



# The Progress Report

VOL 2, ISSUE 2

Spring 2001

## Welcome

This issue reports on the status of park programs, new construction and improvement projects.

Many of the projects described in this and past issues were made possible by the 1998 voter-approved ballot measure that gave the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department a share of Oregon Lottery proceeds. We have used lottery money to rehabilitate our existing parks, acquire new park property and provide grants to improve city and county parks.



*Heceta Head*

In recognizing the progress made in revitalizing the park system, however, we should not overlook some of the other advantages of having a stable source of funding. Vital programs such as beach safety, volunteer services, historic preservation grants, and park planning benefit when the department is on solid financial ground. While these programs are less visible and less heralded than the projects in the parks, they are an important element of what we strive for to meet the needs of our customers.

Returning our state parks to their proper condition will take time, hard work and your continued support. At the same time, we are dedicated to maintaining and improving programs that are central to our mission: providing and protecting our natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

**Michael Carrier**

Director, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

## Inside this issue

### Park Improvements

Honeyman .....	2
Valley of the Rogue .....	3
Champoeg .....	4
Frenchglen .....	6
Saddle Mountain .....	6
Cape Sebastian .....	7

### Program Highlights

Master Planning .....	8
Volunteers .....	10
Beach Safety .....	10
Historic Grants .....	11

**Next Issue ... back cover**

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

Elizabeth "Betsy" McCool, <b>Chair</b>	George H. Bell
John L. Blackwell, <b>Vice-Chair</b>	Shelley L. Briggs
Charles "Jody" Calica	Nik Blosser
Robert G. Green	



# Park Improvements



▲ *Honeyman State Park, near Florence on the coast, also features freshwater lakes and access to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.*

## Honeyman

Camper comfort is job one at Jessie M. Honeyman State Park near Florence this year. A new restroom in F Loop was finished just in time for Memorial Day weekend, 2001.

The 650 sq. ft. building features two roomy bathrooms and four unisex showers, one of which is accessible to people with disabilities. The modular prefab concrete construction is hardy enough for Honeyman's intensive, year-round use, yet the design is cost-effective for shipping, and versatile in its use of space.

The \$180,000 project came in well under budget, even including the cost of

demolishing the old structure. As with most infrastructure repair at the parks, the construction was made possible from Oregon Lottery funds earmarked for state parks after Measure 66 passed in 1998.

Honeyman staff are grateful for the facility. It replaced an aging wooden structure that had been closed for more than a year, due to dry rot and a leaky roof that was actually caving in.

"It had expended its useful life several times over," says Park Manager Shirley Stentz. "It was almost as old as I am. It took forever to clean and, well, the roof was a roof in name only."

Energy consumption is always a big concern at the parks, especially with rising utility costs. The heated restroom is insulated, and equipped with a high-efficiency water heater. It also boasts Fastaire hand dryers that use no heat at all, just a high-powered fan with an automatic shut off. Staff say this method works faster and costs far less to operate. ●



◀ *New facilities, like no-heat hand dryers, are more energy-efficient.*





## Valley of the Rogue

Valley of the Rogue State Park, in southern Oregon near Grants Pass, is a tree-lined campground nestled along the wild and scenic Rogue River. Bordered by busy Interstate 5, it's a popular park. The park is a hub, with the river, Oregon Caves National Monument, Crater Lake National Park, The Britt Festival, and Ashland's Shakespeare Festival all within an easy drive.



In the campground, 97 full hookup, 49 electrical and 21 tent sites lie in five loops sheltered from the freeway by a tall, earthen berm strewn with wildflowers. Valley of the Rogue has the space and location to serve a large number of campers.

Unfortunately, it also has an electrical system that reached its heyday decades ago. Today's RVs easily draw two to three times the power. On a sunny, hot southern Oregon day, the park's 20- and 30-amp electrical service is quickly overwhelmed by the load from dozens of air conditioning systems. Power drop-offs and failures were a daily occurrence last summer. Staff would walk the loops, site by site, to explain the situation to campers and try to get things working.

"Campers last year were really understanding about it," says Brent Siebold, team leader at the park. "But there are limits. We needed to come into the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

*A decades-old electrical system often left Valley of the Rogue RV campers without power temporarily in summer. The current 20- and 30-amp service is much less than modern rigs need.*



Thanks to lottery revenue—to the tune of more than \$275,000—a modern 50-amp electrical system was installed in one area (F Loop) in spring, 2001. Another two loops will be upgraded this fall, bringing the total number of

50-amp sites to 153. Staff will find more productive uses for their time than a daily walk to reset breakers.



*Contractors worked this spring to install 50-amp service in F Loop. Other loops will follow in fall.*





# Park Improvements

## Champoeg

---

Champoeg State Heritage Area is a unique mixture of a modern, active campground in a quiet, pastoral setting, rich in historic treasures and cultural significance. The park, located on the Willamette River midway between Salem and Portland, showcases the monuments and interpretive exhibits expected of a place called “the birthplace of government in the Pacific Northwest.” Trails lead to the spot where settlers voted to establish the first pro-American provisional government. A visitor center filled with displays traces the site’s history as an important Indian settlement and a critical transportation hub for mid-19<sup>th</sup> century farmers.

Champoeg also has 616 acres of open space and tree-shaded corridors, a welcome rural getaway for the 1 million-plus people living within 50 miles of the park. Its amenities reflect an active population: 10 miles of trails for bicyclists and hikers, two large picnic areas and a disc golf course.

### More room for camping needed

---

The demand for campsites in this area just keeps rising. Champoeg has responded, thanks to Lottery dollars that have enabled OPRD to build a new, 46-site loop (B Loop) that just about doubles the park’s camping capacity.

Park Manager Dennis Wiley believes the development of B Loop, in many ways, symbolizes the direction OPRD is taking, as guided by its Target 2014 goals. “The loop represents our contribution to provide ‘varied, high-quality camping and other overnight experiences.’ It helps satisfy the agency’s longtime objective to develop parks closer to urban areas,” says Wiley.



◀ Campers have already discovered Champoeg’s new B Loop. The area’s 46 sites nearly double the park’s camping capacity.



The new sites, all of which are either full or electrical hookups, are designed for newer, larger RVs: four of eight new full hookup sites (the first ever at Champoeg) and six electrical sites are “pull-through.”

Three sites, including one full hookup, are designed for people with disabilities. Six electrical sites are set aside for group camping in a cul-de-sac off the main loop road.

Six log cabins frame the north side of the loop. Each of the 13 X 13’ one-room structures sleeps four, and are perfect for campers who prefer “camping lite.” The cabins are heated, lighted, and furnished with beds, tables and chairs. The new loop also has six walk-in sites for tent camping.

Although it was established to preserve one of Oregon’s most important historical sites, Champoeg State Heritage Area exemplifies today’s trend in park design and diversity. ●



▲ Six rustic cabins, the park’s first, will be ready to rent this summer.



## Bioblitz!

It sounds like an exciting celebration of Oregon’s biological diversity because that’s what it is.

**Bioblitz** is an international phenomenon that burst upon the Oregon scene at Champoeg last summer (June 2000). During the event, scientists of all stripes converged on the park, and spent 24 hours, non-stop, counting species.

Dozens of specialists from a wide range of natural sciences counted more than 800 species of amphibians, plants, spiders, mammals, fish, birds, reptiles and more.

**Bioblitz** returns to Champoeg for a second year June 22-23, 2001, and who knows what they’ll get their hands on this time around ...





# Park Improvements

## Frenchglen

Is it luck? The Frenchglen Hotel has survived since the 1920s with no way to combat a major structural fire. The nearest fire-fighting services are, ironically, in Burns, more than a hour away. Frenchglen became a state park wayside in the mid-1970s, and the site is now a popular hotel with excellent family-style meals served three times a day and operated by a state-contracted concessionaire.

People come from all quarters of the country, and for all reasons: bird-watching at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, fishing on the Donner and Blitzen River, hunting and sightseeing in the Steens Mountain.

With the growing popularity of the hotel, and given \$78,000 in lottery revenue, the hotel is about to fortify its luck with an automated fire suppression system. An on-site water storage tank, pump and sprinkler system will be installed this

year. The storage system and other outdoor components will be installed this summer, with interior work scheduled for autumn.

While the project seems straightforward, the challenge is significant. The Frenchglen Hotel is an historic site—listed on the National Register of Historic Places—and care must be taken to preserve the important characteristics of the building during the installation of sprinkler system pipes and other equipment.

Read our next issue for an update on the project. ●



▲ *A sprinkler system being installed in the Frenchglen Hotel will provide better protection for the historic building in southeast Oregon.*

## Saddle Mountain

You don't really notice things like roads and bridges until they fail. This past winter, plenty of people noticed when the road and bridge to Saddle Mountain State Park were closed. The bridge, on the road leading to Saddle Mountain State Park in the northern reach of the coast range, had reached the end of its life.

On the original structure, wood decking was overlaid with asphalt. The wood decayed, the asphalt

crumbled, and you could enjoy a nice view of the Lewis and Clark River by looking straight down through the bridge.

Late last year, a weight limit was imposed to protect travelers, and over the winter, Saddle Mountain State Park closed while the bridge was replaced. Contractors swooped in, mindful of special construction needs required to protect native salmon runs, and completed their work on schedule.



## Cape Sebastian

---

The Cape Sebastian State Scenic Corridor in Curry County is about to become whole.

For years, two parcels of state park property west of Highway 101 between Gold Beach and Brookings have been divided by 258 acres of privately-owned land—space that at one time was being considered for residential development. The property—with its spruce and aspen forest, steep topography, undergrowth of salal, huckleberry and sword fern, and a stream that winds through property to the beach—embodies the rugged beauty of Oregon’s south coast.

Since March 2000, acquiring this property has been one of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department’s highest priorities. Recently, the dream moved closer to reality when the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission approved purchase of the property for \$2.65 million. OPRD proposes to buy the land with money designated for such purposes by a voter-approved ballot measure in 1998.

“The Cape Sebastian purchase is a key action that will preserve a significant portion of Oregon’s coastline,” said the commission’s vice-chair, John Blackwell of Portland. “The action affirms the public trust in our efforts to preserve and protect Oregon’s special places.”

The property’s acquisition consolidates the two divided halves of the existing 1,143-acre Cape Sebastian State Scenic Corridor. The addition, which includes a road leading to the beach, would give the state park approximately three miles of uninterrupted ocean shoreline and provide OPRD with an opportunity to connect the Oregon Coast Trail over the cape. Currently, the trail detours around the property onto Highway 101.

“It’s rare that 258 acres of oceanfront property west of Highway 101 come up for sale,” said Andy LaTomme, OPRD area manager for the south coast. “This property is big enough for several trail loops and maybe even some dispersed, walk-in camping.”



▲ View from the recently-purchased addition to the Cape Sebastian Scenic Corridor on the south coast.

The new bridge, concrete rather than wood, should last another 50 years. A local seed company worked with the contractor to replant the work site with native plants.

The park itself is a regional favorite. A small primitive camping area lies at the base of the 3,283' peak. A trail leads hikers to the summit. Most of the trail has been improved for safer access through a combination of grant funding, staff work and volunteer labor, though a small portion near the top still requires some upgrades. Those will come this fall.





# Program Highlights

## Master Planning

---

State park master planning is a challenging endeavor. Encompassing landscape design, civil engineering, recreation needs assessment, natural and cultural resource management and a host of other professional fields, the ultimate goal is to craft a complete, useful document that guides park development for years to come.

Master plans give state park staff and the community a chance to focus on a park's future. A typical master plan takes a year to complete, and in that time a considerable amount of information is gathered. Working closely with local governments, the community and other park staff from the start, OPRD's planning team serves as the hub of an intense data-gathering effort. The planning process often brings up important questions:

- How is the park going to change over time?
- How will increasing demand change the park as we know it now?
- How will the environment be affected by park use?

To develop answers, state park master plans (recent examples include Fort Stevens and parks in Wallowa county), delve into a potpourri of disciplines. In Wallowa county, OPRD planners dealt with the need for more camping at Minam State Recreation Area. Minam is a perfect example of a park being "loved to death," so the plan offers solutions for increased camping that protect the site, allow high-quality recreation and address the concerns of county residents.

Up the road at Wallowa Lake State Park, issues were equally diverse. One example: the park's neighbors were concerned about the threat of forest fires. The forest adjacent to the state park and the local community was rich with dry, woody debris. This issue was identified in the master plan. In response, OPRD completed a comprehensive forest fire fuel management program last winter.



◀ Along with formal research, OPRD planners use public meetings to understand issues (Whalen Island meeting, left). The meeting was conducted by senior planner Kathy Schutt (far left) and planner Ron Campbell.



On the other side of the state, the Fort Stevens plan will enable the park to develop, within sensible constraints, more diverse camping opportunities (such as horse camping, walk-in sites and group areas), improvements to the historic area and more.

### Making a master plan

The state park master planning process follows a well-defined series of steps:

- Describe the site resources (natural, cultural, scenic, facilities) and needs.
- Identify issues concerning the park's development and management.
- Set goals for the park's use, development and management.
- Compile a draft plan.
- Amend the plan with input from the public, OPRD Commission and Director.
- Adopt the plan by administrative rule and through the local land-use process.

Negotiating a consensus among the people interested in a park isn't always easy, but it's the approach OPRD's planning team is dedicated to, according to OPRD lead planner Kathy Schutt. Using exhaustive research, public meetings, a steering committee and extensive, repetitive reviews, a plan is under constant modification before being submitted for final approval. Local governments are involved from the inception to represent both local needs *and* goals important to all Oregonians. As Schutt says, "A good plan balances."

Over the next two years, look for plans covering parks at Detroit Lake, Whalen Island, Prineville Reservoir, the southern Willamette Valley around Eugene, and Umpqua Lighthouse.

State park master plans are becoming available on the OPRD website at <http://www.prd.state.or.us> under the department administration link. ●



*Umpqua Lighthouse State Park, one of several sites scheduled for a master plan in the coming biennium.* ▲

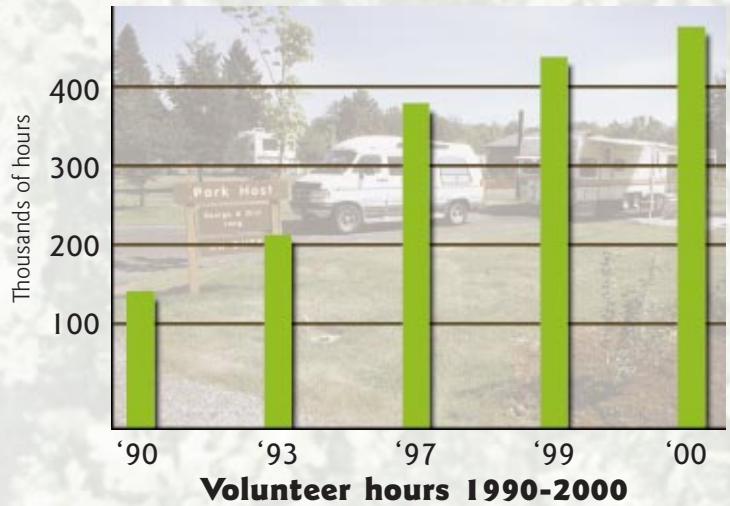


# Program Highlights

## Volunteers contribute record number of hours

Park volunteers help maintain a high level of customer service to park visitors. Thanks to volunteers working side-by-side with staff, OPRD offers a growing number of interpretive programs. Volunteers also help maintain park lands and facilities.

Last year, 33,320 volunteers donated just over 470,000 hours of service to the state park system. The estimated value of their work to Oregonians in 2000 was \$6.6 million.



Park staff can now easily track and report their volunteers' contributions and service hours using a new software package—Provelle. The software program tracks volunteer availability, work hours, safety training and recognition awards.



## Beach safety

The beach safety education program has worked diligently to get the beach safety message to Oregonians and visitors. During the last six months, three major events took place that will help visitors make informed decisions when they visit the beach.

First, working with the Oregon Department of Transportation, OPRD produced a safety video "Hidden Hazards at the Beach." The video features interviews with beach safety advocate Diane Wetzel-Price, whose son Jacob was killed by a drift log in 1997, and others. The video is distributed free to anyone interested in beach safety.

Second, following the release of the video, OPRD beach safety coordinator Robert Smith and Wetzel-Price traveled to several Hillsboro-area schools and presented the beach safety message to nearly 4,000 children. More school visits are planned.

The third accomplishment was a major advertising campaign on Channel 2 (KATU), Channel 8 (KGW) and Northwest Cable News. The campaign brought the beach safety message into homes in Oregon, Washington, western Idaho and northern California.

Working with the Oregon Department of Education, OPRD will continue to make beach safety part of the curriculum in Oregon grade schools. ●



KATU's Grant McOmie narrated a series of televised public service messages on beach safety. Laural Porter narrated on KGW.



## Oregon Heritage grants

---

Oregon Heritage grants, administered by the Oregon Heritage Commission, provide matching grants for projects that conserve or develop Oregon heritage resources. Recipients of 1999-2000 Oregon Heritage Grants:

**Albany**—Albany Regional Museum, \$20,000.

**Astoria**—Clatsop County Historical Society, \$8,850; Liberty Restoration, Inc., \$20,000.

**Bend**—High Desert Museum, \$5,040.

**Burns**—Burns Paiute Foundation, \$1,000.

**Canby**—Canby Depot Historical Society Museum, \$19,000.

**Corvallis**—Benton County Historical Society, \$20,996.

**Estacada**—Jackknife-Zion-Horseheaven Historical Society, \$3,700.

**Eugene**—City of Eugene, \$3,200.

**Hood River**—Hood River County Museum, \$12,000; Hood River Crag Rats, \$10,000.

**Joseph**—Wallowa County Museum Board, \$1,670.

**Medford**—S. Oregon Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, \$12,160.

**Oakland**—Oakland Museum, \$1,950.

**Portland**—Oregon Jewish Museum, \$6,000; Oregon Nikkei Endowment, Inc., \$7,000; Washington County Historical Society, \$1,950.

**Salem**—Marion County Historical Society, \$6,510.

**Tillamook**—Latimer Quilt & Textile Center, \$12,080.

**Woodburn**—Woodburn Public Library, \$25,000.

## Preserving Oregon grants

---

In 2000, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) introduced a significant new grant program for restoring historic properties. The 1999 Oregon Legislature allocated \$118,000 in lottery dollars and the Preserving Oregon grant program was born. In April 2000, the first recipients were awarded matching grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 for restoration of properties on the National Register of Historic Places:

**Albany**—William Vance House, for foundation repairs, replacement of windows and doors, and reroofing.

**Astoria**—Ferdinand Fisher House, for repainting.

**Burns**—Sod House Ranch Long Barn, for stabilizing barn; straightening, rebuilding gable and end doors.

**Corvallis**—John Fiechter House, for stabilizing house by hand hewn sill repair or replacement.

**Eagle Creek**—Philip Foster Farm, for reroofing, milk room and pump house, repairing gutters.

**Granite**—Fremont Powerhouse and Foreman's Cottage, for repairing powerhouse roof and windows, weatherproofing, replacing cottage foundation.

**John Day**—Kam Wah Chung and Co. Museum for repairing stonework, installing gutters and flashing, repainting exterior wood surfaces.

**Jefferson**—Jacob Conser House for weatherizing and adding support to foundation; repairing exterior walls, trim and siding; installing rain drain.

**Philomath**—GW Bethers House for replacing roof.

**Portland**—William Temple House for reroofing, installing new gutters, basement waterproofing.

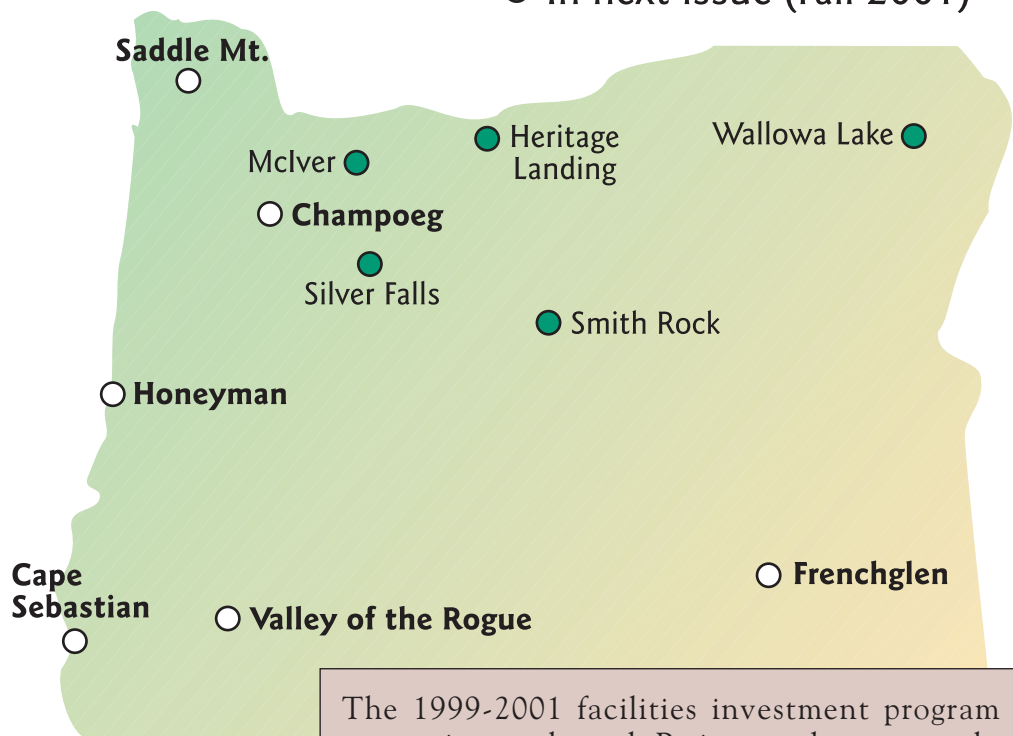
**Prineville**—Crook County Bank (Bowman Building) for reroofing, replacing flashing.

**Vale**—Grand Opera House for stabilizing building, repairing wall, roof and downspouts, installing windows.

**Yoncalla**—Charles Applegate House for repairing porch and pergola, repainting house.



- In this issue
- In next issue (Fall 2001)



The Oregon State Parks Progress Report is published two times per year by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information on any project, or to add or remove an address from the subscription list, contact:

OPRD  
Public Services Division  
1115 Commercial St NE  
Salem OR 97301-1002

503.378.6305

email:  
park.info@state.or.us

web:  
www.prd.state.or.us



The 1999-2001 facilities investment program is progressing as planned. Projects under contract have obligated the \$15 million of funding allotted for this biennium. As of April 2001, payments totalling \$11.5 million have been made. Some projects under contract will not be completed until fall 2001. All expenditures will be made before the accounting period closes in December 2001.