

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES Organizations and Agencies

Comment key:

1. Oregon State Parks
2. City of Veneta
3. Bohemia Mine Owners Association
4. Cottage Grove Prospectors and Golddiggers
5. Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah
6. Full Circle Community Farm
7. Game Farm Neighbors
8. McKenzie River Guides Association
9. McKenzie River Trust (comments from former executive director Mike Running)
10. Mt. Pisgah Arboretum (See V.)
11. Eugene Sand & Gravel, Inc. (See V.)

Note:

- The same number is used under each question topic for each organization or agency who commented. For example, #1 under I. General Comments, and #1 under topics II. through VII., are all from the same organization or agency.

### I. General comments

1. Support your comprehensive approach and extensive outreach. Thanks for letting us comment.
2. Our main interest, at the City of Veneta, is the connection of bicycle and pedestrian pathways between the Eugene/Springfield metropolitan area and the City of Veneta, or Fern Ridge area. Since Lane County has a couple of parks in the area –Zumwalt and Perkins, it may be advantageous to connect those parks with trails and bike/ped pathways from the Eugene area. And from there, it is a short distance to Veneta.
3. Parks are extremely important for the mental and physical well being of people
5. The following comments represent the consensus view of the board of directors of the Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah (FBP), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Eugene, Oregon, with approximately 400 members. FBP's mission is "To protect and enhance native ecosystems and compatible recreation in the Mt. Pisgah area."
6. I am only aware of the 2 in my neighborhood – Hileman & Whitely and use them extensively. If there were information of other County Parks easily available, I might use more.
7. Lane County has a wonderful asset in its parks. Let's find a way to maintain what we have, not lose it due to neglect. We need to expand our public county land before it's all developed and the Chance is lost.
9. Have talked extensively with parks staff in the past and recognize that funding issues are a limiting factor.

Would be great to have a more comprehensive vision within this plan for collaborating with various partners. Increased collaboration would also allow Parks to see if our natural area management approaches fit in appropriately with the larger picture. More partnering –through more communicating. The amount of untapped information out there is pretty amazing.

A good role for the County is to seek partnerships even though there is no money. Joining in discussions when there is an opportunity. This hasn't happened enough in the past.

Also, money does exist for open space acquisition that could be available if the County wanted to play a larger role in this regard.

A Parks Bond is another possibility for the County to consider.

Based upon McKenzie River Trust's own mission, would like to see planning ahead for where the County can work in the future on natural resource protection projects.

Siuslaw estuary trail is a huge opportunity – access to federal and state money, tourism dollars. County could put a minimal amount of money toward this and potentially reap significant benefits in tourism and other dollars. There was initial support for identifying a County boat launch for this project but it seems to have gotten lost.

Ridgeline Trail system – could the County become more involved in this effort? Of the entire state, the south hills of Eugene was the highest recreation priority in last year's request for federal Forest Legacy dollars. County's role? Might be owning land and contracting with City, or just showing support and being at the table. Sometimes the nature of the role is discovered through increased efforts at collaboration and communication.

There is a huge market in catering to birders. Oregon has one of the highest bird counts in the nation, yet one of the lowest level of tourism efforts that cater to birders. This could be a great opportunity for tourism dollars. Perhaps work with Audubon to put together a birding area map.

Would like to see more collaboration with all watershed councils, continue with the West Eugene Wetlands partnership. Also there is a possible opportunity in a newly forming effort called the Emerald Biodiversity Council. This would be a good forum for County involvement.

## **II. Most important issues that should be dealt with in the County Parks Plan, and why**

1. Seems to be essential to figure out your role versus other providers in the area
3. To keep them open – and in good shape within funding limits
5. We see an important need for Lane County's government to consider the following issues:
  - Educate the community to provide adequate funding for parks. There is a severe lack of understanding in the county regarding parks funding. Public knowledge could lead to pressure on the Board of Commissioners to increase funding.
  - Partner with other agencies in the southern Willamette Valley to support and advance the "Rivers to Ridges" vision and the "Metro Waterways" concept. Lane County Parks owns some of the key lands in these plans, and acquisitions (see next item) are essential to advance them.
  - Make land acquisitions a priority—in particular acquisition of key natural areas adjacent to existing parks. This will allow the county to "land bank" properties for future development and natural resource conservation as the county's population increases.
  - Make protection of natural resources a priority. Little undeveloped land or native habitat remains in Lane County outside of federal land. Conduct a natural resource inventory and take protective measures prior to park development, as described in Section #6 below.
  - Limit intensive development of natural areas. The people of Lane County value native habitats and natural areas; once natural areas are developed, the damage can not be undone successfully.
  - Build partnerships and develop agreements with non-profit and other stakeholder groups. Empower the groups to leverage scarce agency resources and to make constructive contributions to parks in accord with adopted plans. These partnerships will be economically beneficial for Lane County Parks and will create lasting and important relationships for future parks management.
  - Favor uses and activities that benefit the greatest number of park users with the lowest environmental impact at any given park.

Key point: these issues tie together. If Lane County Parks has an ambitious vision of expanding parks in Lane County—presenting the public with an exciting vision for more parks (and connections between parks along rivers, etc.)—the public will be more willing to fund the Parks system.

6. Park Acquisition and connectivity. How to get from park to park and what the different features of each park are.
7. i) Funding to maintain current parks; ii) Acquisition of new land as soon as possible.
8. Preserve open space for the future. To continue access to the outdoors for quality of life.
9. The financial component is probably the most important. How to fund current parks. Guarantee a long term revenue stream. Recognize it's dangerous to be dependent on one revenue stream. Missing out on opportunities due to backlog of maintenance issues is a problem.

### III. Suggestions for dealing with these issues

1. Consider what Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is doing with their parks – especially those at the Middle Fork and also what regional system is doing – try to fill any gaps in needs not covered.
3. Maintain a level of funding that makes the park fit its particular goals.
5. Aside from the suggestions offered above, Lane County Parks could:
  - Partner with private guides, outfitters, and instructors to bring tourism to park facilities (for example: river rafting, kayaking, fishing, sailing, windsurfing, bird watching, mushroom hunting).
  - Partner with schools and educators to offer more educational opportunities.
6. Create stakeholder/supporter groups for each park of citizens willing to take a park maintenance voluntarily. Craft a map of County parks that shows where they are and what they feature to make using them easier.
7. i) What are our choices? If grants can be obtain, fine. ii) Initiate partnerships with private land owners and developers to acquire new park land.
8. Pursue any grants that may be available to purchase additional properties.
9. Are there park lands that the County thinks they could liquidate to use the money to acquire other lands and to resolve other funding issues.

Surcharge on development. Tourist dollars, like the room tax. Dedicated, multiple sources of revenues.

### IV. Operational changes you'd like to see

3. Don't know enough about County operations to critique County operations.
5. To foster public support for greater funding, the public needs better accountability and disclosure of fee revenues at parks. Summaries of expenditures should be accessible to the public. Lane County Parks should establish a user fee structure that shows an equitable return on use of public resources by park users that require extensive development (i.e. boaters, equestrians, sports teams, etc.).
  - Fees should be collected only if a park has significant capital infrastructure to maintain and only if fee collection returns a net profit to Lane County Parks. Even if fees result in a profit, Lane County Parks should

evaluate the effect of fees on the number of park visits; fewer park visits will result in less public support for Lane County Parks.

- More public outreach and education should improve Lane County Park's image and funding.
  - Lower administration costs.
  - Hire staff botanist/habitat specialist to review development proposals and collaborate with other agencies and groups on habitat enhancement in County parks.
  - Increase educational trail signage to educate the public on appropriate use of trails and the importance of protecting off-trail habitats.
  - Update/correct parks current inventory data. Correct names of parks and their sizes, include types of uses allowed, document natural areas and their condition.
6. More natural areas, open spaces and unprogrammed space. Partnering with nonprofits to provide environmental education in parks.
  7. Actively seek new funding for park maintenance including fees, bond measures (Again!) and property taxes if necessary.
  8. Gating parks at dusk – open at dawn. More hosts. Web cams at all parks to deter car clouting..
  9. An interesting aspect of State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan analysis was the phenomenal percentage increase in demand for passive recreation opportunities. In the Willamalane Park Plan, their locally based survey showed this also. Perhaps the County could look at focusing more on meeting this demand.

Perhaps more management for natural areas if this isn't already being done.

#### **V. Specific parks, areas, or type of recreational use you'd like to comment about**

3. We should have numerous parks most that are dedicated to different goals and levels of use. Funding should be through fees and grants with co-op and adopted levels of help from individual sand groups.
4. Would like a vault toilet at Bohemia Saddle Park. Use of this park has been increasing.
5. Specific comments relevant to the Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA):
  - Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah strongly urges County Parks to respect and implement the HBRA Master Plan. In particular, Lane County Parks should consider implementing HBRA's past Master Plan for renovation of the historic farm house at HBRA and location of a caretaker in the North Bottomlands as a possible future income source.
  - A high priority is to create a HBRA Habitat Management Plan as called for in the park's Master Plan.
  - County Parks should implement earlier plans and statements to terminate grazing on HBRA. FBP is willing to seek funding for mowing and related enhancements in areas now grazed. Hay production in these fields is another alternative that would reduce impacts and conflicts (such as unsanitary conditions) with those who rent the group camping area in the North Bottomlands.
  - County Parks should pursue the acquisition of natural and potential natural areas adjacent to the existing HBRA, including but not limited to lands owned by the Wildish company.
  - FBP would like to see improved signage throughout HBRA to educate park visitors about: appropriate use of trails, the importance of protecting off-trail habitats, the importance of HBRA to Lane County, the fact that HBRA is "Mt. Pisgah", and the several non-profit groups working with Lane County to manage parts of the park. FBP is willing to work with Lane County Parks to create and install such signage.
  - FBP is opposed to the development of an indoor horse arena at HBRA.
  - FBP and many parks users would like Parks to work with city and county agencies to bring bus service and a safe bike route to HBRA

Comments on recreational activities and parks in general:

- To protect both natural and human resources, make all parks “dogs on leash only”, while at the same time creating one or more suitable off-leash dog areas at appropriate parks (after natural resource inventory and protection measures).
  - To promote tourism and stable parks funding, develop more camping opportunities close to Eugene/Springfield, including more group camping, lodge/resort opportunities, and year-round cabin/yurt rental opportunities.
  - To diversify the current parks offerings, develop a mountain biking facility, supported by user fees, at an appropriate site. This facility should not be at a recognized natural area.
  - We recognize the demand for an indoor horse arena, and suggest that Lane County explore its placement in a location outside of current parks, possibly at Lane Community College or on private land.
6. Hileman Landing is an incredible natural resource, however, neighbors use it to graze livestock and there seems to be some disagreement as to its actual boundaries and ownership. Please clear it up and post or map it so folks can use it freely.
  7. It would be a shame to lose Armitage to lack of funding for an arborist! Obtain County land in Game Farm area before it gets developed.
  8. Boat ramps – need more maintenance than they are getting. Hendricks has needed improvements for quite some time.
  10. Most individual members and Board members of Mount Pisgah Arboretum are strong supporters of parks in general and Lane County Parks in particular with their own ideas. They are encouraged to send them in individually.

The Board of Directors of Mount Pisgah Arboretum will confine its remarks to two general ones relating to the Howard Buford Recreation Area.

- i. Mount Pisgah Arboretum (MPA) participated fully in the original Master Planning effort for Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA). We believe that Master Plan is a fine document and fully support its major ideas. In particular we hope that most of HBRA will see limited development. This is important to the Arboretum which values its soft boundaries, with Arboretum developed areas tapering off into native habitats. We work relentlessly to remove undesirable plants from the Arboretum and where possible these efforts extend a bit beyond our boundaries. The 2300+ acres of HBRA is already large enough to sustain some elements of native habitat including fauna as well as flora. As urban development continues to expand around Eugene-Springfield in future decades these close-by natural areas will prove increasingly important.

The HBRA Master Plan envisions more intensive development within the MPA 209 acre lease area and in north bottom lands. Our own development provides trails and educational facilities for that part of the Lane County public which wants well maintained trails which can be visited in ordinary street shoes and in-town clothes. Our extensive educational program promotes knowledge of natural ecosystems. Although we avoid propaganda, we believe this will instill a love of the outdoors in future generations.

The north bottom lands are close to the Coast Fork bridge for easy access. They are flat for easy development and offer a gateway to the rest of the mountain. They are certainly the right area for development of support services. Well regulated camping, could be a valuable future use, providing income to Lane County Parks. This is the right area for development, but even here we value as much land left in a natural state as possible.

(Without human intervention, the invasion of undesirable exotics is a growing problem.)

- ii. The other issue which MPA wishes to address is the acquisition of the confluence area, the south shore and the Middle Fork, the Pudding Creek drainage and the rest of the mountain. This land is now in single ownership of the Wildish Company as it has been for more than four decades. We hope they will become

willing sellers again as they were thirty years ago. (The funds proved insufficient to buy this land then, even though it was incorporated into the original design for HBRA.)

This area is not close to the Arboretum and in that sense will have little impact on MPA. However the Board feels that acquisition of this land for park purposes is one of the most important issues facing central Lane County. Its acquisition will create a 5,000 acre tract stretching from the Coast Fork to the Middle fork and encompassing the whole of Mount Pisgah. (A corner of the property is now just a little over 2000 horizontal and 300 vertical feet of the 1516 foot summit of Mount Pisgah.) This will provide future residents an unparalleled opportunity for natural preservation and recreation. The Pudding Creek drainage is a distinctly different habitat from anything now in HBRA. Some of the old gravel extraction ponds can be developed as interesting natural habitats and others could be turned into swimming areas. The existing Wildish bridge will also make possible an ideal, level bicycle path from the urban areas to Mount Pisgah. (Existing bicycle routes discourage all but the most hardy riders.)

The importance of this land to the future of central Lane County cannot be overemphasized. Please make it a high priority for Lane County Parks

11. Thank you for taking the time last Tuesday (March 1<sup>st</sup>) and explaining the Park's overall plan concept. I appreciate your effort in trying to explain and gather comments.

I was however quite surprised to learn that our properties located at the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers and our properties located adjacent to our main office and plant site have been incorporated into the draft master plan (see attached drawing). After reviewing the City of Eugene's Comprehensive Plan, I was even more surprised to learn that the acquisition of our property is a number one priority and even has a predetermined value assigned. As the major stakeholder in this area I find it quite presumptive of the City and the County to initiate such a plan without our involvement. Simply put our current and our future use of our properties is not compatible with this draft plan in any fashion.

We are actively mining and producing aggregate products from our current sites and we will continue with those operations for many years into the future. Heavy equipment, trucks, crushing, processing and blasting are typical of our heavy intensive industrial use of this site. Public access is strictly forbidden due to our safety and liability concerns. We have a continuing monitoring and enforcement program which prevents public access both from the river system and from adjacent properties. This is a policy which has been in place for many years and will continue. We strongly object to the proposed "Linear Park/Natural Areas" and the "Natural Area Park Acquisition" areas which are shown running adjacent to and through our property. These proposed public uses are not compatible with our current or our future uses of our property. Public access is currently restricted and will continue to be restricted into the future.

## VI. Specific goals and policies you'd like to see included in the plan

3. Sanitation for all parks, drinking water for some, special parks for pets, horses, camping, picnicking, turf games, hiking, sailing, bikes, ORVs, etc., as long as they support themselves.
5. We urge Lane County Parks to make protection of natural resources a priority throughout the parks system. To this end, we offer the following suggestions:
  - Strengthen the language protecting natural areas in the original Lane County Parks Master Plan.
  - Limit intensive development of natural areas.
  - Promote protection of watersheds and clean water (by partnering with watershed councils, for example).
  - Concentrate future development in already developed, high-use areas.
  - Develop habitat management plans for other parks (after the HBRA plan is complete).

- Inventory all County owned park lands and assess for natural resource values before disposition, management or development. Specifically, survey for presence (or, at a minimum, potential presence) of rare species and rare habitats. Plants and animals, including fish, should be evaluated.
  - Inventory and assess all county owned park lands for invasive plant and animal species. Presence of these species should be viewed not only as a problem for the site (invasives form monocultures, eradicating native diversity), but as a pollution source problem for nearby property, both private and public. Nearly every site has at least one invasive species present, and some will have many. As time passes without management, invasive species will degrade natural resources in County parks and nearby properties.
  - Protect and restore valuable natural resources. Often, but not always, low-impact recreation is compatible with the presence of high-value resources, which often present an environmental education opportunity.
6. Goals: education re: value of protected open space, not all for active recreation and some parks specifically for non-motorized activity.
  7. Expand accessibility options for our aging population. Include teen recreation options. Preserve natural areas as much as possible.
  8. Continue to develop new parks as our population increase. Use more Oregon State Marine Board funds.
  9. Specific goals and policies related to collaborating and partnering. Benefits to, and from, the County could be significant, both financial and non-monetary benefits.

Goals to revisit the plan every couple of years.

An important goal would be to look ahead to secure passive recreation lands. Title III money can be used to purchase conservation easements (CEs). CE's can be used for public access without having lands go off the tax roles. Explore, understand and use CEs more effectively. President Bush has been very supportive of CE's through various federal funding programs –Natural Resource Conservation Service, Grassland reserve, Forest Legacy fund—state agencies must first approve (Department Of Forestry).

## VII. Possible ways that County Parks could collaborate with your business or organization

1. We invite you to join us in reviewing our Middle Fork draft plans, later this spring. Ron Campbell is our contact.
3. The Bohemia Mine Owners Association (BMOA) has adopted County Rds. 2460 & 2470 and Bohemia Saddle Park. We have offered manpower and funds for various projects we will continue to do so.
4. The Cottage Grove Propsectors and Golddiggers was involved in the formation of bohemia Saddle Park over 40 years ago. We have helped maintain and improve it ever since. We are part of the adoption agreement, along with the Bohemia Mine Owners Association.

Our organization have long wanted to see a vault toilet in the park. We are willing to take care of it. We may even be able to help pay for it. We have been told over the years that it will be considered in the Lane County Parks Master Plan.

We noticed an increase in the number and variety oof visitors to this park. Please include a vault toile for Bohemia Saddle Park in the Master Plan.

5. Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah proposes that Lane County Parks explore management partnerships for all parks. At HBRA, FBP has expertise and resources to take on many management activities, from mowing in currently and previously grazed areas to managing trail maintenance. FBP already maintains its adopted trails, manages the South Meadow area and a native plant nursery, organizes prescribed burns for habitat restoration,

and helps educate the public about parks management. With appropriate authority and grant funding, FBP could take on more park management activities to save LCP money, advance FBP's protection and restoration mission, and advance the HBRA Master Plan and Habitat Management Plan.

6. We already use the 2 parks out here for educational forays for school kids. Other possible workshops could include plant wild crafting, native plant identification, propagation of native species for more park plantings.
7. Educate our neighborhood group, Game Farm Neighbors, about opportunities to aid Lane County Parks and Open Space.
8. McKenzie River Maintenance Partnership
9. There is a lot of potential for County parks to play a larger role w/ McKenzie River Trust. Work a lot with Willamalane and COE to get projects funded and bring them into the system. Recently, worked with Lane County Public Works Waste Management Division to help get the mitigation site in place for Quamash Prairie. Helped with landowner negotiations.

#### **VIII. Additional comments**

3. Bohemia Saddle Park and Bohemia Loop Rd. are very important to our organization. We would like to be informed of actions that impact us so we can input information and help accomplish projects.
5. Thank you for allowing us to participate in this planning process. We look forward to helping Lane County Parks develop an effective Master Plan.
6. Work with City of Eugene to create a bike way along west side of Willamette channel between Bellline & Hileman Lane area, so can increase use by bicyclists and pedestrians.
7. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to participate.