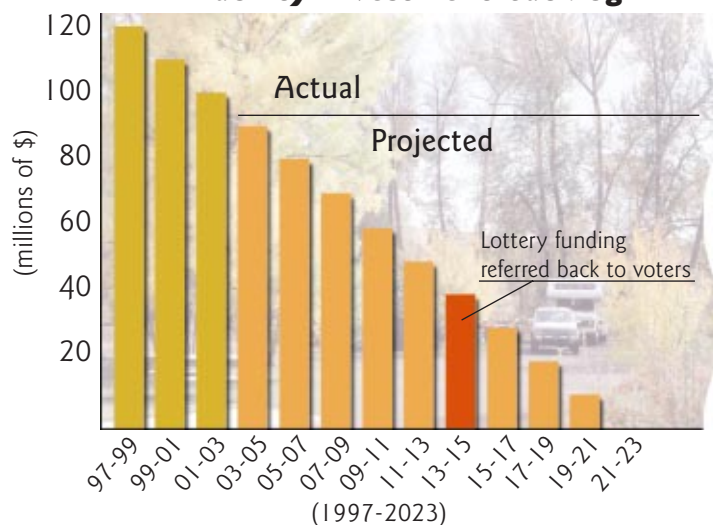
The future of recreation in Oregon—for all providers of parks, recreation and open spaces—is tied to the challenge of working with limited resources while serving a growing number of visitors. We believe we can meet the challenge, with continued support from the public and the legislature, with sound planning, and with good business practices.

From mundane and often invisible park improvements such as water and electrical system replacement, to more obvious projects like remodeling a picnic shelter, we're preparing the park system to fulfill its mission:

Provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

A few of the many projects and programs we're working on are covered in this issue. Returning all 230 properties to good health will take time, diligence on our part, and your continued support. For more information on the state park system, please feel free to write or visit our website at www.prd.state.or.us

Facility investment backlog



Michael Carrier

Director, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

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In our next issue see back cover

Park Improvements

Jasper Point

As Oregon's population continues its relentless march up the chart, state park managers and planners find themselves looking at the properties under their care and asking, "How can I serve more Oregonians and still protect the land?" Answering the inner voice requires creativity, thrift and foresight. Take Prineville Reservoir and Jasper Point, for example.

Prineville Reservoir, northeast of Bend and just south of the town of Prineville, is a federal impoundment on the Crooked River. It slakes the thirst of 24,000 acres of central Oregon farmland as it provides a 3,000 acre lake for boaters and anglers. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is in charge of the site.



A state park campground, established in 1961, operates on land leased from the BOR and supplies thousands of annual visitors with full-facility cabins, RV and tent camping, showers, a boat ramp and outdoor amphitheater. East of the state park is a section of shoreline called Jasper Point.

The partnership

In 1995, Jasper Point was under BOR management. It provided a little potable water, a boat ramp and dispersed roadside camping that caused considerable damage to fragile soils and native plants. To help with the management challenge presented by intense use on the land, local state park staff at Prineville offered to officially assume responsibility for Jasper Point.

With creativity, thrift and foresight, an extraordinary series of

▲ *The 20,000 gallon water tank at Jasper Point finally gives the park a way to store water and provide more reliable service to all 30 campsites.*

Now the finest ramp on Prineville Reservoir, the project was made possible by the Oregon State Marine Board and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. ▼

partnerships transformed Jasper Point over the ensuing five years.

Working closely with Crook County, the BOR, U.S. Forest Service, the Oregon State Marine Board and others, Jasper Point gained a primitive camping area with 30 designated sites, a self-pay station, picnic tables and fire pits by patching together federal monies, donations and equipment transfers from other state parks. In 1996, electrical service was added to the campsites. In 1997, the Marine Board and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife funded significant improvements to the boat ramp (now the best on the lake) and other facilities.



Recent improvements

In 1999 and this year, funds from the lottery-backed Parks and Natural Resource Fund added a water storage tank, filtration and purification systems that will bring vastly improved water service to every site. Last year, Jasper Point accounted for 20% of the state park camping at Prineville, as RV and tent campers alike are drawn to the simplicity and tranquility of the campground. Coming up by next year: an RV dump station, again with the help of a partnership with the BOR for federal funds.

With its compacted gravel road, dedicated volunteer park hosts and emphasis on landscaping with native plants, Jasper is low-maintenance and high-return. And even more ... it's a model partnership that satisfies the needs of a growing Oregon.

Self-pay, volunteer hosts and gravel roads help keep the park low-maintenance ▶



Park Improvements (continued)

Beverly Beach

You may have heard some of Oregon's more popular state parks referred to as small cities in the height of summer. Beverly Beach, with 258 campsites, 21 yurts and five group sites, hosts 1,000-plus overnight visitors a night all summer long.

An antiquated water system (dating back to the mid 1960s, but using technology from even earlier), inadequate storage and treatment, and a fragile delivery system vexed both staff and visitors. If a water line broke, one park staff member would walk through the park, turning off one valve at a time. Another would stand at the park's sole water meter, watching it spin. When it stopped spinning, they knew they had isolated the break.

Water purity was a problem, and delivery failures occasionally left campers high and dry.

Solutions

In the last year, a new tank, water purification plant, main water lines and a monitoring system were installed in the park. The purification portion of the system uses microfilter technology

and a computer-controlled chlorination and pump system, purity now approaches that of distilled water.

The new 100,000 gallon main water storage tank will work in tandem with the park's older 60,000 gallon redwood tank. New water meters allow park staff to quickly isolate line breaks, saving time and water.

Work over the next year will further increase the efficiency of the water system. Programmable pumping will enable



▲ *Park staff monitor and operate the water treatment plant both on-site, and remotely via computer.*

the park to integrate water intake, purification, and supply. This new approach will use less electricity and provide a steady supply of high-quality water.

Park staff have become equivalent to the water treatment specialists found in many small towns. The Beverly Beach system has attracted the attention of the U.S Forest Service and community water treatment offices in Warrenton and the Youngs River Water District near Astoria on the north coast, who toured the facility and later installed their own microfiltration systems. Perhaps they were pursuing the same goal: a system that provides better service, yet takes less staff time to operate.

Starvation Creek

This park symbolizes our past in many ways. Acquired between 1930-60, Starvation Creek gained a septic system designed for 200 people per day in the mid-60s. Many state parks were purposely located along highways and freeways to serve travelers. Home to an elegant waterfall and important connections to both state and federal trails, the park is right on Interstate 84, 10 miles west of Hood River. As freeway traffic grew, visits to the park eventually swelled to around 4,000 people per day—20 times the capacity of its septic system.

The system finally failed in 1997 and the park was closed for lack of funds to make repairs.

With funding from the Parks and Natural Resource Fund, a new recirculating gravel drainfield is nearly complete, and the park was reopened in September, 2000. The restroom is now an improved, low-maintenance, fully-accessible facility.

A park reborn

The park is a much more suited for use as a recreational portal. Rather than continue as a rest area, the park is now promoted and signed as a trailhead and access point to important Columbia Gorge trails.

From Starvation Creek, you can walk along a short segment of the Historic Columbia Highway State Trail to nearby Viento State Park to the east. The U.S. Forest Service trail to Mt.

Defiance overlooking the gorge is also a popular destination. In the next year, the Historic Columbia Highway State Trail will be improved to accommodate people with mobility-related disabilities.



New sewer lines connect the existing storage tanks to the new drain field.

Park Improvements (continued)

Collier

Collier is a very quiet park. It is also a very loud park.

Spread out over a shallow depression near the confluence of Spring Creek and the Williamson River north of Klamath Falls, it may be the very mirror image to more visited parks like Fort Stevens or Beverly Beach. Among the 50 RV sites and 18 tent spaces, the evening is hushed. Tall ponderosa pine nod gently when the wind blows. Even given the nearness of Highway 97, the park exudes quiet.

The park is also home to the west's premier collection of historic equipment and artifacts dating back to the heyday of Oregon's timber days. Boilers, graders, carts, tractors, cats and thousands of smaller pieces are housed in open-walled, cedar-shake roofed sheds. Pioneer-era cabins face Spring Creek. From draft horse leather to mammoth machinery designed to power the mills, Collier speaks loudly in rumbling, bass tones about Oregon's industrial heritage.

Protecting the past

The collection sheds, roofed back in the 1940s and 50s, offered scant protection by 1999. With dollars from the Parks and Natural Resource Fund, new roofing was applied to the six sheds in most need of repair. Unlike roofing a house, the shakes and supporting purlins at Collier are virtually part of the collection, and



Shakes—warped and cracked by years of exposure—provided scant protection to the museum collection. Sheds were stripped down to the purlins, some of which were replaced.



required replacement that preserved the look of the original.

But where to find enough 30" hand-split cedar shakes to cover half a dozen buildings? Appropriately enough for a museum park like Collier, the answer lay in the past. More than 200 years ago, a stand of old growth western red cedar blew down in Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Using that downed wood, enough shakes were made to cover the 13,000 square feet of roof needing repair.

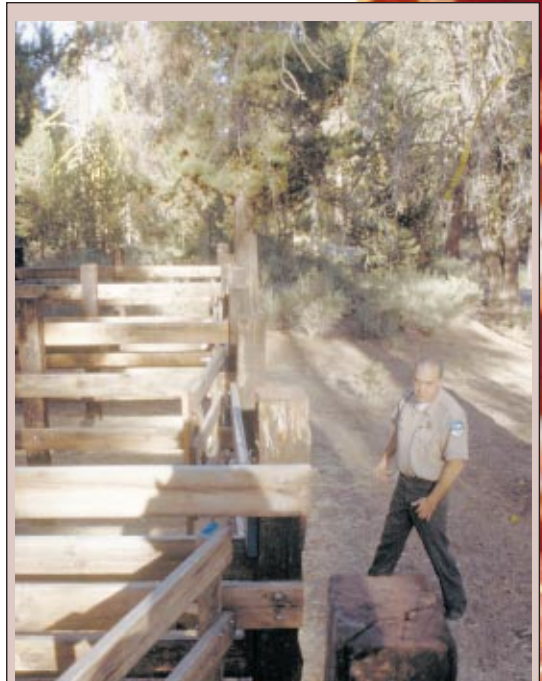
Protecting the collection from the elements is important, but there are times we need protection from the collection. Following the reroofing of 1999, a small number of artifacts were found to contain asbestos, a harmful fireproof substance often used machinery between 1920 and 1978. A locomotive, two log loaders and a stationary steam engine (collected in the 1950s onward), all contained asbestos.

With Parks and Natural Resource Fund support, the artifacts were enclosed, inspected, and either sealed or stripped of their asbestos by a certified contractor.

The road ahead

More work remains at the park. The pioneer cabins need roof repair and structural reinforcement. A private, nonprofit group, the Friends of Collier, have their eye on fundraising for a visitor center. Expect them to succeed. While the park they serve is quiet and unassuming, their message is loud and clear—Collier is an important part of Oregon's history.

With a double course of new shakes installed, the sheds will provide decades of protection to the museum artifacts.



Happy trails

In the midst of the state park system's multimillion dollar catch-up campaign, park managers throughout the state are finding ways to serve more people in more ways for very little cash investment.

Volunteers are one way of making that happen, and hosts work along side paid staff at Collier to restore the historic logging equipment.

A new equestrian trailhead and primitive camp demonstrate what creative staff can do with partnerships, too. Four corrals were built wholly with volunteer labor. Trail connections to U.S. Forest Service land permit horseback riders to saunter north from the park through the Winema National Forest to Kimball State Recreation Site (and even all the way to Crater Lake, if they like).

Park Improvements (continued)

Fort Stevens

Last year, Oregon's flagship coastal park received a major boost. The new registration building, a safer road system, improved trail surface and other enhancements (covered in Vol. 1, Issue 1 of the Progress Report), were met with enthusiastic approval by this season's visitors. The recently-completed Fort Stevens Master Plan will continue to guide the park's evolution.

To improve traffic flow and separate the main camp loops from the heavy traffic pouring into the park during the peak months, a road was reoriented through the camping area. This construction eliminated some wetland acreage, so a replacement wetland was built in another area of the park.

As with the initial improvements, the wetland was funded by the Parks and Natural Resource Fund.



The existing wetland (left) provides a preview of the habitats the new area (below) will likely sustain in a few years.



A new home

The new half-acre wetland is adjacent to an existing marsh and pond, itself a mitigation wetland developed ten years ago. The older wetland filled over the course of two winters, and wildlife (especially frogs) appeared in short order. Within a year, migrating birds were using the area, a pattern that will likely be repeated with the new wetland. In our next issue, we'll bring you more news about our natural resource projects.



In the next year, aging restroom buildings in the campground's C and G loops will be replaced. The structures—complete with battered, 1960s-era fixtures—will be razed, and low-maintenance, high-service facilities constructed.

Aging Fort Stevens shower fixtures will be replaced in 2001.

At Unity Lake ... east of John Day, the campground gained 14 new 50-amp electrical sites (adding to the 21 existing 30-amp sites), with partial funding support from the Bureau of Reclamation. An upcoming all-ability restroom and shower is a first for the park. The eastern Oregon site, located between John Day and Baker City, is a popular boating and fishing retreat for Oregon, Idaho and Washington residents.



Program Highlights

Acquisitions

As Oregon's population grows, and state parks and natural sites become more popular, the inevitable result is an overflowing park system.

Using a thoughtful approach to property acquisition and funding support from a wide array of partners and the Parks and Natural Resource Fund, OPRD has been able to secure several important sites over the last couple of years. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission recently reviewed and refined criteria for evaluating potential property acquisitions. OPRD now considers:

- How well the site meets the department mission to protect natural, cultural, historic, scenic and recreational resources
- Suitability of the site for OPRD ownership, including regional and statewide significance of the resource, size of the site, compatibility of the land as park when compared with surrounding properties
- Harmony with previously completed local, regional and statewide recreation plans
- Feasibility of developing the site for use, including access issues, selling price, availability of partners and outside funding, support of local governments, and proximity to existing OPRD staff and management resources.

Preservation and legacy

Whalen Island, on the north coast southwest of Tillamook, is a prime example of the methods OPRD uses to evaluate and acquire new park land. With slightly less than 180 acres of land and unspoiled estuarine wetland, the site meets many of the criteria for acquisition. The private Trust for Public Lands obtained an option to buy the property, providing time for a government-spanning partnership to form and fund the \$2.8 million purchase: \$1.2 million from the Parks and Natural Resource Fund, \$917,500 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, \$500,000 from the Federal Highway Administration and \$200,000 from the National Park Service-administered Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Existing state park sites have also added acreage in the last year, including 10 acres at South Beach near Newport, 273 acres at The Cove Palisades near Madras, 28 acres in the Columbia Gorge along the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail, and the highly significant addition of the Fort Rock cave

south of Bend. Fort Rock cave, an important and now protected archaeological site, was wholly funded with money donated by Cycle Oregon, a private nonprofit group.

OPRD continues to explore arrangements with partners to protect open spaces for Oregonians. Discussions on the table right now include a rail-to-trail project between Elgin and Joseph in Wallowa and Union counties, coastal acreage near Cape Sebastian and Heceta Head, another parcel near South Beach, and an important development in Washington County near Buxton.



▲ *Whalen Island near Tillamook*

Program Highlights *(continued)*

New Youth Service Award

Oregon's state parks have benefited enormously from the work of youth who have helped with trails and property cleanups, habitat restoration and many other park projects. To encourage volunteer contributions and recognize youth who take the time to improve their parks, OPRD has developed a Youth Service Award:

- For youth 8-18
- Complete 25 hours of pre-approved volunteer service work in Oregon's state parks
- Scorecards issued to help keep track of hours they contribute
- Distribute list of projects at campgrounds, scenic areas and waysides
- Groups eligible for an award banner once each group member completes 25 hours.

Young volunteers can develop trails and build footbridges, repair picnic tables and benches, help restore native plant areas and river riparian, clean up parks, scenic waterways and wildlife refuges. Youth may also earn up to eight hours towards the award by participating in SOLV beach and riverside clean-up events.

OPRD unveiled the award program during Scoutrageous, a huge event for more than 8,000 Pacific Northwest Boy Scouts and parents at Milo McIver State Park September 8-10, 2000. More than 50 troops have signed up for volunteer service projects.

OPRD's Toll-free Volunteer Line

Oregon State Parks volunteers are as important to our workforce as paid staff. Keeping volunteers interested and involved is paramount to help with recruitment; OPRD is launching a new toll-free volunteer line November 2000. It will operate similar to a typical job hotline.

The new toll-free line will provide up-to-date position information, geographic sub-menus and a way for individuals and groups to directly contact the statewide volunteer coordinators.

Volunteer Newsletter

To reach state park volunteers with important program and training information, OPRD's volunteer coordinators will publish a newsletter directly to volunteers. By working with committee leaders from OPRD's volunteer host and groups, the publication will begin in early 2001.



▲ *Boy Scouts have taken up the challenge of the Youth Service Award.*

Local grants

This year, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Local Government Grant Program provided nearly \$4.6 million in lottery-funded grants to local governments for parks and recreation projects. The program, authorized by the 1999 Oregon Legislature, helps local government acquire, develop and rehabilitate recreation areas and facilities.

Through a painstaking panel review and ranking process, OPRD awarded \$4,597,637 to 46 recipients. Since the grants are provided as matching funds, the money will actually go much farther. For the first time in several years, additional federal money was also available through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. For fiscal year 2001, nearly \$500,000 has been earmarked for property acquisition (See Whalen Island on p. 9), projects in Linn County and Pendleton, and more.

Local Government Grants awarded this year

Bend Metro P & R District	Shevlin Park Conservation Easement	\$250,000
Benton County	Fort Hoskins Historic Park Development	\$142,922
City of Albany	Cox Creek Path System	\$90,000
City of Astoria	Tapiola and Evergreen Park Lighting	\$66,800
City of Athena	Skate Board Park	\$19,580
City of Aumsville	Mill Creek Park Skateboard Park & Restroom Facility	\$120,450
City of Baker City	Leo Adler Memorial Parkway Acquisition & Development	\$250,000
City of Bandon	11th St Park Upgrade	\$30,000
City of Canby	Willamette/Molalla River Pathway Acquisition	\$187,500
City of Depoe Bay	Whale Park Dev and Oceanfront Acquisition	\$240,200
City of Donald	Wilco Park Project	\$30,000
City of Estacada	Timber Park Scenic Byway Portal and Interpretive Ctr	\$156,318
City of Falls City	Falls City Park Development	\$25,000
City of Grants Pass	Grants Pass Community Skate Park	\$40,000
City of Independence	Riverview Park Play Structure	\$25,000
City of Jacksonville	The Jacksonville Knoll Acquisition	\$250,000
City of LaGrande	Pioneer Park Skate Park	\$182,500
City of Lincoln City	Lincoln City Rose Property Acquisition	\$250,000
City of Lowell	Heritage Park Plaza Trail/Picnic Facility	\$25,000
City of Medford	Fichtner-Mainwaring Park Basketball Court	\$9,734
City of Monmouth	Ecols Park Development	\$21,000
City of Mosier	Mosier Waterfall Park Acquisition	\$159,400
City of Myrtle Point	Lehnherr Park Skateboard Facility	\$36,000
City of North Plains	Pacific Street Park Playground	\$9,226
City of Riddle	Riddle Comm Park	\$30,000
City of Scappoose	Heritage Park Development	\$25,000
City of Troutdale	Harlow House Park Improvements	\$15,000
City of Troutdale	Sunrise Park Landscaping	\$10,000
City of Tualatin	Jurgens Park Play Area Development	\$200,000
City of Vernonia	Anderson Park RV sites & restroom/shower, shelter	\$249,000
City of Waldport Port of Alsea	Keady Wayside & Robinson Park Rehab. & Development	\$19,525
City of Wilsonville	RiverFox Park Development	\$24,921
City of Woodburn	Centennial Park Phase 2B	\$192,500
Clackamas County	Barton Park Acquisition	\$187,500
Crook Co Park & Recreation Dist	Harwood Park Picnic Shelter	\$13,291
Elgin Parks & Rec Dept	Tom McDowell Community Park	\$30,000
Hood River Co Parks	Kingsley Park Campground Rehab	\$25,000
Jackson County	Rogue Elk County Park Playground	\$21,353
John Day-Canyon City PR District	Gleason Park pool rehabilitation	\$28,996
LaPine Park & Rec District	Finley Butte Community Park	\$22,400
METRO	Howell Territorial Park (Sauvie Island) Ph I	\$242,141
No. Wasco P & R District	The Dalles Riverfront Trail - Port Section	\$132,283
Port of Bandon	Bandon Waterfront Riverwalk	\$250,000
Tualatin Hills P & R District	Nature Park Acquisition	\$250,000
Wheeler County	Shelton State Park Water System	\$3,771
Yoncalla Parks & Rec District	Yoncalla City Park Development	\$7,538
46 total projects	Total grants =	\$4,597,637

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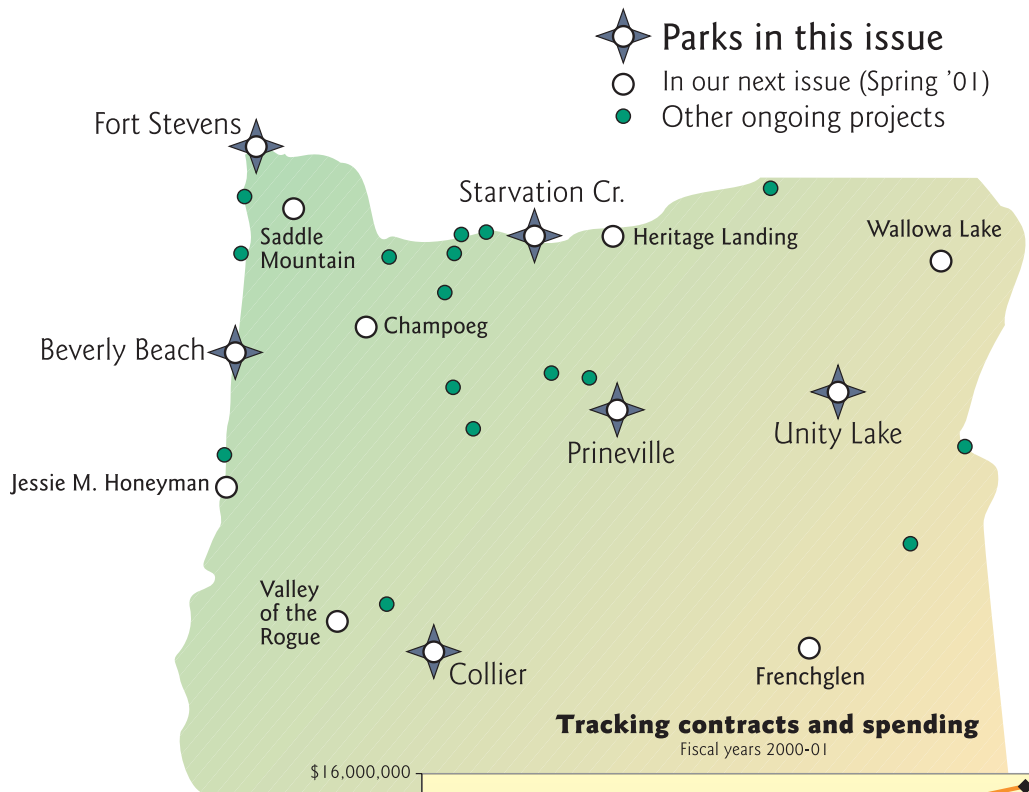
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Tracking contracts and spending

Fiscal years 2000-01

