



A Master Plan for Nehalem Bay & Cougar Valley State Parks July 2007 Newsletter

The Draft Master Plan Will Soon Be Ready For Review

Earlier this year the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) began a master planning process for Nehalem Bay State Park and a new park on the Nehalem River named Cougar Valley State Park, both located in Tillamook County. Meetings were held in February with an advisory committee and the general public, followed by a 30-day opportunity to submit written comments, to identify issues and ideas that should be considered in formulating the master plan. The draft master plan is now nearly ready for public review. On or about July 16 the draft master plan will be available for review at OPRD's web site and the other locations listed in this newsletter.

Meetings Scheduled For Review Of The Draft Master Plan

OPRD has scheduled another round of advisory committee and public meetings, at the times and places below, to introduce the draft plan and accept comments. These meetings will be followed by another 30-day comment period within which written comments on the draft plan will be accepted.

<u>Advisory Committee Meeting</u>	July 23, 2007 2:00-4:00 PM	Pine Grove Community Center 225 Laneda Ave. Manzanita, OR
<u>Local General Public Meeting</u>	July 23, 2007	
Discussion on Nehalem Bay	6:00-7:15 PM	Same location as above.
Discussion on Cougar Valley	7:30-8:45 PM	
<u>Regional General Public Meeting</u>	July 24, 2007 6:00 to 8:00 PM	Wilsonville Public Library 8200 S.W. Wilsonville Road Wilsonville, OR

What Will Happen At These Meetings?

The purpose of these meetings is to introduce the draft master plan and ask for input. No decisions will be made at the meetings. OPRD staff will provide an overview of the draft plan at each meeting. Members of the public may attend the afternoon Advisory Committee meeting, however, only comments from the Advisory Committee will be taken at this meeting. The evening meetings provide opportunities for the general public to comment.

What Will Happen After These Meetings?

Written comments on the draft plan will be accepted through August 23, 2007. OPRD staff will make any needed changes to the draft plan based on the input gathered at these meetings and during the written comment period. On September 20, OPRD staff will present the draft master plan to the State Parks and Recreation Commission and hear their comments. With the concurrence of the Commission, staff will then begin the formal process that will lead to the eventual adoption of the plan. This will involve consultation with Tillamook County officials to determine what land use approvals will be needed in order to assure that the master plan complies with the County's comprehensive land use plan. The land use approval process will run concurrently with OPRD's required process for adopting the master plan as a state rule. The rule-making process will include a formal public hearing, held locally, followed by another opportunity to submit written comments. Everyone who is on our newsletter mailing list will receive advance notice of the rule-making hearing. All of these steps will occur before the master plan is finally adopted.

What Is Proposed in the Draft Plan?

The key draft proposals for Nehalem Bay State Park include: Improved road access to the park; new visitor welcome center and small interpretive center; new group camp loop; relocated and expanded horse camp; tent camp loop to replace old horse camp; new tent or cabin loop; new cabin village; new walk-in tent camp; relocated hiker/biker camp; expanded fly-in camp; new beach access parking; expanded picnic area with group shelters; lodging for park staff; new water trail parking; new crabbing and fishing dock; expanded non-motorized trail system; restoration of high priority habitats.

The key draft proposals for Cougar Valley State Park include: Improved road access to the park; a walk-in tent campground with 25 sites in Lost Creek Valley; a drive-in tent campground with 25 sites on the river terrace with relocation of Cook Creek Road; river access for canoes, kayaks and drift boats, with no ramp; modest non-motorized trail development with viewing / interpretive sites and small trailhead; host sites at campgrounds; park staff residence; maintenance and management facility shared with Dept. of Forestry; cooperation with Dept. of forestry on forest recreation; restoration of priority habitats in the park.

What Is a State Park Master Plan?

A state park master plan is an adopted plan that guides the development and use of park facilities and the protection and management of important natural, cultural and scenic resources within the park boundaries. The plan is a written and illustrated reference that describes the planning purpose and process, existing park facilities, expected future recreation demand, the suitability of the land for resource protection or recreational development, issues related to public use and management, the goals, objectives and development concepts for future uses and development in the park, and guidelines for managing the park resources. The useful life of a park master plan is generally no longer than 20 years before it needs to be updated.

Where Can I Review The Draft Plan?

OPRD web site. Materials published during this planning process, including the draft plan, any addendums to the draft, the final plan, newsletters, etc., will be available for review on OPRD's website, at http://egov.oregon.gov/OPRD/PLANS/planning_nehalem.shtml

Local libraries. Copies of the draft plan, any addendums to the draft, and the final plan will be provided to the following libraries:

- Tillamook County Library, 1716 Third Street, Tillamook OR
- Manzanita Branch Library, 571 Laneda Ave., Manzanita OR

OPRD offices. Copies of the draft plan, any addendums to the draft, and the final plan can also be viewed at the OPRD headquarters office in Salem (see address below) and the Nehalem Bay State Park office at 9500 Sandpiper Lane in Nehalem.

If you need your own copies of the plan materials, you may request copies by contacting OPRD. See the contact information below.

Questions or Comments?

Please direct questions or comments to:

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