

7 > COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATIONAL LANDS

On-site inventories conducted by Task Force members reveal a number of opportunities for better utilizing county-owned park properties. The data can serve as a benchmark for future planning.

> Parks and Recreational Lands

Clatsop County benefits from an array of natural resources and habitats. Lands within the county range from coastal shorelines and wetlands to freshwater streams and estuaries; from lowland meadows and dunes to the forested mountains of the Coast Range. These diverse environments can be experienced in the county's park system.

This chapter provides inventory information and site-specific recommendations for parks and other recreational sites owned and managed by Clatsop County. Potential recreational sites and camping facilities are addressed later in the chapter

Table 21 lists Clatsop County's 13 designated parks and six recreational sites and their size. This is followed by Figure 2 on which their locations are identified.

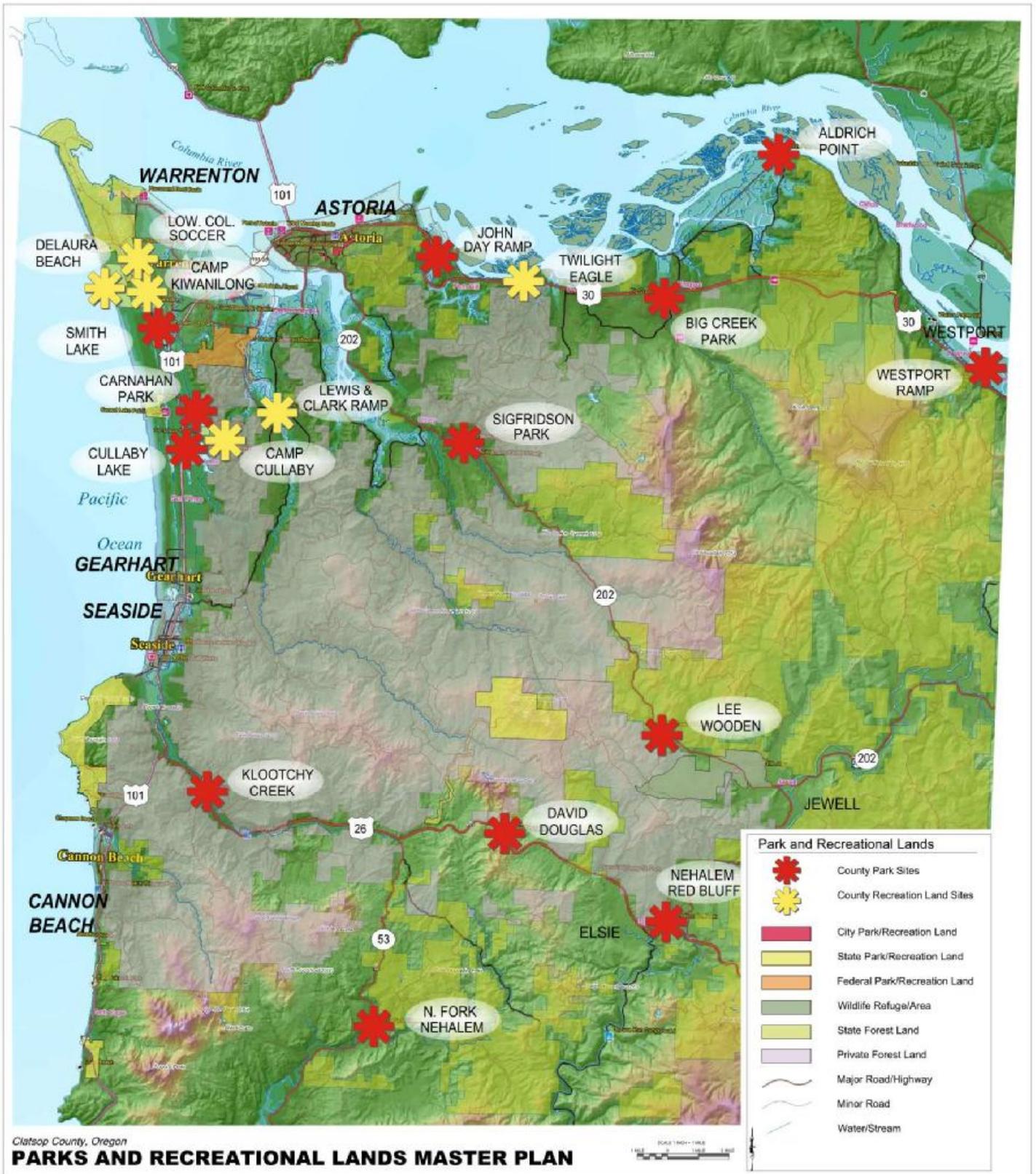


Table 21 – Parks and Recreation Lands

County Parks	Acres
Aldrich Point Boat Ramp	4
Big Creek Park	36
Carnahan Park	31
Cullaby Lake Park	165
David Douglas Park	64
Lee Wooden/Fishhawk Falls Park.	47
John Day Park/Boat Ramp	58
Kloutchy Creek Park	25
Nehalem Park (Red Bluff)	49
North Fork Nehalem Park	3
Sigfridson Park	64
Smith Lake Park	3
Westport Boat Ramp	27
Total Acreage	577

Recreation Lands	Acres
Camp Cullaby (Camp Royce-Finel)	62
Camp Kiwanilong	191
DeLaura Beach	164
Lewis and Clark Boat Ramp	3
Lower Columbia Youth Soccer Assoc.	4
Twilight Eagle Sanctuary	15
Total Acreage	443

Figure 2 – Park and Recreational Lands Map



> Habitat Summary

Opportunities and Constraints Analysis:
We recommend that further habitat analysis and a thorough opportunities and constraints study accompany future planning and development of county parklands.

Earlier planning efforts by the county have yielded an overview of general habitat classifications that are common to the park and recreation lands. Table 22 summarizes the types of habitat areas that are typical of each of the park and recreation land sites and provides an overview of the sensitive habitat areas, unusual species and development pressures.

Table 22 – Habitat Summary

	Aquatic	Riparian	Wetland	Shrub	Forest	Meadow	Sensitive Habitat/Development Pressures
County Parks							
Aldrich Point Boat Ramp	X	X	X			X	Columbia River shoreline, isolated
Big Creek Park	X	X	X	X	X	X	Big Creek shoreline, bank erosion and wetlands
Carnahan Park	X	X	X	X	X		Cullaby Lake shoreline
Cullaby Lake Park	X	X	X	X	X		Adjacent development and wetlands
David Douglas Park					X		Old growth trees, high habitat value
Lee Wooden/Fishhawk Falls Pk.	X	X	X	X	X	X	Falls are unique landscape feature, diverse site
John Day Park/Boat Ramp	X	X	X				Diverse wetlands
Kloutchy Creek Park	X	X	X	X	X		Unique tree stand, Nacanicum shoreline
Nehalem Park (Red Bluff)					X		Old growth trees, high habitat value
North Fork Nehalem Park	X	X			X		Nehalem River shoreline
Sigfridson Park	X	X	X	X	X	X	Open meadows, Klaskanine River shoreline
Smith Lake Park	X	X	X				Lake frontage
Westport Boat Ramp	X	X	X	X		X	Slough and riparian habitat
	Aquatic	Riparian	Wetland	Shrub	Forest	Meadow	Sensitive Habitat/Development Pressures
Recreation Lands							
Camp Cullaby (Camp Royce-Finell)	X	X	X	X	X		Wetlands and mature forested areas
Camp Kiwanilong	X	X	X	X	X	X	Diverse dune habitat, wetlands, and lakes
DeLaura Beach			X	X	X		Coastal site with rare deflation plain wetlands
Lewis and Clark Boat Ramp	X	X	X				Lewis & Clark River shoreline
Twilight Eagle Sanctuary	X	X	X		X		Columbia River shoreline, isolated
Lower Columbia Youth Soccer			X	X		X	

> Designated County Parks

Clatsop County’s 13 designated parks are described in detail on pages 72-103. Considerable effort was taken by Task Force members to collect and verify these data; they represent an important repository of historic, legal, management and marketing data.

Many issues arose during the process of collecting park data. These are described in the “Management Opportunities & Challenges” and “Recommendations & Comments” section for each park. Chapter 5 contains *Goals, Objectives and Action Strategies* that relate to county parks. Current park rules and regulations are listed in Appendix O.

An overview of current facilities is shown below.

Recommendation:
Park inventory data collected during the process of producing this report shall be:

1. preserved in a database
2. updated regularly, and
3. available to the public on the county’s Web site.

Table 23– Facility Inventory by Site

	Day Use Fee Required	Paved Parking Area	Primitive Parking Area	Restrooms (Flush)	Vault Toilet/Chemical Toilet	Campsites	Reservable Picnic Shelters	BBQ/Cooking Facilities	Boat Launch Facilities	Fishing/Transit Dock	Swimming Area	Fishing Area	Walking/Hiking	Equestrian Trails	Playground	Picnic Tables	Baseball/Softball/Soccer	Volleyball Courts	Open Play Area	Natural Area/Wetlands	Interpretive/Education Signage	Historic Structures	
County Parks																							
Aldrich Point Boat Ramp			X		X				X	X		X											X
Big Creek Park			X									X	X				X						X
Carnahan Park			X						X	X	X	X	X			X			X	X			
Cullaby Lake Park	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
David Douglas Park																							X
Lee Wooden/Fishhawk Falls Pk.			X										X										X
John Day Park/Boat Ramp	X	X		X					X	X		X				X							X
Kloutchy Creek Park					X																		X
Nehalem Park (Red Bluff)																							X
North Fork Nehalem Park			X									X	X										X
Sigfridson Park			X									X	X										X
Smith Lake Park																							X
Westport Boat Ramp			X		X				X	X		X	X										X
Recreation Lands																							
Camp Cullaby (Camp Royce-Finel)		X			X	X							X			X							X
Camp Kiwanilong				X		X							X			X	X	X	X	X			
DeLaura Beach												X	X										X
Lewis and Clark Boat Ramp			X						X	X		X											X
Lower Columbia Youth Soccer			X														X						
Twilight Eagle Sanctuary			X																		X	X	

ALDRICH POINT BOAT RAMP



Location:	End of Aldrich Point Road, 5.4 miles north of Hwy. 30 between milepost 79-80, Brownsmead area
Map:	9N 7W Section 26 – #104, #100
Size:	3.73 acres
Ownership Status:	County
Land-use zone:	Aquatic Natural (AN)
Classification:	Special Use

History:

n/a

Acquisition by County:

n/a

Description/Natural Features:

The Aldrich Point Boat Ramp is located at the end of Aldrich Point Road in the Brownsmead area in eastern Clatsop County. This narrow, one lane improved boat ramp and transit dock offers access to the Columbia River at river mile 29. It provides access to the Lewis and Clark Wildlife Refuge that is located north of the boat ramp. This site is popular throughout the year and provides excellent water access opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, boating, waterfowl hunting and Columbia River fishing.

Cultural/Historical Significance:

n/a

Geological Significance:

Aldrich Point is the northernmost point in the State of Oregon. This facility is located on the broad floodplain along the south shore of the Columbia River.



Recreation Utilization:

The primary users year-round are fishermen and waterfowl hunters launching watercraft to access the Columbia River and Refuge. During the warmer summer months, use by non-motorized boaters increases. Non-boating uses are limited due to poor beach access and primitive facilities.

Facility Inventory:

- Single lane boat launch
- Transit dock
- Informal gravel parking area
- Chemical toilet

Development History:

- (2004) Installation of new rock fill along the edges of boat ramp and in between the existing cement boat ramp blocks for cost: of \$10,500.
- (1999) Removal of deteriorated boarding floats/docks.
- (1999) \$5,000 approved by BCC for construction by locals of new boarding floats: no activity to date.

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) provides \$3,000 annually for limited maintenance and operations of this site.
- At this time, county maintenance and operations costs are limited to staff time only.
- Current property boundary issues prevent the county from pursuing OSMB improvement grants.
- OSMB grants and other funding sources could be utilized to provide continued public access to this section of the Columbia River for boaters, bird watchers, nature enthusiasts, fishermen and hunters.

ALDRICH POINT RAMP

Recommendations & Comments:

Operations and Maintenance

- Resolve the property boundary issue to allow for improvement of this site.
- Secure OSMB (Oregon State Marine Board) grants for park improvements.
- Establish a day-use fee and collection system for this site.

Capital Improvements

- Consider park improvements, including:
 - Ø Improved parking facility
 - Ø Enhanced boat launch and dock facilities
 - Ø Vault toilet

BIG CREEK COUNTY PARK



Location: Big Creek Lane off of Hillcrest Loop, ½ mile south of Hwy. 30 at milepost 82, Knappa area

Map: 8N 7W Section 19 – #25

Size: 36 acres, including 1,500 linear feet Big Creek

Ownership Status: County

Land-use zone: Recreational Management (RM)

Classification: Shared-use

History:
n/a

Acquisition by County:

The property was acquired from the Knappa Development Company on April 4, 1969 for the sum of \$17,000.



Description/Natural Features:

This county park site, which adjoins Big Creek, provides an attractive, secluded, natural setting for stream fishing and day-use activities. The vegetation communities on-site are diverse and include riparian areas along Big Creek, open field and flat forested areas, wetlands and forested foothills. The vegetation found within the boundaries of the park is typical of native plant communities found in Clatsop County. This park provides direct access to Big Creek salmon, steelhead and trout fisheries.

Cultural/Historical Significance:

n/a

Geological Significance:

Big Creek is a coastal foothills stream that flows from the west slope of Nicolai Mountain in a northerly direction for a distance of about ten miles to the confluence with the Columbia River. Upstream mining activities during the 1990s caused the stream channel of Big Creek to re-route.



Recreation Utilization:

Use of the site is relatively light and includes fishing, open space and picnicking. The existing baseball field is used periodically.

Facility Inventory:

- Single baseball field, backstop, benches and concession stand located north of the entrance road. It is currently being partially maintained by local residents, and is used as a practice field.
- Primitive walking paths throughout site and along banks of creek.
- A graveled cul-de-sac turnaround area and informal parking area at terminus of entrance road. Vehicle barriers have been installed to define parking area.
- Vehicular access provided over a county-maintained, paved 16-foot wide entrance road that connects to Hillcrest Loop.

Development History:

- (1991) Master plan completed.
- (1986) Youth baseball field constructed by County Parks in partnership with local community group. Recreation facility formerly managed by community group via cooperative agreement.
- Log vehicle barricades have been recently added at perimeter of parking area.

BIG CREEK PARK**Recommendations & Comments:**Operations and Maintenance

- Limit improvements within riparian corridor and respond to stream bank erosion through bioengineering or armoring to prevent loss of riparian habitat and fishing access.
- Review long-term value of baseball field and consider removal to accommodate new park amenities.
- Establish a management plan to provide minimum level of maintenance, sanitation and security.
- Consider temporary picnic tables and chemical toilet facilities during summer months to accommodate usage.
- Review the costs and revenue benefits of developing primitive overnight camping at this site.

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BIG CREEK PARK

Recommendations & Comments:

Capital Improvements

- Consider park improvements, including:
 - Ø Day-use fee station
 - Ø Permanent vehicle barriers and/or improved parking area
 - Ø Picnic tables and shelters
 - Ø Paved and soft surface trails
 - Ø Vault toilet facilities and utilities
 - Ø Site furnishings including benches and trash receptacles
 - Ø Playgrounds
 - Ø Enhanced ADA accessibility including parking, fishing platforms, etc.

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- Vegetation management including controlling invasive species and restoration of riparian habitat.
- Stream bank erosion from park user activities.
- Underutilized forested flat area between stream bed and bluff could accommodate additional recreation and site amenities.
- Large flat meadow area currently occupied by baseball field could accommodate additional recreation and site amenities.
- Acquisition of adjacent river frontage could expand public fishing access.
- Underdeveloped and underutilized trails.
- Site and water access is currently not ADA accessible.
- Likely presence of on-site wetlands.
- Various park improvements have been considered, but have been postponed due to limited budgets.

CARNAHAN COUNTY PARK

Location: Cullaby Lake Lane, ½ mile east of Hwy. 101 between milepost 13-14, south of Warrenton

Map: 7N 10W Section 15 – #500

Size: 31.4 acres

Ownership Status: County

Land-use zone: Open Space Parks and Rec (OPR)

Classification: Shared-use



History:

The acreage for Carnahan Park was donated by the heirs of the Carnahan estate for the purpose of open space and recreation.

Acquisition by County:

Donated to Clatsop County in 1938.

Description/Natural Features:

This is an established day-use waterfront county park site located on the north end of Cullaby Lake. 1,600 linear feet of lake shoreline, forested uplands and open meadows dominate this low intensity park site.



Geological Significance:

Cullaby Creek feeds Cullaby Lake and outlets into the Skipanon River and eventually the Columbia River at Warrenton. See Cullaby Lake inventory.

Cultural/Historical Significance:

Carnahan County Park was established in 1939 by Nell Carnahan to “promote the public welfare of the citizens of Clatsop County, and as a memorial to the Carnahan family.” The Carnahan family was prominent among the early settlers to Clatsop Plains.



Recreation Utilization:

Public boat launch access area to Cullaby Lake (speed restricted area for boats), passive lake sports and fishing boats.

Facility Inventory:

- Small gravel boat ramp for non-motorized and small power boats
- Fishing and water access from wooden dock with four fixed benches
- Steep primitive trails into wooded uplands, including a path crossing private land connecting to Boy Scouts of America leased camp
- Informal wildlife and waterfowl viewing
- Six wooden picnic tables
- Trash receptacles
- Informal parking areas and gated access roads
- Seasonal fee collection facility
- Seasonal chemical toilet

Development History:

- (1995) Wood dock was rebuilt.
- (1988) Master plan completed.
- Boy Scouts of America and County partnered on the development of a potable water system.

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- The ODFW has identified this site as an excellent area for the development of ADA accessible fishing facilities.
- Ongoing maintenance of wood docks.
- Water quality, invasive aquatic plant growth and shoreline erosion issues associated with natural and manmade impacts.

CARNAHAN PARK

Recommendations & Comments:

Operations and Maintenance

- County recommends that State monitor water quality and implement aquatic plant removal as needed.
- Monitor docks and repair or replace to maintain safe park access.
- Maintain existing day-use facilities as outlined in the park master plan.

Capital Improvements

- Consider park improvements, including:
 - Ø Expanded trail system
 - Ø Interpretive signage at key locations
 - Ø Off-leash pet area, with water access
 - Ø Enhanced ADA accessible amenities including parking, pathways and fishing docks
 - Ø Enhanced boat ramp facilities to broaden appeal to boaters
 - Ø Vault toilet

CULLABY LAKE COUNTY PARK

- Location:** End of Hawkins Road off of Cullaby Lake Lane, ½ mile east of Hwy. 101 between milepost 13-14, south of Warrenton
- Map:** 7N 10W Section 15 – 2400, Section 22 -#300, #400, #500, #600, #601, #4100, #4111, #2800, #2001
- Size:** 165 acres
- Ownership Status:** County
- Land-use zone:** Recreation Management (RM)
Lake and Wetlands (LW)
- Classification:** Shared-use, Gateway

History:

Around the late 1800s or 1900, a ditch was created between Cullaby Lake and the old Skipanon Creek for the purpose of logging transport and wetland drainage. In addition to logging, cranberry bogs on the west side of the lake were productive for residents in the 1900s. Around 1960, a Soil and Water Conservation project resulted in a water control structure at Cullaby Lake's north outflow, which created the Cullaby Lake recreation area, with a parking lot, picnic areas, restrooms, boat ramps and a boat basin. In 1966 the annual Astoria Regatta was held on Cullaby Lake, and in March of 1968 the Board of County Commissioners designated the 165-acre site as the "Cullaby Lake County Park and Recreation Area."

Acquisition by County:

Cullaby Lake County Park was created from several parcels acquired by the county due to delinquent property taxes. The lake's waterfront has been used for recreation for many years, but was officially designated a county park in 1968.





Description/Natural Features:

Cullaby Lake County Park is a popular day-use waterfront park with natural and developed recreation facilities. Features include access to the 219-acre Cullaby Lake with 4,400 linear feet of shoreline, beaches, natural areas and community park amenities dominate this high intensity park site.

Cultural/Historical Significance:

The Clatsop people had summer camps at Cullaby Lake, and Lewis and Clark reference this site in their writings. As many as 50 cedar dugout canoes, whose purpose may have been ceremonial burial by the native Clatsop people, were exposed when lake levels were artificially lowered.

Cullaby was the name of a son and grandson of a sailor who washed ashore near Tillamook after a shipwreck. The sailor and his wife moved north to live with the Clatsop people making the lake their home for part of each year. The son was mentioned in the diaries of Lewis and Clark and is the origin of the lake's name. The grandson was living by the lake when settlers began arriving in the area.



The historic Lindgren Cabin, an example of early pioneer home construction, was moved from its original site near Soapstone Lake to Cullaby Lake County Park. This building is owned by the Finnish American Cultural Society and is opened periodically for tours.

Geological Significance:

Between 4,000 and 5,000 years ago, the eastern side of Cullaby Lake was the ocean shore, as evidenced by the unearthing of non-native species of logs buried in the area that had been washed ashore by the ocean that many years ago. The gradual development of sand dunes on what is now the western side of Cullaby Lake was the precursor to bogs, estuarine sloughs, streams and lakes.



Cullaby Creek feeds Cullaby Lake and outlets into the Skipanon River and eventually the Columbia River at Warrenton.

Recreation Utilization:

Public boat launches, docks, swimming beaches, fishing areas, and diverse recreation and park amenities. This park is the only developed public lake waterskiing and power boating facility in the county.

Facility Inventory:

- Two concrete motorized and non-motorized boat launch ramp facilities
- Two docks for transient moorage and fishing access
- Paved automobile and trailer parking areas
 - Play equipment located at north picnic area
 - Three horseshoe pits
 - Two swim beaches (one at north picnic area, one at south picnic area)
 - Sandy bottom; mowed grassy bank; roped designated swim area; no lifeguard provided by county
 - Bank access fishing areas
 - Two volleyball courts
 - North picnic area: picnic shelter, one large covered grill, four pedestal grills and 29 picnic tables.
 - South picnic area: picnic shelter, five pedestal grills and 19 picnic tables
 - Restrooms: one accessible restroom at north picnic area and boat launch, one restroom at south picnic area
 - Drinking fountains: two in north picnic area, one in south picnic area
 - Trash receptacles: 10 at north picnic area, six at south picnic area
 - Primitive and developed trails with signage and wetlands viewing platform
 - Historic Lindgren Cabin
 - Park caretaker and maintenance facility
 - Fee collection site



CULLABY LAKE PARK

Recommendations & Comments:

Operations and Maintenance

- County recommends that State monitor water quality and implement aquatic plant removal as needed.
- Map existing trail system and develop walking maps for park.
- Maintain existing day-use facilities as outlined in the park master plan.
- Update park master plan.
- Explore state supported campground concept as a revenue generating development.

Capital Improvements

- Consider park improvements, including:
 - Ø Enhanced ADA amenities including playground and fishing areas
 - Ø Expanded trail system
 - Ø "Gateway" improvements including camping, special event space, etc.

Development History:

- (2005) Wetlands Trail development
- (2001) North parking lot paved for cost of \$81,520.
- (2000-2001) Construction of beach shoreline project.
- (2000) Grant reconstructed boat launch for cost of \$86,220.
- (2000) Re-roof of playground picnic shelter.
- (2000) Re-roof of Lindgren Cabin facilities.
- (1999-2000) Campground Feasibility Study grant (\$19,000) by OSPRD, Phase II declined by county.
- (1997-1998) Grant construction of new restroom for cost of \$151,000.
- (1997-1998) Campground Feasibility Study grant (\$25,000) by OSPRD, Phase I.
- (1995) Agreement increased law enforcement presence between OSMB and County.
- (1988) Master plan completed.
- Replacement of play structure planned, awaiting grant approval.
- Mooring dock near north parking lot was installed in the 1960s.

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- Water quality, invasive aquatic plant growth and shoreline erosion issues associated with natural and manmade actions could impact recreation experience.
- Extensive large mature trees and on-site wetlands need mapping.
- Management of invasive plant species.
- Insect management: consider bat boxes, swallow boxes.
- Potential opportunities for recreation activities on existing paved areas.
- Play equipment located at north picnic area needs to be upgraded for safety and access.
- Multiple trails throughout site provide walking opportunities and need mapping.
- Central location and access to Highway 101.

DAVID DOUGLAS COUNTY PARK

Location:	Located between milepost 13-14 on Hwy 26, Saddle Mountain area of US 26.
Map:	5N 8W Section 21 – #2200
Size:	64.4 acres
Ownership Status:	County
Land-use zone:	Recreation Management (RM)
Classification:	Natural Area

History:

Site was designated as park land in 1936 by County Board of Commissioners for public benefit and preservation for future generations.

Acquisition by County:

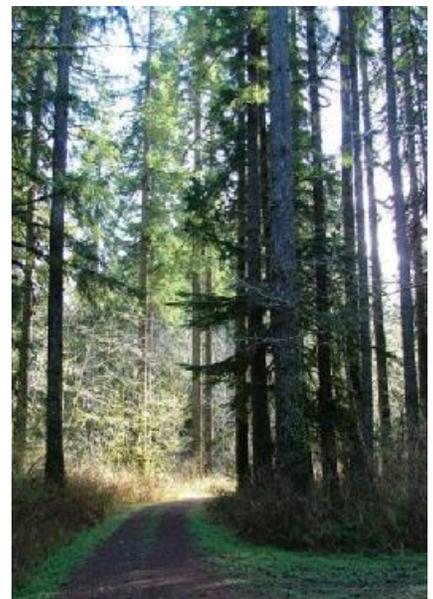
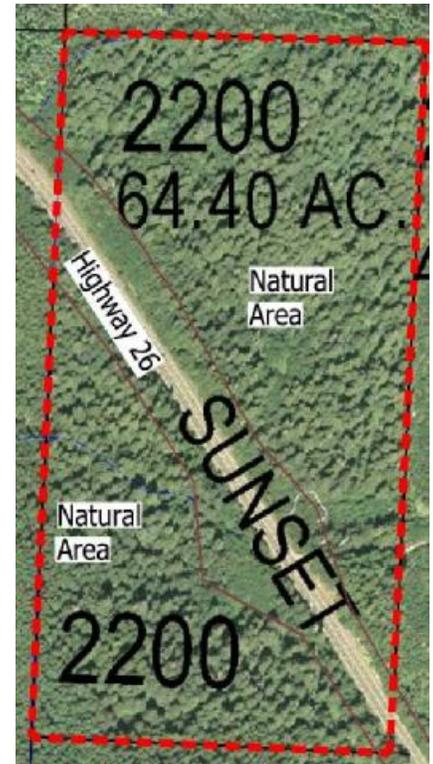
Property was held by the county through delinquent tax sales. The Northwest Discount Corporation deeded the property to the county for the sum of \$50.

Description/Natural Features:

This is a forest tract which has not been developed for any active recreational uses. Access to much of the site is difficult due to topography, brush and downed trees. This is an authentic old-growth forest site. The property contains a variety of large trees including:

- Western hemlock 180-200 years old
- Douglas fir 400-500 years old
- Western red cedar 400-500 years old
- Pacific silver or Grand Fir 200+ years old

A dense understory of western hemlock, about 30 years old, covers much of the site. Other species represented include Sitka spruce, red alder, red elderberry, salal, salmonberry and Oregon grape. Invasive species, such as Scotch broom, English holly and evergreen blackberries, are also present on site.



A wide variety of fungus species are present including impressive conks growing on snags and downed trees. A variety of birds are present, including pileated woodpeckers. There is evidence of deer, elk and beaver. Small ponds are used by newts and other amphibians.

Cultural/Historical Significance:

This site has been minimally impacted by humans. It offers a glimpse of what much of Clatsop County may have looked like prior to the “tree farming” era.

Geological Significance:

Elevation ranges from 1150 feet to 1400 feet. There are several springs and small creeks which feed into the Little North Fork of the Nehalem River. There are small beaver dams at the southeast corner of the property.

Recreation Utilization:

Undeveloped

Facility Inventory:

- Undeveloped
- Location signs on both sides of Highway 26
- Weyerhaeuser timber access road lies at the southeast corner of this parcel. This road does not give good access to most of this property, however. Across the ravine northwest of the Weyerhaeuser road is an old roadbed extending to a clearing about 400 feet from the highway. This is blocked by numerous small downed trees. This would require widening and other improvements were it to be put into use.

Development History:

Undeveloped

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- Access to this parcel may be a challenge to development of this property. There is limited parking on wide portions of highway shoulder.
- Opportunities for hiking trail development throughout site to showcase significant trees. Because of steep topography, providing ADA accessibility would be challenging.
- Interpretive signage could link Klootchey, David Douglas and Nehalem Parks. Signage could cover nature, history and economics of our forest environment.
- Site is bisected by Highway 26 and on-grade road crossings are not feasible due to speed of traffic.
- Development of a safe and secure parking area and access at this location will be challenging. Opportunities for a parking lot along the highway are limited by slope, site distances and numerous springs in the area. Limited shoulder parking is available. ODOT right-of-way extends a significant distance from the roadway.
- Visibility and acceleration and deceleration lanes lacking.
- Highway noise is fairly loud on most of this property.

DAVID DOUGLAS PARK

Recommendations & Comments:

Operations and Maintenance

- Complete a more thorough biological inventory, including mapping of significant trees.
- Explore with ODOT feasibility of developing parking facilities and vehicle access for this site.

Capital Improvements

- Consider limited park improvements, including:
 - Ø Primitive trails
 - Ø Parking and access utilizing old roadbed

JOHN DAY COUNTY PARK



Location:	Located on Hwy. 30 between milepost 93-94, 4 miles east of Astoria
Map:	8N 9W Section 13 – #800, #1500, #1600, #1700, #1800
Size:	58 acres
Ownership Status:	County
Land-use zone:	Recreation Management (RM) Aquatic Natural (AN)
Classification:	Special Use, Gateway

History:

This park is near the site where the Lewis and Clark expedition camped overnight on November 26, 1805, while in route to their winter camp and Fort Clatsop. This site was declared a County Park and Recreation Area in 1962 and since that time multiple improvements have been made to the site, including a two lane concrete boat ramp, paved parking and a restroom facility. This is a heavily used site, with plans to expand the parking area being currently considered.

Acquisition by County:

This popular boat ramp site was formed from various properties gained by the county through tax foreclosures during the years 1928 through 1940. Each of the five properties that comprise the John Day Boat Ramp Facility was acquired through tax foreclosure. Tax lot 800 (54.0 acres) was acquired in 1936, Tax lot 1500 (1.4 acres) was acquired in 1932, Tax lot 1600 (0.80 acres) was acquired in 1936, Tax lot 1700 (0.40 acres) was acquired in 1928, and Tax lot 1800 (1.4 acres) was acquired in 1940.



Description/Natural Features:

The John Day County Park is a 58-acre site with river frontage providing access to the John Day River and the lower Columbia River for general boating, fishing and hunting.

The John Day Boat Ramp is adjacent to the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge with frontage on the John Day River. The undeveloped portion of this site consists of large diverse freshwater wetlands with varied plant species.

Cultural/Historical Significance:

The John Day River was named after John Day, a hunter and voyager who was an employee of The Northern Fur Company in 1812. He crossed the plains along with his employer Mr. Crook and the first voyagers. He was a favorite among his peers and all who met him. Day left Fort Astoria in June of 1812 with a small party to carry dispatches to New York. He became seriously ill a couple of days into their journey and his companions commissioned Indians to return him to Fort Astoria, where he died shortly thereafter.



Two rivers in the state are named after him: the John Day River in eastern Oregon, which starts in the Blue Mountains and empties into the Columbia 40 miles above The Dalles, and the John Day River in Clatsop County, near Astoria.

Geological Significance:

n/a

Recreation Utilization:

This is an established, heavily used boat ramp that provides access to the John Day River and the lower Columbia River for general boating, fishing and hunting. The existing parking lot is filled to near-capacity during periods of peak summer use.





Facility Inventory:

- A two-lane concrete plank boat ramp with transient docks giving access to the John Day River and the Columbia River
- Paved parking for 58 vehicles with trailers and six additional 15-minute, single-vehicle parking spaces near the restroom structure
- Restroom with two flush restrooms and drinking fountain
- Fee collection site
- One garbage receptacle
- One picnic table

Development History:

- (2002) Fish sculpture installed near entryway
- (1996) Grant: funded launch slip dredging of 4,123 CY for a cost of \$58,500
- (1996) Landscape upgrade project completed at entryway
- (1995) Grant: Reconstructed boat launch facilities and added fee collection site
- (1988) Boat ramp improvements and bathrooms
- (1979) Dredging and bank protection improvements
- (1962) Park designation: John Day Park and Recreational Area

JOHN DAY COUNTY PARK

Recommendations & Comments:

Operations and Maintenance

- The Oregon State Marine Board is currently planning to expand parking at this heavily used boat ramp facility and construction will be completed by next year (2006).
- Review the costs and revenue benefits of developing self-contained overnight camping at this site.

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- Parking is at capacity and vehicles are parking on US 30.
- The highway approach onto US 30 has limited site/distance visibility due to road grades and curves. Safety could be improved with the addition of an eastbound left-turn refuge and a westbound shoulder acceleration lane. The county may propose these changes to ODOT.

Klootchey Creek County Park

Location: Located north of Hwy. 26 at milepost two

Map: T5N, R10W, Section 14, #50

Size: 25 total acres

Ownership Status: County owned

Land-use zone: Recreation Management (RM)

Classification: Shared-use, Gateway

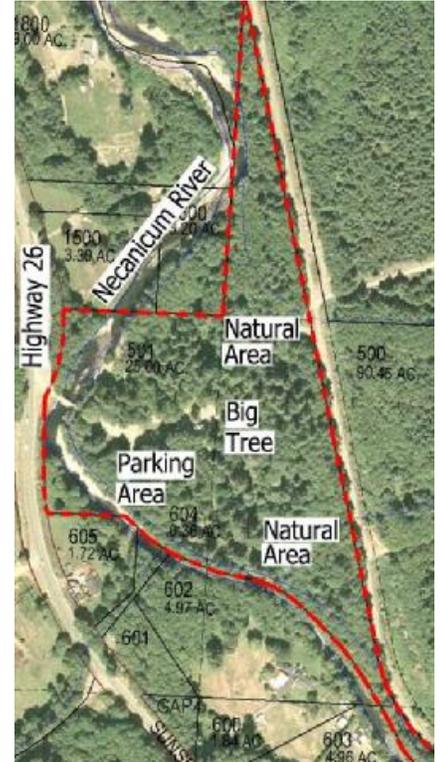
History:

Klootchey Creek Park has been in existence since the 1940s when it was under private ownership. Crown Zellerbach Corporation developed the park as a campground and picnic area to take advantage of the "Big Spruce Tree" and access to the Necanicum River for a boat launch site and for fishing. Campsites, restroom facilities, water and garbage receptacles were available for visitors. When Crown Zellerbach was sold to a foreign investor in 1986, the new company became Cavenham Forest Industries. Klootchey Creek Park soon became surplus property and Cavenham sold the land to the county.

Acquisition by County:

Clatsop County purchased four parcels of land, known as Klootchey Creek Park, and totaling 25 acres, from Cavenham Forest Industries on August 12, 1988. Purchase price was \$36,700. At the time of purchase, the park had 19 campsites, nine picnic tables, 13 fireplaces and four outdoor toilets. This became TL 501.

To enhance the size of the park, Clatsop County purchased 16.33 acres from the Carl W. Salser Trust on July 8, 1996 for \$80,000. This is TL 400 in Section 11 and TL 1700 in Section 14. It is unclear if a Resolution and Order has been given to this property by the Board to declare this as a county park.





Description/Natural Features:

The park area is composed of a remnant coastal temperate rainforest. The largest Sitka spruce tree in Oregon and the U.S., as registered by American Forests' *National Register of Big Trees*, is located in the park:

- Species: Picea Sitchensis
- Circumference: 56'
- Height: 206'
- Crown Spread: 93'
- Age: 750+ years

In 1997, the Heritage Tree Committee, Oregon Travel Council, dedicated this tree as the state's first Tree Site.



Cultural/Historical Significance:

The largest Sitka spruce tree in Oregon.

Geological Significance:

The park area is located along the Necanicum River flood plain and does partially flood in the winter during periods of very high tides and heavy storms.

Recreation Utilization:

This is a popular day-use facility located north of Highway 26. The main attraction at this site is the Big Spruce Tree, trails and the observation platform. Picnicking is available. There are approximately 3,000 linear feet of river frontage along the Necanicum River for fishing. There is a small boat launch site for non-motorized boats.



Facility Inventory:

- Observation platform
- Garbage receptacle
- Four chemical toilets
- Rock and log barricades to restrict vehicle parking
- A 75' long concrete and steel stringer bridge over the Necanicum River from Highway 26 to the park
- A five-foot fence line along the east side of the park, between County and Weyerhaeuser Company property
- Two picnic tables

Development History:

- (1997) \$55,000 grant offered from ODFW and USFWS for \$100,000 to construct a flush restroom. Was originally approved by the county, but was declined by the subsequent board.
- (1995) construction of an ADA compatible observation deck around the Big Spruce to protect the ground and roots at the base of the tree. The cost was \$52,500.
- (1991) Master plan completed.

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- Potential Clatsop County Welcome/Visitors Center or a “gateway park” concept.
- Seasonal interpretive/information personnel, or camp host.
- Road surface in the park is crushed rock, and needs periodic maintenance.
- Weyerhaeuser has a permanent easement for road access from Hwy. 26 through the park to reach their Necanicum mainline hauling road east of the park. This mainline road is the eastern boundary of the park.
- There is a Weyerhaeuser maintained gate on the east side of the parking lot to control public vehicle access onto company property.
- The condition of the Big Spruce Tree and other over-mature western hemlock and red alder trees needs to be assessed for safety reasons. Danger trees and snags need to be removed when deemed necessary.
- Invasive plant species, e.g., Japanese knotweed, have been spotted along the Necanicum River bank within the park’s boundary.

KLOOTCHY CREEK PARK

Recommendations & Comments:

Operations and Maintenance

- Continue the Adopt-A-Park program. In November 2001, and most recently in 2005, Weyerhaeuser Company has entered into an agreement with Clatsop County as part of this program. Weyerhaeuser has done park clean-ups, trail maintenance and fence brushing, and has cooperated with the county in road maintenance projects through the parking lot.
- Monitor health of Big Tree and manage invasive plant materials.
- Designate the 16.33 acres from the Salser purchase to park status and develop the 16.33 acres of the Salser purchase with nature trails, primitive campsites and fishing access down to the river.
- Consider transition to a State Wayside.
- Consider designating entry road and bridge as “County” road to bring into road maintenance jurisdiction.

Capital Improvements

- Consider park improvements, including:
 - Ø Fee collection system
 - Ø Expanded trail system with interpretive signage
 - Ø Improved boat ramp facility
 - Ø Improved restroom facilities
 - Ø Car and tent camping



LEE WOODEN/ FISHHAWK FALLS PARK



- Location:** Located on Hwy. 202 at milepost 25, 5 miles west of Jewell
- Map:** 6N 7W Section 32 – #100, #200, #300
- Size:** 47.15 acres
- Ownership Status:** County
- Land-use zone:** Open Space Parks and Rec. (OPR)
- Classification:** Natural Area

History:
n/a

Acquisition by County:

This property was acquired by the county in 1962 through property tax foreclosure. It was named after Lee Wooden, a homesteader from the Jewell area.



Description/Natural Features:

A rural day use park that features a maintained trail from a parking area near Fishhawk Creek to the base of Fishhawk Falls, and approximately 2000 feet of frontage on Fishhawk Creek. An abandoned stone road in the southeast corner leads to a natural meadow area. A stone quarry, located on the southwest section of the property, is currently used by the County Road Department.

Lee Wooden Park is truly one of the hidden jewels in the county park system.

Cultural/Historical Significance:

Area residents have used the meadow area in the past for weddings and Boy Scout campouts.

Geological Significance:

The stacked basalt columns of a dike exposed at Fishhawk Falls is identical to Columbia River basalt further east. This basalt flow, like those at Otter Rock and Hug Point, ranks among the longest on earth, i.e., 300 miles from eastern Oregon and Washington.

Recreation Utilization:

The falls are the main attraction for day visitors. There has been some unauthorized primitive camping.

Facility Inventory:

- Two picnic tables
- Primitive trail with bridge
- Informal parking area

Development History:

- Cantilever bridge installed along low point on footpath – late 90s.
- Footpath from parking area to base of falls – early 90s.
- Gravel road off Hwy. 202 (NE corner) is not maintained and is partially overgrown, as is the meadow area.

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- Current design and location of parking area is resulting in stream bank erosion.
- Determine the “life expectancy” of the stone quarry, i.e., how much more rock can be extracted before the integrity of the hill visible from the falls is compromised.
- Determine compatibility of surface mining (quarry activities) with current OPR land use zone.

**LEE WOODEN/
FISHHAWK FALLS PARK****Recommendations &
Comments:**Operations and Maintenance

- Explore Jewell School’s interest in “adopting” Lee Wooden Park for scientific learning and community service.
- Build volunteer network to manage restoration and construction of trails and restoration of degraded areas, including deactivated road and parking areas.
- Discourage negative activities by engaging local youth, increasing overall public awareness of park, and encouraging stewardship.
- Review costs and revenue benefits of utilizing special use permits for group events, picnics and overnight camping.

Capital Improvements

- Consider limited park improvements, including:
 - Ø Reopened access road at the east end of the park and deactivated and restored (to a natural state) west road and current parking area.
 - Ø Expanded trail system and viewing platform
 - Ø Install vehicle entry gates at park entry road and close park to public during nighttime hours.

NEHALEM COUNTY PARK (RED BLUFF)



Location:	Red Bluff Road off of Hwy. 26, between milepost 20-21, Elsie area
Map:	5N 7W Section 32 - #300
Size:	49.27 acres
Ownership Status:	County
Land-use zone:	Recreation Management (RM)
Classification:	Forest Area

History:

Site was designated as park land in 1937 by County Board of Commissioners for public benefit and preservation for future generations.



Acquisition by County:

Property was held by the county through delinquent tax sales.

Description/Natural Features:

The tract is mostly an even-aged stand of 175 to 250-year-old Douglas fir trees. Many specimens are four to five feet in diameter and approximately 190 feet tall. Density is not uniform. There are younger Douglas fir, red cedar, western hemlock and spruce of mixed ages, and snags are present. The understory consists of red alder, big leaf maple, vine maple, cascara, salmonberry, thimbleberry, huckleberry, elderberry, wild rose, ferns and Indian plum. The presence of devil's club in several locations indicates springs or wet areas. Numerous shade-tolerating wildflowers such as trilliums are present. A complete botanic inventory has not been completed.



The site is near but not contiguous to the South Fork of the Nehalem River. The site is relatively flat with some drop-off on the eastern side.

Cultural/Historical Significance:

There are no known archaeological sites on this property, but attention should be paid to the possibility during any trail building. This is one of the most significant, intact stands of Douglas fir in the county.

Geological Significance:

The site is near but not contiguous to the South Fork of the Nehalem River. The site is relatively flat with some drop-off on the eastern side.

Recreation Utilization:

None

Facility Inventory:

- Undeveloped
- U.S. Highway 26 runs through the bottom third of this parcel.
- Elsie Cemetery Road runs along the southern edge of the parcel.
- Red Bluff County Road runs diagonally through the northern portion of the parcel.

Development History:

Undeveloped

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- Off-road vehicle users have built a trail around the Weyerhaeuser gate to gain access to their property.
- An adjoining property owner has cut trees from county property. This is not a visually attractive property to have next to a county park.
- Some invasive species such as Scotch broom and evergreen blackberries are present, especially along the south side of the property.
- Since this is a populated area a very long distance from a garbage transfer station, illegal dumping is a risk for any development.
- There are two very wide spots on Red Bluff County Road which could accommodate parking.

NEHALEM COUNTY PARK (RED BLUFF)

Recommendations & Comments:

Operations and Maintenance

- Local residents should be consulted on what, if any improvements are to be made to this parcel and to seek local volunteers to help with maintenance.
- The property is flat enough that handicapped access should be feasible.
- Access onto Highway 26 is hazardous because of poor visibility. Trails crossing the highway are not feasible.
- Complete a more thorough biological inventory of this site.

Capital Improvements

- Consider limited park improvements, including:
 - Ø Primitive park areas and interpretive trails in the south part of the property
 - Ø Primitive trails
 - Ø Explore with ODOT the feasibility of developing parking facilities and vehicle access for this site.

NORTH FORK NEHALEM COUNTY PARK



Location:	Located between milepost 7-8 on Hwy. 53, next to the North Fork Fish Hatchery
Map:	4N 9W Section 22 – #1100
Size:	2.8 acres
Ownership Status:	County
Land-use zone:	Open Space Parks and Rec. (OPR)
Classification:	Natural Area

History:
n/a

Acquisition by County:
n/a

Description/Natural Features:

This is an undeveloped, isolated property that includes 300 linear feet of stream access and is adjacent to the state fish hatchery. There is fishing access on the north boundary of the North Fork Nehalem River.

Cultural/Historical Significance:
n/a

Geological Significance:

Located along the North Fork Nehalem River

Recreation Utilization:

This site provides bank fishing access for steelhead and trout fishermen.

Facility Inventory:

- Informal parking for approximately 12 vehicles
- Paved fishing access path leads to river
- Mature Douglas fir and spruce with lush vegetative understory

Development History:

Undeveloped

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- The site is not suitable for boat launch due to downstream weirs and obstacles.
- Public parking at site for stream access.
- Potential day-use facility with dispersed picnic sites and connecting trail with fishing access, interpretive site with associated instructional signage for picnicking.

**NORTH FORK NEHALEM
COUNTY PARK****Recommendations &
Comments:**

Operations and Maintenance

- Due to its location adjoining state lands, the county should pursue a partnership arrangement with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, including sale or trade of land, or development of limited day-use facilities.

SIGFRIDSON COUNTY PARK



Location: Located on Hwy 202 at milepost 11, Olney Area

Map: 7N 8W Section 18 – #3100

Size: 64.43 Acres

Ownership Status: County

Land-use zone: Open Space Parks and Rec (OPR)

Classification: Natural Area



History:
 In 1969, the community based “Save Klaskanine” group began seeking financial donations to purchase an option on 72 acres of land known as the Sigfridson Farm. The “Save Klaskanine” group recognized the rare opportunity to purchase nearly 3,000 linear feet of river frontage to maintain public access and high quality fishing opportunities for county residents and visitors. By the middle of 1969, the group had raised nearly \$300 of the \$700 cost for the option, and the county and the Game Commission were solicited for financial assistance. By the end of the year, Clatsop County purchased the property for park purposes. A science class at Star of the Sea School in Astoria has adopted this park (see Appendix P).



In the mid-1980s, the county leased 5.7 acres of the park, including the residence and farm buildings. A subsequent land sale of the leased parcel reduced the park from its original 72 acres to its current 64 acres

Acquisition by County:

According to county record, the property was purchased in December 1969 as park land by the county for \$45,000.

Description/Natural Features:

This county property provides stream bank access to fishermen along a stretch of the North Fork Klaskanine River downstream from the state fish hatchery.

Cultural/Historical Significance:

n/a

Geological Significance:

n/a

Recreation Utilization:

This is a heavily used public fishing area during the winter steelhead season and also used by summer trout fishermen. This park is just downstream from an active fish hatchery and is known locally for fantastic fishing. The site receives light usage as a day-use picnic area during the summer months.

Facility Inventory:

- Informal parking area
- Primitive trails

Development History:

Undeveloped

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- Day-use facilities could be upgraded to increase summer recreational use.
- Invasive vegetation exists on site.
- Primitive trails and erosion.
- Southern section of site may have value for sale or tree harvest.
- Portions of the park land, including a large open meadow, are inaccessible because of no river crossing.

SIGFRIDSON COUNTY PARK

Recommendations & Comments:

Operations and Maintenance

- Maintain park property for public fishing access and day-use area.
- Prepare master plan for site.
- Address knotweed and other invasive vegetation in partnership with the local watershed council.
- Review the costs and revenue benefits of developing primitive overnight camping at this site, including low impact tent camping south of the river.

Capital Improvements

- Consider park improvements, including:
 - Ø Pedestrian/maintenance bridge to access property south of river.
 - Ø Expanded foot trail system, including spurs to river edge.
 - Ø Improved entry and regulation signage.
 - Ø Day-use facilities, including parking and vault toilet.

SMITH LAKE COUNTY PARK



Location:	Smith Lake/Ridge Road, west of Warrenton
Map:	8N 10W Section 33 – #1300, #1400, #1600
Size:	2.56 acres
Ownership Status:	County
Land-use zone:	1400 & 1600: Lakes and Wetlands (LW) 1300: Single Family Residential (SFR-1) All three parcels are subject to BDO zoning overlay (Beaches and Dunes Overlay)
Classification:	Natural Area

History:

Designated as a county park June 14, 1995.

Acquisition by County:

Lots 1300 (1.18 acres) and 1400 (1.24 acres) were acquired by the county in a tax foreclosure on 8/7/36. Lot 1600 (.14 acres) was acquired in a tax foreclosure on 4/23/80.

Description/Natural Features:

Waterfront parcel providing potential public access to densely vegetated Smith Lake and unique Sitka spruce wetlands.

Cultural/Historical Significance:

n/a

Geological Significance:

Lake located within the dunes west of Warrenton with unique Sitka spruce wetlands.

Recreation Utilization:

Undeveloped

Facility Inventory:

Undeveloped

Development History:

Undeveloped

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- Public access to Smith Lake and Sitka spruce wetlands
- Lake is nearly non-navigable due to dense aquatic vegetation
- Dune management and onsite wetlands
- Potential interpretive site
- Potential non-motorized watercraft launch site

**SMITH LAKE COUNTY
PARK**

**Recommendations &
Comments:**

Operations and Maintenance

- Prepare master plan for site.

Capital Improvements

- Consider limited park improvements, including:
 - Ø Nature trail
 - Ø Interpretive signage
 - Ø Boardwalks and wetland observation areas

WESTPORT BOAT RAMP



Location:	Westport Ferry Road, ½ mile north of Hwy. 30, between milepost 70-71 on Hwy. 30, Westport area
Map:	8N 6W Section 36 – #408
Size:	27 acres
Ownership Status:	Leased
Land-use zone:	Lakes and Wetlands (LW) Heavy Industrial (HI)
Classification:	Special Use

History:

This site was developed as a large mill site in 1910 and operated until its closing in 1956 due to the low supply of large logs. The mill then burned down in 1957. The site was left and slowly has overgrown with plant life to its present state. Wood storage areas, docks and railroad loading areas were planked and some of the piers that supported the dock are still visible in the north section of property along the slough and Plympton creek.



Acquisition by County:

The county obtained an easement in 1972 to operate the existing boat dock/ramp and parking lot to provide public access to the Columbia River.

The county is currently working on a land donation agreement with Georgia-Pacific for the donation of this 27-acre site. There are concerns with contaminated soil around the old mill site as noted from site surveys completed by a hired contractor for the county. This land donation is on hold until these issues have been addressed. Site is currently leased.



Description/Natural Features:

This 27-acre site located in the town of Westport on the eastern edge of the county provides access to the Westport Slough that is a tributary of the Columbia River. The site

consists of a two-lane improved boat ramp, graveled parking lot, and one chemical toilet. This site provides access to the Columbia River for boaters, fishermen and hunters. The site is located on the eastern end of the Lewis and Clark Wildlife Refuge. It is primarily a wooded property next to the slough that offers access to the river as well as a place for bird watchers and nature enthusiasts. Plympton Creek is a small creek that runs through the western edge of the property and provides an excellent fall Chinook fishery to the local population and visitors to the area.

Cultural/Historical Significance:

Site of Westport Mill from 1910-1957.

Geological Significance:

n/a

Recreation Utilization:

Site is currently used for access by boaters, non-motorized boaters, fishermen and hunters to the Columbia River. Limited fishing occurs on Plympton Creek as it runs through the western edge of the site.

Facility Inventory:

- Two-lane boat ramp to Westport Slough
- Gravel parking lot
- Chemical toilet
- Stream bank access to Plympton Creek

Development History:

- (February 2004) Improvements to the boat ramp by installation of more base rock on the boat ramp for cost of \$11,985.

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- Property acquisition issues with Georgia-Pacific Company.
- Site remediation and clean-up.
- Potential "gateway park" status for Clatsop County.

WESTPORT BOAT RAMP

Recommendations & Comments:

Operations and Maintenance

- Complete land acquisition.
- Complete remediation and clean-up agreement with Georgia-Pacific Company.
- Complete site master plan.
- Review the costs and revenue benefits of overnight camping at this site.

Capital Improvements

- Consider park improvements, including:
 - Ø Day-use fee site
 - Ø Improved ramp and transient docks
 - Ø Improved parking areas
 - Ø Vault toilets
 - Ø ADA fishing access and platforms
 - Ø Expanded nature trails

> County-Owned Recreation Sites

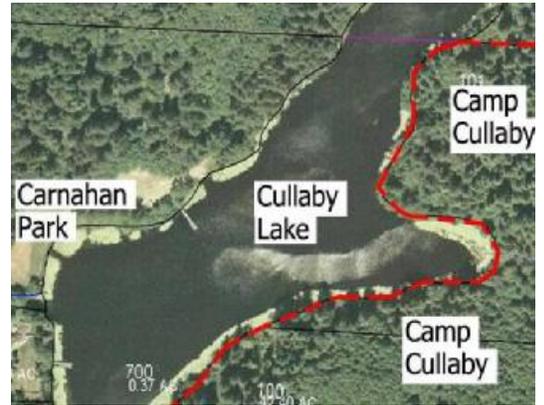
Pages 105-110 provide a detailed description of the county's six recreational sites, their location and size. Two of these sites – Camp Cullaby and Camp Kiwanilong – are leased by the county to organizations that provide camping experiences for youth; a third site is leased to the Lower Columbia Youth Soccer Association. The fourth, the Twilight Eagle Sanctuary, is on county-owned land, but is managed by the Oregon Bald Eagle Foundation.

The other two sites, DeLaura Beach and the Lewis and Clark boat ramp, are well known and heavily used recreational sites that have not been given official park status.

The DeLaura site, covering 164 acres of land along the ocean, has important historical, recreational and ecological values. The North Coast Chapter of Oregon Equestrian Trails, a statewide service organization, has adopted the DeLaura Beach property. Its members provide ongoing trail maintenance and garbage removal on the property.

CAMP CULLABY (CAMP ROYCE-FINEL)

Location:	Across from Carnahan Lake Park, Cullaby Lake Lane, ½ mile east of Hwy. 101 between milepost 13-14, south of Warrenton
Map:	7N 10W Section 15 – #101, #100
Size:	61.60
Ownership Status:	Leased to Boy Scouts of America (BSA)
Land-use zone:	Open Space Parks and Rec (OPR)
Classification:	Leased



Description/Natural Features:

Semi-primitive overnight camp located on Cullaby Lake across from Carnahan County Park. BSA refer to this site as Camp Royce-Finel.

Recreation Utilization:

Leased for private seasonal use.

Development History:

- Primitive site development to accommodate limited uses.
- BSA and County partnered on the development of a potable water system.

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- No county-approved master plan or management plan for future uses.
- Ten-year lease signed with Boy Scouts of America in September 2002 for a cost of \$1 per year.

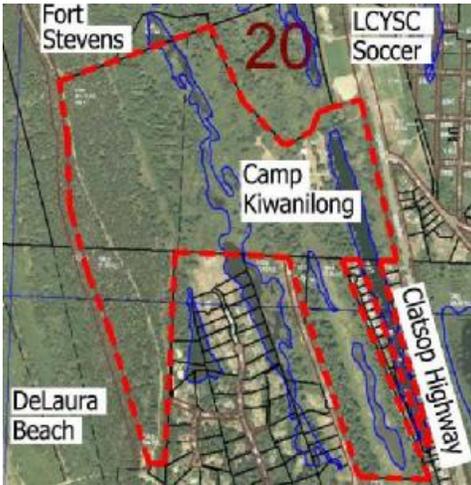
CAMP CULLABY

Recommendations & Comments:

Operations and Maintenance

- Review lease terms with BSA at expiration of existing lease.
- Develop long term lease with BSA or prepare master plan for site upon expiration of lease.

CAMP KIWANILONG



Location: West of Ridge Road, north of DeLaura Beach Road, Warrenton area
Map: 8N 10W Section 20 - #1710
Size: 190.57 acres
Ownership Status: Leased to Camp K Board
Land-use zone: Recreation Management (RM)
Classification: Share-use, Leased

Description/Natural Features:

Day-use and overnight camping, cabins and meeting facilities, leased to non-profit management. The camp is located in coastal dunes east of DeLaura Beach and includes several small lakes.

Cultural/Historical Significance:

Contains tree arboretum where the U.S. Soil Conservation Service conducted dune stabilization testing. The Camp Board signed a 99-year lease with the county in January 2004. The Camp Board is to present a plan for improvements, maintenance and programming of the camp to the county every five years. In addition, the Camp is to provide an annual report. See Appendix Q for article about camp's 70th anniversary.

Recreation Utilization:

Camping facility for large groups and is heavily used during summer.

Facility Inventory:

- Camping and Cabins
- Lodge facilities

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- No county-approved master plan or management plan for future uses.
- Review trail connection opportunities with DeLaura Beach and Fort Stevens.

CAMP KIWANILONG

Recommendations & Comments:

Operations and Maintenance

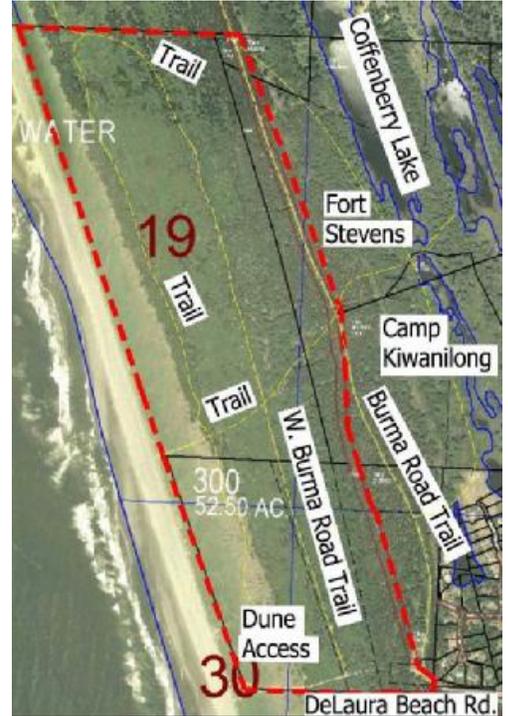
- RLPAC be asked to review the Camp's annual and 5-year reports.

DELAURA BEACH

Location	End of DeLaura Beach Road, 2 miles west of Hwy. 101, southwest of Warrenton
Map	8N 10W Section 30 – #300
Size	164.48 acres
Ownership Status:	County-owned recreation lands site
Land-use zone:	Recreation Management (RM)
Classification:	Natural Area

History:

In 1935, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) planted beach pine, Scotch broom and European beach grass and installed fences to stop the movement of sand which was encroaching on lakes and pastures. The development of the Warrenton Dune Soil and Water Conservation District in 1941 continued the CCC efforts. The stabilization of the dunes significantly altered the landscape and made possible the development of Fort Stevens State Park.



Acquisition by County:

Beginning in 1932, a variety of land purchases and trades occurred, resulting in the acquisition of DeLaura Beach.

Description/Natural Features:

This 164-acre county-owned recreation land provides ocean access and dune recreation opportunities for pedestrians, equestrians and bicycles. This landscape consists of sand, beach grasses, wetlands, pioneer plant species and pine and spruce forests.

Geological Significance:

Relatively young landscape is created by the Columbia River south jetty and dune stabilization efforts. This area includes an active sand fore dune running parallel to the Pacific Ocean, an interdunal valley that is seasonally flooded, an inland stabilized sand dune, and localized wetlands and forests.





Cultural/Historical Significance:

In 1882, a British ship – the “Cairnsmore” – beached on the Clatsop Spit. The ship lies on county-owned land and is buried under the sand. The ship was visible as late as 1914 before being completely covered by moving sand dunes. The construction of the south jetty at the mouth of the Columbia River caused the shoreline to move several hundred yards west. The area where the Cairnsmore beached is now a forest of shore pine and spruce.

In 1942, an artillery shell fired from a Japanese submarine landed near DeLaura Beach Road. A monument was erected at this location.

Recreation Utilization:

Currently, any recreational use taking place in the DeLaura Beach area is dispersed and not managed. There are no facilities or developments. DeLaura Beach Road does provide access to the beach; however, the beach is only accessible by high clearance vehicles.



Current recreational uses include hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, mushroom picking, paintball and beach activities. Fort Stevens State Park is the main supplier of designated recreational opportunities in the coastal dune land and shore pine settings. While these areas will continue to supply designated recreational facilities, there is a lack of free or low cost primitive recreational areas near the coast.

Facility Inventory:

- Undeveloped
- Extensive primitive and equestrian trail system connects with trails in Fort Stevens State Park and Camp Kiwanilong.

Development History:

- (1995) Master plan completed.
- (1991) Road improvements to reroute road and improve surface.

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- Large undeveloped ocean front dune landscape.
- High quantities of wetlands.
- This area receives extensive use of the trail system by local horseback riders and many from out of the area. For the past nine years the local Oregon Equestrian Trails Chapter has held a Poker Ride that brings approximately 300 riders and horses to use these trails.
- Most of these trails are maintained by local equestrians who also spend many hours every year cleaning up garbage in the area.
- Adjacent to Fort Stevens, Camp Rilea and Camp Kiwanilong.
- Nuisance activities including dumping and vandalism.
- High impact vehicular activities damaging fragile dunes and wetlands.

DELAURA BEACH

Recommendations & Comments:

Operations and Maintenance

- Update master plan.
- Clarify boundaries of this site.
- Designate site as a "county park."

Capital Improvements

- Consider limited park improvements, including:
 - Ø Developed horse trailer parking facilities at the south end of Burma Road.

LEWIS & CLARK RIVER BOAT RAMP



Location: South of Netel Bridge, between Logan Road and Lewis & Clark River.

Map: 7N 10W Section 12 - #900

Size: 2.8 acres

Ownership Status: State License to operate a boat ramp on submersible lands of the Lewis and Clark River.

Land-use Zone: Zoned AC-2

Classification: Special Use

Acquisition by County:

Per a 1996 Oregon Department of State Lands license, the county has permission to operate a boat ramp on the submersible lands of the Lewis and Clark River.

Description/Natural Features:

Public boat ramp on the Lewis and Clark River.

Facility Inventory:

- Boat launch ramp
- Primitive parking area

Development History:

- (1997) Boat launch ramp constructed

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- The current license is for a boat ramp only.
- The county does not have a written deed or other document giving it an interest in the uplands between the road and the submersible land.
- Improvements to the uplands will require acquisition, easement or long-term lease from the land owners.
- Potential OSMB grant site

LEWIS & CLARK RIVER BOAT RAMP

Recommendations & Comments:

Operations and Maintenance

- Acquire or secure use of uplands between road and submersible lands.

Capital Improvements

- Potential OSMB grant

TWILIGHT CREEK EAGLE SANCTUARY

Location:	On Highway 30 east of Astoria between milepost 87-88. Turn North onto Burnside Loop Road and go .5 miles to viewing platform
Map:	8N 8W Section 20 – 2000
Size:	15.3 acres
Ownership Status:	County
Land-use zone:	Recreational management, Aquatic Natural
Classification:	Special Use

History:

The purpose of the Twilight Eagle Sanctuary was to protect the area from eminent logging and future development. This effort was to provide habitat for use by the Twilight Creek eagles, including use by other wintering eagles and eagles from the Mary's Creek roost.

Acquisition by County:

Land was purchased in 1990 from Cavenham Forest Industries for the purpose of the Twilight Eagle Sanctuary. The funding was from the North Coast Land Conservancy and the Oregon Eagle Foundation through fundraising events and grants.

Description/Natural Features:

This site has a viewing platform located along Burnside Loop Road that views Twilight Creek Eagle Sanctuary. The viewpoint is located east of the actual sanctuary where you can view tidal marshes, open water and islands, and view hundreds of plant and animal species and thousands of waterfowl in the winter. The Twilight Eagle Sanctuary consists of 15.3 acres of upland forested area with wetland edges.



Twilight Creek Eagle Sanctuary

Recommendations & Comments:

Operations and Maintenance

- Establish a management plan to provide minimum level of maintenance, sanitation and security.

Capital Improvements

- Consider park improvements, including:
 - Ø Permanent vehicle barriers and/or improved parking area.
 - Ø Updating of the interpretive signs.
 - Ø Enhanced ADA accessibility including parking and platform.

Recreation Utilization:

Bird watchers and sightseers use this site to observe the bald eagles and many other species of birds, wildlife and the beauty of the lower Columbia River estuary.

Facility Inventory:

This site consists of one viewing platform with interpretive signs located along Burnside Loop Road east of the 15.3 acres.

Development History:

The viewing platform was constructed in 1990.

Management Opportunities/Challenges:

- Ongoing maintenance around viewing platform.

LOWER COLUMBIA YOUTH SOCCER FIELDS

Location:	East of DeLaura Beach and Camp Kiwanilong, 2 miles west of Hwy. 101, southwest of Warrenton
Map:	8N 10W Section 20
Size:	3.8 acres
Ownership Status:	Leased to Lower Columbia Youth Soccer Association
Land-use Zone:	R-10
Classification:	Special Use, Leased

Summary:

The Lower Columbia Youth Soccer Association signed a 10-year lease with the county on October 1, 2003. The lease requires an annual report regarding the use of the property the previous year.

**> Other County-Owned Actual or Potential
Recreational Sites**

The Task Force collaborated with the county’s property management specialist to determine if other county-owned land is currently being used for recreation or has the potential to be designated and developed for this purpose. Sites in this category are shown below and on the next two pages with their management recommendation.

Following are the parcels identified that provide water access and the disposition recommended by the Task Force:

Table 24– Undeveloped County-Owned Water Access Sites

SITE	RECOMMENDATION
Knappa dock	Develop a plan for improvement; designate as a county park.
Walluski River boat access	Develop as a non-motorized boat site; designate as a county park.
Rodney Road parcels on the Skipanon River	Natural wetlands deserving of protection. Explore feasibility of a small floating dock at the Perkins Road bridge, about 0.5 miles down the road.
Tansy Creek parcel	Need to clarify ownership of this vacated road and determine future development to occur on adjacent property before disposition is decided.
Fort Stevens parcel	The state may have interest in buying or trading this 72.3-acre parcel of county land on the ocean within Fort Stevens.
Skipanon Peninsula	Hold for future development or wetland mitigation project

See Appendix T for additional information relating to each county-owned actual or potential recreation sites.

The following three sites have trails that are either currently being used for recreation by Clatsop County residents, or have potential for this use:

- Claremont Road: This site, next to ODF’s Claremont parcel should be retained an interpretive/educational site. [Note: ODF’s Claremont parcel is part of the G & N Land Exchange – currently held up because of an appeal in State Court.]
- North of County Public Works: Approach Astoria Middle School about renewing agreement for nature trails. Depending on the future location of Public Works, site may have significantly increased value in the future.
- Williamsport Road Parcels: See below.

See Appendix U for additional information regarding these parcels.

Williamsport Road parcels

This complex set of Williamsport Road parcels owned by Clatsop County, near the Astoria Column and Williamsport Road, requires careful consideration. The Task Force has divided them into the following groups:

- Groups #1 and #2 total 187 acres. They are located on both sides of Williamsport Road and include parcels east of the Astoria Column and north of the city’s high-pressure water reservoir. These properties are laced with user-created trails (Appendix H-6) that wind through a mature forest.
- Group #3 parcels total eight acres. They are located below the waste disposal and recycle center on both sides of Williamsport Road. The area west of Williamsport Road has recently had some residential development. The area east of the road is very low and swampy.

> Williamsport Road – Groups #1 and #2 Recommendation:

Negotiate a sale to City Parks or a conservancy group that would have deed restrictions to protect these areas for future generations. Any funds or proceeds should be designated to the Park and Land Acquisition and Maintenance Fund.

Williamsport Road – Group #3 Recommendation:

The area west of Williamsport Road should be evaluated for other use. Group #3 east of the road should be evaluated for sale.

> Camping Facilities

Car camping with a tent and RV/trailer camping are popular activities, ranked 10th and 15th in our local survey. Moreover, tent camping ranked sixth and RV/trailer camping 12th when survey participants were asked the specific activities they are interested in and want to know more about. Overnight camping facilities are a primary requirement.

At this time, the only camping facilities on county-owned land are the two leased youth camps; these are Camp Kiwanilong and Camp Cullaby. The county managed the Spruce Run Campground under a lease agreement until 2002. This facility is now managed by ODF as Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground. Clatsop County Parks may allow overnight self-contained RV/trailer camping at John Day Park in 2006.

The Task Force has identified the potential for camping at other county parks in the following priority order:

- Westport*
- Cullaby Lake
- Big Creek
- Klootchey Creek
- Sigfridson
- Lee Wooden/Fishhawk Falls

*The county is negotiating the acquisition.

These projects should be developed by Clatsop County Parks in collaboration with the RLPAC. The sequence and priority of developing camping facilities will depend on multiple factors including projected demand, availability of grant funds, staffing required and net impact on the Clatsop County Parks operating budget. Without question, the work involved in planning, seeking grants, designing, estimating revenue and expenses for these facilities – as well as operating and maintaining them – will require additional personnel. The

“I love to tent camp, but sometimes certain parks are too crowded, or they do not have enough open area.”
Survey respondent
Astoria
August, 2005

> Recommendation:
Clatsop County Parks and RLPAC begin to develop a plan for adding camping facilities at each of the listed county parks.

“I would like to know more about tent camping in less-populated areas. Sometimes the amount of people is overwhelming. I definitely would camp more at your parks if I knew more secluded areas.”
Survey respondent
Astoria
August, 2005

intention is to create facilities that generate revenue and address unmet public needs.

***Adjacent county park
2005 camping fees at a
glance ...***

Columbia County

Day use:
\$2 per motor vehicle

Campsite with hookups:
\$18 per night

Campsite without hookups:
\$14 per night

Bicyclist/hiker overnight:
\$5 per night

Tillamook County

Day use:
\$2 per motor vehicle

Designated campsite:
\$10-\$20 per night

RV hookup site:
\$20-\$25 per night

Hiker/biker campsite:
\$5 per night

Tillamook and Columbia counties have made a significant investment in camping facilities. Their fee structures are shown on charts in Appendix K (see sidebar for fees at a glance).

> Land and Water Trails Proposals

The Task Force recommends that the county, through the creation of a Regional Recreation Council, support the following efforts within its own sites as well as throughout the county:

- Improve and link existing trails.
- Create uniform user guidelines and consistent signage.
- Expand existing or create new trails.
- Develop and maintain a database of approved trails.

The primary means of developing these plans and proposals among landowners will be through the Regional Recreation Council (See Goal 5). We recommend that the county specifically support the need to:

- Connect trails in the Clatsop State Forest with those in the Tillamook State Forest.
- Use the public right-of-way along the railroad tracks to extend Astoria's Riverwalk both east and west.
- Connect Cullaby/Carnahan Parks to the Fort-to-Sea Trail.
- Connect the County Fairground/ODF District Office area with trails in the Astoria basin.
- Establish a water trail from Klootch Creek Park to Seaside.
- Identify and improve both motorized and non-motorized boat launch sites.
- Support development of the Lower Columbia Water Trail (Appendix H-3).