

Rulemaking OAR

736-018-0045

Public comments

received April 5,

2021 through

May 3, 2021

From: [David Anthes](#)
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte comments
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 3:58:55 AM

Hi...thanks for requesting input on the master plan. During the events of the last year, one benefit has been that the park has been closed to motorized traffic. What a pleasant difference! My input would be that this continue... make it purely a non-vehicle park. No cars. Less parking. More space to walk, bike and just wander around without the noise, pollution and danger that cars bring.

Thanks,

David Anthes
Bend

From: [Wendy Gehring](#)
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte SP
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:23:14 AM

It'd be nice to prohibit dogs at the trails. Every time I go there, the trails are riddled with dog poop bags. I don't know why dog owners feel like the world is just one big toilet for them to leave their s**t on!!!

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Diane Holmes](#)
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte State Park
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 10:39:32 AM

Please make it a priority to fix the water system to the summit.

Please upgrade the restroom facilities at the summit.

Please keep the road closed year round or provide a bus to take people to the summit like Lava Butte has during the summer.

Please enforce keeping people on the trails. I see people cutting across the butte and there are no signs or enforcement.

Please get rid of any debris piles from the Pilot Butte fire. Clean up the area and replant if necessary.

Sincerely,

Diane Holmes
61112 Ambassador Dr
Bend, OR 97702

Sent from my iPad

From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint Master Plan Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:38:31 PM
Attachments: [forms submission.csv](#)

First Name	Ed
Last Name	Horn
Email	e2horn@gmail.com
Public Comment	Regarding the Pilot Butte 20 year Plan: I am from Prineville and visit Bend for shopping, hiking, and skiing. I use the trail to the top of Pilot Butte for exercise and to enjoy the views. I take my dog on a leash and appreciate the poop bags, and deposit cans at the bottom and top. I have noticed on the nature trail to the top that there are numbered posts that I assume were meant to interpret the plants, wildlife, ecology, and history of the butte. How about updating these posts and interpretations using an app or pdf document that could be downloaded on a phone or printed out for interpretation. Also, make the kids who started the fire pay for restoring the exercise area that was burned in the fire.

Submission ID: 2da11339-d4ba-4418-b04e-f3b9a730c008

Record ID: 863

From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint Master Plan Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:12:29 PM
Attachments: [formsubmission.csv](#)

First Name	Gwenn
Last Name	Levine
Email	gwenn97702@hotmail.com
Public Comment	Thank you for your insight into maintaining the ability to drive to the top of Pilot Butte. I am disabled and unable to hike to the top. I am grateful I will still be able to see the view of our beautiful city. I would like to add I have been disappointed by the limited hours to drive to the top of the butte to watch the sunrise in the early hours, especially during the hot air balloon festival. I feel the park should be open to drive up at dawn.

Submission ID: f3bbac27-4821-41ad-8736-5c45750534b6

Record ID: 862

From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint Master Plan Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 6:22:23 AM
Attachments: [forms submission.csv](#)

First Name	BETSY
Last Name	TUCKER
Email	btuckerpdx@gmail.com
Public Comment	<p>COVID has taught us many things over the last twelve months - one of those being the things we can live without. Through the pandemic, Pilot Butte has been an absolute lifesaver, my favorite place to exercise my body and see people safely. With cars prohibited from driving up and down Pilot Butte, the location has become even more wonderful to visit. Without cars on the road, I feel safer walking up the road. More walkers/joggers/bikers/strollers are able to travel up and down without worry of vehicles. The pandemic has shown us how easy it is not to have vehicles driving up and down Pilot Butte all day. Of the top five concerns listed on page 31, not one concern expresses the need for more vehicle access at the summit. On page 32, it's noted that the base parking lot has rarely exceeded capacity. I know that some feel there is historic value in allowing vehicles to drive up to the top but this isn't an important enough reason for me. Please keep cars off Pilot Butte. Thank you.</p>

Submission ID: a3dff62-7979-4252-96da-a8ef3edff8d5

Record ID: 861

From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint Master Plan Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 5:42:39 AM
Attachments: [formsubmission.csv](#)

First Name	Dale
Last Name	Tate
Email	dale.tate@area206.com
Public Comment	<p>Leash laws are a failure because they are never enforced. Nearby Tumalo mountain looks like an off-leash dog park and the smell of dog waste is overwhelming. The only way to reduce conflict is to ban dogs from the altogether. Dogs on the trail worked fine when Bend's population was a fraction of what it is today, but it is overwhelming today. The alternative is enforcement of leash laws, and I do not see that happening. My neighbor, a senior citizen, refuses to walk up Pilot Butte for exercise anymore because of her fear of off-leash dogs (she was bitten as a child).</p>

Submission ID: 9c96c140-d65d-43ea-819a-9d310affe6ee

Record ID: 859

From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint Master Plan Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 8:26:23 PM
Attachments: [formsubmission.csv](#)

First Name	Laura
Last Name	Burford
Email	laura.marshall.w@gmail.com
Public Comment	Please don't allow driving to the top anymore - close the summit access road to vehicular traffic.

Submission ID: 1c709212-8140-4d72-b519-e6c7524ba157

Record ID: 857

From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint Master Plan Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 3:23:23 PM
Attachments: [formsubmission.csv](#)

First Name	Gregg
Last Name	Logan
Email	logregan4@gmail.com
Public Comment	<p>I would like to suggest restricting vehicle access on the road as currently designed. When the road to the summit is open to public vehicles, pedestrians and cyclist, its a major safety hazard. The road and shoulder width is not adequate for the amount of traffic on a typical summer day, especially during the sunset window. Egress during a fire or any emergency could cause accidents/death, in addition to the delayed response of emergency personnel. I recommend closing the road to vehicles permanently. Thank you Gregg</p>

Submission ID: 2f865850-22d5-4bdc-93b3-b7ff42dd5b96

Record ID: 854

From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint Master Plan Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 1:42:56 PM
Attachments: [formsubmission.csv](#)

First Name	Zachary
Last Name	Price
Email	Kitesoffury@gmail.com
Public Comment	Dear Bend Parks Committee, I sincerely request in your master plan that you eliminate the road going to the top of pilot Butte and make it a walk up only trail. Pilot Butte is overrun with traffic and the Covid pandemic has shown how special a place Pilot butte park can be by eliminating the vehicle traffic. Please consider permanent closure to vehicle traffic. Kind regards Zachary Price

Submission ID: dd15d1c0-2672-48a2-9f32-344096ee62cf

Record ID: 853

From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint Master Plan Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 12:54:41 PM
Attachments: [formsubmission.csv](#)

First Name	Steve
Last Name	Rademacher
Email	hercer66@gmail.com
Public Comment	<p>This site is not worthy of state park status and should be sold and money used for other, more important parks. I used to hike it all the time but stopped for the following reasons: Construction of adjacent apartments and resulting crowding and bad behavior. Even the road markers were continuously vandalized. Zero law enforcement of undesirables tossing liter, making own trails, dogs off leash. In undesirable part of town. It's ugly. Like Pilot Butte Burger and polite Bend drivers it should be history and is, the State just hasn't realized or accepted that yet.</p>

Submission ID: de401eb7-d97e-4a64-bf52-6dbaaacb7000

Record ID: 852

From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint Master Plan Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 3:10:58 PM
Attachments: [formsubmission.csv](#)

First Name	Roger
Last Name	Tuan
Email	arcataroger@gmail.com
Public Comment	<p>These last few car-free months at Pilot Butte have been wonderful. No motorized traffic means hiking/jogging is a lot safer, there is less air pollution, and the summit is a rare oasis of tranquility in an increasingly busy town. That said, I also understand that a lack of vehicular access means less accessibility for people who cannot easily climb the butte otherwise. Can a balance of the two be considered post-COVID? Perhaps with ideas like: *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Using a shuttle system / adding a public bus route instead of allowing private vehicles* Have the summit parking be handicap-only, with additional hike-in parking lower on the butte* Closing the gate to vehicular traffic during certain pedestrian-only hours, like early morning or early evening (or on certain days, perhaps one weekend day and one week day)

Submission ID: 60b782b4-e8ac-4158-af0e-d243c1c190be

Record ID: 865

From: [GERALD SMITH](#)
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: The Pilot Butte Plan
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 10:41:59 AM

Good day!

It is good that you are updating the plan for Pilot Butte. I am one of those who enjoy Pilot Butte 3 or 4 times a year. These include hiking the trail and driving to the summit. Reading over the proposed draft, two things jump out at me. They are 1) More stuff and 2) Low priority of maintenance.

Just because some group wants a playground or easy access, it is not necessarily what should be done. The plan states that keeping the site natural is important and it is the top priority in my view. How many entrances to the trail are needed? The key word is "needed". Anything that detracts from the natural experience is certainly not **NEEDED no matter how many people **WANT** it. Restrooms end up causing people to extend their summit time. Forget it. They are not **NEEDED**.**

Cut out all items that fit that bill. Make maintenance the priority and limit new construction to only those things greatly needed.

Thank you for reading this. I do so hope we can return the butte to its natural glory and accessibility and keep it that way.

Gerry

Gerald Smith

1563 NW Davenport Ave

Bend, OR 97703

541-306-6976

In the 60's and 70's many wore beads. Some of us wore dog tags.

From: [svmagic39](#)
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: FW: Pilot Butte State Park master plan
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 8:10:22 AM

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: svmagic39 <svmagic39@gmail.com>
Date: 4/7/21 07:56 (GMT-08:00)
To: ORPD.publiccomment@oregon.gov
Subject: Pilot Butte State Park master plan

I have read your suggestions for upgrading our beloved neighborhood park and am discouraged any improvements for auto access or parking are being considered. During the Covid 19 pandemic, with the road to the top closed, it has been delightful Not having cars on the road Or parked at the top. No exhaust fumes. Safe travel for groups of people and those pushing strollers or riding bicycles. This park truly is a major recreation destination and challenge, and should remain auto free for years to come. You have a counter of walkers on the trail, but do you have any idea just how many people use the roadway? Have you ever got your heart rate elevated walking to the top?

My wife and I, both senior citizens, go up Pilot Butte several times a week, every month of the year, as do thousands of other Bend residents. We need to encourage more excercise using Both feet, not just the right one used on the accelerater going up and break going down.

Sincerely,
Alan Wulzen
Bend, Oregon

Sent from my Galaxy

From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint Master Plan Public Comment
Date: Saturday, April 10, 2021 9:15:52 AM
Attachments: [formsubmission.csv](#)

First Name	Michael
Last Name	Regimbal
Email	regimbal@gmail.com
Public Comment	I would like to emphasize the need to improve Summit Rd for bicycle use by adding a bike lane in the uphill direction if at all possible. I realize it's already a narrow road and tight for 2 cars to pass, but that makes it all the more important to safeguard bike riders. For riding downhill, Most bike riders can stay in the flow of traffic so no lane is needed, just signage that informs cars that bikes are allowed in the roadway. Of course, re-paving the road surface would also be a godsend to the current condition.

Submission ID: 943a0519-99a3-46f2-b289-a3e5744b339e

Record ID: 867

From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint Master Plan Public Comment
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 7:06:36 PM
Attachments: [formsubmission.csv](#)

First Name	Phil
Last Name	Kirk
Email	Lihp716@aol.com
Public Comment	<p>We attended the meeting that you held introducing your twenty year plan, all ,of that "stuff" sounds good , but from our viewpoint, you need to think about all of the existing facilities and maintaining them instead of letting them degrade. The dirt trail up to the top is unfit to walk for people our age, sharp rocks stick up, its muddy when wet. dangerous in places where its narrowed from erosion. As result we have to walk the road. The paved walk up to the road is narrow and in poor condition. When the road is open it is amazing someone has not been seriously hurt from the traffic. The road does not meet the standard of a two lane highway! If you improve the road more cars will be coming up and there is not enough parking so people park on the dirt path that is for walking. Its a mess. I think the road should be closed permanently. The only safe way to use that road would be a shuttle up and down. Speaking of the trail, a couple years ago a dirt gravel mix was used to top the trail. Some of it appeared to be a road base mix of clay and gravel. When its wet it is a sticky muddy mess. Bad idea. should have used Quarter crushed rock with fine which packs well and would be fit to walk on year round. The Park seems to have very little supervision??</p>

Submission ID: f4da9371-8558-4cad-b3d6-e330fc51219d

Record ID: 869

From: [Caren Arlas](#)
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot butte state scenic viewpoint
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 8:49:41 AM

Like many of our public parks pilot butte is being overused and misused. This is particularly noticeable if you are a hiker dealing with the traffic driving up to the top. Cars drive too fast, idle at the top and never get out of the cars, blast music, and dump trash. Please consider making the ascent to the top traffic free. It may make the park less of a tourist attraction but will enhance it for the locals who use it for regular exercise. Also, since it is being abused by dog owners who do not leash their dogs, please consider making the park a dog free zone. The trails are narrow and it is difficult to dodge the many dogs both on and off leash.

From: [David Cowan](#)
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte Exercise Area
Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:35:25 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in response to the publicly available Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint Master Plan. I feel that the plan addresses all relevant concerns and lays a pathway for improvement to the park.

Of primary importance and urgency, the rebuilding and improvement of the exercise area does in my opinion need to be expanded.

The report states that the primary users of the exercise area were senior citizens. Firstly, we must consider whether is the truth. I used it a lot growing up, and always ran into other teens and young adults using it, rarely any elder adults. Also, elder adults are the most likely demographic to notice and respond to local public needs issues, which may skew data. Teens and young adults are the least likely to respond.

Secondly, the goal of public health improvement projects in public parks should be to service all demographics. Beyond the obvious equitable concern, the exercise area encourage social interaction, and if it can encourage social interaction between more diverse groups, we will foster a more connected community.

Lastly, if it is true that the exercise area was predominantly utilized by senior citizens, it is because the equipment there was more focused on stretching, rather than calisthenic exercising.

When rebuilt, the exercise area should be expanded such that it is large enough to foster social interaction. A larger stretching area with two of each station would allow strangers to be using the area at the same time. Another even larger calisthenics area would allow for groups to engage in calisthenic exercises and training.

Currently, the only places Bend can do calisthenics are at an elementary school with limited equipment, or at very expensive crossfit gyms. Adding a truly functional calisthenics park to replace the old pilot butte exercise area will bolster the health and connectedness of the community, and offer a basic public service to the many members of our community who want to get stronger and more fit, but can't afford gym memberships.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Cowan
541 777 0452

From: [Chris Greeff](#)
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte Master Plan Comment
Date: Friday, April 23, 2021 2:25:03 PM

I have one comment.

CLOSE THE ROAD ON PILOT BUTTE TO VEHICLES!

The road is **EXTREMELY** unsafe and cannot be made safe without extensive damage to the Butte.

Over the last year the Bend community has discovered what it is like to have **OUR** butte free from the tyranny of those damn cars. It is **WONDERFUL!**

People really really really need to be encouraged to **GET OUT OF THEIR CARS AND WALK!** The **OBESITY EPIDEMIC IS AN ABSOLUTE HORROR!**

**PLEASE GIVE WALKERS AND BIKERS THE ROAD.
THANK YOU.**

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From: [Gregory Kahofer](#)
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Master Plan for Pilot Butte
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 3:43:20 PM

Master Plan for Pilot Butte

Thank you for providing the opportunity to provide input. Please continue to block social trails made by fellow hikers. I was pleased to see the barricades put in place earlier this year. It concerns me, though to see people tromping through areas that appear to be going through restoration. Perhaps additional signage would help,

I would like to see a reduction in the number of vehicles which would reduce trash & cigarette butts. It would be wonderful if there were no vehicles, but barring that, at least decrease the number of hours per day for vehicle traffic. As an almost daily hiker of Pilot Butte, it seems as though many people drive up, make the loop around the top, & then drive down without ever getting out of their vehicles because it is one of the things to do while visiting Bend. To make more accessible to seniors, encourage retirement places to include Pilot Butte in their van excursions. Eliminate individual vehicles & instead offer rides via public buses or tour companies.

Regards,
Gregory Kahofer

From: [Denise Kahofer](#)
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Pilot Butte Master Plan
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 3:28:10 PM

RE: Pilot Butte Master Plan

I would love to see Pilot Butte become a "vehicle free" park. With it's recent reopening has also come the return of litter, cigarette butts, idling vehicle engines, & inappropriate behavior. I have so enjoyed my frequent walks/hikes to the top & taking in the beautiful panoramic view in relative quiet with fellow walkers/hikers during the past year. The only sounds being quiet conversation & children playing/laughing. Now it's idling engines with people of all ages sitting in their cars texting with their windows rolled up or windows rolled down & radios blaring. It's so disheartening to see people step out of their vehicles only to toss or squash their cigarette butts. Bend is such a unique place to live. It would be wonderful to be home to a vehicle free state park to add to its uniqueness. If vehicle free is not an option, please consider reducing the hours to four hours a day for vehicles. Perhaps 10 am - 2 pm or noon to 4:00 pm would work.

Thank you.
Denise Kahofer

From: [Jess Beauchemin](#)
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD](#)
Subject: Comments on pilot butte master plan
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 8:08:53 PM

Hi,

Thank you for putting together such a comprehensive guide to improvements for Pilot butte. I hike up the Butte at least once a week, and have been doing so for 5 years, so this park is near and dear to me. I mostly love the items in the plan, but have a few comments:

Bend has *so many* dog parks. I see that you are considering adding one to the northwest side of the park. I understand people love their dogs, but I don't think we need another dog park. I would much prefer retaining some natural space. As Bend grows, natural space is becoming increasingly more difficult to find.

Please consider reconstructing the exercise area that closely resembles the original one. We have nothing like that in Bend! It was my favorite spot and lots of people of all ages used it. I don't know where the data came from that mostly seniors used that part of the park, but that has not been my observation.

If you decide to make an official trailhead at the Lafayette gate, will you also construct a new parking area? I'd imagine the neighbors would be really annoyed at a bunch of people showing up there with nowhere to park. I walk that way from my house and notice more and more people parking there now. There's probably room for a parking area just beyond the current gate.

Educational signage regarding not hiking off trails is necessary, I believe. And I think it would be beneficial to rally community members to take part in revegetation projects, trail building, education, etc so locals can have a better understanding of why staying on trail is important and how we can be better stewards of the park. The more people are invested and included, I think the better everyone will take care of the park.

Thanks for your consideration. Pilot Butte is an amazing resource for everyone in Bend!

Jess Beauchemin
Orchard district, Bend

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

attn: Helena Kesch

725 Summer St. NE Suite C

Salem, OR 97301

Received

APR 30 2021

**Oregon Parks and
Recreation Department**

PILOT BUTTE COMMENTS:

I'm not sure why I'm writing these comments, as OPRD appears to have made all of their decisions already.

However, as a butte hiker since 1995.....I need to comment. OPRD needs to concentrate on restoration and maintenance of the butte before dreaming up new projects! Work can always be done to block off rogue trails. Park employees don't see all of the rogue trails when they don't hike the butte and only drive to the summit.

In the past, I have suggested putting up some small signs (6"x6") encouraging people to "stay on the trails and prevent erosion and protect the native plants". I have even sent pictures to the office on OB Riley road showing signs posted in the old mill and on the Deschutes River trail below Dillon Falls. No small signs were ever put up.

You propose new trailheads for the butte. Why are they needed? At the meeting at Pilot Butte Middle School in 2018, neighbors were adamantly opposed to more trailheads.

Why do you want to put marked parking spots at the summit? People will drive around and around until a marked parking spot opens up? People park close together and it works! Why waste the paint?

The rock work along the road at the top is missing lots of rocks.....and they have never been repaired or replaced since at least 1995.

The rock wall lining the asphalt path from the parking lot to the road has never been repaired. Rocks fall on the path all the time and dogs create their own trail above the rock wall.

It couldn't hurt to put a sack of asphalt in the pothole on the road near the top of the butte!

I agree with the plan proposal to restore the area burned by the 2018 Fourth of July fire.

As I emphasize, please concentrate on maintenance and forget about dreaming up new projects that are not needed!

I have heard that the road will be repaved this year. I hope speed bumps will be built into it!

SINCERELY,

Jane Shields

jlgolf@bendbroadband.com