



Your Parks. Your Vision.

Come Join the Planning Process for
Oregon State Parks in the Columbia River Gorge

Why are we updating the old plan?

Shortly after the 1992 Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area Management Plan was implemented, OPRD's 1994 Master Plan for the Columbia River Gorge Management Unit was adopted by the State Parks Recreation Commission. In the nearly 20 years since these plans were created, recreation use in the Columbia Gorge has soared, recreation activities have evolved, parking needs have increased, and natural resources are more impacted.

OPRD is compelled by statute to plan for the management of natural resources and recreation activities on all state park lands. This current planning effort is driven by a 12-year cycle rotating around our state park management units with the Columbia Gorge identified as a high priority need by park staff. To plan for these parks OPRD is taking a comprehensive look at natural, scenic area and cultural resource conditions as well as the management needs, outdoor recreation trends in the region, and community partnerships with related ideas and concerns identified through public input further shaping the plan.

Our goal is to update the 1994 Master plan to address current trends of visitation, recreation activities and natural resource health. The updated plan will emphasize management strategies for the parks facilities, natural, cultural, and scenic resources and the overall quality of visitor experience. This comprehensive plan will aid OPRD in its mission to protect one of Oregon's most special places now and into the future.

What will the new plan do?

- Summarize of the existing conditions of OPRD parks, programs, recreation activities, and natural resources.
- Analyze of the opportunities, needs, and constraints for OPRD parks, programs and recreation activities and natural resources.
- Describe the public involvement process and identify guiding values and benefits for the plan.
- Recommend strategies for the East and West park management units and park specific enhancements.
- Identify priorities for budget and phasing for identified enhancements and programs including long term maintenance needs and staffing.

What happened at the first public meeting in August?

At our public meeting on August 14th and 15th we asked attendees to make their mark on the map and describe what they would like to see added, changed, removed or just kept the way it is at our state parks in the Gorge. Park planners then gave a presentation describing our process for planning state parks in more detail and what followed was an engaged discussion about what people feel is important about the Gorge. What we heard over and over again is that people love the Gorge because it is a powerful source of inspiration: to play outside, explore new places, learn about geology and history, connect with nature, and to create.

How can I get involved?

Five Great Ways You Can Contribute to the Planning Process:

1. Visit www.gorgeparksplan.com & subscribe to our listserve for email updates.
2. Email your questions or comments to gorge.parksplan@state.or.us.
3. Talk to a Park Planner on the phone at 503-986-0723.
4. Send written comments to: Jaime English, OPRD, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C, Salem, OR 97301.
5. Join us for one of our four public meetings. See reverse for the schedule.



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Join us for the Second Public Involvement Meeting:

OPRD is currently conducting Resource Assessments and Visitor Experience Assessments for the Gorge state parks to better understand opportunities and constraints in the management of our park system. At our second set of public meetings we will present these findings to the public. The community members and park staff will then work together to identify the most important values, strategies, and actions needed to guide the comprehensive planning and design efforts in all of the state parks in the Gorge.

Meeting II. Assessments

West End – Marine Park, Cascade Locks

Date: Tuesday January 14, 2014

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Advisory Committee*
5:20 – 7:30 p.m. – General Public

Location: Gorge Pavilion, Marine Park
355 Wa Na Pa Street, Cascade Locks

East End – Discovery Center

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. – General Public

Location: Columbia Gorge Discovery Center
5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles

*The public may attend the Advisory Committee meeting however, only comments from the committee will be taken at this meeting.

Future Public Meetings:

Meeting III. Concept Alternatives

March 2014

At our third set of public meetings park staff will present planning concepts with alternatives for state parks in the Gorge and listen to public comment. Concept alternatives are helpful planning tools that allow us to consider different visions for the park and better clarify the specific opportunities and challenges at each park site and throughout the Gorge. Public engagement and discussion at this meeting is especially important to the success of the planning effort.

Meeting IV. Draft Comprehensive Plan Review

June 2014

At our final set of public meetings in the comprehensive planning process, park staff will present the draft comprehensive plan. The draft plan includes summaries of the assessments, public input, the resulting values and desired benefits of the parks, and final recommendations for the future vision and management of the state parks in the Columbia River Gorge.

Services, programs and activities of OPRD are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If accommodations are needed, please call 503-986-0723 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

NO MORE PAPER?

To opt out of any further paper newsletters or to receive email notifications of upcoming meetings, please call: 503-986-0723 or email: gorge.parksplan@state.or.us.