

# CHAMPOEG STATE PARK

MASTER PLAN SUMMARY

1990

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## PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN

In accordance with the Oregon Revised Statutes, park master plans are prepared to guide the development and use of each state park. Each plan includes "an assessment of resources and a determination of the capacity for public use and enjoyment of each park."

ORS 390.180

Master plans are developed to provide information and guidance to managers and staff involved in the decision-making process, as well as to the general public. The plans are a tool to be used in day-to-day management and long-range planning. They are useful references for information on all aspects of park resources and agency coordination.

The process of developing park master plans is continually evolving and improving as pressures increase to provide more and better recreation facilities and yet preserve our natural heritage.

The master plans allow these two occasionally conflicting needs to be addressed rationally and clearly. The completed plans provide for the development of the most appropriate recreation facilities while protecting those natural and cultural features which are the basis for the State Park System.

## THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

### Public Announcement

This action initiates the master planning process. Appropriate state and local media, various agencies and groups are notified that master plans are being prepared for particular state parks.

### Site Research and Analysis/Mapping

Information is gathered about the natural and cultural features found in and around the park. Public agencies and private experts are contacted for information as are local governments, special-interest groups and concerned citizens.

Existing features such as topography, buildings, and boundaries are mapped on park base maps.

### Inventory Maps and Composite

The information gathered during the research phase is mapped on a series of transparent overlays. Mapped information includes geology and geologic hazards, soil types, land forms, water features, vegetation, wildlife habitat, scenic resources, and relevant historic and cultural data. The quality of each resource and its ability to withstand development impacts is evaluated and noted in the text. Overlays showing resource sensitivity to development are placed on top of one another and a composite map is formed.

### Land Use Suitability Plan

The information from the composite map is used to formulate the Land Use Suitability Plan. This map shows which areas of the park are suitable for development and which areas need protection. The land use suitability plan provides a resource base guideline for production of a development and management plan.

### Park Issues

Park issues related to impacts from recreational use, management needs or local concerns are collected from surveys, from public comment and from staff interviews. Proposals are presented to address conflicts or problems which come out of the discussion of land use issues.

### Recreation Needs Analysis

A determination is made about the recreation capacity of the park and the recreation needs of park visitors. The park staff is interviewed for their views on recreation needs at the park. The local planning department is contacted for information on recreational needs and uses. The State of Oregon Outdoor Recreation Plan and State Parks Visitor Survey are researched for relevant recreation needs information.

### Preliminary Plan

The Land Use Suitability Plan and the information gathered from the Park Issues and Recreation Needs Analysis are combined as is appropriate to produce the preliminary development plan for the park. This plan outlines park development for approximately 20 years.

### Public Input and Plan Review

After the preliminary plans are prepared, they are presented to the general public, government agencies, and various organizations. Comments are received and analyzed, and incorporated into the plan if appropriate.

### Draft Final Plan

The draft final master plan is prepared for administrative and commission review and approval.

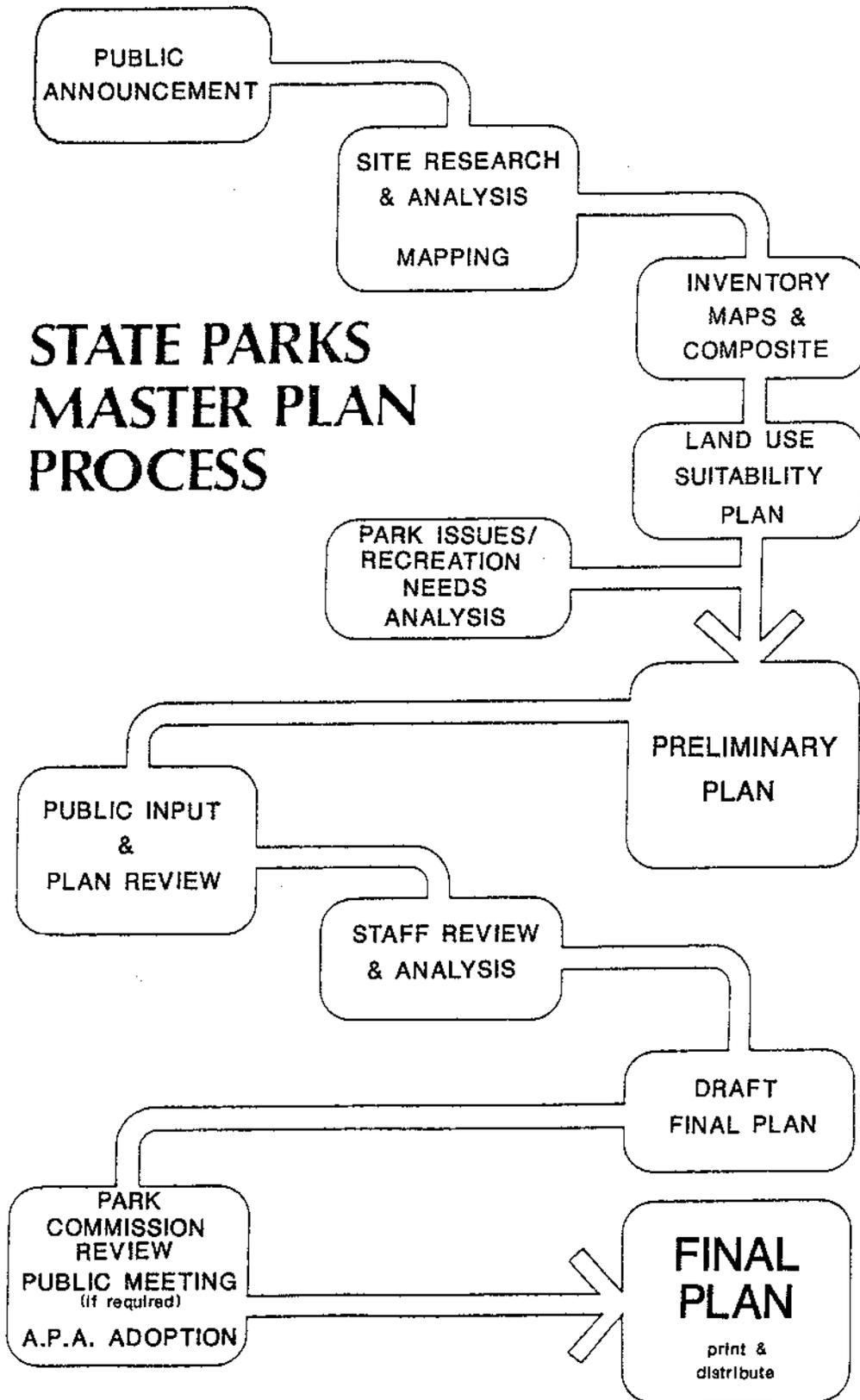
### APA Adoption

The final approved master plan is then adopted by Administrative Rule under the Administration Procedures Act. If an additional public meeting is requested, it is held at this time and necessary changes are made before the plan is adopted.

### Plan Distribution

The complete master plan document is filed with the region and district park offices and in the State Park headquarters for future reference. Summaries of the master plan are distributed to libraries around the state and are available to the public from the parks headquarters in Salem.

# STATE PARKS MASTER PLAN PROCESS





## DETAILED AND SUMMARY PLAN DOCUMENTS

There are two major parts to each master plan. One is the summary document prepared for the general public and the other is the detailed master plan document prepared primarily for park staff use.

### Plan Summary Document

The summary document describes briefly the existing conditions, the land use suitability plan and the development plan for each park. This document is sent to all affected public agencies and interested citizens.

### The Detailed Master Plan

The detailed master plan document includes the same information found in the summary plus information and analysis on the natural and cultural resources of the parks, detailed development proposals and costs, park management goals and objectives, resource management techniques and detailed planning data.

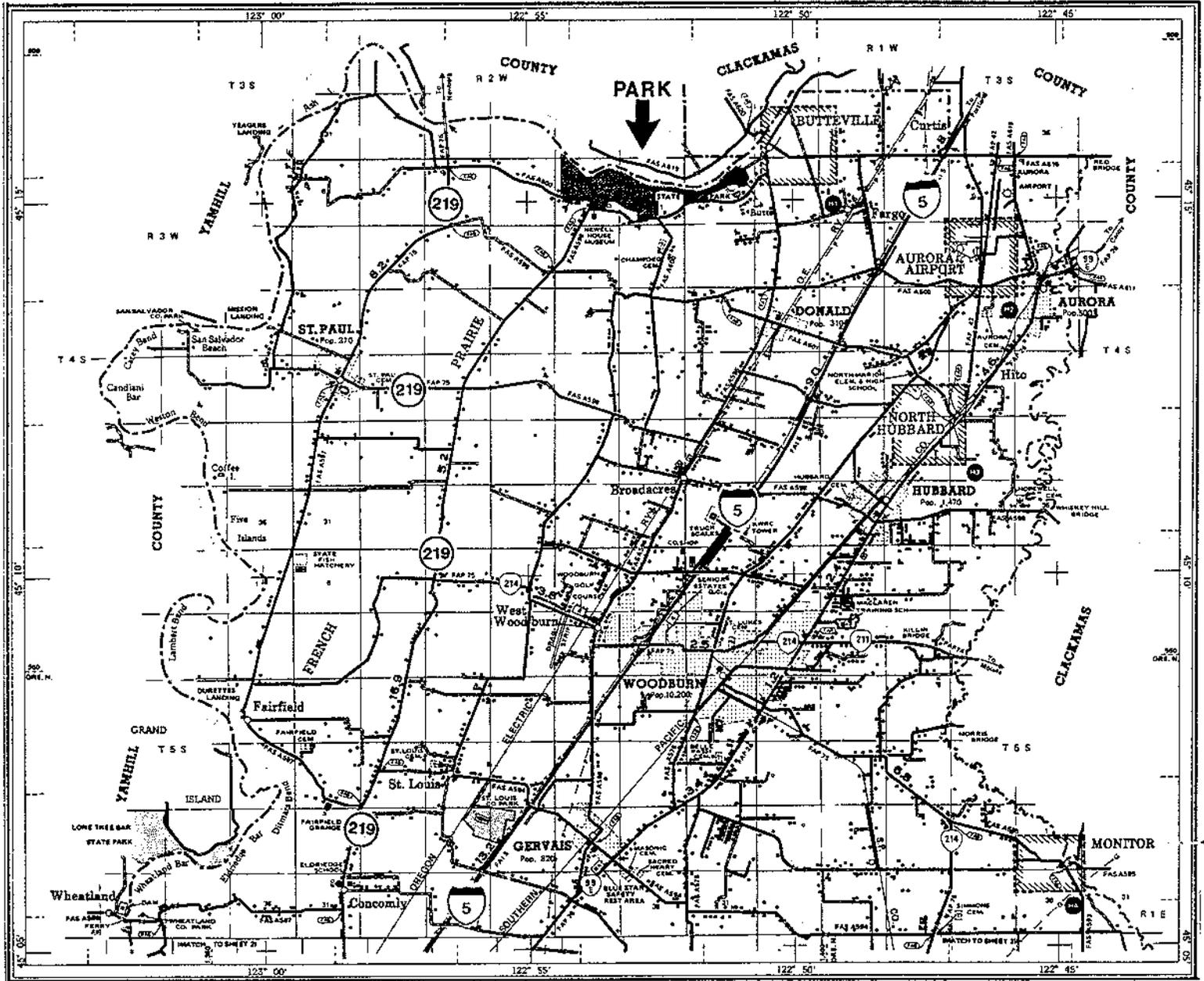
This document provides the detailed background information necessary for park management. It is a tool for the park manager, the planning staff and the park administration to use in future park planning and day-to-day management.

Most master plans contain information on more than one park. When this is the case, the general information which pertains to all parks is presented first in the Background section. The specific information for each park is presented under that park's heading. General planning data for all parks is placed together after the specific park information. Appendix data for all parks follows this.

### Additional Information

Each master plan also lists references and people to contact if further information on a particular topic is needed.

The staff who prepared the master plans are a good source of information. These landscape architects, planners, natural resource and forest management specialists, region coordinators and others can be contacted at any time for further clarification and information on planning, development and management issues. See the list of staff at the beginning of this document for contacts and their areas of expertise.



Scale



North

# CHAMPOEG STATE PARK LOCATION MAP

## THE SETTING

Champoeg State Park lies within a region of the Willamette Valley known as French Prairie. The early settlement of Champoeg was the site of the vote to form the Oregon Provisional Government, a precursor to the establishment of the Oregon Territory. This is the oldest settled agricultural region in Oregon and is still considered to contain some of the most productive agricultural land in the nation. Gently rolling farmland, thickly wooded water courses and historical farming communities delight travelers touring through the area. The setting still looks much like it did to the earliest settlers of French Prairie.

### Topography

The Willamette Valley is characterized by broad, almost level, alluvial terrain interrupted by low basalt hills.

French Prairie is a triangular area north of Salem and bounded by the Willamette River on the north and west and the Pudding River on the east. This undulating portion of the floodplain covers about 180 square miles and the elevation is less than 200 feet. The northern portion of French Prairie is a broad alluvial flat featuring a series of undulating natural levees of well drained sandy soils that parallel the Willamette River. Between the levees are rich bottomland soils that are/were seasonally flooded.

Champoeg State Park is basically characterized from, north to south, by a narrow alluvial river terrace, a steep terrace edge, a broad terrace and higher terrace edge. La Butte, a hill, dominates the east end of the park.

### Climate

The climate of the Champoeg area is generally favorable for recreational activities. Few limitations are imposed on park use except during the relatively short rainy season. The Willamette Valley seldom experiences excessively high winds, tornadoes, earthquakes or severe electrical storms.

Annual precipitation is 40", mostly in the form of rain, although snow is not uncommon during winter. The rainy season normally begins about November and continues through March. About two-thirds of the annual rainfall occurs during this period.

In nearby Salem, average monthly precipitation is as follows:

January	7.05"	July	0.35"
February	4.56"	August	0.76"
March	4.31"	September	1.59"
April	2.41"	October	3.33"
May	1.95"	November	5.71"
June	1.23"	December	7.10"

The Champoeg area enjoys the mild, temperate climate characteristic of the Pacific Northwest Coast region. The maximum temperature seldom exceeds 100°F. Prolonged hot spells are uncommon. Winter temperatures while cool, seldom approach sub-zero.

Average monthly high temperature at nearby Salem are as follows:

January	46°	July	82°
February	51°	August	81°
March	55°	September	76°
April	60°	October	65°
May	67°	November	53°
June	74°	December	47°

## Geology

The Willamette Valley is a structural depression, bounded on the west by the marine sedimentary and volcanic rocks of the Coast Range (about 60 million years old) and on the east by the older uplifted volcanic rocks of the Cascades.

Vast quantities of rocks from the surrounding mountains were eroded by streams and Ice Age glaciers to become alluvium (boulders, gravel, sand, silt and clay) in the valley bottom. It is estimated that the alluvium (primarily silt) underlying French Prairie is more than 200 feet deep in most places.

During the last Ice Age (about 15,000 years ago) a series of at least 40 catastrophic floods called the Bretz or Missoula Floods filled the Willamette Valley with a great deal more alluvium. Great dams of glacial ice and till blocked the Clark Fork of the Columbia forming a huge lake in Idaho and Montana. When the dams would break, as much as 500 cubic miles of water and debris would rush down the Columbia Gorge. On occasion the iceberg would dam the Columbia just north of Portland, causing flood waters to back up in the Willamette Valley to an elevation of about 400 feet. Evidence of these events in the valley is found in the form of ice-rafted erratic rocks as far south as Harrisburg and a thin covering of silt throughout the valley bottom.

Columbia River basalt (13-25 million years ago) is found in the low hills of the valley, as far south as Salem. These basalt formations can be seen at La Butte, Parrett Mountain, Eola, Salem and Waldo Hills and the Chehalem Mountains.

## Soils

The northern portion of French Prairie is a broad alluvial flat featuring a series of undulating natural levees of well drained sandy soils that parallel the Willamette River. Between the levees are rich, deep bottomland soils that are/were seasonally flooded.

Champoeg Park has a variety of soils, including poorly drained wetland soils and well drained upland soils.

## Water Features and Hazards

The Willamette River runs primarily from south to north, but along the northern edge of French Prairie it runs from west to east. Historically, the entire French Prairie area was subject to annual flooding. However, dam construction in the 1940s, 50s and 60s on the tributaries of the Willamette has greatly reduced the amount of acreage that floods annually.

The largest known flood on the Willamette occurred in December of 1861. This flood exceeded bank level by 23 feet at Salem and inundated more than 500,000 acres of valley land. Other major floods occurred in 1890 and 1964.

Between Eugene and Oregon City, the Willamette River is a sluggish stream with many meanders, sloughs, oxbow ponds, wetlands. Since the arrival of Euro-Americans many wetlands and side channels have been eliminated and by drainage and filling.

### Vegetation

Native Americans greatly affected the vegetation of the Willamette Valley by frequent burning for thousands of years. This created a mosaic of lush prairies and isolated woodlands. Today native grasslands and wet meadows have been replaced by agricultural fields, but the proportion of open space to wooded areas is still very similar to vegetation that the first valley settlers saw. Today's natural vegetation consists of oak groves with big-leaf maple, Douglas-fir and madrone; coniferous forests with Douglas fir, grand fir and big-leaf maple; grasslands (featuring camas and a threatened larkspur in the Champoeg area); and riparian forests with black cottonwood, willow and Oregon ash.

### Wildlife

Much of the original richness and abundance of wildlife in the Willamette Valley has been lost to agricultural development and residential and urban uses. In French Prairie important remaining habitats include hedgerows along fences and ditches and the edges between forests and open fields. The most significant wildlife habitats are the corridors formed by riparian vegetation along streams and wetlands. These dense, brushy areas offer food and cover to the occasional cougar, as well as many common species such as deer, raccoons, beaver, mink, and red-wing blackbirds.

Champoeg's primary watchable wildlife consists mostly of birds such as the lazuli bunting, American goldfinch and green heron.

Rare birds that have been seen at Champoeg State Park include the pileated woodpecker, western meadowlark, Vaux's swift, and western bluebird.

The Willamette River is host to salmon, steelhead, searun cutthroat, sturgeon and others.

### Cultural Background

Kalapuya Indians occupied the Willamette Valley and collected the edible camas bulbs that were abundant in the Champoeg area. For centuries the native Americans maintained the open grasslands of the Willamette Valley by frequent burning. By the mid-1830s, the Kalapuya culture had ceased to function because 80% of their people had died of introduced European diseases.

Trappers probably camped in the area during the fur trade period of 1811-1829. The first farms in Oregon were established in French Prairie by former employees of the Hudson's Bay Company beginning about 1829. In 1834 when Jason Lee began construction of his mission about 15 miles south of Champoeg, at least nine French-Canadian families were already farming in the area. Various facilities of the Hudson's Bay Company were built at Champoeg in the mid-1800s.

The Willamette River provided an important transportation and trade link between the settlement on northern French Prairie and Fort Vancouver. A steamboat dock and commercial waterfront were established in the immediate Champoeg area.

## Physical Characteristics

The French Prairie area has been greatly influenced by the meandering of the Willamette River. A large portion of French Prairie consists of Willamette River floodplain surrounded by a series of alluvial terraces.

In the Champoeg area the river generally runs in a west-to-east direction. Historically, the entire French Prairie area was subject to widespread annual floods. However, damming of the upper branches of the Willamette River has significantly reduced the amount of acreage subject to flooding.

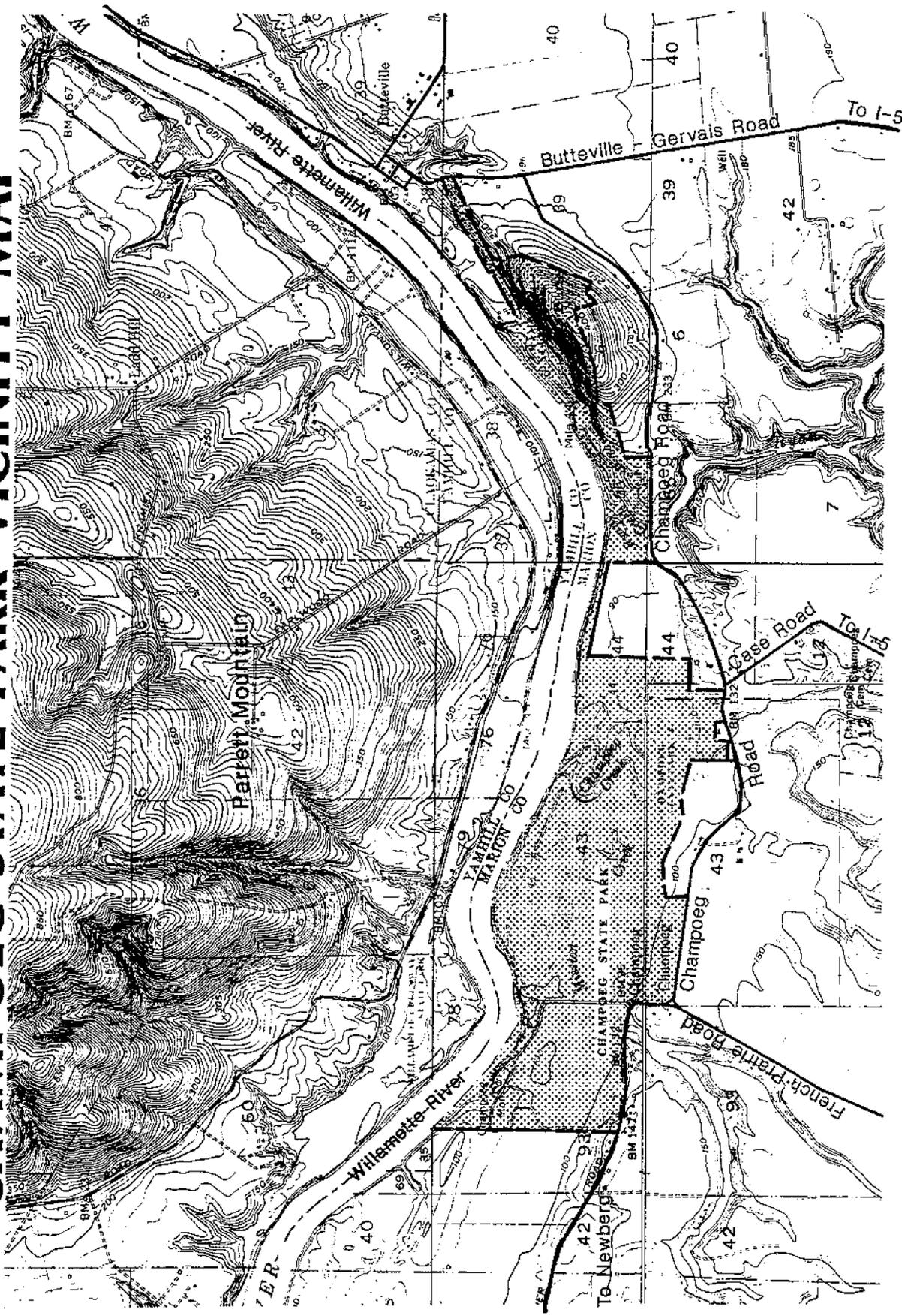
The French Prairie area is rich in historic resources. Early Native American sites are abundant as well as early farming, trapping and settlement sites.

Tourism is becoming a more significant industry in the French Prairie area due to the scenic qualities of the many century old farms, small communities, roadside produce stands and numerous historic sites. This is being further influenced by the development of numerous wineries and the increasing popularity of winery touring. Bed and breakfast establishments in the area increase every year. Bicycling is also increasing dramatically in the area.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

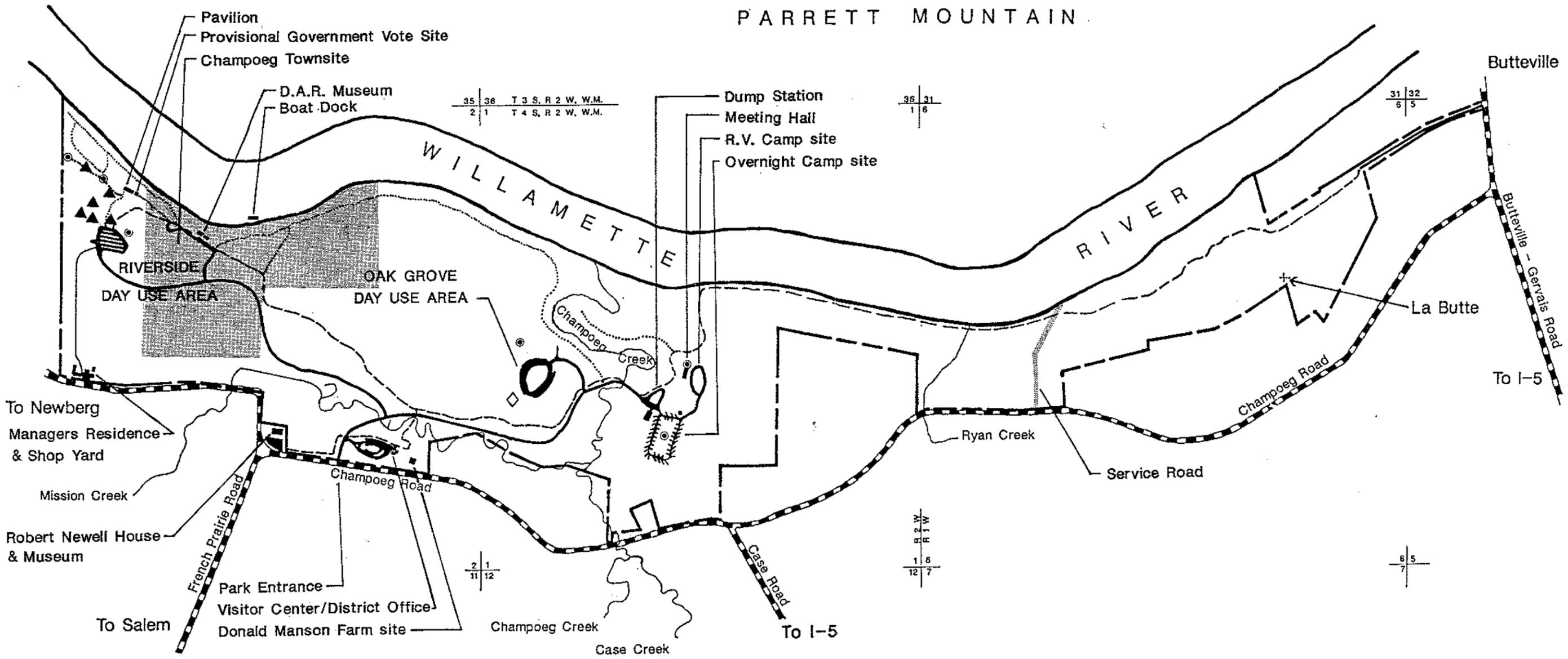
Location:	Marion County. Six miles southeast of the city of Newberg via Champoeg Road and approximately 4 miles west from Interstate Highway 5, via the Donald/Aurora exit.
Acreage:	615.2 acres.
Description:	Champoeg includes over three miles of lush rivershore vegetation, creekside wetlands, open pastures, a stand of mature Oregon white oak and mixed stands of deciduous and coniferous trees.
Day-Use Facilities:	These include two separate day-use areas with a total of 418 picnic units, five small, one medium and one large stove shelters, a memorial pavilion, memorial cabin and marker, four toilet buildings, four miles of paved bike trails, 1½ miles of hiking trail and a visitor center/administration building with associated parking.
Day-Use Attendance:	Five year average annual attendance of 376,167.
Overnight Facilities:	48 electrical sites; showers and dump station. Group RV Meeting Hall and loop available on a reservation basis. Undeveloped overflow camp area.
Overnight Attendance:	Five year average annual attendance of 34,474.
Recreation Opportunities:	Historical programs, picnicking, camping, bicycling and hiking. Currently the bike trail connects the park to Butteville.
Handicap Accessibility:	Currently, the pavilion building is not accessible to wheel chairs. All other buildings should meet the minimum requirements for wheel chair access but need to be evaluated for access by visitors with other disabilities.

# CHAMPOEG STATE PARK VICINITY MAP



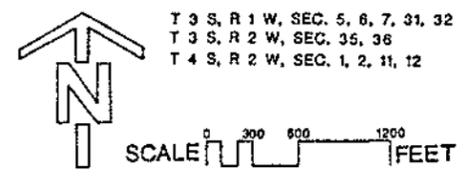
Scale  
NOTE: Contour Interval is 10 feet

# PARRETT MOUNTAIN



## LEGEND

- Hiking and Biking trails
- Hiking only trails
- Park boundary
- Picnic shelters
- Restrooms
- Stove shelters



DATE	BY	REVISIONS

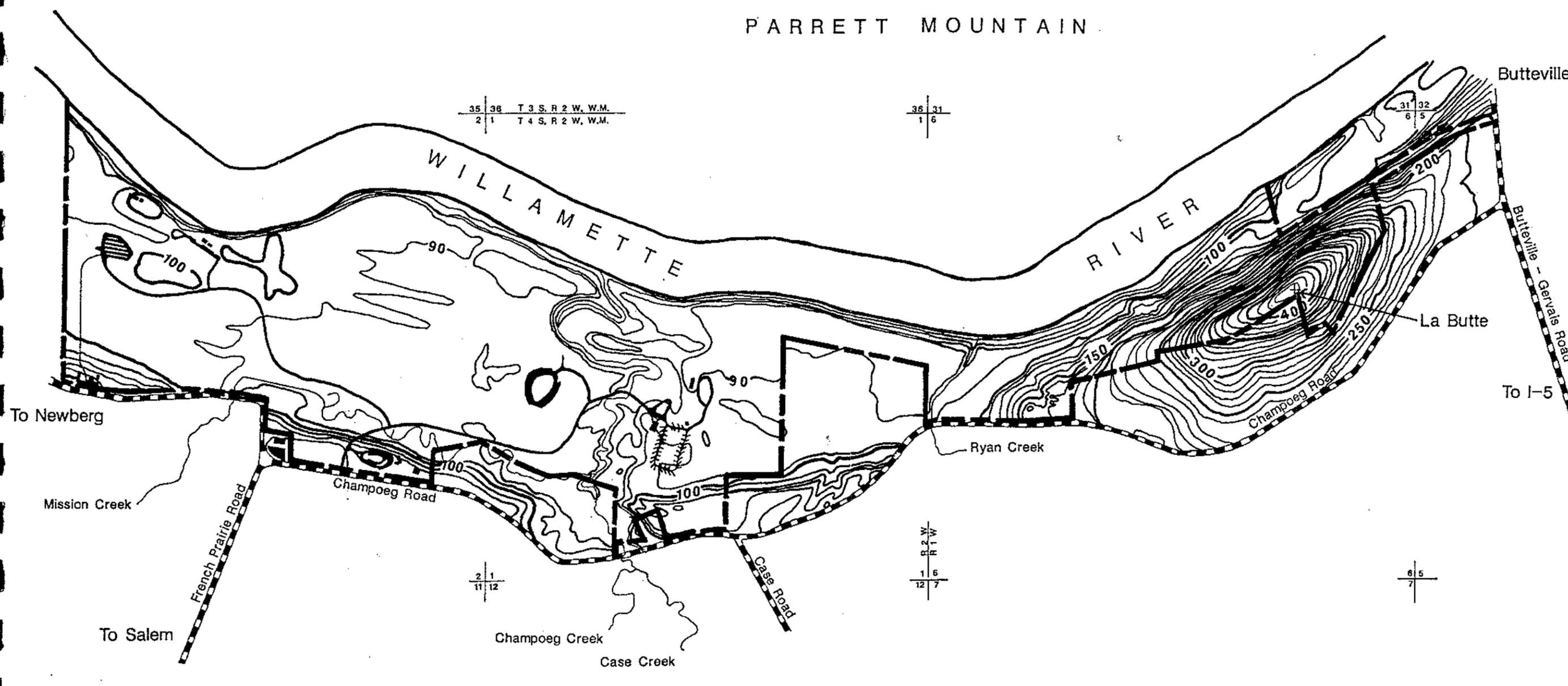
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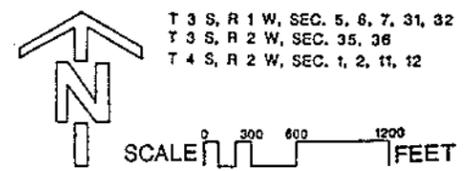
**CHAMPOEG STATE PARK MASTER PLAN**  
 Existing Conditions

**OREGON STATE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

PARRETT MOUNTAIN



NOTE: Contour Interval is 10 feet



T 3 S, R 1 W, SEC. 5, 6, 7, 31, 32  
 T 3 S, R 2 W, SEC. 35, 36  
 T 4 S, R 2 W, SEC. 1, 2, 11, 12

DATE	
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**CHAMPOEG STATE PARK MASTER PLAN**  
 Topography - approximated from USGS map  
**OREGON STATE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

## General Information

The Land Use Suitability Plan identifies both the quality and location of the park's resources as well as site opportunities and restrictions for recreation use and facility development.

There are five suitability designations used in the Land Use Suitability Plan. A description of each designation is outlined on the chart which follows.

The following chart explains in general terms the five land use suitability designations used in park planning. The chart describes the features, the typical activities, the kinds of development and the management objectives of that designation.

The examples cited in these descriptions are given to illustrate what may typically happen in each suitability designation. The specific activities, developments and management goals for individual parks and waysides are given in the master plan prepared for each park.



OREGON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION  
LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS

<u>Class and Description</u>	<u>Typical Activities</u>	<u>Typical Development</u>	<u>Typical Management</u>
<p><u>PROTECTION:</u> Land with important or unique park resources such as scenic or geologic features, fish or wildlife habitats, wetlands, special plant communities, rare threatened or endangered species or historic or archeological sites or hazardous conditions for development.</p>	<p>Activities having a low impact on the resource, such as pedestrian use, fishing, swimming, non-motorized boating, wildlife watching and other nature activities.</p>	<p>Limited development such as trails, signs, rustic bridges, simple interpretive devices, self-contained toilets and limited parking.</p>	<p>Specific management techniques and practices are used to protect and enhance protection resources. Appropriate management for protection of public health and safety is allowed as well as for prevention of loss of developments or personal property on or adjacent to the park. The use of natural processes and techniques is encouraged to achieve these ends.</p>
<p><u>CONSERVATION:</u> Land with park resources such as scenic or geologic features, habitats, plant communities, water features or historic or archeological sites of a lesser quality or importance than those of the protection. Or those resources which are more common or tolerant of use and development qualify for this designation. Or lands with moderate site constraints for development. This designation is used for buffer zones to limited development/ protection areas, for open space and scenic protection or for soil stabilization or water shed protection, etc.</p>	<p>Activities having moderate impact on the resource, such as bicycling, equestrian use, primitive camping, dispersed picnicking, and any activities allowed in limited development/protection class.</p>	<p>A moderate level of development is allowed including all of the above plus primitive campgrounds, simple equestrian facilities, dispersed picnicking facilities, utilities, small structures, boat ramps and docks, secondary roads and parking lots.</p>	<p>Allows the minimum resource manipulation required to accomplish specific objectives such as insect and disease control, fire prevention and suppression, wildlife habitat improvement and visual resource enhancement.</p>
<p><u>INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT:</u> Land suitable for intensive recreation development.</p>	<p>Activities having potentially high impact on the resource. All appropriate recreation activities are allowed.</p>	<p>All recreation related development and support facilities, which are in keeping with the character of a state park are allowed.</p>	<p>Allows appropriate management activities required for the safe and enjoyable use of the area and to preserve the state park character of the area.</p>
<p><u>SURPLUS:</u> Land not suitable for PROTECTION, CONSERVATION OR DEVELOPMENT classification which may be retained, sold or exchanged.</p>	<p>No recreation activities will be proposed for these areas.</p>	<p>All non-recreation development required to manage these lands that is not disruptive to park resources in areas in other land use classifications.</p>	<p>Allows management of these lands for profit, exchange or sale.</p>
<p><u>ACQUISITIONS:</u> Lands needed to be acquired to improve park use or management or to protect resources and provide recreational or education opportunities. Acquisition lands may be classified for PROTECTION, CONSERVATION OR INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT.</p>			

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## LAND USE SUITABILITY AREAS

CHAMPOEG STATE PARK - Total park acreage: 615.24

### PROTECTION 294 Acres 48%

Special vegetation areas: 280 acres  
Includes areas of high quality forest, wetland  
and riparian plant communities, wildlife hedge rows  
and an endangered plant population.  
Existing quarry: 4 acres  
Steep terrace escarpments: 10 acres

### CONSERVATION 244 Acres 40%

Lesser quality wetlands: 36 acres  
Mowed wooded areas &  
open pasture or meadow: 168 acres  
Historic townsite area: 26 acres  
Lesser quality forest: 14 acres  
Many of these areas are within the 100 year flood plain zone.

### INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT 76 Acres 12%

Existing campground area: 22 acres  
Existing pavilion/memorial/  
D.A.R. cabin area: 10 acres  
Existing Riverside parking lot,  
toilet building: 4 acres  
Existing shop, residence  
& terrace slope: 14 acres  
Existing visitor center/office/  
parking/terrace top: 11 acres  
Existing undeveloped,  
low quality natural areas in east: 9 acres  
Eastern undeveloped terrace top: 5 acres  
Floodplain "island": 1 acre  
All intensive development areas have an associated area which lies above the 100 year flood zone.

### SURPLUS

None.

### ACQUISITION 100 Acres

Farm property inholding: 100 acres  
Area located in central portion of park, north of Champoeg Road and east of Case Road.  
For future use related to camping areas.





## PARK ISSUES

### Overcrowding in Camping Area:

The existing camping area is filled beyond capacity most of the summer season. Also, many tent campers would like an opportunity to camp away from the RV's and cars.

There is a need to designate an official overflow area where an additional shower/toilet building and drainfield can be built. This area could be upgraded to paved electrical sites later. Two additional loops would eventually be needed. An eventual maximum of 125 additional sites would be needed and manageable.

There is a need to designate a parking area & toilet building for walk-in campsites away from existing and proposed camp areas.

### Day-use Facilities Needs:

The existing day-use facilities are booked to capacity for the summer season and beyond. There is also some conflict between day-use groups and general day-use.

There is a need to expand one of the day-use areas and separate group use areas from general day-use.

### Interpretation of History on Site:

Large areas of the park are known to include sites of important historic events but there is little known about exact locations of sites, and their composition. There are very few interpretive structures or signs around the park.

There is a need to conduct a thorough archeological search of important historic areas of the park and to interpret these areas in a manner appropriate to the setting and construction of a campfire ring may be useful in bringing park information/interpretation to campers.

### Champoeg Pageant:

Volunteers for the annual Champoeg Pageant currently must erect and tear down a stage. There is no park storage for props and costumes, etc.. The seating area is not conducive to good viewing. Pageant operation and parking at the existing site conflicts with day-use in that area. Other groups, including the Oregon Symphony are interested in an improved site being constructed in the park.

There is a need for a permanent stage, storage and seating development with accompanying parking area and supporting facilities located away from other major park use areas.

### Opportunities for Using Historic Structures:

The historic Manson Barn exists within park boundaries but is currently in very poor condition and is not used for park purposes. The building's use for sheep is contributing to its decay. An historic granary building from the second Champeog townsite is located across the road from the park; it may be available for acquisition and use in the park. It is currently not being maintained by the owners and will not last many more years without additional attention. The Manson Barn and granary could provide interesting and appropriate settings for group interpretive activities within the park. Moving the granary building to an appropriate site within the park and restoring it and the Manson barn for public access would protect these important historic resources and serve a useful purpose in the overall interpretive program at the park.

### D.A.R. Property

After consultation with representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Parks staff has determined that it would not be feasible to move the Memorial Pioneer Mothers Cabin to another area of the park. It is currently located in an area where other memorials are also located and as such is an appropriate location for it to remain. This would facilitate interpretation of and public access to these memorial structures as a group.

The location of the memorial structures overlaps with the original townsite and Hudson's Bay sites to some degree. Disturbance to archeological resources under these structures has already occurred and as such moving the structures would not provide additional archeological opportunities. The structures have existed on this site with the intent of memorializing various pioneer activities at Champeog for several decades and should remain at that location for that purpose. Because of the memorial purpose of the structures and their long time location at the Riverside site their visual intrusion on the edge of the old townsite is somewhat justified.

The caretaker's residence located adjacent to the Mother's Cabin does not have the same memorial purpose but is used by D.A.R. caretakers who want to maintain convenient access to the cabin. The present caretaker's residence site is not compatible with the historical or recreational values of the park. Long term objectives for the park would be better served if another appropriate site could be found. D.A.R. representatives and Parks staff will work together to determine whether it is in the best interests of both the D.A.R. and Parks to take measures to lessen the visual impact of the caretakers house on the memorial and townsite area. Suggested options include moving the residence to an area where it cannot be seen but still provides easy access to the cabin.

It is difficult to find a new site for the residence that would provide easy access and would not intrude visually on other historically significant sites. Another option is to move the garage back and heavily screen the garage and caretaker's residence with riparian vegetation so that it would be screened from view from the parking lot and future townsite access area. The residence might be painted to blend further with the setting.

The D.A.R. also owns the Newell House complex located on the intersection of Champeog Road and French Prairie Road. The property is contiguous with park property. Adjacent park property is located along the county road between the Newell House and the park entrance and is currently undeveloped. The existing access to the Newell House property from the county road is dangerous due to a dangerous curve and grade change. Also, the historic structures are seen from the county road across the existing D.A.R. gravel parking lot. Parks will work

with the D.A.R. representatives on the possibility of routing access to the Newell House through park property via the existing park entrance for safety reasons. Parking could be located on park property in such a way as to provide less of a visual intrusion on the view of the historic structures. This parking would be shared with future overflow parking for the visitor center. Parks could also coordinate future trail access from the park via this same area.

### Access to the Townsite:

Inadequate parking exists for access to the historic townsite. There will be a need for improved parking and site approach once research and interpretation of the townsite begins. It would be feasible to rework the parking near the D.A.R. museum and caretaker's residence to better serve the townsite and the D.A.R. structures.

### Historic Appearance of the Landscape:

Champoeg is one the few parks in the state system with a combination of very significant historic sites and a historically accurate landscape scene. Important individual historic and archeological sites should be protected once located and interpreted on site. The central portion of the park should be managed to retain the proportion of open space to wooded areas representative of the early settlement era, to include historically accurate tree and shrub species and to exclude developments which would be visually obtrusive. Compatible development such as trails, well placed parking, roads and toilet buildings and appropriate interpretive displays may be allowed in the central portion of the park. The remainder of the park should retain its current proportion of open space to wooded areas but may be used for more intensive developments.

Champoeg State Park has retained much of the historic appearance of French Prairie with its open pasture/meadow areas and surrounding woodland. However, non-native and modern species are encroaching in some areas. In other areas older woodland has been cleared.

There is a need to gradually remove historically inappropriate species of trees, shrubs, and ground cover in areas of visual importance. Replanting of older wooded areas would help to restore the historic appearance of the landscape in the critical townsite area. Parrett Mountain is easily seen from the townsite and visitor center. Increased development of visible structures on the mountain would have a negative effect on the historic feeling of the central portion of the park. Parks planning staff should work with Yamhill County Planners to find solutions to this problem.

The French Prairie area was originally a vast native grassland. Practically all of this grassland has been destroyed by agricultural activities. Experimental restorations of a small area of grassland could be undertaken in the vicinity of the townsite by cooperating with researchers experienced in grassland restoration attempts around the Willamette Valley. Replanting of camas in some areas should be pursued.

Also an area of the park could be used to illustrate some historic agricultural techniques, such as, plowing, disking and mowing with horses. Possibly a cooperative arrangement could be made with draft horse groups to provide demonstrations.

The view to Parrett Mountain from the visitor center and townsite areas is crucial for presenting a historic scene to visitors. It is also crucial for Parks to find a solution to visual intrusions on the mountain.

### Bike Trail Improvements:

Currently the popular riverside portion of the trail system is not paved. If it were paved or otherwise hard-surfaced and connected to existing paths it would complete a large loop within the park which would be accessible to the handicapped and would provide an interpretive route for the majority of the park. In order to cut down on traffic conflicts on the bridge to the campground it may be necessary to construct a bicycle bridge in another location.

State Parks should pursue acquisition and construction of a bike path along the river from the park to the Newberg Bridge through the Greenway program.

### Visitor Center-District Office Conflicts:

The visitor center is a logical place to concentrate additional needed interpretive and archeological facilities and activities. There is a need for a visitor reception area/gift shop, archeology office, lab, display and storage area. Remodelling the visitor center to accommodate these needs will most likely require moving the district office functions to another location within the park. The center should focus on the larger context of the region while site displays and other buildings depict history in the vicinity of the park.

The maintenance shop and manager's residence area is a logical location for the district office. Construction of a new office in that area or remodel the existing residence for office use would be feasible and desirable. If the residence were rehabilitated for office use a new residence would be needed.

### Additional Shop Building:

The park management has expressed a need for an additional maintenance building for the shop yard area.

### Road Access to the Park:

Marion County has recently improved the road from the Aurora/Donald exit of I-5 to Newberg to handle increasing traffic needs. This route should be well marked as the designated route to Champoeg State Park, via Case Road and Champoeg Road. This will become particularly important when major events occur at the park.

## RECREATION NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The 1988 Oregon Tourism Division Study conducted by Dean Runyan and Associates of Portland indicates that visitation of historic sites is a high priority for tourists visiting an area. Sightseeing Oregon's spectacular natural resources is the number one visitor activity (80%) while visiting historic sites is the second highest ranking visitor activity (45%). The study further reports that Oregon needs to develop its historic sites more fully and additional museums and visitor centers are needed for the tourism industry.

The Oregon State Park 2010 Plan recommends that State Parks develop their existing historic theme parks more fully. It further states that presently Oregon State Parks interpretive services are far behind other state park systems. Also, State Parks intends to focus on development of parks which can serve the metropolitan areas of the northern Willamette Valley. Expansion of camping and day-use facilities at Champoeg can help to do that.

The 1988 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) indicates that participating in interpretive programs will be a high growth recreation activity in the future (increase of 6.6% per year).

SCORP also indicates that the mid-Willamette Valley is a prime area for additional recreational opportunities due to forecasted population growths.

The aging of Oregon's population is also a significant trend cited in these studies. By the year 2030, one out of five Oregonians will be 65 or older. This population will have more leisure time and financial stability and would appreciate destination and historic theme parks.

The State of Oregon has directed the Oregon Historical Society to coordinate a 1993 sesquicentennial celebration of the opening of the Oregon Trail and a comprehensive program for developing the Oregon Trail as a major historical attraction. This focus could result in a need to further develop associated historic sites such as those in the French Prairie area. 1993 will also be the sesquicentennial celebration of the vote to establish the provisional government at Champoeg which is commemorated annually at the park.

The current Marion County Comprehensive Plan encourages Champoeg to be developed as a major regional park. This master plan study will be incorporated in their forthcoming comprehensive plan.

With the proposed enhancements of the recreation and interpretive activities at the park, Champoeg would be a major component of the tourism industry in the mid-Willamette Valley.

Informative and creative interpretation of the landscape and associated archeology of Champoeg could provide park visitors with a very real and powerful historical experience and could be used as a model for the interpretation of other archeological sites in the state parks system. The existing campground is used at 130% of capacity through the summer months and is often full on good weather weekends during the spring and fall. The group day-use facilities are used to capacity in summer months as well.



## GENERAL GOAL

To develop facilities and programs which interpret and illustrate Champoeg more fully as an important historic resource. Provide needed additional facilities for camping, day-use and other recreational activities and associated management functions. Create clear connections between the interpretive facilities, historic sites and recreational use areas. Make the best use of scarce buildable land in the park. Acquire needed adjacent acreage for expansion.

## OBJECTIVES

### 1. Taking Advantage of the Interpretive Potential of the Park

- Champoeg Townsite: Mark the town plat corners and major roads, locate sites for archeological digs and accommodate public viewing access and interpretation of seasonal digs, provide interpretive signage and marking of structures, etc.. As evidence is uncovered in digs, re-establish a boat dock at the historic landing on Willamette River. Provide parking near the D.A.R. Museum for access to the townsite.

- Visitor Center/Manson Barn: Archeological digs will require lab, storage and office space which could be interpreted for the public. Visitor reception, shop space, volunteer and "Friends" office space, museum and interpretive management offices are needed as well. These functions would most efficiently be housed together with the museum function of the visitor center. By removing the district office function from the visitor center the existing spaces could be remodeled and changed to accommodate museum related uses only.

The close proximity of the historic Manson Barn to the Visitor Center offers an opportunity for outdoor interpretive uses in conjunction with the museum. Restore the barn to its original appearance and prepare it for public access as a covered area for demonstrations and gatherings etc.. Remodel the visitor center lobby to create a gateway for visitors to the outdoor/barn area. Provide overflow parking for the visitor center.

- Historic Granary: An 1870 granary building which was historically located in the Champeog area is available for acquisition and relocation to the park. It is currently not being maintained and will soon be beyond the point of restoration. This building is one of very few original buildings from this area and is therefore a significant historic resource for the state. The building could provide a setting for the display of typical interior furnishings and other artifacts of that time.

The area adjacent to the Manson Barn would be an appropriate place to locate the granary building to be in context with the historic barn and to take advantage of the

open space there for combined indoor/outdoor and covered activities.

The Daughters of the American Revolution own and operate the Newell House together with several other historic buildings in an area adjacent to an undeveloped area of the park. It would be convenient for park visitors to access the D.A.R. property directly from the park and vice versa if better access were available. Additional parking could be located near the Newell House which could be accessed via the park entrance road.

- Other Sites: Places such as the old mill site, various farmsteads, Hudson Bay sites and trapper and Indian sites should be marked and interpreted as evidence about the location and use of these sites is uncovered.
- Landscape demonstrations of historic agricultural techniques as well as native prairies.

2. Take Advantage of Site Opportunities to Provide a Quality Outdoor Educational /Cultural Facility for the Historic Champoeg Pageant and Other Functions

- Locate an area of the park which has few conflicts with existing park use to construct an outdoor stage, storage area, dressing rooms, ticket/concession/toilet building, permanent and grass seating and parking. The site should command a view of the historic areas of the park and not conflict with important natural resource constraints.

3. Expand Needed Recreational Facilities as Site Constraints Allow

- Expand the camp area to eventually include up to 120 additional electrical RV sites and three new shower/toilet buildings. Construct a campfire ring area in the vicinity of the existing overflow camp for evening talks.
- Construct a new parking area and toilet building for walk-in camping.
- Expand the Oak Grove day-use area for groups and others by constructing an additional parking loop and two picnic shelters.
- Build a vault toilet and courtesy dock for day-use boating access at the old pageant site.

4. Trail Connections Throughout the Park

- Upgrade portions of the existing trail by improving the surfacing to accommodate handicap access throughout and connect with all of the major facilities and interpretive sites.
- Add a new bike/foot bridge and extend trail through meadow area.

5. Expand Needed Administrative and Maintenance Facilities

- A new park residence is needed due to the condition and limited size of the existing structure. A residence will be purchased on lands with park resource values adjacent

to the park if possible. Adequate housing exists on the land proposed for acquisition. If this parcel is not acquired and other suitable housing is not available Parks will site and construct a new residence on an alternate sit on developable lands.

- The existing residence building could be renovated for use as the district office building.
- A new shop building is needed for the shop yard.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

### 1. Amphitheater Area

- Stage, seating area should fit into existing hillside and have a view to the historic area but be screened from view from the townsite.
- Structures should have an appropriate historic reference in materials and appearance.
- Parking areas should be constructed to have the minimum impact possible on the wetland soils and vegetation. Possible use of terra-pavers or other similar material is recommended.
- Parking, concessions and seating should be handicap accessible.
- An exit road should be constructed by the shop yard to be used during events.
- The parking should be designed so that exiting traffic can be directed to Newberg and Salem via the back road exit and Champoeg and French Prairie Roads and traffic for I-5 goes out the main entrance via Champoeg and Case Roads.

### 2. Townsite Area

- Parking at the D.A.R museum should be rehabilitated to be a loop with some bus parking spots and turning radius for busses.
- Public access to the townsite should be restricted to Napoleon Avenue and DeGrasse/Washington Street to protect the archeological resource until a remote sensing search has been completed for the area. Dig sites will be open to public view but will restrict public access to the pits and to the field lab. On-going digs will be interpreted with signs.
- Marking of townsite information will be determined as information is gathered about the site. Marking techniques should be subtle but meaningful and should be explained with interpretive signage.
- Interpretive signs and structures should not dominate the site. Low profile, vandal-resistant materials should be used. Signs should conform to a consistent format and appearance for all of the interpretive areas of the park.
- The boat dock at the terminus of Napoleon Avenue should be designed to accommodate a sternwheeler. Wooden pilings are preferable over steel to appear more harmonious with the historic site.

### 3. Granary Placement

- The historic granary placement should be near the visitor center and manson barn so that it complements other interpretive buildings and can share the outdoor area. Between the buildings the granary should be restored to its original appearance by a qualified craftsman.

#### 4. Overflow Parking for Visitor Center

- Overflow parking will be located across the entrance road from existing parking for the visitor center. Parking in this area should be designed so that it is screened from the county road, from the park and from the D.A.R. property. Access to this area from the park entrance road will have to be coordinated with the intersection to the visitor center and with placement of the day-use booth.

#### 5. New Manager's Residence

- If it is necessary to construct a new manager's residence it should be sited in a development area on the terrace top where it can provide supervision of park use.

#### 6. Rehab for District Office Building

- Access to the existing residence needs to be improved for use as an office building, but should be separate from the shop yard if possible.

#### 7. Camping Expansion

- For the expanded RV camp loops appropriate native shade trees should be planted as soon as possible. Screening understory plants may be planted once construction of defined loops commences. A small seating area with speakers platform and portable screen should be constructed in the vicinity of existing camp loop.
- The walk-in camp area should have designated sites with tables and fire rings. The sites should be located in the seasonally drier areas of the woods and along the woodland edge. A circulation path which leads to the camp sites should be sited but not paved. Bark dust may be used.
- Areas outside of the 100 year flood zone should be targeted for toilet building and drainfield placement. Some locations will require 5 - 10' fills to accommodate this requirement. The presently proposed development should be accommodated by new drainfields. Eventually when drainfields begin to fail the plan will have to include alternative forms of sewerage treatment.

#### 8. Visitor Center/Manson Barn

- The visitor center building needs to be remodelled to accommodate archeological and volunteer uses. The lobby should be opened up through the existing district offices to become a gateway to the Manson Barn area. A small addition and basement storage should be constructed for the archeological lab display area, office and storage. The existing auditorium needs to be remodelled to provide better audio-visual use. Eventual evolution of the displays should focus on the French Prairie regions cultural and natural resources.
- The Manson Barn should be restored to its original appearance by a carpenter who specializes in historic restorations with the intent of allowing public access.

## 9. Trail Improvements & Expansion

- Trail connections should be constructed from the Visitor Center area along the terrace top to the intersection with the historic alignment of Napoleon Avenue and to the north along the historic alignment of Napoleon Avenue to the river. The intersection of this trail and the park road needs to be carefully sited and designed to provide for a safe crossing. Additional trail connections and improvements should be made for an east/west connection through the townsite to the Riverside area and to the north side Oak Grove.

A new trail bridge should be sited as shown on the development plan and new trail constructed through the valley.

Trail surfacing in the townsite area should not be paved but should be of a stable construction which can accommodate wheelchair and bicycle use.

- Eventual trail connections along the river from the park to Newberg should be built as part of the State Parks 2010 plan for future development.

## IMPACTS OF PROPOSED PARK DEVELOPMENT

In the 1989 Champoeg State Park Development Study, the consulting firm ECO Northwest estimated an increased annual visitation of 32,000 people if an interpretive archeological program was developed at the park. The construction of an amphitheater, resulting in additional cultural events, would also bring additional visitors to the park. It is anticipated that many visitors coming to the park to camp or picnic, would participate in interpretive or cultural activities.

This increase in visitation and programs would result in the construction of additional parking areas for the new amphitheater, Oak Grove development and archeological museum. This construction would have some impact on the visual quality of those areas of the park, but generally will not alter its overall pastoral appearance. Some lower quality wetlands may be impacted by amphitheater parking.

Some of the increase in visitation may be spread out through the week days as opposed to just peak summer weekends. It is not anticipated that the projected increase in visitation will have a significant impact on the current park roads. Only a short portion of Champoeg Road may eventually need improvements to handle increased traffic via designated access routes from interstate 5. Congestion on the county road due to a waiting line for park admission will be lessened by repositioning the day use entry booth further down the entrance road.

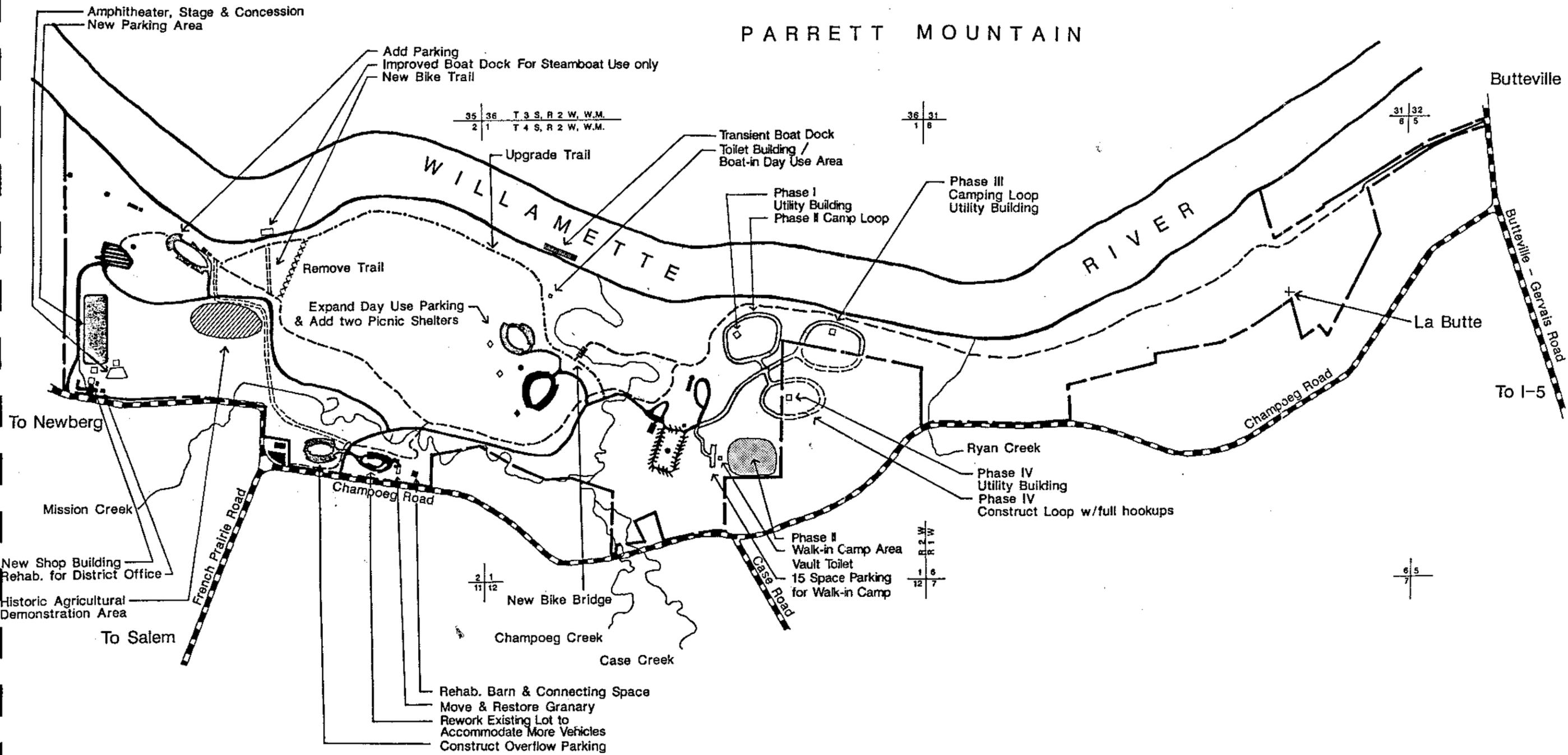
Some trail and parking lot construction and a portion of the amphitheater construction may require some wetland mitigation. A possible mitigation site could be planned for a portion of the open area of the park which was a wetland until it was drained several years ago.

Campground expansion will eventually result in a change from open fields to wooded areas in the northeast pasture area of the park. The trees will eventually screen new roads, campsites, buildings and vehicles.

Parking changes at the D.A.R. museum will have a moderate visual impact on that area. The majority of existing trees will remain.

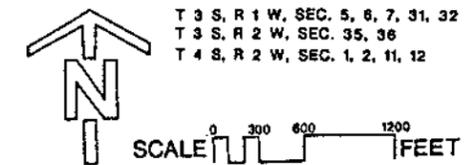


# PARRETT MOUNTAIN



## LEGEND

- Roads & Parking
- - - Hiking & Biking Trails
- Park Boundary
- ◆ Existing Picnic Shelter
- Existing Restrooms
- Existing Buildings
- ◇ Proposed Picnic Shelters
- Proposed Restrooms
- Proposed Buildings



T 3 S, R 1 W, SEC. 5, 6, 7, 31, 32  
 T 3 S, R 2 W, SEC. 35, 36  
 T 4 S, R 2 W, SEC. 1, 2, 11, 12

DATE	BY

APPROVED	DATE



**CHAMPOEG STATE PARK MASTER PLAN**  
 Development Map  
**OREGON STATE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

## DEVELOPMENT COSTS & PHASING SUMMARY

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Capital Improvement Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
High	Amphitheater & support facilities	\$572,000
High	New park residence (purchase or build)	\$115,000
High	Interpretive signing & marking at townsite	\$ 50,000
High	Visitor center rehab & addition	\$250,000
High	Oak Grove day use expansion	\$350,000
High	Utility building in new overflow camp	\$150,000
High	Historic granary acquisition & restoration	\$100,000
Medium	Townsite boat dock	\$ 60,000
Medium	Additional 40 water & electric campsites	\$400,000
Medium	Vault toilet bldg., parking and walk-in camp	\$125,000
Medium	Napoleon Avenue pedestrian/bicycle trail	\$ 30,000
Medium	Bicycle trail along river	\$150,000
Medium	Additional four bay shop	\$ 30,000
Low	Historic agriculture demonstration area	\$ 30,000
Low	Champoeg Creek bike trail bridge	\$ 19,500
Low	Native grassland restoration/wetland area	\$ 25,000
Low	2nd new loop of 40 water & elec. campsites w/ utility bldg.	\$550,000
Low	3rd new loop of 40 campsites w/ utility bldg.	\$550,000
Low	Courtesy dock and vault toilet for boat day-use	\$ 75,000
<u>Priority</u>	<u>Rehabilitation Projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
High	Upgrade & expand parking for Townsite	\$175,000
High	Reconstruct Donald Manson Barn	\$100,000
High	Hazardous tree maintenance	\$ 30,000
Medium	Overlay foot trails	\$ 20,000
Medium	Replace partitions in o/n building	\$ 12,000
Medium	Replace picnic tables	\$100,000
Medium	Rehab pavilion	\$ 25,000
Medium	Overlay Riverside Road & parking	\$150,000
Medium	Convert residence to district office	\$ 25,000
Medium	Replace one mile of bike trail	\$ 50,000
Medium	Overlay camp loop & hardstands	\$ 30,000
Low	Replacement of Riverside restroom	\$100,000
Low	Replacement of bike trail bridge	\$ 32,000
Low	Reroof four bay shop	\$ 12,000
Low	Reroof RV meeting hall	\$ 6,000
Low	Rehab Oak Grove restroom	\$ 15,000
Low	Upgrade heating system in VC	\$ 30,000
Low	Update visitor center displays	\$100,000
Low	Overlay maintenance yard	\$ 15,000
Low	Replace main reservoir	\$ 35,000
Low	Reroof pavilion	\$ 25,000
Low	Reroof visitor center	\$ 20,000

NOTE: Costs reflect state requirements of prevailing wage rates and other factors which may increase the price as compared to the private sector. Estimates are shown in 1990 dollars.



## MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION

Champoeg State Park is managed and maintained by the Champoeg District, whose headquarters are located at Champoeg State Park.

Maintenance facilities at Champoeg consist of:

Service yard: 120' x 240', paved.

Work shop: four bays, enclosed (1 heated), wood construction, approximately 78' x 26'; two bays, open, wood construction, approximately 20' x 30'.

Service station: gas and diesel, paint shed, concrete block construction.

### Maintenance Staff

The permanent maintenance staff at Champoeg includes three managers, a MacClaren crew, a clerk, a historian, four ranger 2, two ranger 1 employees and nine seasonal positions.

A seasonal clerical position is needed to more effectively handle the District Office workload.

Additional seasonal positions will be needed as facilities expand. A permanent archeologist/supervisor will be needed as the archeological program is put in place. A periodic assessment of staffing needs should be made as development of new facilities is included in upcoming requests.

### Inter-agency Coordination

Fire district: St. Paul & Aurora Fire Departments

Rescue service: St. Paul & Aurora Fire Departments

Police: Yamhill County and Marion County Sheriffs

Marion County Planning Office: Community Development, 220 High Street, Salem, Oregon

Others: Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and State Marine Board

### Emergency Procedures Program

The park staff have established emergency procedures as attached for handling fire, medical assistance and other emergencies at the park.

### Management Goals

The management goals are to improve the recreation quality and interpretive programs of the park, maintain conditions favorable to the public health and safety, establish good public relations and achieve the most effect management system.

## Cultural Resource Management

Protection and interpretation of the numerous historic and archeological sites within the park should be a primary consideration in the management and future development of this park as these resources give Champoeg its significance in the state system.

Archaeology: Prior to any development in the park, a critical examination must be undertaken as to how this development will impact the park's cultural resources. A large portion of the park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as such requires close attention as far as preserving the integrity of the archaeological resources. Before any ground is disturbed, an archaeologist should evaluate whether a site is being impacted.

Also, archaeological field studies could be one of the major focuses of Champoeg's interpretive program. A solution would be to have an archaeologist on staff at Champoeg to supervise field work each summer and conduct lab analysis during the remainder of the year. The archeologist would survey sites for impact from proposed development. This position could also be a resource throughout Region 1 and would coordinate with other investigations in the French Prairie area.

Because of the porosity and dampness of the soil at Champoeg the metallic elements of the archaeological resources are quickly deteriorating. Every effort should be made to continue archeological investigations while this component still exists. The information that could be discovered by continued investigations would bring to light much about pioneer life in Oregon.

The Pageant & Other Performances: Since 1982, the Champoeg Historical Pageant has been performed in the park each summer. Other living history, story-telling and musical performance groups are interested in using the park. Management needs to develop policies for marketing, administering and coordinating facility use for performances. Specialized professional help may be needed to help put a program together. Permits for special events will need to include short term flagging of exiting traffic at the intersection of Champoeg Road and French Prairie Road.

Historic Landscape Management: Champoeg is noted for having many of the visual characteristics of the historic French Prairie area including a combination of open space and woodland. A vegetation management plan is needed to insure that these characteristics are preserved. The park historian should research and compile a plan, with review by the master planning unit and history unit to be used a guide for tree and shrub removal and planting.

Interpretive Program: A comprehensive interpretive program for the park which ties all of the facilities and sites together and provides a framework for interpretive program scheduling and content should be developed as soon as possible. This could be developed by the park historian with input from specialists in interpretive programs.

## Interpretation Sequence & Scenario

The following is a suggested scenario for experiencing the interpretive facilities and programs proposed for the park.

A visitor's interpretive experience would begin with a stop at the visitor center near the park's entrance. In this facility are displays and activities describing Champoeg's place in Oregon history from the time of the native Kalapuya occupation through the fur trade and French Prairie's early settlement, the formation of the Provisional Government and Champoeg's rise as an important community and

commercial center to its eventual demise. This visit provides the context for the rest of a visitor's historical experience at the park. Further orientation would be provided by brochures, a video presentation on the ongoing archaeological research being done at the townsite and views into the lab and archeological display area. Special arrangements could be made for school groups to tour the lab and learn about where most of an archeologist work is done.

Numerous historical books, crafts, toys, historic accoutrements and regional foods would be available here in the visitor center shop in the main lobby.

Before leaving the visitor center area, visitors may choose to see the restored Donald Manson Barn just east of the visitor center. Here visitors would be able to see historical craftsmanship and folk artists demonstrating skills from the pioneer past. Coopering, blacksmithing, candlemaking and spinning would be typical of these activities. Some weekends fiddlers could present music from the Oregon Trail in the barn. During the pageant season, actors could present vignette's depicting various eras of history as presented in the pageant production. This would more firmly integrate the pageant into the overall interpretive program at the park. On week days and off-seasons, workshops on historic crafts and folk art could be conducted in the barn for various age groups on a reservation basis. A reconstructed historic granary building housing period furniture and artifacts would be open for viewing there. Displays depicting lifestyles and social customs of Champoeg's towns people as interpreted by the archeologist research could also be exhibited here. These displays would change frequently to reflect the ongoing research and new information coming out of the digs. This should encourage repeat visitations to this facility. It is anticipated this facility would be staffed primarily by volunteers, many of whom may work with the archeologist in the field or lab. Their interest and enthusiasm could help capture the imagination of the visitors and encourage a strong volunteer program.

Visitors could then choose to either walk, bicycle or drive their cars to the historic architectural center which is a combination of park-owned and operated and D.A.R. owned and operated features. At this point, visitors would be encouraged to visit the reconstructed Robert Newell House and restored Butteville School and jailhouse located on the Daughters of the American Revolution's Newell House property. Here they could gain more insights into the buildings and furnishings of the same vintage as historic Champoeg. They would also learn more of Champoeg's leading historical figure, the remarkable Robert "Doc" Newell.

Visitors then would have a choice of either driving to the Riverside Day Use Area, taking a short walk to the archaeological sites, or walking or biking down Napoleon Avenue to the heart of the townsite. At the entrance of Napoleon Avenue near the historic warehouse would be a sign with reproduced photos from the turn of the century of the historic alignment of this very old Oregon road. Some printed information on the sign would also prepare visitors for this walk into history.

Towards the end of the avenue a visitor will begin to see small signs, markers and displays indicating where former commercial and residential structures stood. They are now in the heart of the vanished community near the intersection of Degrasse Street. In the summer, they may see and talk with an archeologist as they slowly and meticulously unearth the town's past. A trail would bring visitors down to a large boat dock situated at the terminus of Napoleon Avenue. The site was once a ferry site and steamboat landing. Displays on the dock would describe Champoeg's important connection with the valley's original primary transportation route, the Willamette River. Perhaps at some time visitors may be able to board a sternwheeler here for a short excursions on the Willamette.

While in the Riverside area of the park, visitors would see a field enclosed with historic fencing. At times draft animals and antique farm implements could be seen in use. This visual experience would reinforce the visitors appreciation of Champoeg's important role in the development of the agricultural industry in Oregon. It also would give insight to the skills and lifestyles of those pioneers who once

lived in the Champoeg area. To the east of the townsite visitor could see a restored native grassland representative of the once vast Willamette valley grasslands. This area would include interpretation on Indian uses of various plants and the history of how the grasslands were preserved by fire. An afternoon resting and picnicking in the shaded picnic groves would be in order before heading to an early evening production of the Champoeg National Pageant or perhaps listening to a symphony performance at the park's amphitheater. The day would come to a close comfortably seated in the amphitheater watching Parrett Mountain gradually changing from glowing pinks to soft purple hues with the day's fading light.

Other important sites in the park would be marked as research enables us to accurately locate them. These would include the John Ball farm, early settler cabins, mill sites and perhaps some trappers base camps. Information on the Hudson Bay complex and Provisional Government formation would be interpreted at the Riverside site. The large routed sign at the pavilion would be replaced to delete the misinformation describing the Champooick Indian village.

While the most effective interpretive experience for a visitor would be to proceed with their visit in the order described, it is not essential. Each of these facilities or areas would be a complete experience in themselves. They are blended in with the other recreational opportunities in the park so that those visiting the park to picnic, bicycle or camp would find the interpretive activities complimentary to their recreational experience.

Champoeg will eventually be able to make a tremendous contribution by providing a place for Oregonians to discover and celebrate their sense of origin.

### Special Management Issues

District Office: Presently the district office is located within the Visitor Center. District office activities which concentrate on personnel, maintenance and administrative scheduling and contacts with sales and construction people, etc. could operate well outside of the context of the visitor center. Having separate locations for district office functions and visitor center functions would allow more parking and building space for public oriented uses. District management may have to do some restructuring of some staff duties and coordinate closely with the Friends to accommodate a move of the district office and additions to the visitor center for interpretive and volunteer uses.

D.A.R.: Parks management should continue to work closely with representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution on policies that concern that organization. Coordination with that group on providing access to the Newell House complex could benefit the public's understanding of the Champoeg area and make their visits more convenient and safe. Signs should be placed at key points in the park to direct visitors to the D.A.R. museum and to the D.A.R. Newell House.

Park Neighbors: The land surrounding the park is primarily used for agriculture with residences sparsely distributed. Many of these resident families have lived in and have used the Champoeg area for generations. As a result of this long time association, they are particularly interested in having an input into any major changes to the park. State Parks needs to make every effort to work with the local community and understand their concerns. Some of the neighbors are interested in putting on seasonal lambing and shearing events with controlled public access. This could be arranged with park management year to year.

The Friends of Champoeg State Park: Parks staff and management should continue to coordinate closely with the Friends group in targeting fund-raising for construction of interpretive facilities and implementation of interpretive programs.

Grazing & Fences: Grazing will be replaced in a few areas by a native grassland restoration area and by an historic agricultural demonstration area and by overflow parking and campground expansion. Grazing pastures and fences in the open area of the park should be included in the Historic Landscape Management Plan. Whenever possible, those permanent fences should be of an historic construction.

Signs: Direction signs within the park need to be developed using commonly used place names such as Riverside day-use, Oakgrove day-use, walk-in camping etc. So that emergency services and visitors can more easily find their way.

### Natural Resource Management

Wherever possible "hedgerows" along old fence or property lines should be retained, or even enlarged, for wildlife habitat. In developed areas, small "islands" of natural grasses, wildflowers and shrubs should be established by eliminating mowing and brush control. These islands might be in wooded hard-to-mow areas or in larger areas that are seasonal wet. Increasing the diversity of the plant species contributes to the habitat value of these areas.

Only native plants appropriate to the site should be planted in the park. There may be exceptions when the planting of introduced species is required for historical interpretation.

Grass should be planted in the walk-in campsite area. Instead, bark dust could be used.

Unneeded barbed wire fences should be removed. Throughout the park, and especially in the La Butte area, ivy and other non-native plants should be removed.

Throughout the park, dead trees should be left standing for pileated woodpecker habitat, except for those which are safety hazards.

### Natural Resource Interpretation

An important theme for interpretation is the history of vegetation in Willamette Valley from:

- 1) the period before humans inhabited the continent; through
- 2) the period of frequent burning and camas harvesting by the Native Americans; to
- 3) recent times when Euro-Americans have filled and farmed wetland and prevented forest fire.

If mitigation for a Parks project required the restoration or creation of a wetland within the park, interpretation of this effort would be appropriate.

In the vicinity of La Butte a forest was removed by fire or logging long ago and has been replaced by mature trees. The existing forest is an example of how a second growth forest can recover much of its plant diversity and habitat value if given enough time.



## Brief Historic Synopsis of Site

The park occupies the site of an early Willamette Valley settlement known as Champoeg. The first farms in Oregon were established in this vicinity beginning about 1829 by French-Canadians. Because of Champoeg's geographical connection with the river, the area became an important shipping point for produce raised by the area farms. In the early 1840s, the Hudson's Bay Company built a granary and trade establishment at Champoeg.

American settlers were attracted to the rich soil of the Willamette Valley and began to move to Champoeg and the surrounding plains during the 1830s. As Americans became more numerous the need for some sort of government to regulate the affairs of the region became apparent. Settlers began to meet in 1841 to discuss governmental needs. The most important meeting took place on May 2, 1843 at Champoeg in which the settlers voted to form a provisional government. The Oregon Provisional Government established at Champoeg operated until the U.S. Congress established the Territory of Oregon in 1848.

During the 1840s and 1850s, Champoeg continued to be important to the political, economic and social life of the Willamette Valley. A town was laid out in the 1840s and developed into a bustling communication and shipping center. The flood of 1861 destroyed the town and the area never regained its prominence.

In 1901, the State of Oregon recognized the importance of Champoeg as a historic site and marked the area of the May 2, 1843 settlers meeting. The site continued to grow and be developed as a recreational park with historic significance.

## Historic and Archaeologic Sites

While it is almost certain that the Champoeg area was used extensively by bands of Kalapuya Indians, there are no known habitation sites within the park. This is also the case with early trapper camps during the fur trade period of 1811-1829. While it is quite evident that camps were here, they have yet to be discovered.

Archaeologic field study in the 1970s showed evidence of the H.B.C. warehouse, trade store and clerk's residence; the townsite of Champoeg (which includes Andre Longtain's farm and Robert Newell's first farm site); the Hauxhurst mill site; an 1847 mill site and an 1890 mill site; the Donald Manson farmsite; Robert Newell's second house site; and steamboat and ferry landings.

Due to time and catastrophic flooding, little visible evidence of historic sites and features in the park exists above ground. Most of the sites will have to be located and researched by using archeological field investigations both above and below ground level.

The following is a list of important historic sites that are known to be located within the park boundaries or are suspected of being somewhere in the park.

--Possible sites of trapper base camps 1812-1829.

--Possible site of rendezvous for Hudson's Bay Company (H.B.C. southern brigades.)

- Possible site of H.B.C. livestock stations.
- Probable site of John Ball farm (1833), this was the first American farm in the Pacific Northwest.
- Possible site of Nathaniel Wyeth farm (1834).
- Probable site of Webley Hauxhurst mill (1835, this was the first grist mill in the Willamette Valley.
- Sites of several other 19th century mills.
- Probable sites of several early transient "settlers" (1830-1840).
- Site of Andre Longtain farm (1835).
- Site of H.B.C. granary, trade store and clerk residence (1841-43).
- Site of Robert Newell farm (1843).
- Site of platted townsite of Champoeg, numerous dwellings, outbuilding and commercial structures are known to have existed.
- Site of commercial waterfront and steamboat landings.
- Farm site of former H.B.C. Chief Trader Donald Manson.
- 1862 Donald Manson barn (deteriorated condition).
- Ferry sites.
- Site of settler meeting of May 2, 1843 establishing the Oregon Provisional Government.
- Probable site of 1837 meeting establishing the Willamette Cattle Company.
- Site of 1851 treaty negotiations with Willamette Valley Indians, these unratified treaties were the first ever negotiated with the Indians of Oregon.
- Site of turn of the century pioneer gatherings celebrating Champoeg's heritage.
- Site of 1901 provisional government monument and 1918 Pioneer Memorial Building.
- Site of annual "Champoeg Historical Pageant," performed each summer since 1982, it has been proclaimed the "Official Pageant of Oregon Statehood."

The H.B.C. warehouse complex site was greatly impacted by the construction of the memorial building in 1918. The Donald Manson house site was lost by the construction of the park visitor center in 1977. The remainder of the sites are intact and have only been disturbed by episodes of flood actions, amateur collecting and agricultural activity.

### Park History

On February 25, 1901, the Oregon Legislature appropriated \$300 to erect a granite monument at the site of the May 2, 1843 meeting where early settlers voted to form a provisional government. The monument was completed and dedicated at Champoeg on May 2, 1901.

On June 15, 1901, John Hoefler and Casper Zorn donated one square rod of land to the State of Oregon for the Champoeg memorial.

On February 3, 1905, Senate Bill 48 was passed to appropriate funds to purchase more land surrounding the monument. On February 6, 1906, John Hoefler and Casper Zorn deeded 2.19 acres of land to the State of Oregon for \$218. The property acquired as a result of this legislation was the first land purchased in Oregon for a park site.

The area around the Champoeg memorial became known as Provisional Government Park and was administered by the Oregon State Board of Control. The park continued to expand and be developed as a memorial to Oregon pioneers.

In 1943, Senate Bill 154 was passed which transferred administration of Provisional Government Park to the State Highway Commission. The area then became known as Champoeg Park and was administered by Oregon State Parks as part of the Oregon Department of Transportation and more recently as the Oregon State Park and Recreation Department.



