



## PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

# AGENDA

Monday, February 12, 2018



5:30 pm  
6:00pm

Dinner (Committee/Staff) – Breakroom  
Public Meeting Session - Goodpasture Rm.

**Customer Service Center**  
3050 N. Delta Hwy., Eugene, OR 97408

### PAC Meeting

- I. Public Comment** – (up to 10 min.)
- II. Agenda Additions/Changes/Modifications** – All (3 min.)
- III. Assignment Review** – All (5 min.)
- IV. Review of Meeting Summary** – All (2 min.)
  - 1) January 8, 2018 meeting summary
- V. Parks Division Manager Update** – (5 min.)
- VI. HBRA Habitat Management Plan Presentation** - (15 min.)
- VII. Parks Master Plan Strategies Discussion** – (30 min.)
- VIII. Staff Updates/Reports** – Various (20 min.)
  - 1) PAC Vacancy
  - 2) Harbor Vista Project
  - 3) North Trailhead Parking Lot
  - 4) HBRA Fee Machine
  - 5) Mobile Parking App
- IX. Old Business:** - All (20 min.)
  - 1)
- X. New Business:** - All (15 min.)
  - 1)
- XI. Open** – All (5 min.)
  - 1)
- XII. Operations Report** – (10 min.)
- XIII. Meeting wrap-up/assignments** — (5 min.)
- XIV. Adjourn**

#### 2018 Meeting Dates:

JANUARY 8  
FEBRUARY 12  
MARCH 12  
APRIL 9

MAY 14  
JUNE 11  
JULY 9  
AUGUST 13

SEPTEMBER 10  
OCTOBER 8  
NOVEMBER 12  
DECEMBER 10

## Lane County Parks Advisory

January 8, 2018  
Meeting Summary

**This written indexed summary of minutes is provided as a courtesy to the reader.  
The recorded minutes created pursuant to ORS 192.650(1) are the official minutes of this body under Oregon law.**

The recorded minutes are available on the Parks Advisory Committee website:

<http://www.lanecounty.org/Departments/PW/Parks/Pages/pac.aspx>

Members Present: Carl Stiefbold, Wayne Lemler, Pat Bradshaw, Jim Mayo, Greg Hyde,  
Kevin Shanley, Alan Bennett

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Charlie Conrad, Todd Bowen, Ed Alverson, Dan Hurley, Devon Ashbridge

Guests Present: None

Chair Lemler called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

### **00:01:00 Manager's Message**

- Interim Public Works Director, Dan Hurley, provided an update on the recent staff changes and information regarding the Parks Manager hiring process and also the progress of the Parks Master Plan process.

### **00:07:20 Public Comment**

- None

### **00:07:30 Agenda Additions/Changes/Modifications**

- None

### **00:07:35 Assignment Review**

- None

### **00:07:50 Nominations/Elections**

- Wayne Lemler was the only nominee and was elected as 2018 committee Chair (third term). The vote passed 6-1 (Stiefbold). Jim Mayo was the only nominee and was elected 2018 committee Vice Chair (first term). The vote was 7-0.

### **00:13:05 Review of December 11, 2017 Meeting Summary**

- No changes.

### **00:13:50 Staff Reports**

- Master Plan Update: Conrad reported that a conference call with MIG is planned for January 9<sup>th</sup> to get an update on the draft master plan document. He noted that public outreach for the draft is tentatively scheduled to begin in March. Feedback will be included in the draft before going to the BCC for adoption, possibly in June 2018.

- Large Events Oversight Group meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Lane County Parks Advisory**

January 8, 2018  
Meeting Summary

#### **Staff Reports continued....**

- Harbor Vista Campground Project: Conrad reported that a preconstruction meeting is scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup> in Florence. The contract has been awarded to connect the campground to city sewer services.
- HBRA Habitat Management Plan Update: Draft version to be complete by January 19 and after staff review, it will be released to committee members and the public. A public meeting for comments will occur in February.

#### **00:39:45 Old Business**

- Parks Funding Options Discussion: Review of previously distributed list of funding options and discussion and suggestions for additional opportunities.

#### **01:18:00 New Business**

- Goals & Accomplishments – Reviewed 2017 committee accomplishments and 2018 goals.

#### **01:32:30 Open**

- Ranger Bowen updated members on the permitting process and progress to dredge the Mapleton boat ramp.

#### **01:35:05 Operations Report**

- Discussion on various projects.

#### **01:47:26 Adjourn – Meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2018.

## **Parks Operations Summary – January 2018**

The purpose of this report is to provide a written monthly summary of system wide operational highlights from the previous month.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

- North Jetty Analysis – Approached by DSL to take on maintenance and operations, cost - benefit analysis done; scheduled meeting on March 1.
- Cash handling process – ongoing internal process refinement
- Mt. Pisgah Caretaker house foundation restoration – construction completed.
- HBRA N. Trailhead parking lot – Construction ongoing throughout winter/spring.
- HBRA credit card only fee machine – contract executed, install February 13<sup>th</sup>, media release on 2/5.
- Online parking pass payments – in-progress, working with Passport on agreement
- Richardson Park Campground Wi-Fi – work with Technology Services to expand Wi-Fi
- Event insurance requirement – internal process refining/improving insurance event insurance requirement and process
- Camp Lane information packet –beginning work on developing a customer information packet
- Standardized campground forms – planning
- Fee Schedule RFP – beginning to develop RFP to examine fees schedules and policies
- Friends of Buford Park Agreement – Finalizing
- Summer survey results analysis – preliminary results in regarding customer demographics and usage
- Updating Special Use permits to reflect insurance requirements and customer usage
- Division level budgeting finishing
- Moorage open to returning slip holders, opens to the public on 4/1
- Working on Parks inventory for Master Plan
- Proposed HBRA Habitat Management Plan released; scheduled open house on 2/15 at Harris Hall.
- Harbor Vista construction scheduled to begin on 2/20, materials and supplies being delivered.
- Planning potential internships to conduct surveys and document historical park data.

### **MAINTENANCE**

#### **Pisgah**

- North trailhead parking lot project underway.
- Pisgah fee tube installation prep.

- Posted signs 1/10/18

#### **Richardson**

- Started repair on water leak in campground.
- Marina dock repair.
- Contracted out mainline water leak near lagoon.

#### **Harbor Vista**

- Moved campground office.
- Installed safe in campground office.
- Started installing seven new pedestals.

#### **Armitage**

- Pedestal insulation project.
- Started Armitage new shop planning.
- Water leak repair in campground.

#### **Perkins**

- Blowing leaves.

#### **Hendricks**

- Finished blowing leaves.
- Fixed main line domestic water leak.

#### **Baker Bay**

- Started to remove 35 hazard trees in campground.

#### **Konnie**

- Installed one 18' and one 24' culvert in roadway.

### **NATURAL AREAS**

- Worked on edits/revisions to the HBRA Habitat Management Plan version 3, in preparation for releasing the proposed plan in early February, prior to a public Open House, which is now scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup>, 5 to 7 PM at Harris Hall. Also compiled a memo describing the way Version 3 of the HMP has been refined to incorporate public comments received in 2016.
- Participated in efforts to finalize logistical details for the North Trailhead Parking Lot construction project at HBRA.
- Approved a Special Use Permit for Friends of Buford Park staff to mow a temporary trail route in the North Bottomlands during 2018. The objective is to assess the feasibility and utility of a level

trail that could be used by equestrians as well as hikers. The route follows a route that was identified in the 1994 Master Plan but has not yet been constructed.

- Completed a peer review of the Bradshaw's Lomatium "Species Status Assessment" document for the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Attended the January meeting of the Rivers to Ridges Partnership Implementation Team.
- Met with Brad van Appel (Mount Pisgah Arboretum) and Shelly Miller (City of Eugene Parks) to discuss the possibility of the Mount Pisgah Arboretum becoming a member of the Rivers to Ridges Open Space Partnership.
- Organized and facilitated the HBRA quarterly stakeholder meeting.
- Reviewed the draft mitigation plan for the Hendricks Bridge Park boat ramp project (that permit has now received final approval).
- Investigated possible locations for installation of a web cam at HBRA, which would be accessed through the Lane County Parks web site.
- Site visit to Zumwalt Park with Corps of Engineers staff to discuss the proposed shoreline erosion stabilization project, and get feedback on the draft wetland fill permit.
- Provided Parks Natural Resources Assessment Matrix to MIG for the Parks Master Plan; attended January meeting of the Parks Master Plan Task Force.
- Submitted comments to the US Forest Service in response to a scoping letter for a possible upcoming coastal dune habitat restoration project.
- Led a half-day field trip at HBRA for Alan Dickman's University of Oregon Forest Ecology Class.

Memorandum Date: 2/7/2018  
Agenda Date: 2/12/2018

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**TO:** Parks Advisory Committee

**DEPARTMENT:** Public Works

**PRESENTED BY:** Ed Alverson, Lane County Parks Natural Areas Coordinator

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Proposed Draft Habitat Management Plan for Howard Buford Recreation Area and Response to Public Comments Received During 2016

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**I. MOTION**

None.

**II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

A draft Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for the Howard Buford Park Recreation Area (HBRA) released for public review in May 2016, in conjunction with a series of outreach events. The May 2016 draft was Version 2 of the HMP. Feedback received from the public and stakeholders has been evaluated and incorporated in to a new Proposed HMP, which is Version 3. The proposed HMP has now been released to the public and posted on the Parks web site. This agenda item is intended to update the PAC on the process moving forward, and to provide an overview of the ways that the input received during the public comment period has been incorporated in to the Proposed HMP.

**III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION**

**A. Committee Action and Other History**

Comments on the HBRA draft HMP during the open comment period from May 9 to July 31 2016 were submitted through either an online survey, or narrative text sent by e-mail or paper copy. The PAC was briefed on the general nature of the public comments and online survey at the September 12, 2016 meeting. Briefly, we received responses from 46 people, either by e-mail or through the online survey. Most of the comments received belonged to one of two types: 1) expressions of general support for the draft plan accompanied by specific edits or points to improve the text of the plan, or 2) comments addressing a single topic or issue. More details on the comments received in 2016 can be found in the September 2016 PAC memo associated with the agenda item.

**B. Analysis**

What follows below is a topic-by-topic outline of changes and edits that have been incorporated in to the February 2018 version of the HMP (Version 3), focusing on how we have addressed the issues that were raised in the public comment, and general changes to the format of the text to improve flow and readability. This overview starts with general comments, and then moves on to comments about specific topics.

## General Comments:

- 1) 19 comments expressed support for the draft HMP and planning process. Many of these comments were from partner organizations or stakeholders at HBRA. Many of these supportive comments also included specific recommendations for wording changes or grammar edits.**

Response – The next version (“Version 3”) of the HMP that is publicly released has been edited to address issues of grammar and clarity in wording. Some of the commenters provided edited version of the PDF version of the plan, which facilitated the making of these grammar/clarity edits. These changes can be seen in the “track changes” version of the plan, which is essentially a red-line version, but are sufficiently numerous to make it logistically challenging to present here.

- 2) Some commenters expressed concerns with the way the document was constructed- the draft that was released for public comment was not fully polished and somewhat difficult to digest, and in need of finalized formatting, pagination, maps, etc.**

Response –Version 3 of the HMP will have correct/complete formatting and complete pagination, as well as final version of the maps. Also, the tables in Chapter 5 (Viability) have been revised for clarity and completeness. Definitions of terms specific to the Conservation Action Planning methodology have been added to the glossary in Appendix A. Also, we have made adjustments to the references to tree density associated with prairie, savanna, woodland, and forest habitat types to match the definitions used for revising the vegetation maps in Chapter 4. The maps in Chapter 4 cover the entire park; more detailed maps providing coverage for individual Stewardship Zones or Management Units have been moved from Chapter 10 to Appendix E.

- 3) It was noted that the draft HMP was lacking any reference to related plans and other supporting documents**

Response - The section of the HMP describing relationships to other plans (Section 2.5) was inadvertently omitted from the May 2016 draft; this missing text was released to the public as an appendix during the public comment period. Additional references to planning documents have been added to Version 3 of the HMP.

- 4) The plan should have a bibliography to provide references with background information and also to support the approaches proposed in the plan.**

Response – An effort has been made in Version 3 to provide a complete listing of references and literature citations at the end of each chapter. A complete bibliography has been added as an appendix (Appendix B).

## Comments on Specific Topics or Issues:

- 5) There is a need to minimize impacts to wildlife from park users and habitat management activities**

Response –This issue is addressed in Chapter 6 (Goals and Strategies), Chapter 10 (Projects), and Chapter 11 (Stewardship Toolbox). We added Strategies 2.3 and 3.7 to provide greater emphasis to highlight the importance of both educating park visitors about this issue, and minimizing impacts to wildlife from improvements to the parks trails and infrastructure.

## **6) Off-leash dogs in HBRA and their impact on park visitors and wildlife**

Response –This issue drew numerous comments, both in support of current policy and in support of changes. Currently, dogs are required to be on-leash in the Arboretum, on Trail 1, and Trail 2; elsewhere in the park dogs may be unleashed but they must be under the owner’s voice control. While many visitors value the park as a place where their dogs can accompany them on a walk without being leashed, many other commenters referenced negative impacts, both to their park visitation experience as well as negative impacts to wildlife. Strategies and Projects in Version 3 of the HMP have been expanded and clarified. The HMP proposes a shift to a strategy (Strategies 1.9 and 3.2) that dogs be required to be leashed in all areas of the park except for specific areas or trails where off-leash dogs will be allowed. The HMP does not identify these specific areas, but instead proposes (Chapter 7, Section 7.2.3) a public involvement process to obtain feedback from the entire spectrum of park users, including dog owners and non-dog owners, to identify appropriate areas of the park and times of the year to allow off-leash dog use, without significantly impacting habitat values or the visitor experience for non-dog owners. Some commenters suggested the construction of specific fenced dog park area within the park, which is one of the approaches that could be considered as part of the development of a new dog leash policy.

## **7) The HBRA HMP should be compatible with management of TNC Willamette Confluence Preserve**

Response – The Desired Future Conditions (DFC) maps for the stewardship zones that border the Willamette Confluence Preserve have been delineated to align with the DFC map that is part of the Willamette Confluence Preserve’s management plan. Chapter 6 (Goals) and Chapter 10 (Stewardship Projects) identify numerous opportunities for collaboration across property ownerships. Several strategies have been added to Goal 15 to highlight the importance of managing the North Bottomlands Stewardship Zone in ways that recognize the conservation values of the Willamette Confluence Preserve.

## **8) Support for Preserving Natural Systems, Habitats, and Wildlife**

Response –Many of these comments were general in nature, but other comments referenced opportunities to clarify the text to better explain the planning methodology and the way it is designed to focus habitat management efforts on habitats and species that are priorities for conservation. There was also one commenter who believes that there is too much emphasis on conservation and not enough emphasis on providing access and opportunities for outdoor recreation. The sections in the Executive Summary have been rearranged in V. 3 to emphasize the conservation vision. Revisions to Chapter 3 (Methodology) and additions to the glossary are intended to improve the readability of some of the more technical sections of the Plan. Additional strategies have also been added (under Goals 1 and 3, Chapter 6) to improve how implementation of the Plan can help to provide a safe and positive visitor experience.

## **9) Support for prairie and oak habitat restoration in HBRA**

Response –Habitat restoration of priority conservation targets (including prairie and oak habitats) is a major emphasis of the HMP (particularly goals 5 and 6), and is a focus of the conservation vision. These comments are also reflected in support for specific restoration strategies and tools, including thinning/selective tree removal, prescribed fire, and invasive species management. Chapter 4 now includes a table of projected increases in acres of priority habitat types, including prairie and oak habitats, which we anticipate will be achieved when habitat restoration is completed. The desired

future condition for the open habitats within the North Bottomlands is now mapped as “Prairie” rather than “pasture or non-native grassland”. The Plan also has additional verbage in Section 11.7 (Best Management Practices and Stewardship Toolbox), to provide guidance for ways of identifying and protecting the best or highest quality habitats within HBRA.

#### **10) Support for riparian habitat restoration**

Response – Like the comments in support of prairie and oak habitat restoration, many of the comments supporting riparian habitat restoration were general in nature. Riparian and aquatic habitat restoration is addressed in Goals 12-15. We also included additional verbage in Section 11.7 (Best Management Practices and Stewardship Toolbox), to provide guidance for ways of identifying and protecting the best or highest quality habitats within HBRA. We made some changes to the wording of the explanatory text under these goals to clarify their intent, or to clarify the portions of the park to which the strategies apply. The Plan also has additional verbage in Section 11.7 (Best Management Practices and Stewardship Toolbox), to provide guidance for ways of identifying and protecting the best or highest quality habitats within HBRA.

#### **11) Support invasive species removal efforts**

Response –Comments expressed appreciation for current efforts to reduce invasive species, and support for continuing these efforts in the future. Several commenters expressed concerns about, or opposition to use of herbicides to reduce the abundance of invasive species. As noted above, edits have been made to the text to clarify points and cite supporting references, as well as place herbicide use in the context of an Integrated Pest Management approach. Methods of herbicide use are also addressed in Ch. 11, Stewardship Toolbox.

#### **12) Use of prescribed fire for habitat management**

Response-Several commenters expressed support for using prescribed fire to manage prairie and oak habitats within HBRA. Use of prescribed burning was also supported by 88 percent of the respondents in the on-line survey. The fire management chapter (Chapter 8) has been edited to improve clarity, and several references have been added. An annual acreage goal for prescribed burning, which is aspirational, has been added to Strategy 6.1. There was one commenter, however, who felt that it was not fair for park managers to be able to use prescribed fire when farmers were prohibited from burning agricultural lands, but this issue is outside the scope of the Habitat Management Plan

#### **13) Comments about specific habitat management methods or techniques**

Response-In addition to prescribed burning and herbicide use, referenced above, several other habitat management methods are discussed in the HMP and were a subject of comment. Using logging equipment to remove trees (particularly Douglas-fir) to restore savanna and woodland habitats received 78 percent support in the online survey. Additional wording has been added to Chapter 11, S-4, to direct equipment corridors to be locate in areas that have already been impacted by colonization of invasive species, rather than open areas that are in better condition. At the same time the plan does identify (both in the text and the desired future condition maps) a substantial portion of the park, particularly on the north slopes of Mt. Pisgah, to be managed for diverse, older seral conifer forest habitat types. Additional descriptive verbage has been added to the section on “other habitats” in Section 4.2.10.

Several commenters expressed concerns about the effects of grazing within HBRA. Since the

public comment period ended, the grazing lease that had been in place was terminated. The Habitat Management Plan still identifies livestock grazing as one potential tool for managing fuels, especially through “flash grazing”, which is now defined in the glossary. Strategy 13.3 is now worded to identify both areas near streams and wetlands as places where grazing, if none, need to be particularly carefully managed to limit negative impacts.

#### **14) The importance of ecological monitoring and providing funding for monitoring**

Response –The proposed monitoring approach is outlined in Ch. 12, and aims to provide guidance for project-related monitoring as well as monitoring of conservation targets. The HMP does not include a detailed monitoring plan, but completing a monitoring plan is specified in Chapter 12. We do envision a substantial volunteer component to our monitoring efforts (given the difficulty of obtaining funding for monitoring within restoration project budgets), and the future monitoring plan should identify specific volunteer groups and programs that might be able to assist with specific monitoring tasks. Volunteers have assisted with monitoring within HBRA for more than 25 years, and our expectation is that public support will allow us to build upon that history

#### **15) Comments related to recreation use and having “visitor experience” as a conservation target**

Response – Some aspects of visitor experience as a conservation target were not particularly clear to readers. We have incorporated ideas and feedback from the Mount Pisgah Arboretum and Friends of Buford Park Trails Committee, which is particularly reflected in “key attributes” that have been incorporated in to the viability assessment (Chapter 5) and Figure 5-1. We have included attributes such as scope and number of interpretive opportunities, dispersal of park users, and public safety.

#### **16) The importance of protecting cultural resources**

Response – A commenter suggested that the HMP should have a cultural resources component, so resources and sites of cultural or historical value are not impacted by habitat restoration activities. We have added BMP S-8 to Chapter 11, which calls for avoiding impacts to cultural resources documented in the 1994 Master Plan or any subsequent surveys.



# MASTER PLAN VISION, MISSION, GOALS AND DRAFT STRATEGIES

The aspirations for Lane County parks are the guiding forces for the Parks & Open Space Master Plan. These aspirations are summarized in the following vision, mission and goals, which were developed and refined based on insights from the community, Task Force, Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) and County Board of Commissioners. This document also presents draft strategies that will provide guidance for staff and the community to work together to achieve Master Plan goals. Still in process, these draft strategies are presented for review, discussion and refinement.

## Approved Plan Elements

### Vision

The vision reflects the aspirations for parks and open space in the future. It paints a picture of the desired park and open space system County residents want to achieve.

*Our thriving parks and natural areas connect us to our rivers, reservoirs and natural features, showcase our heritage and natural diversity, and protect resources for future generations.*

### Mission

The mission statement describes the business or approach that County staff will take in providing parks, recreation facilities, trails and open space.

*We responsibly manage, sustain and enhance our parks and natural resources through partnership, stewardship and quality customer service.*

### Goals

Goals are the desired outcomes to be achieved by implementing the Parks & Open Space Master Plan. Goals can be used to identify plan strategies, policies or recommendations to guide future decisions and ensure consistent long-term direction for service provision.

Six goals are proposed:

- 1. Collaborate.** Engage residents, volunteers, interest groups, educational providers, businesses and local, state, and federal agencies as partners in the coordinated effort to expand, enhance, interpret, provide, and protect parks, natural areas, trails and recreation opportunities across Lane County.
- 2. Connect.** Attract people to nature, the outdoors and County parks by providing a variety of experiences, improving park and facility access, increasing stewardship, supporting environmental education/nature interpretation, and improving communication.

3. **Create vibrancy.** Re-invigorate and revitalize key parks as thriving, family-friendly outdoor activity hubs through redesign, renovation and programming to help position Lane County as the best county for outdoor recreation and play.
4. **Generate economic vitality.** Create a strategic and holistic park management approach that balances local needs with opportunities to create economic benefits and/or to generate revenue to re-invest in parks.
5. **Protect resources.** Sustain and protect unique County assets, cultural and natural resources as our legacy for future generations.
6. **Reflect our values.** Emphasize our diverse, natural character and make high impact, low-cost moves to maintain sites, sustain infrastructure and improve the quality, safety and attractiveness of park amenities, landscaping and recreation facilities.

## Draft Strategies

Strategies are specific activities and initiatives that will achieve the stated goals. These strategies provide system-wide direction for all County parks and open spaces. They are organized by the goals that they support.

**Goal 1: Collaborate.** Engage residents, volunteers, interest groups, educational providers, businesses and local, state, and federal agencies as partners in the coordinated effort to expand, enhance, interpret, provide, and protect parks, natural areas, trails and recreation opportunities across Lane County.

- 1.1 Create a volunteer and partnership coordinator position, whose responsibilities should include:
  - Volunteer and partner recruitment
  - Contact list management
  - Friends group formation, operations and support
  - Recognition programs
  - Volunteer and partner contribution tracking
- 1.2 Develop and implement an engagement and communication plan focused on recruiting and retaining individuals, partners and non-profits to help implement the strategies in Goals 2-6. For example, recruit volunteers to offer nature walks and interpretive programs at specific parks.
- 1.3 Designate a staff liaison/contact person from Lane County Parks to facilitate local agency collaboration (e.g., City of Eugene Parks, Willamalane PRD, City of Cottage Grove) and increase coordination with public and private entities that have an ownership stake in various County park sites. Make participation in local agency planning efforts part of the job description for this person.
- 1.4 Convene a regular cross-agency forum with other public landholders/land managers (Federal, state, non-profit), with quarterly meetings as an initial goal.

- 1.5 Identify and keep current a list of projects (both capital and stewardship) that can be completed or supported by volunteer groups, businesses, non-profit groups, HOAs, students and others.
- 1.6 Create a review process for community-built and operated projects proposed at Lane County parks, with criteria to evaluate proposals when they are made. Proposed projects should:
  - Meet the goals and intent of this Master Plan
  - Be consistent with Lane County’s design and programming guidance for the park’s classification
  - Demonstrate feasibility and a plan for maintenance for its intended lifespan
  - Go through a staff evaluation process (including Director approval) and PAC review of staff’s recommendation
- 1.7 Develop a fill-able "Propose a class, event or activity in a Lane County Park" form for intake, evaluation, and tracking of private sector recreation provider proposals. The review and approval process should be clearly defined on the form.
- 1.8 Develop conditions/criteria to waive fees for or allow use of Lane County parks or facilities (for events, meetings and programmed activities) as an in-kind sponsorship, with Lane County recognized as a sponsor or formal partner. This type of sponsorship would waive fees for designated activities consistent with the Master Plan vision.
- 1.9 Leverage the PAC’s role as advisor to the Board of County Commissioners on parks needs and as a community liaison group. Also:
  - Assign Committee members to serve as Lane County liaisons to parks-related non-profits and to the planning efforts of other entities
  - Review and make recommendations to the Board on matters related to land transfers, management agreements, and other policy decisions
  - Track and report progress on Master Plan implementation
  - Recommend when ad hoc citizen advisory groups or task forces are advisable
- 1.10 Develop formalized agreements with partners who manage or operate facilities on Lane County park lands, with entities that take responsibility for landbanked sites and with public and private entities that have an ownership stake in various County park sites.

**Goal 2: Connect.** Attract people to nature, the outdoors and County parks by providing a variety of experiences, improving park and facility access, increasing stewardship, supporting environmental education/nature interpretation, and improving communication.

- 2.1 Improve the park user experience at Lane County parks, through improved entry sequences and access points, enhanced paths and trails (including looped routes of different challenge levels), and better on-site wayfinding.
- 2.2 Make Lane County parks more welcoming for people with disabilities (in addition to ADA compliance, which is required by law) by providing more information online about accessible facilities and challenge levels, reviewing and ensuring policies and procedures support

inclusion, and reaching out to communities of people with disabilities and advocates for constructive feedback.

- 2.3 Coordinate and collaborate with other departments (e.g., Lane County Transportation) and agencies (e.g., the coalition of Rivers to Ridges agencies) to connect Lane County parks to the countywide network of on-street and off-street trails, including physical connections as well as wayfinding. This includes advocating for and helping advance planned State, regional and city trails and on-street bike routes that expand the network, even if they don't directly connect to a Lane County park.
- 2.4 Enhance existing trailheads at parks throughout the system by developing amenities including permanent restrooms, adequate parking, potable water, wayfinding signage and accessibility accommodations. Consider support elements such as seating, shade, bike repair stations and racks, interpretive and directional signage, mileage markers from key destinations, etc.
- 2.5 Leverage Lane County's recently updated website to refine online information about Lane County Parks, with a simplified organization such as:
  - An opening page with information about the existing parks and facilities (overview, rotating set of photos, Parks Pass info, map with ability to zoom in to each site, facility information, link to PAC)
  - A Parks Planning page (capital Improvements information, information about specific planning efforts and task forces, library of adopted plans and documents)
  - A page on Planning an Event (Camp Lane, reservable picnic and day use areas, large events policies, insurance requirements)
  - A page on Water Access including river, lake, and ocean access and information on boat ramps, marinas and moorage
  - A page on Camping with descriptions of sites/special amenities and a link to reservations
  - A page on Trails distinguishing sites with trails suitable for hiking, mountain biking, ATV/OHV use, and horseback riding
  - A page on Covered Bridges in Lane County
  - A "Get Involved" page with information on volunteering, friends groups, donations and partnerships
  - Links to Lane County Tourism and local parks providers
- 2.6 Update Google Maps with information about each Lane County park site, so that all sites have information and photographs. See Richardson Park for an example of a Lane County park with a complete profile.
- 2.7 Provide an email contact link on the Lane County Parks website (in addition to the address and phone number).
- 2.8 Develop and implement a social media campaign to raise awareness about parks, water access, activities in parks, and the contributions of volunteers and partners to Lane County Parks, using the Lane County Gov platform and a set of parks-specific hashtags.

- 2.9 Create and make available online self-guided activities in Lane County parks to increase awareness and community connections, such as:
  - A parks “passport” where people take pictures of key park feature at different sites or photos at a specific number of parks to potentially receive a prize (free parks pass for the next year, a free camping night, parks swag)
  - Self-guided bike tours
  - Self-guided hikes and walks
  - Downloadable river access map
  - Nature guides for key parks
- 2.10 Attend a selection of outdoor recreation and nature focused community events and activities hosted by other entities to provide Lane County parks information.
- 2.11 Collaborate with other Lane County departments and divisions on activities in or related to parks, such as holding pet-themed activities in collaboration with Animal Services.
- 2.12 Implement a consistent public involvement protocol for parks capital improvements.
- 2.13 Empower rangers and maintenance crew members to act as ambassadors for Lane County parks, and provide tools to help them make and report on visitor contacts.

**Goal 3: Create vibrancy.** Re-invigorate and revitalize key parks as thriving, family-friendly outdoor activity hubs through redesign, renovation and programming to help position Lane County as the best county for outdoor recreation and play.

- 3.1 Identify key parks (considering one in each planning region) and enhance its function as a community outdoor recreation destination. Key park sites should have the following characteristics:
  - Includes a cultural or natural feature that provides identity.
  - Provides a suitable location for educational, social or cultural events and activities.
  - Attracts or has the potential to attract visitors for 2+ hours.
  - Has permanent restrooms.
  - Is accessible to draw people from throughout the planning region and potentially beyond.
  - Has existing or potential partners, an active stewardship or friends group, or an interested person who can help incubate a park volunteer program.
- 3.2 Re-envision and create master plans for key park sites with community and volunteer participation, assuming a level of County operational investment that is the same as today’s. Identify potential partnerships and joint projects to enhance these sites. Develop phasing plans with modest incremental implementation of planned projects, contributing to a more comprehensive site renovation over time.
- 3.3 Embrace ‘nature play’ as the preferred approach for play areas at Lane County Parks sites, providing a range of play experiences that reflect the local ecosystem and landscape and are tailored to the scale of the park.

- 3.4 Provide at least two sizes of group picnic areas in each regional park, considering the character and type of picnic experience (e.g., sheltered and unsheltered, secluded and active settings), as well as opportunities to use these sites as group gathering areas for other activities and programs.
- 3.5 Create a celebration day at least once a year at a site within each planning region, preferably at one of the key park sites that takes inspiration from the site's identifying features. For example, Richardson Park could include an event focusing on Fern Ridge reservoir with activities such as a bike ride around the reservoir, water-based activities (a regatta, a float, a milk carton derby) with food, exhibits and performance on the open lawn.
- 3.6 Recruit volunteers to provide education, interpretation and activities at key park sites.
- 3.7 Recruit or host regular activities, events and programs throughout Lane County's park system (starting with the key park sites), striving to provide:
  - Activities that reflect a variety of recreation interests (outdoor exercise, guided hikes, paddle tour, markets, concerts, environmental stewardship)
  - Options for different times of the day and week
  - A variety of group sizes and activity formats
  - Options in every planning region
  - Activities at different parks to introduce people to a variety of sites and experiences
- 3.8 Encourage and consider sponsoring events put on by community groups, nonprofits or businesses that support physical activity, family-friendly social interactions, enjoying the outdoors and connecting to nature.
- 3.9 Develop an annually-occurring covered bridge festival that celebrates Lane County's covered bridge history.
- 3.10 Maintain or strengthen connections with niche recreation enthusiasts and advocacy groups (e.g., disc golf, geocaching, ATV/OHV, birding) to determine how and where to best accommodate them in County parks.
- 3.11 Establish policies and identify permitted locations for recreation activities that make use of the physical environment but do not require permanent facilities. Examples include slack-lining, hang gliding, and rock climbing. Allow these activities where feasible and when minimal impact to the system is likely.

**Goal 4: Generate economic vitality:** Create a strategic and holistic park management approach that balances local/site needs with opportunities to create economic benefits or to generate revenue to re-invest in parks.

4.1 Establish a Lane County Parks Foundation.

4.2 Collaborate with Travel Lane County and other regional tourism initiatives (e.g., Oakridge's focus on mountain bike tourism).

#### 4.3 Develop additional funding resources.

- Hire a resource development manager or reassign an existing employee to this role.
- Cultivate and grow relationships with local businesses, hospitality industry and private sector recreation providers, including outdoor recreation manufacturers and retailers headquartered or with significant presence in Lane County. This includes exploring corporate sponsorship as well as volunteerism.
- Reposition the Annual Pass as a membership and market it as such, potentially through the Parks Foundation.
- Add a short-term pass aimed at visitors (3-day or 1-week pass) and increase the cost of a one-day pass.
- Evaluate the department fee structure on an annual basis and consider new fee types and structures, especially those related to new programs, facilities or events.
- Monitor and apply for grants and outside funding.
- Explore new sources of stable long-term operational funding for Lane County parks, such as operating levies or utility fees.
- Consider capital funding measures in conjunction with other Lane County infrastructure improvements.

4.4 Evaluate transitioning to Reserve America for campground reservations to be on the same platform as Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and Metro and more easily searchable by visitors.

4.5 Enhance and expand camping options throughout the Lane County park system to provide a range of lodging alternatives and maximize revenue potential:

- Provide more hike-in/bike-in campsites with charging stations, and bring at least half into the reservation system. The price point should be the same as for walk-in tent-only sites.
- Provide walk-in tent-only campsites/camping lawns with a lower price point than drive-in campsites and sites with hook-ups.
- Increase the prices for sites with electric and water hookups, to create a bigger differential from sites that have none.
- Explore adding roofed camping structures (cabins, yurts, tiny houses on wheels, vintage trailers) at some sites at a higher price point.
- Add more group camp sites with different capacities, and vary the pricing based on capacity.
- Provide/improve support amenities where warranted to enhance camping comfort and the camping experience (cooking shelters, showers, group fire rings and grills).

4.6 Expand rental options for Camp Lane, including day use, partial site and winter rentals, as well as potential additional lodging options. Revisit pricing and develop a focused marketing plan for this facility.

4.7 Restructure and simplify the fee structures for marinas/moorage and picnic shelter reservations. Periodically reassess and increase fees based on market pricing.

- 4.8 Consider incorporating peak and off-peak pricing, as well as a discount for Lane County residents for all reservation fees.
- 4.9 Facilitate non-profits, outfitters and businesses providing services ranging from food and lodging to white water rafting adventures in selected parks to expand services and increase local economic vitality. These efforts should be cost-neutral for Lane County, but should not necessarily be expected to generate direct revenue for Lane County Parks.
- 4.10 Apply the evaluation process completed for Howard Buford Recreation Area to the other nine Lane County Parks sites listed as potential large events sites in Appendix B of the Large Events Task Force report (dated September 2015), to further define their suitability.
- 4.11 Prepare a feasibility study and business plan for any proposed new major facility development or renovation/expansion (marina, boat ramp, campground) prior to determining whether to proceed, or require one for partner-proposed facilities that will be located on Lane County sites.

**Goal 5: Protect resources:** Sustain and protect unique County assets, cultural and natural resources as our legacy for future generations.

- 5.1 Increase Lane County investment in park maintenance and natural resource stewardship to protect cultural and natural assets.
- 5.2 Conduct a countywide inventory of natural and cultural resources in the park system, and identify significant resources.
- 5.3 Assess the condition and improvement needs and costs of significant natural and cultural resources noted on the countywide inventory.
- 5.4 Identify a deferred maintenance project list and facility lifecycle inventory. Prioritize projects for partnership investment and improvements when funds are available.
- 5.5 Preserve and protect natural resources in parks and throughout the county to support wildlife, ecological functions and establish stronger connection to Lane County's natural environment, including:
  - Managing invasive species
  - Increasing riparian buffers
  - Replanting/ seeding with native plants
  - Protecting nesting sites and rare plants
- 5.6 Strengthen efforts to identify, designate, interpret and protect cultural resources (such as cultural landscapes, public art, archeological resources and historic structures) and ensure that they are made available for public understanding and interpretation.

- 5.7 Prepare site-specific resource management plans for sites with significant natural or cultural resources. This should include a cultural resource management plan for Lane County's covered bridges.
- 5.8 Invest in protecting and enhancing Lane County's natural areas while providing compatible public access for recreation.
- 5.9 Provide sustainably-designed facilities and introduce resource conservation measures in parks where feasible.
- 5.10 Adopt a planting palette, water conservation strategies and approach to landscaping in parks of all classifications that prioritizes native plants and reduces turf grass area (where not supporting recreation uses).
- 5.11 Reduce the footprint and impact of parking facilities over time by siting and scaling parking lots carefully, supporting multiple modes of transportation, and using pervious surface materials where possible.
- 5.12 Support environmental education, nature interpretation and stewardship in Lane County parks.
  - Develop and offer interpretive tours and guided hikes.
  - Collaborate and partner with friends groups and other community organizations to further educational programs on the natural habitat and environment at County parks.
  - Host annual park clean ups in collaboration with partners, friends groups and other community organizations.
  - Continue to support recycling in Lane County and educate people about the impacts of illegal dumping in parks.
  - Address global-scale challenges, such as addressing impacts of climate change, by taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Promote and support compatible self-directed wildlife-dependent recreation throughout the County's park system, including fishing, wildlife observation, photography, and interpretation.

**Goal 6: Nurture our values.** Emphasize our diverse, natural character and make high impact, low-cost moves to maintain sites, sustain infrastructure and improve the quality, safety and attractiveness of park amenities, landscaping and recreation facilities.

- 6.1 Update park design and development guidelines to define the characteristics, identity and brand of Lane County Parks as well as required amenities to ensure a safe, welcoming park experience. Ensure that new park development, park renovations and improvements adhere to these guidelines and the goals of the Master Plan.
- 6.2 Focus on the character and outdoor recreation brand of Lane County Parks when making capital improvements:

- Re-invest in facilities at existing parks that support trail activities, camping, water access, boating/paddling, nature interpretation and outdoor recreation.
  - Focus on visitor amenities and facilities that can support multiple activities and are flexible enough to accommodate evolving trends.
  - Emphasize the local environment and character of the park in material selection, plant palettes and site furnishings.
  - Add amenities at parks to make parks visitor-friendly and comfortable (benches, potable water, shade, restrooms, bike parking).
- 6.3 Develop long-term asset replacement plans for major revenue generating sites, including a schedule for regular investment and volunteer stewardship.
- 6.4 Consider shrinking the developed footprint in some parks through efforts such as reducing mowed turf grass areas, reducing paved areas, or not replacing aging and worn features incompatible with Plan goals, site character, park design guidelines and desired site uses.
- 6.5 Explore options to optimize local management of selected Lane County sites by working with other public agencies to transition management responsibility or ownership (e.g., Cinderella Park or Ocean Woods).
- 6.6 Evaluate functionally closed, inaccessible and landbanked parks and open space areas to determine if these sites can be opened or managed to support the goals of the Master Plan. Identify a long-term management strategy for each of these sites.
- 6.7 Avoid expanding the park system, or taking on management responsibility for additional sites, unless long-term operations and maintenance funding is provided.