



The Progress Report

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Welcome

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission and staff take great pride in producing this issue of the Progress Report, a biannual publication designed to let our key customers know of the accomplishments made with Oregon Lottery dollars dedicated to parks and heritage conservation.

In this and past issues we've highlighted the successful use of lottery dollars to acquire new park property such as Whalen Island in Tillamook County and Cape Sebastian in Curry County as well as the continuing effort to rehabilitate existing state parks. It is important, however, that we not overlook the assistance we provide in the way of grants to cities, towns, counties, historical societies and other heritage groups throughout Oregon.



Heritage Park Plaza in Lowell, Oregon. Funded, in part, by the OPRD Local Government Assistance Program

We have three local grant programs funded with Lottery dollars. The largest is the Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP), which provides \$4.7 million per biennium in grants to cities and counties for a broad array of park and recreation acquisition and facility development. The Preserving Oregon grant program awards at least \$118,000 each biennium to local governments, agencies, non-profits and individuals for the preservation of National Register properties. Oregon Heritage Commission grant programs provide \$350,000 per biennium to a variety of museums, historical societies, friends groups, and individuals.

In the three years since voters approved Measure 66 giving state parks a share of lottery revenue, dozens of communities and organizations have benefited from these grants. We regard these awards as wise investments in Oregon's efforts to build strong and sustainable communities for present and future generations.

This report highlights some of those investments, and others in Oregon's state parks, recreation areas and historic sites.

Mike Carrier

Director, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Inside

Park Improvements

Milo McIver	2
Wallowa Lake	4
Silver Falls	6
Smith Rock	7

Program Highlights

LGAP Grants	8
Preserving Oregon ...	9
Target 2014	10
Next Issue	Back

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Milo McIver's Clackamas River Boat Ramp

River fishing in Oregon. Sounds ... relaxing? The placid image evoked by these words belies a rabid enthusiasm for the sport shared by thousands of visitors to Oregon's rivers every year.

Rivers like the Clackamas. Just ask any of the 7,000-plus anglers who make their way to Milo McIver State Park and the Clackamas River in any given season, fishing from drift boats, rafts and the shoreline for the thousands of chinook and coho salmon, winter steelhead and other trout that populate the river. In fact, the Clackamas is home to the last significant run of wild late winter coho in the Columbia Basin, and it is also one of only two remaining runs of spring chinook in the Willamette Basin.


"This stretch of the river is really popular," Park Manager M.G. Devereux says, looking out at the burbling waters of the Clackamas. About two miles of the river run through the 950-acre park. "I can't count the number of people who've been waiting for better access to an exciting stretch of a state Wild and Scenic River."

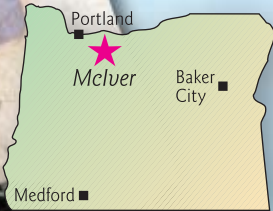
"Better access" has come in the form of a brand-new concrete boat ramp, with an adjoining paved circular roadway that also allows better traffic flow. It sits about a quarter mile from the River Mill Dam, just a stone's throw from the park's small campground. The ramp, and the new parking lot next to it, were funded by a grant from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the federal Sport Fish Restoration Act Program. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department also helped fund the project, and contributed a portion of services "in kind."

The ramp replaces a beat-up asphalt ramp that had eroded "to the point where we were questioning its safety," said Devereux. "It really went downhill after the 1996 flood," he continued. Replacing an asphalt ramp with concrete is better for the ecosystem, said Devereux, "because the concrete surface in this design is ridged. It actually cleans itself, and is sloped with the current of the river, so that sediment and debris don't build up."

He is particularly happy with the new parking lot next to the ramp. "The old lot was gravel, with huge ruts—really horrible. It's hard enough to park big rigs with boat trailers on good surface." Both the new ramp and parking lot are accessible to people with disabilities.

Spring chinook start to trickle into the river in late February or March and peak from mid-April through mid-June, then taper off into July. These chinook will hold up in the river as long as seven or eight months before spawning in September and October.

The ramp opened to the public in early October, 2001. 





◀ The Clackamas River attracts anglers, rafters, sightseers and others. Sections are designated as State Scenic Waterways

Every year, thousands of individual and commercial rafters use the ramp at Melver to put in. ▶



◀ The old ramp was severely damaged by erosion.

Working through early fall, contractors constructed a new ramp and parking area. ▶



▶ Better parking and traffic flow, and a solid, self-cleaning concrete ramp are ready for rafters this spring.



Wallowa Lake's Fish Cleaning Station

Wallowa Lake ... for anglers, a legendary northeast Oregon lake where they say you never get skunked*. Surrounded by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, edged by wilderness, Wallowa Lake State Park welcomes nearly 750,000 visitors a year. Campers and day trip visitors alike come for the boating, fishing, trails and easy access to the nearby communities of Joseph and Enterprise.

In the past, successful anglers cleaned their fish ... wherever. Restrooms. The laundry room. Picnic tables. They had to ... there was nowhere else to go.

"People did what they could, but didn't always do a thorough job," says Park Manager Ken Phifer. Park staff did *their* best to keep the park clean.

That shouldn't be a problem this year. When trout fishing picks up this May, anglers will be able to use a new, full-service fish cleaning station, thanks to funding from the state lottery-backed Parks and Natural Resource Fund and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife through the Sport Fish Restoration Act Program. How the project was done is as important as the final product.

Wallowa Lake, south of Joseph, is a high mountain lake popular with boaters and anglers. ▼

Take the location. The station was originally slated for a lakeside location, on the north side of a parking area adjacent to the boat ramp. But the lake's water levels can fluctuate significantly. OPRD staff decided to move it to the south side of the area. Since the new site is closer to power and sewer services, and takes advantage of existing parking, the project came in under budget.

Then there's the structure. As originally conceived, an east coast company would manufacture the building with all-metal supports, but a problem arose over the strength of the open-air building.

A new fish cleaning station, the park's first, was built in a different location than originally planned to protect the structure and save money. ▼



*Should not be construed as a guarantee.

“The manufacturer of the steel building didn’t meet building code requirements for snow load,” says OPRD project engineer Ramin Pakdel. Beefing up the structure to withstand the weight of snow would require expensive redesign.

Phifer came up with an alternative: Bronson Log Homes, a manufacturer of log buildings a few miles away in Enterprise.

In the end, the switch saved time and money, supported a local business, and left the park with a building that blended much better with the area’s rustic setting.

Finally, opportunism played a role. Last summer, the lake dropped to extremely low levels. The boat ramp fell short. “You needed a four-wheel drive to get to the water,” says Phifer. Face the lake, and you saw disappointed boaters and a too-short ramp. Turn around, and you saw construction equipment. Alert park and engineering staff saw an opportunity. With equipment already on site, the cost of extending the ramp came down to time and materials.

“We avoided the cost of mobilization by using the cleaning station contractor,” Pakdel says. The Oregon State Marine Board funded the project, and the ramp was extended another 16 feet.

Flexibility. An eye on the budget. Service to the park visitor. Wallowa Lake doesn’t just produce an abundance of fish ... thanks to savvy OPRD engineers and local park staff, it turns out decent public works projects, too. ●

The finished cleaning station, with log supports instead of the originally planned steel, looks right at home. ▼

The cleaning station will help keep the park cleaner, and send fish waste to the sewer system. ▼



Silver Falls' Invisible Project

Refurbished lodges and cabins and new picnic shelters in the day-use areas are the most visible improvements at Silver Falls State Park.

The most significant improvement, however, is one that the public will never see.

This past season, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department completed a \$1.8 million sewage treatment facility that was paid for with lottery money made available to the park with the passage of Measure 66 in 1998.

Work on the first phase of the project began in August 2000. Subsequent phases will connect other areas of the park, including the conference center, to the system.

“Visitors will never see this project or even know that this is the type of improvement that keeps the parks running,” said Brett Martin, the OPRD engineer who managed the project.

The new system involved the installation of eight underground tanks ranging in size from 3,000 gallons to 10,000 gallons that connect the park’s overnight campsites, cabins, restrooms, administration complex and the South Falls Day-Use Area into a single waste water treatment plant that includes a five-acre drain field.

Emery and Sons Construction of Stayton did the work.

“What it amounts to is a small municipal sewer system,” Martin said. “All that the public will see are a few lids over the underground tanks.” The new system replaces an antiquated network of failing drain fields and uses technology friendlier to the environment.

The project is the latest and largest in a series of sewer improvements taking place in many of OPRD’s large “destination” parks using a portion of the money the Department receives each year from the Oregon Lottery. ●



Less glamorous than restored historic lodges and new campgrounds, infrastructure work like the new sewer system at Silver Falls is just as necessary to a park's success. Parts of the system like this gravel bed are screened from a visitor's view.



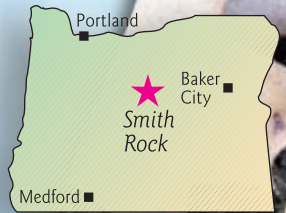
Smith Rock's Restroom

And they say there's nothing new under the sun. The sun beats down on the bare, reddish brown escarpments at Smith Rock State Park much of the year. The towering rock formations attract climbers, hikers, picnickers and others addicted to central Oregon's scenery. Smith Rock is a landmark because of its startling beauty.

Restroom buildings are rarely elevated to the status of landmark, but that's a shame. The park introduced the first restroom of its kind in Oregon last fall.

The modular facility features an evaporative vault toilet system. The odorless system uses fan-driven airflow to remove moisture from human waste held below ground. The small amount of remaining solids requires removal much less frequently than a standard vault system.

With its low maintenance requirements, Park Manager Fred Dawson says the facility will both save money and be environmentally friendly. "We expect to see substantial savings over traditional flush and vault systems," says Dawson. "Water consumption and maintenance and labor costs should all be lower. The facility's pro-environmental technology and pleasing appearance make it a great fit for the park."



The system was designed and fabricated by Biological Mediation Systems, Inc., of Colorado. Depending on the success of this pilot project, the landmark technology may be used in other state parks. ●

The original cinderblock restroom was unable to keep up with the park's 400,000-plus yearly visitors. ▼



▲ *Smith Rock State Park, near Terrebonne in central Oregon, combines towering rock pinnacles with streamside trails.*



▲ *The new building employs advanced disposal technology that uses less water.*

Local Government Assistance Program

Lowell's Heritage Park Plaza

Hometown pride. Cliché? It certainly doesn't seem to mean much all on its own. To make it real, you need to add some proof, some forensic evidence of a community's spirit. Take the Heritage Park Plaza project in the town of Lowell (pop. 1,000) east of Eugene, for example.

The community combined money from a Local Government Assistance Program grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department with donated property, materials and labor to improve a sliver of public land near the center of town. Already a connector trail for the world-famous Pacific Crest Trail, the park is nonetheless very much a local recreation spot. With \$25,000 from the lottery-backed grant program, the community added parking, picnic tables, a covered shelter, benches, and interpretive signs.

In a flurry of activity, and more than 2,000 volunteer hours later, the park formally emerged last summer. The project's coordinator and lead volunteer, city councilor Mike Cobiskey, waited for people to start using the site. That's always the big question mark on a public project ... what will people think?

"They were blown away," Cobiskey says. "It's used constantly. It's fun seeing people strolling by and kids on their scooters. They started using the benches immediately ... they bring their morning coffee and a newspaper."

Part trail, and part community center, the park will continue to grow and improve, with landscaping and native plants, an outdoor stage, basketball court and better lighting. The structures are weathering their first Oregon winter well. Vandalism, a minor but noticeable problem elsewhere in the area, is nearly nonexistent. Cobiskey thinks there's an unspoken "hands-off" attitude about the park. More evidence of hometown pride.

The grant program has funded more than \$9 million worth of projects since July 2000. ●

◀ *Heritage Park Plaza in Lowell, Oregon, was built with support from an OPRD grant, volunteers and other funding sources on donated land. The park features benches, shelters, trails and signs.* ▼





Preserving Oregon grants

Preserving Oregon grants are dedicated to the rehabilitation of historic properties in Oregon. In 2000 and 2001, the program was able to fund 24 projects totaling \$242,566. These grants are funded with State Lottery dollars. Properties must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places to qualify. New roofing is a popular grant request, but other projects include painting, structural repair, weatherproofing, wiring, plumbing, gutters, and foundation repair.

The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office is one of several programs in this department that further our Target 2014 goal (see p. 10) to preserve Oregon's rich cultural heritage and broaden public understanding of Oregon's historic places and events.

The grant program is administered by the State Historic Preservation Office (www.shpo.state.or.us).



▲ Charles Applegate House (1857) in Yoncalla, Douglas County. \$5,772 for porch repair and paint.



▲ Philip Foster Farm (1882) in Eagle Creek, Clackamas County. \$8,224 for roofing and structural repairs.



▲ Ferdinand Fisher House (1883) in Astoria, Clatsop County. \$10,000 for painting.

▶ John Fiechter House (1857) on the Finley National Wildlife Refuge south of Corvallis in Benton County. \$10,000 for hand-hewn sill to stabilize structure.





Target 2014

The mission of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is to provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations. OPRD is guided by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission, a group of seven citizens appointed by the Governor. The Commission leads by defining and affirming the core values upon which the Department's business is conducted, and by overseeing the long-term, fundamental direction of the Department. Target 2014 represents that direction.

Goal 1: Promote outdoor recreation in Oregon.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will serve as the principal advocate, leader and source of expertise and support for outdoor recreation providers at all levels of government.

Goal 2: Embody the principles of natural resource conservation in land stewardship and agency business practices.

Both the Commission and the Department hold a public trust to protect Oregon's state park properties, as well as the Willamette River Greenway, State Scenic Waterways and ocean beaches. The Department will be a model of natural resource conservation by balancing the needs of today's visitors with sound resource management.

Goal 3: Preserve Oregon's rich cultural heritage and broaden public understanding of Oregon's historic places and events.

Many state parks contain sites important to Oregon's past and present culture. But the cultural history of Oregon—and the structures, landmarks, and special places that represent it—extends well beyond the boundaries of park properties. The Oregon Heritage Commission and State Historic Preservation Office, both divisions of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, are the safeguards of this public trust.

Goal 4: Acquire properties that build upon the diversity and strength of our current system.

The Oregon state park system is a diverse and rich collection of properties, showcasing the state's variety of natural resources, scenic landscapes and history. The Department exists to acquire, protect and improve these areas to assure public enjoyment of them.

Goal 5: Deliver world-class interpretive experiences to park visitors.

Interpretive education enriches the lives of our citizens. It not only deepens understanding of our natural resources, history and culture, but instills a compelling sense of what makes Oregon unique. More immediately, interpretive programs create vivid memories for our visitors, affirming the Department's identity as a place where families, individuals and friends share experiences that sustain them throughout their lives.

Goal 6: Promote access to Oregon's beaches, trails and waterways.

Oregon's park properties belong to the people. The Commission is entrusted with ensuring reasonable access to park lands for public enjoyment while simultaneously considering resource protection and local land use. Access to Oregon's ocean beaches, its scenic waterways and potential trail corridors demands consistent advocacy, sound planning and consensus building.

Goal 7: Provide varied, high-quality camping and other overnight experiences.

Camping has always been a cornerstone of the park experience. Demand for camping and other overnight stays in parks is increasing, and becoming more varied. As our population grows, especially around major metropolitan areas, the Department must respond quickly and creatively to that demand.

Goal 8: Seek sufficient and stable operational and long-term funding.

Measure 66 accorded the Department a financial stability and sufficiency not seen in many years. However, two major financial issues concern the Commission. One is the loss of General Fund support. The other is that future Lottery revenues, now a major part of the Department's budget, will not keep pace with the Department's obligations. The Commission acknowledges the importance and need for fundraising, leveraged or shared acquisition partnerships and lean, efficient operations.

For complete information on the steps OPRD will take to accomplish each goal, visit our website at www.prd.state.or.us or call 1-800-551-6949 and request the Target 2014 pamphlet.



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

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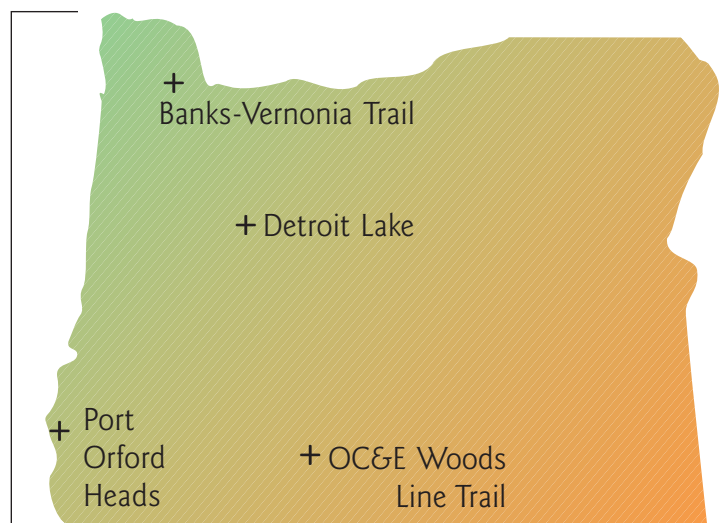
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In our next issue ...

Ocean
Shores
Management
Plan/Habitat
Conservation
Program



*... plus more highlights
from our grant recipients*