



Work Session Summary Minutes

O R E G O N

Parks Update

July 22, 2025. 1:30 PM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Kevin Cameron, Colm Willis, and Danielle Bethell.

Board's Office: Matt Lawyer, Trevor Lane, Alvin Klausen, and Heather Inyama.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

Public Works: Kevin Thompson, Dennis Mansfield, and Brian Nicholas.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Valley Park Updates

- Parkdale park is 95% complete, with ribbon cutting scheduled for July 29th.
- Detailed draft letter prepared for residents with vehicle access gates.
- Security measures include:
 - Boulders and fences installed in parking areas.
 - Planned bollard installation for controlled access.
 - Specific provisions for residents' temporary access.
- Careful consideration of access rights and county policies.

Parking/Camping Updates

- Significant increase in parking pass sales:
 - 7,000 passes sold this season.
 - 369 annual passes.
 - Approximately \$44,000 in revenue.
- Parking fee analysis:
 - Does not deter park visitors.
 - Parks remain consistently full.
- Scotts Mills Park concerns:
 - Visitor behavior issues:
 - Rowdiness.
 - Alcohol consumption.
 - Inappropriate dress.
- Potential enforcement strategies discussed:
 - Increased sheriff's presence.
 - Potential designated parking areas.

Canyon Park Status

- North Fork is partially open.

- Bear Creek is open for daily use:
 - No camping.
- Salmon Falls is closed:
 - Reopening planned for April.
- North Santiam is open for camping.
- Packsaddle is open.
- Niagara is currently closed.
- Significant fire damage impacts multiple parks.

Reopening of Canyon Parks

- Salmon Falls Restoration:
 - \$500,000 allocated.
 - 65-spot parking lot planned.
 - New expanded restroom.
 - American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility improvements.
- Bear Creek Restoration:
 - Seeking \$1 to \$1.5 million in grant funding.
 - Planned improvements include:
 - Tent camping sites (up to 12 walk-in sites).
 - RV/drive-up sites.
 - Potential electrical hookups.
- Niagara Minimal Restoration:
 - Approximately \$255,000 budget.
 - Focus on:
 - Hazard tree removal.
 - Debris clearing.
 - Basic trail and parking lot improvements.

Level of Improvements and Amenities

- Trail Development Considerations:
 - Paved vs. gravel path options.
 - ADA accessibility.
 - Potential for varied trail surfaces.
- Revegetation Strategies:
 - Larger, faster-growing trees.
 - Diverse tree species selection.
 - Focus on forest restoration.
- Campsite Improvements:
 - Different site types (standard, premium).
 - Potential amenities:
 - Shade structures.
 - Well-drained tent pads.
 - RV hookups.
 - Site screening.
- Utility Considerations:
 - Balancing modern amenities with outdoor experience.
 - Cost-effective improvement strategies.

Next Steps

- Immediate Actions:

- Meet with city and sheriff about parking enforcement.
 - Finalize Parkdale resident access letter.
 - Explore grant funding opportunities.
- Long-term Planning:
 - Develop comprehensive park improvement strategy.
 - Continue seeking stakeholder input.
 - Prioritize improvements based on budget and community needs.
- Ongoing Assessments:
 - Monitor park usage.
 - Evaluate effectiveness of new improvements.
 - Adjust strategies as needed.

Adjourned – time: 2:32 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White