

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

June 25, 2014

Agenda Item: 13

Information

Topic: Reports

Agenda Item: 13a

Topic: Cottonwood Canyon

Attachment: None

Prepared by: MG Devereux

In September of 2013, Cottonwood Canyon State Park opened to the general public. The opening was the culmination of over 4 years of work to purchase, plan, and construct visitor facilities that honored the landscape of the area, but also created an infrastructure of community support and careful facility investment. The initial park opening included basic recreational support structures such as parking, restrooms, and basic recreation opportunities. Additionally more advanced opportunities such as camping and visitor education opportunities were completed ahead of schedule. The park has had a very successful opening. Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) staff is working on refining the recreation and natural resource program at the park, as well as planning for future development such as additional camping and educational support facilities. The park has benefited from a tremendous amount of public awareness; articles in the Oregonian and a television advertisement produced by the Oregon Lottery have created a high level of visitor interest. The campground was at capacity for the Memorial Day weekend.

Cottonwood Canyon Experience Center

During park development OPRD and representatives from Gilliam, Sherman, and Wheeler Counties participated in an Oregon Solutions project to help define an education support facility for the park that could serve not only as a base for park programming for visitors, but also a place to facilitate a wide variety of educational opportunities. The discussion produced a conceptual design that would fit into the park design, and help support not only K – 12 programming, but also advanced research opportunities. The Oregon Solutions project produced a Declaration of Cooperation (DOC) that outlined levels of partner support for making this center and the programming to support it a reality. A key component of that DOC was a commitment of the Oregon State Parks Foundation (OSPF) to initiate a fundraising campaign to secure the funding or effort to build the center. On June 26th, the signatories of the DOC will gather at Cottonwood Canyon State Park to get an update on park development and the status of the Experience Center. While local park staff have been in close contact with the local community, this will be the first opportunity that some of the partners have been together since the park opening.

Additional Development Phases

The adopted Comprehensive Master Plan for Cottonwood Canyon outlines several phases of facility development. Park opening made significant progress on the first phase of development, including opening some facilities like the overnight campground earlier than expected. Agency staff is evaluating the use patterns and available budget to assess how to approach the next

phases of park development. A priority remains trail connections, basic infrastructure, life-safety improvements, and enhanced camping opportunities such as camper cabins. The community discussion on June 26th will also be critical to setting priorities that meet the community need and honor the approach set forth in the park plan.

Agenda Item: 13b

Topic: WWII Memorial

Attachment: Map of State Capitol State Park

Prepared by: Roger Roper, Bryan Nielsen

WW II Memorial

Construction of the WW II Memorial in the State Capitol State Park started in March 2014 and culminated with a dedication ceremony on June 6th. The project has received considerable media attention and very favorable reviews from the veterans community. The memorial is located in the NW corner of Willson Park, the part of the capitol grounds immediately to the west of the capitol building. This memorial is a “major installation” in the park, and therefore went through a more thorough review, as prescribed in the SCSP administrative rule. It has proceeded mostly as planned, with very few problems or interruptions. One outstanding issue, however, is the maintenance deposit for long-term upkeep of the memorial. The statute authorizing the monument states that the ODVA has the responsibility of maintenance of the site. OPRD is negotiating a maintenance agreement with ODVA to clearly define the roles for each agency at the site. Should the memorial fund or ODVA provide OPRD with a memorial deposit according to administrative rule, OPRD would take over all maintenance aspects of the monument. OPRD opted to allow the project to proceed without the deposit in a good-faith effort to keep the project on schedule and fulfill the wishes of the Governor, Legislature, and veterans community for this important memorial.

Fallen Troopers Memorial

The Oregon State Police Department is ready to begin construction of its memorial to fallen troopers this spring/summer in front of the Public Services Building on the Capitol Mall, which is within the State Capitol State Park. The project has been in the works for 2-3 years, but funding and other issues have delayed its construction. This memorial was scaled back from its original design to comply with OPRD’s policy on constructing “minor features” in the park, making the approval process much simpler. Minor installations, such as this, are intended to blend in with the existing landscape of the Capitol Mall, as opposed to major installations that are more dominant in their own right. OPRD and OSPD have worked closely to come up with a design that balances the requirements of a minor feature while projecting the stature a memorial such as this is worthy of. The estimated completion date is summer 2015.

Agenda Item: 13c

Topic: State Parks Day

Attachment: State Parks Day Poster

Prepared by: Chris Havel

State parks throughout Oregon offered free tent and RV site camping, plus free day parking, on Saturday, June 7. State Parks Day has been the first Saturday in June since 1997 as a way to say “Thank You” to people who support parks all year.

Park staff typically host modest events to celebrate the day. Typical park events include guided hikes, special barbecues and guest appearances by J.R. Beaver, Oregon's State Park mascot. Silver Falls State Park near Salem hosted the Silver Falls Challenge Foot Race followed by a free barbeque in the South Falls Lodge Courtyard. Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park south of Florence celebrated the grand opening of a new fishing dock and offered an introduction to canoes and kayaks. Volunteers and special guests led hikes, presentations and group bike and horseback rides at L.L. "Stub" Stewart State Park west of Portland.

June 7 was also National Trails Day, and June 7-8 was Free Fishing Weekend sponsored by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). ODFW hosted free fishing events statewide, including several in state parks.

The Oregon State Legislature established Oregon State Parks Day in 1997 to focus public attention on Oregon's state park system. A copy of the poster used to promote the day is attached; staff in the Communications and Research Division also promoted the celebration on Twitter, Facebook and the main park blog.

JUNE 7... Make it Your *nature* Play Date



STATE PARKS DAY



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2014
oregonstateparks.org

FREE

**Day-use and
Overnight Camping***

*Tent and RV sites only

Follow us on Facebook 

Reservations: 800.452.5687

Info: 800.551.6949

Agenda Item: 13d

Topic: Marine Debris

Attachment: photos

Prepared by: Chris Havel

A March 2011 earthquake off the coast of Japan generated a tsunami that devastated portions of that county's east coast. As the waters swept back to sea, millions of tons of debris were washed into the Pacific. Most of it sank, but a small portion — wood, plastic, sealed containers, small boats, for example — remained afloat.

Since 2012, debris from the tsunami has been washing ashore in Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, California and Oregon. Each state has responded according to the nature of its ocean shore, and the resources at its disposal. In Oregon, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department coast debris budget increased from \$80,000 a biennium to \$130,000, and was supplemented by an additional \$50,000 federal grant in the 2011-13 biennium, and \$250,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the 2013-15 biennium. This latest money originated with Japan's national government, which donated \$5 million to the United States as a whole to aid the national response to incoming debris.

Oregon, with its 362-mile public ocean shore and strong local volunteer network, has responded to the debris challenge by continuing its two large beachwide cleanups (in March and September), and added dozens of smaller cleanups targeted at areas with the greatest need. Debris has accumulated in greater concentrations to the north, becoming sparse farther south.

Most debris is small (plastic bottles) or large, but light (rigid foam blocks), but fiberglass boats have also washed ashore with fair regularity. These craft are normally 15-20' long and are designed for near-shore operation; they come ashore without gear or a motor, but are almost always covered with marine organisms. OPRD staff occasionally take samples or contact Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to have their staff study the wrecks directly for possible invasive species. Recent boats have come ashore near Cape Lookout, Siltcoos, and Coos Bay (see photos below). Each boat typically costs \$500-1,500 to remove and dispose of in a landfill.

So far the biennium, the department estimates it has spent \$38,000 to respond to marine debris, and projects a similar amount (\$33,000) for the remainder of the biennium. OPRD holds \$250,000 donated by Japan its budget, but works in concert with three other agencies — Environmental Quality, Fish and Wildlife, and Emergency Management — to spend the money. OPRD has requested approval to spend \$71,000 from the fund.

Public concerns have focused mainly on the potential danger of radioactive water. A nuclear power plant on Japan's coast continues to leak contaminated water into the western Pacific. OPRD beach rangers collect sand and water samples on behalf of the Oregon Health Authority, who analyze it for radiation and publish their findings online. No unusual results have been found since monitoring began in 2011.



Agenda Item: 13e

Topic: Smoking Rules

Attachment: None

Prepared by: Richard Walkoski

Background

Rules to restrict smoking on OPRD properties were approved at the February 5, 2014 commission meeting. The communication strategy for implementing these rules called for education during the 2014 season, making visitors aware of the new rules and asking for voluntary compliance. The framework of that plan has now been put into place and so far feedback is mostly positive.

Staff Resources and Training

The first document developed for staff was a frequently asked question (FAQ) sheet. There were two versions of this document, one for the public and one that went into more detail that can be used to educate staff and volunteers. The public version is available on the OPRD website.

A mainstay of our customer relations training is a communication course called Verbal Judo. This course is given to enforcement officers, staff and volunteers who deal with the public in the course of their work. OPRD has our own certified Verbal Judo instructors which allow us to customize the roll play scenarios that students work through during the course. A scenario in which a visitor refuses to comply with the new smoking restrictions has been developed for the 2014 Verbal Judo courses to reinforce the communication strategy and give staff another tool to deal with implementation of the new rules. In addition to the field staff who normally take the course, this year agents at Reservations Northwest will be given the training.

One of the unique challenges of implementing the restrictions on OPRD properties is State Capitol State Park, where hundreds of state employees work in buildings that surround the park. Those who smoke have been using the park in greater numbers since the grounds in front of those buildings became a no smoking area in 2013. The park manager is working with a DAS labor relations manager and the building managers to develop materials that will educate employees in those buildings about the new rules.

OPRD has a number of annual trainings for field staff and in 2014 there will be a focus on the new smoking restrictions and the methods staff should use to educate visitors. The trainings include seasonal employee orientation, park host orientation, Visitor Service Leader training, CORE interpretive training and Let's Go Camping leader training. The staff FAQ will be used as a resource and in cases where Verbal Judo training is part of the curriculum the smoking scenario will be included.

Visitor Communication

Initial awareness amongst the public occurred during the rulemaking process with good media coverage of the proposed rules. Since adoption a couple stories have run in the media and we have run a story in the Parks Go Guide. There have also been a number of websites and message forums discussing the new rules. Much like the public comments we received during rulemaking, opinions are divided on this issue. Recent opinion seems to be largely in favor of the rules. Prior to the 4th of July holiday we will highlight the new rules on the front page of the OPRD website, with a link to the FAQ page.

In an effort to make our camping customers aware of the new rules before they arrive at the parks we e-mailed over 41,000 people who have made reservations at OPRD parks during 2014. In the e-mail we described the process we used to develop the rules and gave a link to the FAQ document. While this was not intended to be a means to solicit comment, we did receive 41 responses to the e-mail. Of those responding eight were not in favor of the rules and the others were either appreciative that we restricted smoking or felt we should go even further and ban smoking altogether.

All parks were provided a supply of signs by Memorial weekend. There are two versions of the sign, one on hard plastic that will be added to existing sign posts or kiosks and a decal that can be placed over existing building signs that restricted smoking within 30' of the building and are now outdated. Guidance was also sent to all field managers that instructed them on proper placement and gave instructions on how to get additional signs if needed.



The image shows a sign for Oregon State Parks. The top part is a dark green rounded rectangle with a white circle containing a red diagonal line over a black cigarette icon. To the right of this icon, the text "Smoking Prohibited in Oregon State Parks" is written in white. Below this green section is a white section with a thin green border. On the left, the word "Exceptions:" is written in green. To its right is a bulleted list in green: "Smoking allowed in campsites." and "Smoking allowed in vehicles and camping units." At the bottom center of the white section, the text "OAR 736-010-0040" is written in green. On the right side of the white section, there is a small circular logo for Oregon State Parks, featuring a landscape with mountains, trees, and water, with the words "OREGON STATE PARKS" around the border.

**Smoking Prohibited in
Oregon State Parks**

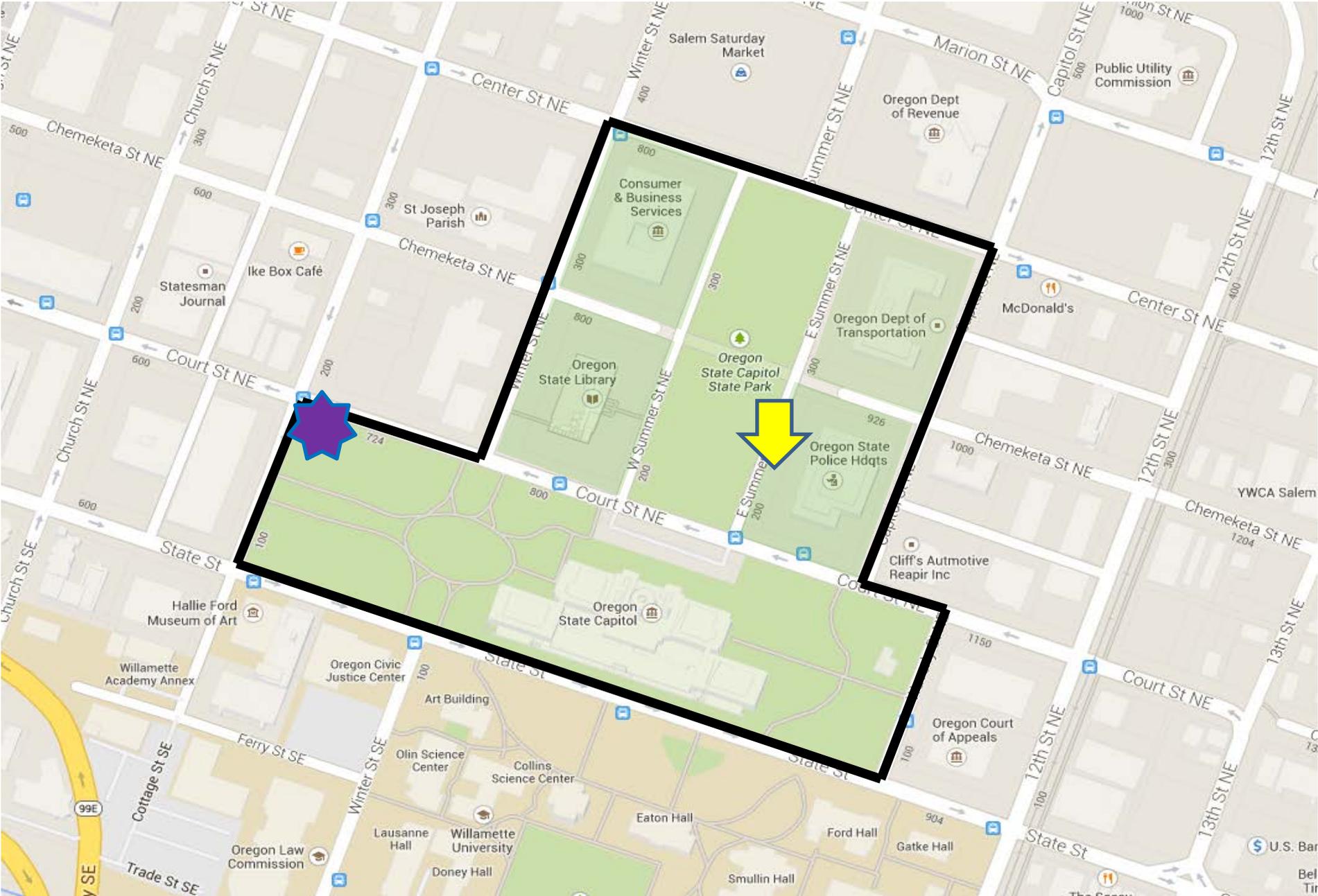
Exceptions:

- **Smoking allowed in campsites.**
- **Smoking allowed in vehicles
and camping units.**

OAR 736-010-0040



Item 13b- WWII Memorial – Attachment A



 WWII Memorial location

 Proposed location for Fallen Troopers Memorial

 Park Boundary