

## PRINCIPLE 2:

# CONNECT PEOPLE TO MEANINGFUL OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES

OPRD fulfills its mandate by providing state-owned properties for recreation, and by leading others to work cooperatively to meet Oregon's total recreation needs.

### *Vision:*

*Inspire people to connect with Oregon's landscapes, heritage and culture.*

### **Strategies:**

- Make sure that our acquisitions and recreation planning reflect the needs of youth, an aging population, a more diverse population and a generally less active population.
- Purchase and build or enable others to purchase and build new types of parks that will meet a growing population's needs.
- Increase the number of young visitors and families, by providing facilities that offer first-hand experiences in nature and the outdoors.
- Increase peak season visits to lesser-known parks, and conversely, increase visits to popular "summer" parks during the quiet season.
- Directly and indirectly create interconnected system of bicycle, hiking and water trails to position Oregon as a top trails state in the U.S.

### **Actions:**

1. Develop and provide public access to recently-acquired properties: Arizona Beach, Beaver Creek, and Marr Ranch.
2. Provide better public access at parks for people who have mobility issues.
3. Complete these site improvements to improve the visitor experience:
  - a. At Champoeg State Heritage Area, improve pedestrian access from the Visitor Center to the Manson Barn, 1860's Kitchen Garden, and orchard area. Create a "portal" in the Visitor Center to provide universal access and create a seamless interpretive experience between the visitor center and its outdoor environs. Remodel the interpretive displays.
  - b. Complete and harden the trail system at the Banks-Vernonia State Trail.
  - c. Through partnership with the Western Trails Alliance, develop mountain biking trails at Stub Stewart State Park.
4. Create regional partnerships to develop regionally connected trail systems with:
  - a. Yamhill County along the Willamette River between Champoeg State Heritage Area and Ash Island;
  - b. Rogue Valley Greenway and the Rogue Valley Council of Governments with connections to the Bear Creek Greenway to provide 50 miles of contiguous trail from Ashland to Grants Pass;
  - c. Troutdale, Metro, Port of Portland, ODOT, U.S. Forest Service and others to improve access to the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area at the Sandy River with trail connections to nearby trail systems;
  - d. Cities of West Linn and Oregon City for connections to the Willamette River;
  - e. Washington and Columbia Counties from Banks to the Columbia River through the Banks-Vernonia State Trail, City of Vernonia trails and Crown Zellerbach trail system through Columbia County.
5. Complete planning for the Sandy River Water Trail and help local providers develop water trails on the Upper Deschutes, Alsea Bay, Tillamook Bay, Siuslaw River, and John Day River.
6. Design and build an innovative play area at Silver Falls State Park for kids to engage in unstructured, natural play.

