

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

September 20, 2023

Agenda Item: 5a

Information

Public Comment Allowed: **Yes**

Topic: Lighthouse Beach access update

Presented by: Chris Havel and company

Lighthouse Beach on the northern border of Sunset Bay State Park is a historic, low-volume beach access across private property. Public use through a social trail has been in use in one form or another for nearly 100 years, with varying levels of documentation supporting it. In 2021, the landowner (Jay O’Leary Living Trust) erected barriers to entry, the nonprofit Surfrider Foundation filed a suit in 2022 to re-open it, and negotiations between the two parties began with discussions focusing on formalizing the trail alignment and altering the tax lot boundaries to facilitate a property donation just large enough to accommodate the path.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department owns Sunset Bay State Park, with the northern, undeveloped boundary a few dozen feet from the Lighthouse Beach access. In the midst of negotiations between Surfrider and the landowner, a representative of the O’Leary Living Trust contacted OPRD with the proposal that the agency accept a property donation to facilitate settlement of the dispute. In addition to Sunset Bay, OPRD staff in the area manage Cape Arago, Shore Acres, Yoakam Point, and Golden and Silver Falls and do not have capacity to manage a new access, which would require trash collection, trail maintenance, and rule enforcement. Pending Commission approval and if any new trail is in “ready to use” condition, OPRD did express a willingness to hold title to the donated property if an agreement could be struck for Coos County Parks staff to maintain it.

As of the date this brief is being written, all parties are making constructive progress. A design and alignment for the trail has been offered and discussions about county permitting are proceeding. OPRD and Coos County Park staff have met and are aligned about management of the site, and have shared a working draft for the interagency agreement. We expect to have a request to accept the property donation prepared by the November 2023 commission meeting.

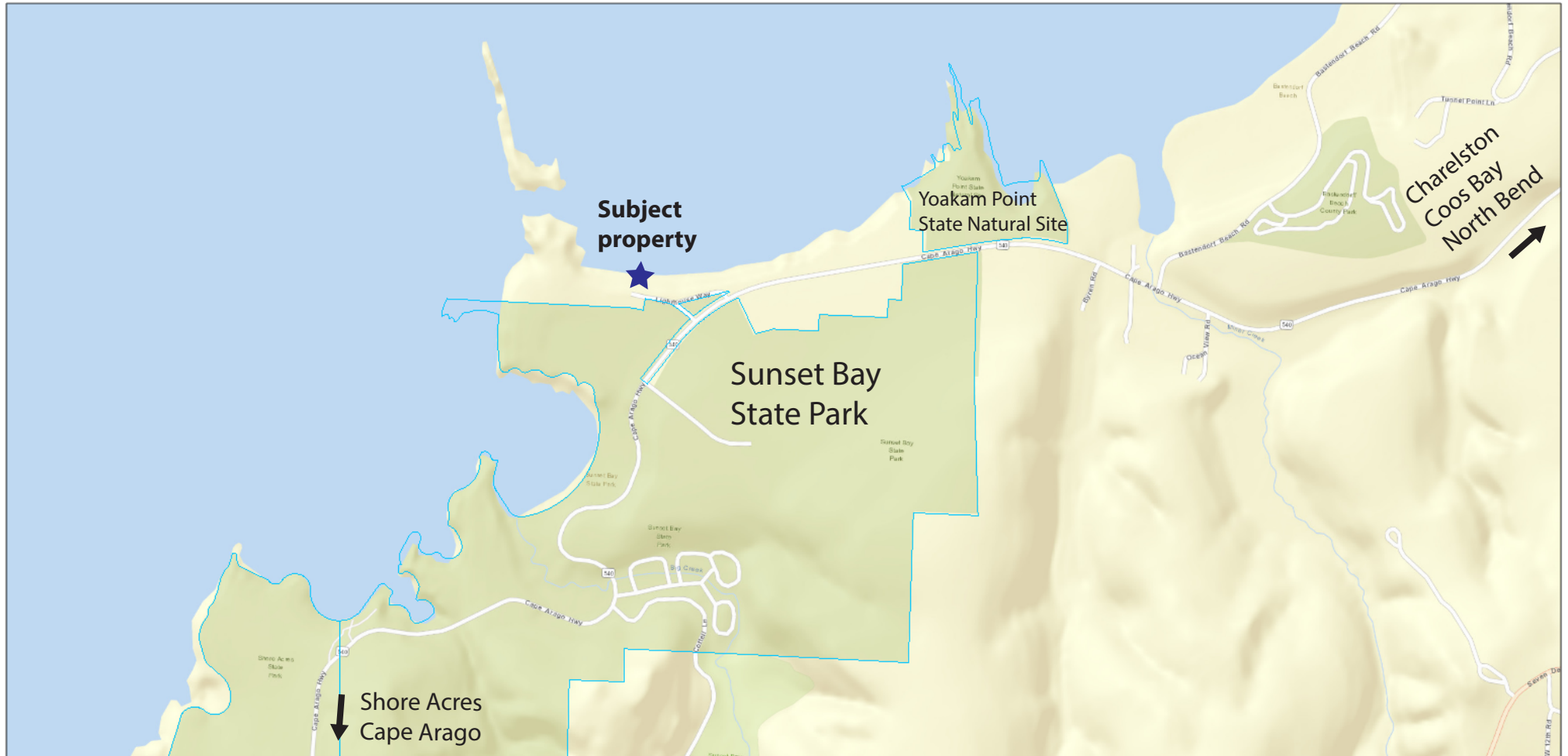
Prior Action by the Commission: None.

Action Requested: None.

Attachments: Map of area

Prepared by: Chris Havel

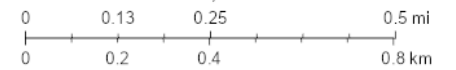
Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission,
September 20, 2023
Item 5a Attachment Sunset Bay/Lighthouse Beach



August 31, 2023

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Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community