

**EJC
ANNUAL REPORT
2024**

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

AGENCY INTRODUCTION _____	4
AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE HIGHLIGHTS _____	10
AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONSIDERATIONS _____	13
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT _____	16
AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACTS _____	19
AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRESS _____	Error! Bookmark not defined.0
AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAPPING TOOL INVOLVEMENT _____	Error! Bookmark not defined.2
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT 2025 _____	23
AGENCY EJC LEGISLATION CITATIONS _____	Error! Bookmark not defined.4
AGENCY MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT LEGISLATION CITATIONS _____	Error! Bookmark not defined.5
DEFINITIONS _____	Error! Bookmark not defined.6
APPENDIX _____	Error! Bookmark not defined.8

OPRD INTRODUCTION

Mission

The mission of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is to provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

Vision

To take the long view to protect Oregon's special places and provide the greatest experience while creating stable future funding.

Principles

The Department is guided by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission—seven Oregonians appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Commission oversees the direction of the Department and steers the agency through three main principles which have been stated in many forms since the park system was founded in 1922. These principles continue to provide an overarching vision for Oregon's state parks and heritage services:

1. **Protect Oregon's special places:** Guide steady protection of Oregon's key outdoor recreation and heritage resources. Make strategic decisions about where and how to maintain facilities that create access to these special places.
2. **Provide great experiences:** Give every Oregonian an opportunity to connect with enriching outdoor experiences and an honest perspective of land's history. The state park system, heritage programs, grants, and other agency services will be available and welcoming to members of every Oregon community.
3. **Take the long view:** Continuously deliver on these commitments through good management and by development of resources to operate and evolve the system. Strengthen future service delivery and the pursuit of justice for all people despite the challenges of aging infrastructure, social turbulence associated with the coronavirus, changing environmental conditions, and a workforce experiencing a wave of retirements. Engage in challenging conversations about whether and how to seek exemptions from standard statutes that apply to executive agencies.



OPRD Leadership

- a. Lisa Sumption, OPRD Director
- b. Executive Team includes:
 - i. JR Collier, Deputy Director of Statewide Operations
 - ii. Matt Rippee, Deputy Director of Field and Community Services
 - iii. Stefanie Coons, Deputy Director of Business Administration
 - iv. Chris Havel, Associate Director
 - v. Kirsten Jones, Human Resources Director
 - vi. Susan Bethers, Mountains Region Manager
 - vii. Dennis Comfort, Coastal Region Manager
 - viii. Guy Rodrigue, Valleys Region Manager
- c. *Governing Boards/Councils/Commissions*
 - i. [Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission](#)
 - ii. [All-Terrain Vehicle Advisory Committee](#)
 - iii. [All-Terrain Vehicle Highway Access Routes Advisory Committee](#)
 - iv. [Oregon Scenic Bikeways Committee](#)
 - v. [Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council](#)
 - vi. [Oregon Outdoor Recreation Committee for Land and Water Conservation Funding](#)
 - vii. [Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council](#)
 - viii. [Local Government Grant Advisory Committee](#)
 - ix. [County Parks Assistance Advisory Committee](#)
 - x. [Recreation Trails Program](#)
 - xi. [Oregon Heritage Commission](#)
 - xii. [Commission on Historic Cemeteries](#)
 - xiii. [State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation](#)
 - xiv. [Historic Assessment Review Committee](#)

Environmental Justice Personnel

Katie Gauthier, Government Relations and Policy Manager, *currently EJ Coordinator*

Allison Watson, Engagement Manager

vacant, Belonging, Equity and Engagement Coordinator

Helena Kesch, ADA Coordinator and Tribal Relations Coordinator

There were an estimated
56 million visits to an
Oregon State Park in
2024.

Agency Budget and Revenue

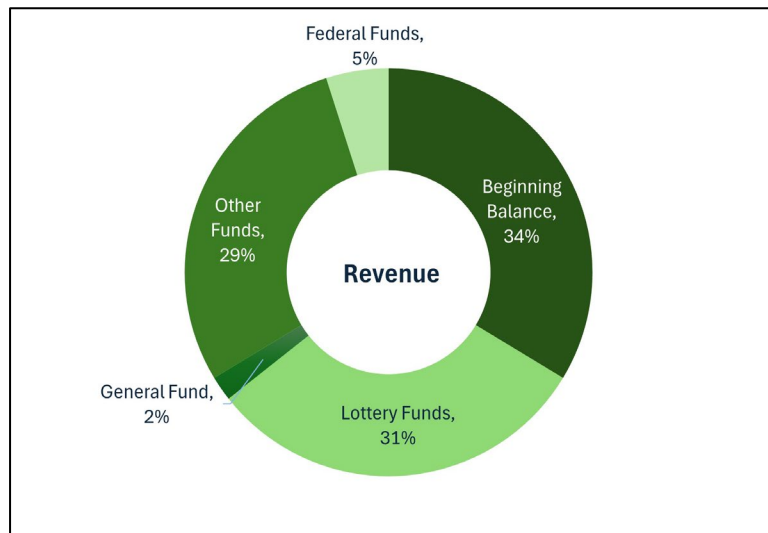
Sources

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department serves people in every county by managing state parks, heritage programs, special places like the ocean shore, and through tens of millions of dollars in community grants for outdoor recreation and history.



OPRD operates the state park system on \$0 General Fund* through a combination of park visitor revenue, a share of the recreation vehicle registration fee—which make up more than half the funding—and a share of constitutionally-dedicated Lottery approved by Oregon voters in 1999 and 2010.

OPRD 2023-25 Revenue



*A general fund allocation included in the 23-25 budget pays for debt service on general obligation bonds awarded by the Legislature in 2021 for state park infrastructure repair and upgrades.

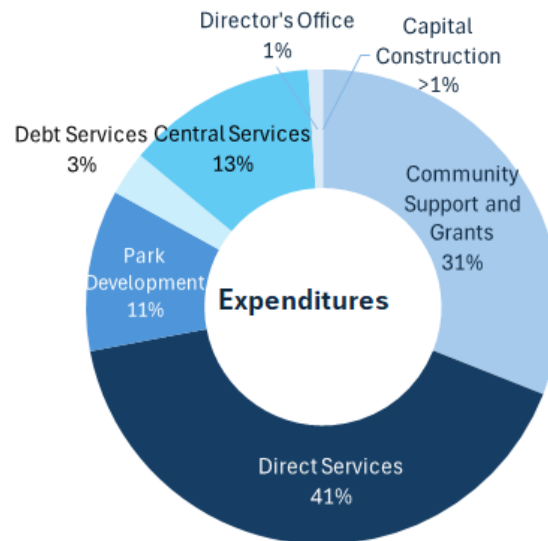
OPRD Programs

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department includes the state park system, heritage programs, community support and recreation grant programs, and the Office of Outdoor Recreation.

Oregon State Park System

The Oregon State Park system, one of the most popular in the nation, delivers consistent, high quality direct services through more than 56 million park visits each year at more than 250 properties across the state. The State Park system also includes all 362 miles of the ocean shore managed by OPRD.

OPRD 2023-25 Expenditures



State Parks symbolize Oregon's commitment to a healthy environment and provides critical access to nature and the outdoors for the people of the state. The 100-year-old system is a national leader in protecting natural and cultural resources, creating memorable outdoor recreation experiences, and helping generate environmentally based local economic activity. The working capital necessary to operate the park system comes primarily from user-fee-generated Other Funds and constitutionally dedicated Lottery Funds. With a century old park system, comes the challenges of aging infrastructure and growing backlog and maintenance obligations. User fees and dedicated revenue are outpaced by our operational costs and the backlog is only getting more and more expensive.

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature approved \$50 million in General Obligation Bonds to allow for much needed upgrades to facilities and infrastructure to revitalize state parks and campgrounds. The agency is currently in progress with projects in eight parks. [Project descriptions and updates](#) are regularly shared with the public. These projects help improve infrastructure challenges, but only touch 8 of the 250+ properties in the system.

Oregon Heritage

The heritage program is a service unique to OPRD, and it serves two main functions. First, it bridges the gap between property owners and the several state and federal requirements which protect historic and archaeological resources. Landowners (public and private) must be careful to protect historically valuable landscapes, buildings, and prehistoric cultural artifacts, and they need friendly professionals who can assist in finding solutions by interpreting the law. Second, the heritage program helps extend the usable life of historic buildings and downtown districts. The first, best way to reduce resource consumption and prevent urban sprawl is to use existing buildings which have not only stood the test of time but are located where infrastructure already exists. The Heritage division includes a program and grant section. The Program section is focused on administering a variety of programs for historic building and archaeological site preservation, local historical museums, historical societies, and other providers of heritage services and activities.

Heritage Grants include:

- Certified Local Government (federal): Support city or county historic preservation programs, including historic register designations, building rehabilitation, landmark commission reviews, and public education.
- Heritage: Support a broad range of local history and heritage activities.
- Historic Cemetery: Stabilize and upgrade officially designated historic cemeteries.
- Museum: Support projects related to history museum collections and operations.
- Preserving Oregon: Rehabilitation work on historic buildings and archaeological site documentation.
- Oregon Main Street Revitalization: Acquisition, rehabilitation, and construction in designated downtown areas.

Community Support and Recreation Grants

The Community Support and Grants program serves local governments, organizations, and land managers by assisting them with grants to fund citizen needs and safety programs. This program is funded with constitutionally dedicated Lottery Funds, Federal Funds, and Other Funds (such as Oregon ATV funds). Services in the Community Support and Grants program are grouped into two main areas. The first—*recreation grants*—support communities and other service providers to provide a range of competitive grants and federal pass-through dollars. Local communities meet criteria, then use the money to directly serve their citizens' needs. Second, the *all-terrain vehicle program* manages a statewide safety certification service and dispenses funding for education, law enforcement and safety, and riding area improvements

on federal, state, county and other public-use lands (these riding areas exist entirely outside the state park system).

Community Grants include:

- County Opportunity Grants: Supports County campground acquisition and development.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund: Supports acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities through a federally funded program.
- Local Government Grants: Supports acquisition, development, or rehabilitation of outdoor park and recreation areas and facilities.
- Recreational Trails Grants: Supports acquisition, development or rehabilitation of trails and support facilities.

The most significant change to this program affects a major grant program: the Lottery-funded Local Government Grants Program (LGGP) that provides outdoor recreation grants to cities, counties, and park districts. Lottery Funds for parks are dedicated constitutionally, which directs 12% of the funds be allocated to these grants until the fund grows by 50% over the 2009-2011 level, and then the amount allocated to LGGP more than doubles to 25% of the Lottery Fund. This increase occurred during the most recent biennium. Lottery funds are also used for daily state park operations and major repairs, plus acquisition of new state park lands.

Office of Outdoor Recreation

The Office of Outdoor Recreation works across business, nonprofit, and government sectors to build consensus on policies and strategies that elevate recreation in every corner of the state by improving access, public participation, and resource protection.

The Office of Outdoor Recreation was created by the legislature in 2017 and takes a broad view, developing strategies that apply to local, state, federal, and private recreation interests. The Governor directed the Office to convene a 2019 task force to identify top strategic priorities for the Office, resulting in a report delivered in mid-2020 emphasizing the need for action to:

1. Serve everyone: Advance accessibility and universal design principles.
2. Unite centrally: Appoint an external partners group to advise the Office of Outdoor Recreation.
3. Cooperate locally: Conduct a statewide outdoor recreation inventory and gap analysis.
4. Invest: Address County search and rescue needs.
5. Act boldly: Reassess recreational immunity and liability provisions

The Office of Outdoor Recreation, given its broad mandate to create strategic statewide, cross-jurisdictional consensus, is 100% Lottery Fund. After the resignation of the first director of the office in 2023, the agency has taken time to review the role of the office. In 2024, the Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council met to discuss priorities for the office. A staff review of how OREC could be utilized was conducted in 2024 with recommendations shared with agency leadership and the advisory council. Currently, conversations are continuing around the role for the office and how it partners with other state agencies, non-profit organizations, and outdoor recreation industry.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE HIGHLIGHTS

Highlight key environmental justice projects in 2024.

- **Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)**

[The 2025-2029 Oregon Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\)](#), titled Balance and Engagement: Sustaining the Benefits for all Oregonians, constitutes Oregon's basic five-year plan for outdoor recreation. The plan guides the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies that come into the state, provides guidance for other Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)-administered grant programs, and offers recommendations to guide federal, state, and local units of government, as well as the private sector, in making policy and planning decisions.

Besides satisfying grant program requirements, a primary intent of this plan is to provide up-to-date, high-quality information to assist recreation providers with park system planning in Oregon. As a result, a substantial investment was made to conduct a statewide survey of Oregon residents regarding their outdoor recreation participation in Oregon, as well as their opinions about parks and recreation management. Results of the survey are provided for the general statewide population; urban, suburban, and rural populations; and for demographic groups at the statewide level. A total of 4,055 randomly selected Oregonians completed a survey questionnaire. A summary of statewide and demographic group survey results is included in this plan. A SCORP planning support document titled, "2023 Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Survey," contains the full report.

Using insights from the resident survey, the plan addresses three important priorities facing outdoor recreation providers in the coming years, including:

1. The importance and benefits of recreation to Oregonians and the local economy.
2. Balancing conservation with outdoor recreation.
3. Engaging with underserved communities in outdoor recreation efforts.

The plan contains two chapters that address specific concerns regarding crowding and environmental stress in recreation areas and identifying and engaging with underserved communities in outdoor recreation. For concerns with crowding and balancing conservation with recreation, residents identified their personal response to crowding, their preferred management action, and their priority of natural resource impact. Public recreation providers were also surveyed on these issues. For issues of equitable inclusion of diverse communities, participation for specific demographic groups were compared, alongside relevant constraints for a few groups of interest (low-income Oregon residents, residents in a household with a disability, and racially/ethnically diverse residents). Management recommendations are included in each chapter.

Separate research projects titled, “Health Benefits Estimates for Oregonians from Their Outdoor Recreation Participation in Oregon” and “Total Net Economic Value from Residents’ Outdoor Recreation Participation in Oregon” investigated the general economic benefits of outdoor recreation to participants, as well as specific impacts on health spending. The total annual “Cost of Illness” savings from Oregonians’ participation is conservatively calculated to be \$2.965 billion, while total economic value received by Oregonians associated with their outdoor recreation in the state is estimated at \$57.1 billion. The report clearly demonstrates that parks and recreation providers have a role in increasing the public health and wellbeing of Oregonians and possess significant economic weight.

Beyond the benefits enjoyed directly by participants, outdoor recreation brings billions of dollars to Oregon’s economy each year. “Economic Impact of Outdoor Recreation in Oregon” estimates the economic contribution of the outdoor recreation economy based on 2022 participation levels. The study finds that outdoor recreation supported \$16 billion in spending at businesses throughout the state, which supported 192,000 full and part-time jobs as it rippled through Oregon’s economy, including sectors not directly tied to outdoor recreation. These results further illustrate the importance of providing sustainable access to outdoor recreation to maintain a high quality of life for Oregon residents.

- **Implementation of Accessibility Design Standards.** This first edition of our [Accessibility Design Standards for all Future Projects](#) released in 2023 provides standard design recommendations for many areas in parks and campgrounds to promotes a consistent approach to incorporate improved accessibility, beyond foundational standards when feasible. OPRD has begun to use these approaches, in the development of all projects and has shared the information with other land managers. Current GO Bond projects to upgrade infrastructure and add campsites in select area utilize these standards. This project originated from HB 2171(2021) and builds on the agency ADA Transition Plan to improve our park system for current and future visitors. OPRD worked with other state recreation agencies, community partners, internal staff, and several consultants to complete the project.
- **Oregon Heritage Vitality Study.** The Oregon Heritage Commission released the 2024 [Oregon Heritage Vitality Study Report](#) identifying the top issues impacting the operational vitality of Oregon’s heritage organizations and proposing six primary recommendations to comprehensively support the health of the heritage sector. Recommendations include development of a task force or workgroup to allow for cross-sector coordination and response; increased communication about available resources; promotion of heritage value; increased funding options at the state level; fostering community connections and addressing facility and operational needs of struggling organizations.

The 2024 Vitality Study was a partnership between the Oregon Heritage Commission and the University of Oregon’s Institute for Policy Research and Engagement (IPRE). It was shepherded by an Advisory Group representing statewide technical support organizations and agencies. It included a survey of Oregon heritage organizations, a literature review, and interviews and workshops with local heritage representatives. A total of 264 organizational representatives responded to a detailed survey, ten heritage sector representatives were interviewed, and nearly sixty organizations were represented in six workshops across Oregon.

- **Welcome Statement.** Since 2021, OPRD has worked on developing and refining a Welcome Statement for the agency. The intention of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Welcome Statement is to publicly communicate our agency’s values and commitment to fostering environments where every visitor of state parks feels like they belong. As

part of the implementation of the welcome statement, staff developed a guide for use as well as banners and signs that will be available for park staff to request. The Welcome Statement will be added to websites and business cards as time moves forward.

Welcome Statement

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is proud to care for Oregon's extraordinary landscapes and rich cultural history. The department serves its visitors and all Oregonians through its properties and programs and recognizes that the state's resilience and beauty are strengthened by its diverse population. Oregon State Parks are public spaces where all are welcome.

We value and serve everyone, and we are committed to providing safe and equitable access to state parks and agency programs.

The department will not tolerate racism, harassment, discrimination, or intimidation in any form.

AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONSIDERATIONS



ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES (ORS 182.550 SECTION 1);

Environmental Justice Consideration Process

- *Does the agency have a defined process for incorporating environmental justice factors into agency operations and decision-making?*
- OPRD agency operations and decision-making are guided by the vision to protect special places, provide opportunities for great experiences through them and sustain both benefits for all people perpetually.

The agency does have a formal decision-making process for evaluating new projects and programs that incorporates review and feedback from multiple voices; however, it could be strengthened to incorporate environmental justice factors more explicitly.

Example of EJ Consideration in Decision Making:

This year the State Parks and Recreation Commission adopted updated rules around the process for excluding individuals who have violated park rules and threaten the safety of park staff, visitors or resources.

Oregon State Parks strives to provide safe and welcoming recreational spaces for all visitors with a commitment in managing, enhancing, and protecting Oregon's natural, scenic, and culturally significant landscapes. If a visitor demonstrates behaviors, issues, or problems that threaten park staff, visitors or the natural landscape, the agency may turn to Division 10, General Park Area Rules, General Regulations or Division 21, General Ocean Shore State Recreation Area Rules to support excluding the visitor for a specific period of time.

Individuals have the opportunity to appeal this exclusion; however, previous rules did not outline the process for appeals, criteria for how decision on exclusions are made or ensure due process in the appeals decision. Newly adopted rules were developed with the assistance of a Rule Advisory Committee that included mental health practitioners, advocates for underserved communities and park professionals.

Following adoption of the new rules, staff have developed internal policies and procedures to ensure staff are applying rules consistently. Additional staff training on the new process has taken place and will continue throughout the upcoming year.

- *How does your agency keep track of environmental justice issues that have been identified?*
- OPRD does not currently have a specified tracking mechanism for environmental justice issues. Issues identified on a project or program level are included in project-level evaluations.

The agency has identified the need for review of rules, policies, and programs to identify barriers that may be impacting participants from historically underrepresented communities.

Environmental Justice Community Considerations

- *How does your agency define environmental justice communities?*
OPRD follows the definition for environmental justice communities in ORS 182.535(4).

- *What tools does your agency use to identify and prioritize environmental justice communities?*

- The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)-Developed every five years, the SCORP identifies recreation priorities for individuals and communities across the state. OPRD is responsible for the development of a new plan every five years. This plan guides our grant funding decisions, provides recommendations for operations and administration of the state park system, as well as provides guidance for local, state, federal and private recreation providers on the needs of Oregonians and visitors to the state.



The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission adopted the 2025-29 SCORP in July 2024. The plan builds on the contributions of previous plans by quantifying and identifying the ways in which outdoor recreation provides benefits to Oregonians. In

addition, it addresses important issues facing outdoor recreation providers in the coming years. The main themes of the plan are:

- Outdoor recreation is important to Oregonians and provides many benefits.
- Over-crowding and pressure on resources are increasing.
- Access, opportunity, and participation are still inequitable.

In lieu of a 2023 recreation inventory, OPRD opted to engage the geospatial data community in the development of a data standard for recreation facilities. The standard provides a solid foundation for recreation inventory and spatial analysis with the intent to increase the amount of recreation facility data and ensure the data is consistent and accessible in future research. Developing and adopting a statewide data standard is the first step in improving the quantity and accessibility of recreation facility information for Oregon.

The plan presents the LWCF Open Project Selection Process Review & Scoring. Oregon has developed an Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) that provides objective criteria and standards for grant selection based on Oregon's priority needs as identified in the 2025-2029 SCORP. The OPSP connects SCORP to the use of LWCF grants for meeting high priority outdoor recreation resource needs.

Drafts of the SCORP planning documents were available for public review and comment from May 23-June 28, 2024. Following Commission approval, the final plan was submitted to the National Park Service (NPS) for approval and statewide distribution will occur in early 2025.

- The agency Universal Access to Park Facilities and Program Policy along with the Universal Access Advisory Committee are responsible for establishing a framework for planning and implementation of the highest level of accessibility within OPRD programs, facilities, and services. The cross-agency committee meets regularly to review progress and prioritize agency activities.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT (ORS 182.535 SECTION 2)

ORS 182.550 Section 2: Increase public participation of individuals and communities affected by agencies' decisions;

Public Engagement Policy and Processes

- *Does your agency have a public engagement process for promoting community participation in agency decision-making processes?*

OPRD's public engagement processes are tailored to specific projects or programs. While it is robust in many areas, there are opportunities for improvement and additional coordination across the agency. Typically, public engagement opportunities fall into three categories: governing boards; formal planning, permitting or rulemaking processes; and new program or project development.

Much of the public engagement in decision-making within OPRD has been through the volunteer boards, commissions, and committees. Our programs staff have developed strong relationships with participants and community members to facilitate meaningful participation on committees that guide program development and make grant allocation recommendations. While some positions on those committees are guided by statute, many are recruited by agency staff or other volunteers. OPRD staff are developing a procedure to enhance outreach of committee members to increase diversity and ensure a more robust public engagement process.

Master planning, administrative rules and permitting each have specific requirements in statute or rule for public outreach. In some cases, the agency has worked to improve outreach during the research and development phase of this work to incorporate broader voices in the early phases of planning.

Development or review of projects or programs often includes an engagement process. To that end we have utilized focus groups, surveys, open houses, and community meetings.

Example of Public Engagement:

E-bike Survey

- In 2024, the agency conducted more extensive public engagement strategies around development of proposed rules for use of electric assisted bicycles in state parks and along the ocean shore. Prior to development of proposed rules, a survey asking for thoughts on use of electric assisted bicycles and impacts on recreational access was developed. The survey was promoted through social media, print media, local user groups and tabling at strategic locations to gain feedback. Nearly 4,000 survey responses were received. This information was utilized to provide feedback for the Rule Advisory Committee that met over the course of the fall and winter to develop proposed rules. We anticipate proposed rules on use of e-bikes will be opened for public comment in early 2025.



Targeted Audiences

- Has the agency performed an interested party analysis to determine the groups impacted by agency decisions?*
 - OPRD utilizes the SCORP and other survey tools to determine impacted communities for many state park-system and grant related decisions.
 - The Historic Preservation Plan helps to inform the work and understanding of those impacted by the Heritage Division. In 2024, Oregon Heritage launched the Oregon Heritage Vitality Study to update a study conducted in 2011. This study helps to understand the current state of the heritage sector, highlighting key issues and will provide recommendations.
- With which community groups and interested parties does your agency engage?*
 - Due to the broad focus of the agency, OPRD has interested parties in the natural resource, conservation, recreation, and historic preservation

communities. Our program staff have developed relationships with many interested parties and community groups integral to the programs we operate.

Public Engagement Policy

OPRD's public engagement processes are guided by federal requirements, statutes and rules for individual programs and projects. We are working on guidance and best practices for staff who work with committees around recruitment of participants on committees to increase diversity and developing a policy around compensation for participation.

Criteria

Criteria for public engagement include:

- Evaluation of the impact to a community.
- Evaluation of scope of the project or program.
- Legal requirements.

Meaningful Engagement

OPRD values public engagement and incorporates feedback in the outcome of decisions. We continue to develop relationships with the goal of have ongoing dialogues instead of transactional conversations when situations arise. Over the last year, OPRD updated our agency rulemaking website updated to improve the transparency and clarify the process for rule changes and how individuals can meaningfully engage.

Follow-up

Typically, program and project managers share the outcome of a decision or project with individuals or committees that helped form recommendations.

AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACTS (ORS 182.550 SECTION 3)

ORS 182.550 Section 3: Determine the effect of agencies' decisions on environmental justice communities.

Does your agency measure the impacts of agency decisions on environmental justice in Oregon communities? Why or why not?

- OPRD has limited data on impacts of specific decisions on environmental justice in communities. Surveys on economic impact of recreation in communities and across the state have been useful and continue to be needed. Our Engagement Manager is working to develop processes and will be hiring a new Belonging, Equity and Engagement Coordinator within the agency that will help to target data collection needs and opportunities.
- [Oregon Heritage](#) has worked with partners to conduct surveys and analysis on the impacts of their programs on communities including an Economic Impact study on Oregon Heritage Events and Organizations and the Impact of Oregon's Main Streets.



AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRESS (ORS 182.550 SECTION 4)

ORS 182.550 Section 4: Improve plans to further improve environmental justice in Oregon;

How is EJ built into agency strategic plans?

OPRD has four strategic goals:

- **Welcome:** Reflective improvements to programs, policies, rules, and staff perspectives that expand access to service to the full spectrum of the Oregon community.
- **Improvement:** A long-term effort to both adapt the way we work by addressing the workforce and workplace in post-pandemic/looming-retirement world and examine how we have organized programs we administer.
- **Service delivery:** Significant investments in mission-related facilities, infrastructure, and property that expand capacity, lower operational costs, or improve revenue.
- **Evolve:** Make significant changes to agency status, functions, and limits as set by statute.

From the strategic goals, the agency has developed an agency coordination plan with targeted strategies and objectives. Objectives with an environmental justice component include:

- Bring the **reservation system upgrade/improvement** into the 21st century to create a welcoming and adaptable recreation hub that will make it simple for all visitors to plan adventures and easy for staff to support.
- **Complete first level of ADA Transition plan** to deliver quality services to all visitors.
- **Meet GO Bond project requirements** to increase/add/improve efficient buildings, ADA improvements, unisex bathrooms.
- Champion **agency resiliency and adaptation** to prepare OPRD for the future by testing and improving the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and readying for environmental changes.
- Establish **Equity Universal Goals** to measure and advance welcoming and belonging actions.

What does your agency need to further develop and implement environmental justice policies at the agency?

Discussions with other state agencies, examples, and best practices for policies that champion environmental justice would be helpful as we move along this journey. The agency is working to diversify our outreach efforts and involve more individuals from EJ communities in our decision-making bodies; however, we would benefit from additional guidance and resources for how to best accomplish this goal.



AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAPPING TOOL INVOLVEMENT (ORS 182.550 SECTION 5)

ORS 182.550 Section 5: Utilize the environmental justice mapping tool developed under section 12 of this 2022 Act.

How is your agency participating in the development of the environmental justice mapping tool?

- OPRD provided data during the EJ mapping tool data inventory coordination process. This data included:
 - Park day use visitation data
 - Park overnight use visitation data
 - Camper transaction data
 - Park visitor surveys
 - Oregon Resident Surveys for the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
 - Parkland mapping
 - OPRD GIS data



AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT 2025

How would your agency like to engage with the EJC in 2025?

- We appreciate opportunities to meet and learn from council members and other state agency liaisons. As our engagement team expands, the role of the EJ liaison in our agency will be transitioning.
- It would be helpful for the EJC to identify barriers in public engagement that cross multiple state agencies and work toward solutions. For example, several agencies have begun efforts to develop equitable compensation policies for participation in public processes but often find structural barriers within the state system. Understanding those barriers or how agencies are successfully navigating could be beneficial to multiple agencies.
- Guidance on how agencies have successfully addressed structural barriers within their programs would help as we consider changes at a programmatic level.

AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL LEGISLATION CITATIONS

Please share agency impacted legislation from the last legislative session where Environmental Justice Council or Environmental Justice Task Force engagement is cited in the legislation.

- We are not aware of any legislation from the 2024 session naming the Environmental Justice Council or Task Force that involved Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.



AGENCY MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT RELATED LEGISLATION

Please share agency impacted legislation that includes language regarding meaningful engagement. Example: [HB 3293 \(2021\)](#)
How do agencies collaborate when multiple agencies are listed?

OPRD did not identify legislation from 2024 specifically naming the agency in multi-agency legislation regarding meaningful engagement.

In 2021, the agency was included in legislation around outdoor recreation that included a number of agencies. Among other requirements, [HB2171](#) required OPRD to develop Accessibility Design Standards for specific recreation projects. In the development of these standards, OPRD worked with multiple state agency representatives including working with Oregon Marine Board, ODFW, and ODF.

DEFINITIONS

Environmental Justice: (ORS 182.535 Section 3)

“Environmental justice” means the equal protection from environmental and health risks, fair treatment and meaningful involvement in decision making of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, immigration status, income or other identities with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies that affect the environment in which people live, work, learn and practice spirituality and culture.

Environmental Justice Community: (ORS 182.535 Section 4)

“Environmental justice community” includes communities of color, communities experiencing lower incomes, communities experiencing health inequities, tribal communities, rural communities, remote communities, coastal communities, communities with limited infrastructure and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards, including seniors, youth and persons with disabilities.

Meaningful Involvement: (ORS 182.535 Section 7)

“Meaningful involvement” means:

- (a) Members of vulnerable populations have appropriate opportunities to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment or health;
- (b) Public involvement can influence a decision maker’s decision;
- (c) The concerns of all participants involved are considered in the decision-making process; and
- (d) Decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of members of vulnerable populations

Environmental Burdens: (ORS 182.535 Section 2)

Environmental burden” means the environmental and health risks to communities caused by the combined historic, current and projected future effects of:

- (a) Exposure to conventional pollution and toxic hazards in the air or in or on water or land;
- (b) Adverse environmental conditions caused or made worse by other contamination or pollution; and
- (c) Changes in the environment resulting from climate change, such as water insecurity, drought, flooding, wildfire, smoke and other air pollution, extreme heat, loss of traditional cultural resources or foods, ocean acidification, sea-level rise and increases in infectious disease.

APPENDIX

House Bill 4077 (2022)

Legislation establishing the Environmental Justice Council, the Council's responsibility to develop an environmental justice mapping tool, develop a biannual report to the Governor, and the requirement for natural resource agencies to submit an annual report to the Environmental Justice Council.

Senate Bill 420 (2007)

Legislation establishing the Environmental Justice Task Force, the predecessor for the Environmental Justice Council. It also includes requirements for the Task Force to submit biannual reports to the Governor and the requirement for natural resource agencies to submit an annual report to the Environmental Justice Task Force.

ORS 182.550 Reports by natural resource agencies

All directors of natural resource agencies, and other agency directors as the Governor may designate, shall report annually to the Environmental Justice Task Force and to the Governor on the results of the agencies' efforts to:

1. Address environmental justice issues;
2. Increase public participation of individuals and communities affected by agencies' decisions;
3. Determine the effect of the agencies' decisions on environmental justice communities;
4. Improve plans to further the progress of environmental justice in Oregon; and
5. Utilize the environmental justice mapping tool developed under section 12 of this 2022 Act.