

## **9 > PARK SYSTEM SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS AND CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST**

*Clatsop County's diverse recreational holdings are among our most valuable assets. Following is a summary of our recommendations for meeting park and recreation needs of county residents and visitors, followed by procedural recommendations.*

### **> Introduction**

The all-volunteer Recreational Lands Master Plan Task Force invested many hours in collecting data, developing recommendations and preparing this report. The relevant recommendations, based on goals, policies and priorities identified during the inventory and planning process, have been extracted from the main body of this report and are listed on the following pages. Recommendations for individual parks and recreation lands are contained on pages 72-112.

The action plan will help guide the county and its partners as they make the necessary long-term planning and financial decisions regarding county parks and recreational lands. This plan will also allow the public to better understand their park system, take a sense of ownership in it, and support the type of improvements that are being proposed in the plan. Ultimately, it will help us realize our vision for a park system that is a vital and publicly recognized contributor to a vibrant, growing economy and healthy, active citizenry.

Four recurring themes were identified during this planning process:

- **Improve the parks**
- **Connect with the community**
- **Link the recreational resources**
- **Fund the parks**

In this chapter, the objectives and actions that the Task Force would like to see addressed for each of these themes are summarized in the pages that follow. Those that the Task Force would like to see accomplished during the next three years are listed first in priority number order. These that follow are the ones that the Task Force believes can be accomplished over the next ten years.

## **Improve the parks**

- 1. Focus immediately on signage, appearance and maintenance.**
  - Establish consistent, high-quality and recognizable identity for Clatsop County parks and recreational lands, including uniform park entry and rules signage.
  - Display information about the entire park system at each developed county park.
  - Establish county-wide development, building and maintenance standards.
- 2. Establish the exact boundaries and ownership of all county parks, recreational lands and other lands available for recreation, with special attention to Aldrich Point, Westport, DeLaura Beach and the Lewis and Clark boat ramp.**
- 3. Provide more restroom facilities.**
- 4. Recommend that parks management develop a strategic plan for implementing new camping facilities at Big Creek, Cullaby Lake, Klootchey Creek, Lee Wooden/Fishhawk Falls, Sigfridson and Westport.**
- 5. Designate DeLaura Beach as a county "Park" and direct Clatsop County Parks and RLPAC to develop a plan to protect onsite natural resources and develop limited park facilities.**

*Other recommendations:*

### **Planning**

- Strive to locate parks close to population centers.
- Create a policy for the acquisition, development and disposal of parks and recreational lands that addresses long-term county needs.
- Rezone all park lands to the RM (Recreation Management) zone.

## Management

- Reorganize the parks section within the county's public works department to gain greater efficiency in the utilization of personnel, equipment and materials.
- Provide park facilities that are safe and accessible for their designated uses.
- Consider implementing ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility standards within existing facilities, e.g., new handicapped-accessible fishing platforms at existing park sites.
- Increase the number of maintained trails in each park.
- Increase the number of designated fishing locations.
- Identify and improve both motorized and non-motorized boat launch sites.
- Designate the Lewis & Clark boat ramp as a county "Park" based on a sale, lease, donation or easement agreement being reached with the current owner of the site.

## Environmental

- Complete a system-wide Natural Resources Inventory to be used to protect and enhance the environment.
- Practice environmentally responsible park management.
- Provide staff training on issues of resource management and protection.
- Implement a noxious weed control program.
- Develop and implement a "green purchasing" program for park maintenance and operations.

## **Connect with the community**

- 1. Use various media, such as newsletters, interpretive panels and the county's Web site, to highlight the parks' natural and cultural resources.**
  - Create a parks brochure detailing all parks facilities.
- 2. Expand use of volunteers and partnership to aid in maintenance, construction and enjoyment of the parks. Example:**
  - Expand the Adopt-A-Park program, encouraging area schools, businesses and other community organizations to participate.
- 3. Preserve the park inventory data collected during the process of producing this report and regularly update.**
- 4. Sponsor public events that highlight the county's unique natural and cultural features.**

*Other recommendations:*

### **Marketing**

- Develop a marketing plan, including cross-marketing opportunities with other recreational providers, to highlight the county's scenic, recreational and cultural qualities as an important part of a desirable, healthy lifestyle.
- Identify opportunities to collaborate on recreational maps and other visitor information.

### **Special Use**

- Consider special-use areas, including off-leash dog parks.

## **Link the recreational resources**

### **1. Establish a permanent Regional Recreation Council of local, county, state, federal and private recreation providers in Clatsop County to improve and integrate regional park and trail developments.**

- Fund a 1 /4-time position for six months to staff the council.
- (See Appendix N for the proposed council charter, including major goals, composition of membership, staffing, etc.)

### **2. Strive to increase connectivity between parks and adjacent recreation areas. Examples:**

- Connect the trails being developed 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 the trails in the Astoria basin.
- Establish a water trail from Klootch Creek Park to Seaside.

### **3. Incorporate inventories of all park and recreation facilities, including parks, sport fields, trails, recreational lands, historic sites and other relevant data, into the county's geographical information system (GIS).**

### **4. Create a Land and Water Trails Plan.**

- Identify and investigate opportunities to secure public access to rivers, streams and lakes, as well as significant trails and natural or historic sites.
- Identify and improve both motorized and non-motorized boat launch sites.
- Support Lower Columbia Water Trail development.

*Other recommendation:*

#### Security

- Coordinate with other law enforcement and security personnel to share patrolling of county parks as appropriate.

#### **Fund the Parks**

- 1. Increase the Parks Acquisition and Maintenance Account through the sale of parcels in the Williamsport Road area and the parcels in Fort Stevens.**
- 2. Determine if State County Park Assistance Program funding can be increased by recognition of the camping facilities at Camp Kiwanilong and Camp Cullaby.**
- 3. Consider establishing a systems development charge (SDC) for new residential construction within the county to provide funding for park capital improvements.**
- 4. Expand user fee and revenue from the state by adding new camping facilities.**
- 5. Fund other parks' capital improvement projects (see page 137-139).**
- 6. Investigate the establishment of a "Friends of the Parks" foundation to increase fundraising.**
- 7. Assign to parks a portion of the revenue the county retains from ODF for its camping facilities.**

*Other recommendations:*

#### Efficiency

- Maximize use of volunteers, partnerships, offender work crews and inter-jurisdictional efforts.
- Reward and encourage efficiencies in the parks' structure and operation.

- Review staffing needs as expanded park operations are considered and measure associated costs when determining project feasibility.

#### Leveraging Funds

- Continue to aggressively pursue grants from state, federal and private sources.
- Leverage appropriate revenue generating potential of the county parks, including a graduated fee schedule for county/non-county residents.
- Develop methods for utilizing the ODOT county highway fund for park and trail improvements.

#### **> Procedural Recommendations**

Achieving the Task Force’s vision for the county’s park and recreational lands will require the coordinated planning and effort of many people. To increase the likelihood of success, we recommend the following procedural recommendations:

1. The county’s administrative staff shall prepare an implementation strategy of the recommendations in this report for consideration and approval by the Board of Commissioners.
2. Within a year after this Master Plan is approved, RLPAC shall propose changes to the county’s Goal 8 Comprehensive Plan that bring the Goal 8 document in sync with the Master Plan.
3. Each year, RLPAC shall prepare a report that summarizes the progress in meeting the recommendations in the approved Master Plan.

## **> Capital Project List**

This section includes the preliminary capital project lists based upon priorities and timeframe for completion. This list also identifies possible funding sources and estimated capital costs. It is anticipated that this list will be reviewed annually and updated to respond to:

- New funding opportunities
- Changed management and operations capacity
- Completed or modified projects
- New partnerships and volunteer opportunities
- Changing priorities and trends

We recommend that the Westport projects be given highest priority if constraints can be resolved regarding property ownership. The following order of priority is established by the Task Force for other projects:

- Cullaby Lake Park
- DeLaura Beach
- Big Creek Park
- Klootchey Creek
- Sigfridson Park
- Lee Wooden Park

It should be noted that other maintenance needs as they arise must be prioritized and may override projected capital projects.

**Table 28 – Capital and Maintenance Improvement Plan**

<b>Project:</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>2005 Cost:</b>	<b>Potential Grant Match</b>	<b>Cost to County</b>
<b>Aldrich Point</b>					
Park entry and rules signs	High	Short term	\$1,200	Unknown	\$1,200
Boat ramp/dock improvements	Med	Mid term	\$150,000	80% State Marine Board	\$30,000
Vault toilet (single stall)	Med	Mid term	\$15,000	80% State Marine Board	\$3,000
<i>Total for Aldrich</i>			\$166,200		\$34,200
<b>Big Creek Park</b>					
Park entry and rules signs	High	Short term	\$1,200	Unknown	\$1,200
Day-use fee station (manual)	Med	Mid term	\$2,500	Unknown	\$2,500
Paved entry road and ADA parking area	Med	Mid term	\$20,000	50% State Parks	\$10,000
Picnic shelter (24-foot)	Med	Mid term	\$20,000	50% State Parks	\$10,000
Site furnishings	Med	Mid term	\$5,000	50% State Parks	\$2,500
Playground	Med	Mid term	\$10,000	50% State Parks	\$5,000
ADA fishing enhancements	Med	Mid term	\$7,500	Volunteer/Partnership	\$3,750
Vault toilet (two stall)	Med	Mid term	\$28,000	50% State Parks	\$14,000
Campground with host site and two stall vault toilet	Med	Mid term	\$150,000	50% State Parks	\$75,000
<i>Total for Big Creek</i>			\$244,200		\$123,950
<b>Carnahan Park</b>					
Dock replacement (three 20' docks and brow)	Med	Mid term	\$55,000	80% State Marine Board	\$11,000
Expanded trail system	Low	Long term	\$5,000	Volunteer/Partnership	\$1,500
Off-leash dog area (signage, dog waste station and water)	Med	Mid term	\$5,000	Volunteer/Partnership	\$2,500
Interpretive signage	Low	Long term	\$5,000	Unknown	\$5,000
ADA fishing enhancements	Med	Mid term	\$7,500	Volunteer/Partnership	\$3,750
Vault toilet (single stall)	Med	Mid term	\$15,000	80% State Marine Board	\$3,000
Boat ramp upgrade and paving of parking lot	Med	Mid term	\$100,000	80% State Marine Board	\$20,000
<i>Total for Carnahan</i>			\$192,500		\$46,750
<b>Cullaby Lake Park</b>					
Replacement of Boarding Dock behind north restrooms	High	Short term	\$55,000	80% State Marine Board	\$11,000
Replacement of roof on South Picnic Shelter (metal roofing)	Med	Short term	\$13,000	Unknown	\$13,000
Replacement of roof on North Picnic Shelter (metal roofing)	Med	Mid term	\$13,000	Unknown	\$13,000
ADA fishing enhancements	Med	Mid term	\$7,500	Volunteer/Partnership	\$3,750
Campground with host site and two stall vault toilet	Med	Mid term	\$150,000	50% State Parks	\$75,000
Replacement of restrooms at south end of the park	Low	Long term	\$180,000	50% State Parks	\$90,000
<i>Total for Cullaby Lake:</i>			\$418,500		\$205,750
<b>David Douglas Park</b>					
Park entry and rules signs	Low	Long term	\$1,200	Unknown	\$1,200
Primitive trails	Low	Long term	\$7,500	Volunteer/Partnership	\$3,750
Parking area (primitive) utilizing old roadbed	Low	Long term	\$15,000	Unknown	\$15,000
<i>Total for David Douglas</i>			\$23,700		\$19,950
<b>John Day County Park</b>					
Replacement of roof on restrooms (metal roof)	Med	Short term	\$1,300	Unknown	\$1,300
Installation of park Host site	Med	Mid term	\$15,000	Unknown	\$15,000
<i>Total for John Day</i>			\$16,300		\$16,300
			<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$446,900</b>
			<b>\$1,061,400</b>		

**Time Frame: Short Term (1-3 years) Mid Term (4-7 years) Long Term (8-10+ years)**  
**Note: Costs do not include design and engineering services, permit fees or other soft costs**

**Table 28 – Capital and Maintenance Improvement  
Plan, continued**

<b>Project:</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>2005 Cost:</b>	<b>Potential Grant Match</b>	<b>Cost to County</b>
<b><i>Kloutchy Creek</i></b>					
Park entry and rules signs	High	Short term	\$1,200	Unknown	\$1,200
Day-use fee station (automatic)	Med	Mid term	\$20,000	Unknown	\$20,000
Expanded trail system	Med	Mid term	\$10,000	Volunteer/Partnership	\$5,000
Campground with host site and two stall vault toilet	Med	Mid term	\$150,000	50% State Parks	\$75,000
Boat ramp/dock improvements	Low	Long term	\$75,000	80% State Marine Board	\$15,000
Deck surface replacement (Trex decking, materials only)	Med	Short term	\$25,000	Unknown	\$25,000
Installation of Vault Toilet (two stall)	Med	Mid term	\$28,000	50% State Parks	\$14,000
<i>Total Kloutchy Creek</i>			\$309,200		\$155,200
<b><i>Lee Wooden Park</i></b>					
Park entry and rules signs	High	Short term	\$1,200	Unknown	\$1,200
Install primitive trails	Med	Mid term	\$7,500	Volunteer/Partnership	\$3,750
Install new access road, parking lot & gate, day use area	Med	Mid term	\$20,000	50% State Parks	\$10,000
<i>Total for Lee Wooden</i>			\$28,700		\$14,950
<b><i>Nehalem County Park (Red Bluff)</i></b>					
Park entry and rules signs	High	Short term	\$1,200	Unknown	\$1,200
Primitive trails	Med	Mid term	\$7,500	Volunteer/Partnership	\$3,750
Parking area (primitive)	Low	Long term	\$20,000	50% State Parks	\$10,000
<i>Total for Nehalem County Park</i>			\$28,700		\$14,950
<b><i>Sigfridson</i></b>					
Park entry and rules signs	High	Short term	\$1,200	Unknown	\$1,200
Primitive trails	Med	Mid term	\$10,000	Volunteer/Partnership	\$5,000
Pedestrian/Maintenance bridge	Low	Long term	\$100,000	50% State Parks	\$50,000
Site furnishings	Med	Mid term	\$5,000	50% State Parks	\$2,500
Day-use fee station (manual)	Med	Mid term	\$2,500	Unknown	\$2,500
Parking area	Med	Mid term	\$30,000	50% State Parks	\$15,000
Install single vault toilet	Med	Mid term	\$15,000	50% State Parks	\$7,500
<i>Total for Sigfridson</i>			\$163,700		\$83,700
<b><i>Smith Lake</i></b>					
Park entry and rules signs	Low	Mid term	\$1,200	Unknown	\$1,200
Primitive trails	Low	Long term	\$5,000	Volunteer/Partnership	\$2,500
Boardwalks, interpretive signage and wetland observation	Low	Long term	\$20,000	Volunteer/Partnership	\$10,000
<i>Total for Smith Lake</i>			\$26,200		\$13,700
<b><i>Westport</i></b>					
Park entry and rules signs	High	Short term	\$1,200	Unknown	\$1,200
Day-use fee station (automatic)	High	Short term	\$20,000	Unknown	\$20,000
Primitive trails	Med	Mid term	\$10,000	Volunteer/Partnership	\$5,000
ADA fishing enhancements	Med	Mid term	\$7,500	Volunteer/Partnership	\$3,750
Parking lot and boat launch upgrade	High	Short term	\$230,000	80% State Marine Board	\$46,000
Restroom installation (flush type)	High	Short term	\$110,000	80% State Marine Board	\$22,000
Installation of a RV/Trailer campground	High	Short term	\$500,000	50% State Parks	\$250,000
<i>Total for Westport</i>			\$878,700		\$347,950
<b><i>Delaura Beach (Recreational Lands Site)</i></b>					
Park entry and rules signs	High	Short term	\$1,200	Unknown	\$1,200
Install new access road and trailer parking lot	Med	Mid term	\$80,000	50% State Parks	\$40,000
<i>Total for Deluara Beach</i>			\$81,200		\$41,200
<b>Total Capital Costs</b>			<b>\$2,577,800</b>	<b>Total Costs with Grant Match</b>	<b>\$1,118,550</b>

**Time Frame: Short Term (1-3 years) Mid Term (4-7 years) Long Term (8-10+ years)**  
**Note: Costs do not include design and engineering services, permit fees or other soft costs**