



Your Parks. Your Vision.

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

Please Join Us At the Upcoming Planning Meeting – See Reverse For Details

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 park 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 the existing conditions of OPRD parks, programs, recreation activities, and natural resources.
- Analyze 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.

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.

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.

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.



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What happened at the first public meeting in August?

At our public meeting on August 14th and 15th, 2013, 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.

What happened at the second public meeting in January?

At our public meeting on January 14 and 15th, 2014, we presented existing conditions for state parks in the Columbia River Gorge, including recreation and facility inventories, land use, natural and cultural resources, and park surveys. We also presented draft values (Scenic Beauty, Natural Resources, Recreation, Heritage, and Community) based on what we heard at the first round of meetings. These values are recorded in the plan as existing conditions that should be preserved and prioritized during the planning process. The presentation is available for viewing at www.gorgeparksplan.com.

Join us for the third Public Meeting:

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. Planning concepts are helpful 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. The planning proposals will be posted online on April 25th prior to the public meeting. Go to www.gorgeparksplan.com to review the materials ahead of time.

Meeting III. Concept Alternatives

West End – Corbett Fire House

Date: Wednesday April 30, 2014

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

Location: Corbett Fire House
36930 E. Historic Columbia River Highway
Corbett, OR 97019

East End – Hood River Fire Station

Date: Thursday, May 1, 2014

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

Location: Hood River Fire Station
1785 Meyer Parkway
Hood River 97031

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

Future Public Meetings:

Meeting IV. Draft Comprehensive Plan Review

July 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.