



Oregon State Parks: Integrated Park Services Division

South Beach and Beverly Beach Management Units Plan

July 9th & 12th, 2015 – Public & Advisory Committee Meetings Summary

Meeting Highlights:

- There were a total of three public meetings held in Lincoln County. There were two open house format meetings on July 9th in Newport (11:30am – 2:30pm) and Gleneden Beach (5:00-7:00pm). An Advisory Committee Meeting was held on July 12th at Beverly Beach State Park from 10:00am – 12:00pm.
- Attendance was relatively high compared to previous meetings. 17 people attended the meeting in Newport from 11:30am – 2:30pm on July 9th. 13 people attended the meeting in Gleneden Beach from 5:00pm – 7:00pm on July 9th. 11 people attended the Advisory Committee meeting on July 12th.
- There was a high level of support expressed for the proposed 18-hole disc golf course at South Beach State Park. Some concern was also expressed about the potential impact of the course to natural resources and wildlife, as well as OPRD's natural resource management strategy of encouraging interior dunes to return to open, sandy condition.
- There was support for the idea of reducing the size of parking lots in several parks.
- Neighbors around Gleneden Beach State Recreation Site expressed concerns about the erosion at and around the park property, with many of those who attended the meeting in Gleneden Beach requesting that OPRD stabilize the bank by riprapping it.
- There were several comments in support of adding overnight camping opportunities at Fogarty Creek, and in particular the unique visitor experience that would be gained from proposed cabins and walk-in sites.
- There was general support for proposed additional trails in parks, as well as a desire for additional community amenities such as playgrounds and picnic shelters.

Picnic shelter playset and BBQ (*on the beach*)

Play area (*near proposed picnic shelter*)

I really like the possible enhancement of the current restroom facility and the addition of the dog park and campground

Love the idea of more secluded tent only campgrounds. Love multiuse trail system and mountain bike trails. The more biking trails in the area the better

Campground will cause even more congestion

Beverly Beach

Extra parking is essential during the summer months. Additional trails would give user groups more to do while camping

I like the idea of additional cabins/yurts, however I think that group camping is still a nice amenity

Agate Beach

I like the multiuser sports field. The direct pedestrian connection is a nice improvement.

Children's play set please or climbing rock pile (*on beach*)

Yaquina Bay

Plant trees to enclose

Yaquina children's park with fence (*in area designated for community gathering space*)

South Beach

Disc Golf is a great way to meet people and build community. It's a fun way to get exercise and is a rapidly growing sport

State parks, our disc golf community in Lincoln County would benefit significantly from this proposed championship course. Furthermore, it would bring in more tourist, money, to the area as a destination park.

Let's help grow the sport of disc golf; a pastime that can be enjoyed by all ages and all ability levels.
COCDGC

Disc golf continues to grow, a new championship course will benefit our local economy. The Wilder course already draws disc enthusiasts to our community. I feel this course will enhance the park by adding extra activity to go with hiking and beachcombing

Last year disc golf became one of the most rapidly growing sports in the world. It has become professionalized and featured on ESPN and has its own international organization and protocol. This course, in addition to beginner courses in SB and Toledo would create the only beach course (legitimate) on the west coast. Please support this course with that in mind. Think big and support local

Disc golf is an excellent sport for all ages and good exercise for seniors

Disc golf – ample parking and permanent bathrooms will generate interest and maintenance to support championship and pro tour level disc golf on the coast. National attention would generate dollars, tourism, new business opportunities and promote healthy lifestyles and environmentalism among local children, families and community. Please help support this rapidly growing sport

Disc golfers from other places bring dollars for local business. Disc golf establishes walking trails. I would use a SB course

Great health benefits, attracts players of all age range. The local disc golf club supports the well care of the properties we play

Driftwood Beach

Children's driftwood play sculpture please

L. Presley & Vera C. Gill

Great trail system

Advisory Committee Meeting Notes
Tuesday, July 12th, 2016, 10:00am – 12:00pm
Beverly Beach State Park

Staff began by reviewing OPRD's park planning process and the timeline for this plan. Discussion was subsequently focused on park development concepts.

AC: Will the plan require local approval?

OPRD: OPRD will obtain approval of the plan from all affected local jurisdictions before it can be formally adopted under state rule. Approval in this case means that the plan is determined to be generally consistent with local comprehensive plans and codes.

AC: Will the plan contain a priority list and cost estimates?

OPRD: Yes, the final draft plan will contain a project list for each park with cost estimates and prioritization.

OPRD: Wanted to point out that many of these projects will be phased to coincide with required maintenance. For example, proposed reductions in parking lot size would be implemented when we get to the point of having to repave the parking lot.

Gleneden Beach

AC: Assuming the erosion at the park continues, when would you consider stabilizing the bank?

OPRD: Per the agency's general policy when it comes to coastal erosion, if major park facilities or infrastructure is threatened, we would consider options to stabilize the eroding bluff. We don't let homeowners riprap to save a yard, but we do allow riprap to save homes built before the cutoff date. That is the standard we would stick to for our parks, as well.

OPRD: Park facilities are located 150 yards back from the cliff, so erosion would impact the nearest cross street to Wesler Ave. before it impacts park structures. It would be addressed at that point.

Fogarty Creek

AC: Are you considering trail connections between parks as part of the this planning process? Are there ways to get people off the road?

OPRD: We have looked at opportunities for trail connections, but off-highway trail connections along the coast are difficult because so much of the land is in private ownership and would require property purchases or easements. For example, we looked at the possibility of connecting Fogarty Creek to Boiler Bay, but it would require purchase of property or easement to complete the trail.

AC: Maybe referencing trail connections in your plan would be a good idea.

AC: Are you looking for acquisitions to replace properties like Gleneden Beach or others that you are going to lose in the next 20 years from climate change and sea level rise?

OPRD: We develop a list of properties of interest during the planning process, however we don't include this list in the final plan document. We recently acquired a lot of new land for the creation of Brian Booth State Park. Acquiring additional properties may be less of a priority in this area because of that recent purchase.

AC: You might want to put a general statement in the plan to the effect that OPRD is generally interested in new acquisitions along the coast so that people are aware and may be interested in offering their properties for sale.

AC: How tightly you pack in campsites should be a very important item to think about.

OPRD: We have considered spacing in the campground, we conducted a survey at the beginning of the planning process that highlighted people's desire not to feel crowded when camping. Compared to earlier standards, the spacing proposed in current plans is significantly more generous and intended to give campers sufficient privacy.

AC: Regarding Boiler Bay, the City of Depoe Bay's transportation system plan is being updated and the sidewalk will be extended by OPRD's property boundary.

Beverly Beach

Agate Beach

AC: It makes sense what you're doing in this entire plan – reducing parking lots where feasible. However, the sports field at Agate beach seems like it could be an issue. This is a surfer beach and I'm wondering where they will park when there is a sporting event?

OPRD: The parking lot is currently so underutilized that we felt there would still be enough parking, even with the addition of a field.

AC: Most surfers actually access Agate much further up.

AC: I question whether there is a need for a sports field here... You're looking for a new demand that is not there.

OPRD: The open space would be multi-purpose (we should consider dropping the term "sports field"). OPRD generally does not have dedicated sports sites. The space could be used for picnicking and other activities as well. In conversations with the City of Newport it was suggested that there is a demand throughout the city for fields and open spaces where people can play sports. This space would fulfill that purpose and could be used by people in the

neighborhood, there are currently few areas in this part of the city that could serve that purpose.

AC: Agree that informal open field areas are needed, but I am concerned about the crossing. Would the tunnel be closed?

OPRD: We considered the possibility of closing the tunnel but after discussions with the City and others it was felt that leaving it open would be a better option. However, the more direct access to the beach would be the proposed crosswalk connection from the where the restroom is located.

AC: It's hard to see the tunnel if you haven't experienced that area and you tend to cross the road. Is there a way to make the tunnel more visible?

OPRD: The hotel uses the crosswalk for access. The idea is to build a nice graded trail down to the bathroom from the crosswalk. We would sign the crosswalk. People already use this route because it is the most direct.

AC: A lot of folks are looking for picnic areas and rain cover.

OPRD: We considered proposing a picnic shelter here but the problem is that the park is not staffed and there are already homeless issues in the vicinity, it seems likely that any shelter would be a draw for homeless people. Maintaining a shelter in this location would be difficult as well.

AC: I don't think it's a big enough area for soccer.

AC: Need signage by the tunnel under Highway 101 for City's path.

OPRD: The city of Newport has a kiosk but it does not appear to be maintained. We could do a better job of signage and directing people to the City's trail at the bathroom.

AC: Yaquina Head ONA is in need of housing for seasonal staff. Is there any chance this site could be used as temporary housing for seasonal staff? There may be things that the BLM could offer OPRD in exchange...

OPRD: We would have to take to back to our executive team, but it could be a possibility. Having eyes on the site would be a benefit and the location is close to the lighthouse.

AC: That area is subject to flooding so keep that in mind.

Yaquina Bay

AC: Please do not narrow the road in front of the interpretive kiosk. That is the start point of the marathon. Need the space to accommodate all of the runners as well as spectators.

AC: Will the northern beach access to be maintained?

OPRD: Yes. The southern beach access has bigger issues because it floods at the bottom and we are exploring options to reroute it.

AC: What about rerouting the road around the other side of the park?

OPRD: We had not considered that possibility. The expense and archaeological sensitivity in the area would make rerouting the road difficult. The existing road is also an extremely popular scenic option for vehicles, and there is room to expand it inland, so a complete re-route of the road does not seem necessary.

AC: When would proposed landscaping around the lighthouse occur – is that planned for 20 years from now?

OPRD: We are actually looking at that now. Projects are subject to funding but initial efforts are underway and we are hoping to complete much of the work as soon as possible.

AC: With regard to the park interior, are you contemplating a non-profit to maintain and take it off your shoulders, maybe develop a botanical garden?

OPRD: We have discussed the option of a botanical garden in the plan, and are open to the idea of having a group maintain it, but are not sure whether such a group exists or is interested in taking this on. For now, our concept is to make the area more gardenlike by selective vegetation management that focuses on retaining mature rhododendrons and other native species while removing much of the underbrush. Clearing the understory will also help with visibility and safety.

AC: Is there any chance of moving the coast guard tower?

OPRD: Does not seem likely in the near future. The Coast Guard does not have any plans to relocate it.

South Beach Management Unit

South Beach

AC: If you are relocating the restroom please make sure the outdoor shower goes with it – it is very popular.

AC: With regard to the proposed disc golf course, it seems like a pretty big area to turn over to one small group. Is it common to do this?

OPRD: We have many disc golf courses at parks around the state. Generally the local disc golf groups are very supportive and help to maintain the courses.

OPRD: The nice thing about disc golf courses is they are relatively inexpensive to put in and take out, so if it's not working we have the option of removing it.

AC: I play disc golf and want point out that we are pretty rough on the landscape...

OPRD: We have considered the natural resource impact and the plan would be to locate the baskets in areas with invasive beach grass, with the expectation that players would trample the grass and help restore the historic open, sandy conditions that native dune communities rely on.

AC: How would access to the course be managed? Would people just come on to the course anywhere?

OPRD: We would have the course signed to encourage them to access the start point instead of cutting in. If camping, it would be easier to access from the south. The topography, vegetation, and private ownership make it unlikely that people would be accessing the course from anywhere, since the designated entrance areas would be the most convenient.

AC: Are you considering interfacing with Anchor Way at the north end of the park? You should consider it because it's a public right of way. A public trail leads down Anchor Way to Safe Haven Hill.

OPRD: We are looking at the possibility of connecting the park to Anchor Way. We may not want to direct day users into the campground, however, it could be used as an evacuation point. We have also spoken with OMSI about using their property as an emergency exit from the campground.

AC: What about wildlife impacts in the proposed disc golf area?

OPRD: Our wildlife biologist has not mentioned any concerns. There would be some impacts to wildlife from the increased use, but we are not aware of any sensitive or endangered wildlife species currently in that area.

AC: What would be the end point be for the Sea-to-Sea trail? Is it South Beach or Ona Beach?

AC: The C2C trail committee has hoped that the eventual endpoint for the trail would be South Beach. The trail would go north along the east side of highway 101 and access the park under the bridge at the South Jetty.

AC: What's the annual visitation day use / campground?

OPRD: I would have to look that up, but it's very high, around 500,000 per year.

AC: Would like to make sure that a dedicated equestrian parking area is retained at the South Jetty. The current equestrian parking is very popular.

AC: At some point is there going to be camping expansion?

OPRD: There is no increase of capacity planned beyond what is proposed here (addition of approximately 10 yurt sites in the existing campground).

Seal Rock

AC: The beach and tide pools are getting trampled badly. Can you limit access from points outside the parking area?

OPRD: We don't control all the accesses – some are county and road right-of-way, and some may be private. We can only control access inside the park.

OPRD: We have talked about having additional staff at peak times to help educate people and control impacts to the tide pools.

AC: Will there be interpretive signs to help protect the ecosystem?

OPRD: Yes, we are working on that now. We haven't addressed interpretive signage for the ocean shore in the plan because it is being addressed through grant-funded projects that are currently in development.

Presley & Gill

AC: How large is the park?

OPRD: Somewhere around 20 acres, about the same size as Driftwood Beach.

AC: Governor Patterson – there is a possible access relocation that will be needed to align with Ocean Hills Drive across the highway. Also, there is the potential for pedestrian access under the highway. It would be nice to see the onsite waste system go away and hook into the city sewer at some point in the next twenty years.

Beachside

AC: Will the restrooms be available in winter under this plan?

OPRD: Yes.

OPRD: We are hoping to hold the next public meetings in November where we will present the full draft plan document.

AC: When are comments due?

OPRD: Deadline for comments is usually 21 days (correction, comment deadline is 30 days after a meeting), but you can submit comments any time within the next two months and they will be incorporated into the draft plan.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.