



A New Master Plan for Nehalem Bay State Park December 2008 Newsletter

Where Are We in the Planning Process?

In early 2007 the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) began a master planning process for Nehalem Bay State Park. The planning process also included a new park on the Nehalem River named Cougar Valley State Park. The first draft master plan for the two parks was distributed for public review in July 2007. Public comments received in response to the draft plan expressed a wide range of opinions, including many comments from local residents who oppose park development at Cougar Valley.

In response to the local concerns, the OPRD Director consulted with local elected officials to determine the best way to proceed with planning for the future of the two parks. The outcome was a Memorandum of Understanding between the Director and the County and City officials, summarizing their agreement that: 1) OPRD is the appropriate entity to own and manage the Cougar Valley property; 2) OPRD will suspend planning for recreational uses at Cougar Valley for five years; 3) No recreational development will occur at Cougar Valley while the planning process is suspended; 4) OPRD will take steps to manage visitation and enforce rules at Cougar Valley, and continue planning for natural resource management (a natural resource assessment and management plan is underway); and 5) OPRD will move forward with the master planning process for Nehalem Bay State Park.

The 2nd Draft Master Plan for Nehalem Bay State Park Will Soon Be Ready for Review

The second draft master plan for Nehalem Bay is nearing completion and will be ready for public review on or about January 2 at OPRD's web site and the other locations listed in this newsletter.

Public Open House Meetings Scheduled for Review of the 2nd Draft Master Plan

OPRD has scheduled open house meetings for the public to review and comment on the draft master plan at the times and places below. These meetings will be followed by another 30-day comment period within which written comments on the draft plan will be accepted.

<u>1st Local Open House</u>	January 15 6:00 to 8:00 PM	Nehalem Bay State Park Meeting Hall Manzanita
<u>Regional Open House</u>	January 22 6:00 to 8:00 PM	Wilsonville Public Library 8200 S.W. Wilsonville Road Wilsonville
<u>2nd Local Open House</u>	January 30 6:00 to 8:00 PM	Nehalem Bay State Park Meeting Hall Manzanita

What Will Happen At These Meetings?

These will be informal meetings where members of the public may drop in anytime during the two-hour period to view proposed park development plans and related background information, talk with OPRD staff, ask questions and provide comments. No decisions will be made at the meetings.

What Will Happen After These Meetings?

Written comments on the draft plan will be accepted through March 1, 2009. 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 March 26, 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 begin with consultation with Tillamook County officials to determine what land-use approvals will be needed in order to assure that the master plan is compatible with the County's comprehensive land-use plan. Any required land-use approvals will be completed before the plan is adopted. OPRD will hold a state rulemaking hearing followed by another opportunity to submit written comments. Everyone who is on our newsletter mailing list will receive advance notice of this hearing.

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 Avenue, 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 Manzanita.

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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