



Oregon State Parks: Integrated Park Services Division  
*South Beach and Beverly Beach Management Units Plan*  
*Advisory Committee I Meeting Notes*

February 18, 2015

Meeting began at 1:00pm and ended at 2:00pm.

OPRD staff in attendance: Claude Crocker, Patti Green, Dylan Anderson, JR Collier, Ben Hedstrom, David Weisenback, Dani Padilla, Allan Freudenthal, Jaime English, Ian Matthews.

See sign in sheet for AC attendance.

OPRD Planning staff Jaime English and Ian Matthews introduce themselves and welcome people to the meeting.

Introductions are made around the room.

JE describes the scope of the plan, and goals for today:

- 1) OPRD Mission
- 2) Overview of the state park planning process
- 3) The Parks
- 4) Discussion and Comments
- 5) Next Steps

IM gives a brief overview of some of the qualities of each park included in the plan (Beverly Beach MU and South Beach MU)

JE describes the survey that attendees have been asked to fill out.

Question: Is this process being done throughout the state?

We are working around the state for this management unit planning process. We just got done planning for the Gorge, and next we will be on the eastside in the Blue Mountains.

Question: How long is the vision for this plan?

The way we see it is that the plans have a 100 year vision but are realistic about what can be done in the next 10-20 years. The plan will contain more specific plans for the near future, while considering and remaining flexible for the future.

Group Discussion: The audience was asked to reflect on the following questions. This survey is also available online at [southbevparksplan.com](http://southbevparksplan.com).

*The first thing that I think of when someone mentions the Central Oregon Coast is?*

- Wilderness
- Beauty
- Beaches
- Abundant wildlife and natural resources: salmon, forests
- Public beach access
- Rocky shores
- I've lived here 13 years and what strikes me is the connected natural beauty with human habitat tucked in, a string of parks
- Coast highway, 101
- Bridges, small but vibrant coastal communities
- Fishing industry and the communities that it supports
- When we think of natural resources we need to consider the economic struggles in the community with the reduction in logging, there is a need for people to find meaningful employment
- Changes in the economy and the stability of economy for locals
- Tourists always say the beautiful beaches, great state parks, and they're all free.

*The thing I value most about State Parks on the central coast are?*

- Access, free access.
- Unique natural and built features: The bay, creek, Yaquina lighthouse, the nature and ecosystems the natural features support
- The value that state parks provide to bring people to the coast, its affordable and the tourism draw for local communities
- Hiker biker spots are personally and financially valuable. They are pretty good here compared to other areas on the coast, but could be improved.
- Value that people and children can be outdoors in the natural world; unplug
- The abundance of parks (27 sites in one area, incredible)
- Protection of natural resources, that they aren't all developed.
- The educational value, the ability to share information about these places. All kinds of subjects can be shared in a state park: Environmental and science history, writing, art,
- Free, uninterrupted access to the coastline is what differentiates Oregon from BC Washington, CA. There is marketability in that and it is very valuable to communities who rely on tourism.
- I value that we don't allow cars on beaches in the central coast.
- I appreciate the requirement that dogs be on leash for protection
- The value of recreational assets: trails, benches, campsites. There is a cost for these and the cost needs to be accounted for.

*The benefits I get from visiting state parks on the Central Coast?*

- Educational use of state park sites
- Personnel that can provide the programs

- Health, a lot of people walk the beaches
- Health: defined as mental physical and spiritual
- Recreational opportunities, surfing, chasing rocks, etc.
- Play
- Economic benefits
- A connection with nature
- Inclusive in access to natural benefits
- Example that is set to other states: we've preserved the habitats, made them accessible and there has been a benefit, a benefit to more than just Oregon.
- My kids learned how to ride a bike at South Beach, on the paved path.

### *Changes?*

- Need to have more natural resource protection
- There are places in parks that don't always have to be open to recreation
- I appreciate Beaver Creek and the new sites, but we need to take care of places we have with better access, improved restroom
- Combine capital needs with ODOT. The Spencer Creek Bridge has erosion right up to edge of the structure. We need to engage to reach solutions to maintain the infrastructure. We may have some of the same needs as partner agencies and can take these challenges on together.
- Parks need wisely-planned multimodal paths, away from sensitive areas, etc. Aging demographics need safe places to use.
- There is a need for a seamless recreation experience
- Acknowledge safety and risk, but also hazards, like tsunami debris and safe removal of ocean debris.
- Increased staffing needs. Natural resource interpreters like the Whale Watch program are great, but there is a need for more of a presence at place like South Beach State Park to combat littering, and destructive behavior. The presence of staff can help people be safe, and this could be volunteers.
- Onsite interpreters can allow for more compliance with guidelines for preservation and more can be done with volunteers in the community.
- Draw the line with invasive species as we are losing habitat on the coast.
- At Otter Rock there used to be interpretive signs and they help visitors learn, especially with low staff. There are good examples of signs without too much information out there.
- Visitors want to learn about the local experience and history. They've travelled to see it.
- Parks should be more accessible to people of all languages; they should be equally accessible to everyone.
- Is there an adopt-a-park program? This could be an effective way to help problem areas in parks.
- There is a substantial increase in usage which effects access and the quality of the parks.

- Evolve ways we interact with parks, defining bike paths. Currently its passive interactive but people need to be able to engage more. Tailored facilities for specific recreation. Example, board racks. Mill towns have been revitalized by downhill biking, maybe there can be corridors between parks. Kids need inexpensive places to go. If they can get there on bikes it helps a lot, The park can be a centralized location.
- I don't think people recognize this is a surfing Mecca, we have one shower for 100 people surfing. In CA they have some of these facilities.
- 101 is the most cycled route in North America, with tons of international groups. Roughly 6,000 groups a year. It is very important that the parks are there but these groups need bi-lingual signs.
- We need amenities like Surfboard racks, showers, changing stalls, bike tool stations. South Beach is forgotten as there's no bathroom or facilities at the Jetty. You aren't recognizing the users there. The hikers. It's a hotspot. Huge for birdwatchers, fishing diving, equestrians, spear fishing, etc.

Question: Will past plans be referenced? The south beach plan address a lot of that.

Yes, we will be referencing existing plans in this Management Unit Plan.

- There should be electric car charging stations. Especially at camp sites.
- We need phone charging stations at the hiker/biker camps

*Keep?*

- Free access
- Hiking trails
- Courtesy rules signs. Essentially they are a list of 'do not' but they streamline the info in a useful way. I like that there are not a lot of signs.
- Keep the resources as pristine as possible.
- Keep working on habitat improvements.

*Any other thoughts?*

- Something that has changed since the last plan for South Beach, is that there will be a big earthquake, a lot of people go there. Coordinate with OMSI since there needs to be a better route to the high ground for people.
- Incentivize state park staff to stay around; they have a lot on their plate. There are practical benefits to having them in the community.
- Interagency partnerships are important.
- Utilize volunteer and non-profit resources that are here to help like Surfrider, and scientific resources.

JE described the next steps and how to stay involved.

At the next meeting OPRD will:

- Share assessments of the natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources in the parks
- Double check the values and benefits that were heard through the public process
- Ask the public to weigh in on the initial park needs, opportunities, and constraints