

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

September 14, 2022

Agenda Item:	7a	Information
Topic:	Heritage Division Update	
Presented by:	Christine Curran, Deputy Director, Heritage Programs	

Sarah Helmick State Recreation Area Listing in the National Register of Historic Places

The agency sponsored the listing of Oregon’s first state park, Sarah Helmick State Recreation Site in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the agency’s Centennial Celebration. Located on the banks of the Luckiamute River near Monmouth, Oregon, the park’s 1924 opening is considered the start of the Oregon State Parks system that today comprises 254 state parks and more than 100,000 acres.



Sarah Helmick State Recreation Site, Polk County

In 1922, the Helmicks donated 5.46 acres of their family homestead to the Oregon State Highway Commission so travelers could stop to rest. Today the park comprises 81.72 acres, of which about 15 are open to visitor use. While modifications have been made over the years to improve visitors’ experience — including the addition of picnic tables, restrooms, parking and a road through the park — the location, setting and feel of the historic property remain intact. One of the early features of the park that has been preserved is the unpaved footpath leading to the bank of the Luckiamute River, a feature also contributing to the park’s historical integrity.

Oregon Main Street Network Impact Analysis Published

Oregon Heritage recently contracted with Jon Stover & Associates to conduct an Impact Analysis of the Oregon Main Street Network (OMS). The purpose of the Impact Analysis was to assess the quantitative and qualitative impacts OMS and state-designated Main Street communities have had in strengthening local economies, preserving local character, and building social capital. The report summarizes the five main categories of local programmatic activity and demonstrates how the OMS Network bolsters the local and state economy, helps generate tax revenue, and strengthens community connection and culture. It is intended that the report will increase awareness of the importance of these

efforts and how they build stronger and more resilient local economies as well as encourage deeper community engagement with the main street methodology.

Economic Impact of Heritage Report and Messaging Tool Public Completed

The Oregon Heritage Commission procured a long-sought study of the economic value of heritage. The study demonstrates the economic impact of museums, historical societies and Oregon Heritage Traditions using a variety of metrics. The results show a significant impact. The accompanying messaging tool provide the study outcomes and tips for local organizations to inform stakeholders, elected officials, and others how they influence this impact.

Prior Action by Commission: none

Action Requested: none

Attachments: none

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