

GOAL 8 – RECREATIONAL NEEDS

A. GOALS:

1. Satisfy the open space, recreation and park needs of community residents and visitors.
2. Ensure a compatible variety of recreation opportunities.

B. POLICIES:

1. Existing park sites shall be protected from incompatible uses.
2. Low-maintenance, park and recreation use of floodplains and drainage ways will be encouraged.
3. Recreational activities will make use of environmental attributes of the area. Those which conflict with the local environment shall be discouraged.
4. Coordinate with public agencies in accommodating recreational needs and in the management of public lands.
5. Utilize the County Park Committee as an advisory body to identify the improvement and expansion needs of existing County parks and the location and design of new County parks.
6. Consider the park standards, projected needs, and plans prepared by the Recreation Section of the State Highway Division and the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District as guidelines in establishing County park development priorities.
7. Encourage both private concerns and other public agencies to expand facilities and to develop new facilities that will broaden the choice of local recreation facilities that will contribute to longer visitor stays and increased local employment.
8. Acquire park and open space sites as far in advance of development as possible in order to reduce acquisition costs and protect suitable sites from being developed for other uses.
9. Establish a system of County parks that complements other public and private recreation areas in attracting and serving visitors.
10. Expand recreation into a year-round industry that broadens and strengthens the local economy.

11. Achieve greater benefits from local recreation opportunities through a combination of both public and private development.
12. Recreational opportunities shall be made accessible to everyone.
13. Areas to be used for developed recreation facilities including auto campgrounds, ski areas, visitor centers, golf courses, etc.
14. Where the option exists, acquisition and development of linear parks connecting existing parks, parks to schools, schools to residential areas, business districts to residential areas and other similar linkages should be encouraged.
15. Compatible uses with existing parks include: farm uses except feedlots; forest uses as allowed in existing Zoning Ordinance; tourist and recreation related commercial facilities; open spaces (e.g., fish and wildlife habitats, natural areas, scenic views and sites, wilderness, historic places, recreation trails, etc.), floodplains, community facilities (e.g., church, schools, etc.) and residential.
16. The County supports the City of Hood River's Findings of Fact, Growth of Board Sailing in Hood River, as contained in the County Background Report under Goal 8 - Recreational Needs.
17. Improve transportation access to a variety of recreational opportunities.

C. STRATEGIES:

1. Master plans for each of the County parks are being prepared as finances become available. Future development in each park will be based on the master plan for the particular area. Development of the park areas will be precluded until a master plan is adopted.
2. A study shall be undertaken to determine how park sites can be developed with the lowest possible maintenance costs while still maintaining quality (i.e., use of native species rather than ornamental species, etc.) This study should be conducted by an ad hoc committee appointed by the County Board of Commissioners, or by the Parks Committee.
3. In accordance with budget allowances, recommendations of existing park needs outlined in the Comprehensive Plan Background, (1977) shall be instituted.

4. An educational and recreational center should be studied and located in the Columbia River Gorge. The urban outreach program of U.S. Forest Service should be considered.
5. The adopted Tollbridge Park Plan shall be adhered to. In addition the Plan calls for a bicycle path-pedestrian walkway between Parkdale and Tollbridge Park.
6. The State Parks Division shall be encouraged to develop Fouts State Park according to the Park needs and recommendation outlined in the Comprehensive Plan Background, (1977).
7. The development of the Oak Grove Watershed Plan (expanded Green Point Reservoir) shall be encouraged. This should create additional irrigation water availability, additional surface water for recreation and fishing, increased campsites and improved overall site development. The County should make this area more accessible for recreation by making necessary road improvements to Kingsley, Binns Hill or York Hill roads.
8. The design for the development of the expanded Green Point Reservoir and associated recreation facilities shall be presented to the County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners for approval. The County Parks Committee shall be given the opportunity to comment.
9. The perimeter of the developed ski areas should be as shown on map #15 of the Environmental Impact Statement. Master plans for Mt. Hood Meadows and Cooper Spur should be developed as soon as possible. Such plans should be offered to the County for review, and public hearings should be conducted by the U.S. Forest Service in the upper Hood River Valley.
10. The County Parks Committee shall inventory existing open space areas outside of "Farm" and "Forest" land use designations, and if it is found that it is in the public's interest to protect those open spaces, notify appropriate landowners of the opportunities to obtain open space taxation advantages under ORS 308.740 to ORS 307.755.
11. The County Parks Committee shall evaluate and recommend maintenance and upgrading activities in existing parks, and explore the feasibility of establishing new parks. Their recommendations shall be considered by the Forestry Department, Planning Commission, and Board of Commissioners in all matters relating to parks and recreation.
12. The County Forestry Department will continue to work with citizens and park committees, and will provide assistance through the budgetary process or with grant applications.

13. The County should consider purchasing land along the Hood River. If purchased, walking trails and other passive recreational facilities shall be provided.
14. The County will continue to review all future tax foreclosures for use as potential park sites.
15. Neighboring residents of clubs shall be encouraged to contribute to park development and maintenance.
16. The County will not require Planning permits for activities on public lands, but may request the opportunity for review and comment on all proposals on public lands in the County. County Building Permits could, however, be required by the Building Official.
17. The County Zoning Ordinance will be amended to allow golf courses as a conditional use in the Exclusive Farm Use(EFU) Zone. (Completed)
18. The Department of Land Conservation and Development supports the Golf Course Exception Area subsequent to completion of the following process (for details, see County Exceptions Document, Map #40).
 - a. To achieve compliance by December, 1984, the County currently zoned the golf course EFU.
 - b. After acknowledgment the following to be completed through a collaborative effort between the property owner, Hood River County and the DLCD.
 - (1) The property owner to develop a detailed design plan for the entire ownership showing all proposed uses.
 - (2) Justification be presented through the exceptions process supporting expansion of the Oak Grove Rural Center or other justified exception areas to assist in further justifying the Golf Course Exception Area.
 - (3) The property owner make application for a Plan and Zone Change for a residential PUD after Acknowledgment and justify an exception to Goal 3.
 - (4) The Department of Land Conservation and Development to provide support in justifying the Golf Course Exception Area.

19. Normal maintenance, rehabilitation, replacements, minor betterment, repair, improvements and other similar construction activities (as determined by the Planning Director) on State, County and Federal parks shall be exempted from the requirement of acquiring a Conditional Use Permit.
20. Bridle paths should be provided in the County. Cooperative efforts should be made by horse user groups, irrigation districts, and landowners to provide and maintain bridle paths.
21. The Scenic Forest classification on public lands in the East Fork Planning Unit located adjacent to the Mt. Hood Planning Unit should be changed to a General Forest class.
22. The County shall promote I-84/OR 35 as an alternative route from Portland to Mt. Hood recreation areas. The County should pursue additional signage on I-84 near Troutdale and Hood River that identifies OR 35 as an alternative route.
23. The County shall promote the marketing of the Mt. Hood Loop, the “Fruit Loop” and other tour routes within the County.
24. The County shall promote bicycle and water-related tourism and year-round recreation.
25. The County shall coordinate with the Forest Service and ODOT to provide adequate sno-parks to meet recreation demand.

D. LAND USE DESIGNATIONS AND STANDARDS:

1. Campground, picnic areas, and other developed recreation uses not having permanent buildings shall be allowed in floodplains.
2. Any subdivision will include open space areas sufficient to provide appropriate recreational opportunities for all residents of the proposed development.
3. As large apartments and commercial developments occur, land shall be set aside for neighborhood or district parks.
4. The Old Columbia Gorge Highway should be developed as a hiking, bicycle path, horse path, etc. Motorized vehicle traffic will be provided on these rights-of-way where appropriate.
5. The development of parks which are accessible by means of walking or bicycling shall be encouraged.

6. Adequate off road parking should be provided in convenient locations to facilitate hikers, cross-country skiers, etc. Specific sites to consider: (a) ½ mile north of Sherwood Campground; (b) across the highway from Robinhood Campground; (c) at Bennett Pass; (d) on both sides of White River Crossing; and (e) at Barlow Pass.
7. Bridle paths and additional miles of hiking trails should be provided. The trailheads of the bridle paths shall have corrals and other equestrian facilities.
8. Expanded campground facilities are encouraged in the Gorge, provided they are of small enough scale and character to be in keeping with the scenic qualities of the Columbia River Gorge. The site of the old Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp in Wyeth and other sites should be studied as potential campgrounds.
9. Access to the following trailheads should be provided: Perham Creek (Wygant) Trail Mt. Defiance Trail (#413), Herman Creek Trail (#406), Wyeth Trail (#411), Ruckle Creek Trail (#405), Cabin Creek Trail, and the trail to The Dalles-Sandy Wagon Road on Shellrock Mountain.
10. The provision of a shoulder wide enough to safely accommodate bicycles (Class III Bikeway) shall be provided on State Highways 35, 281, and 282 throughout their length in the Central Valley area.
11. As demand warrants, the State Highway Department shall be encouraged to provide access to Koberg Beach State Park.
12. The county supports the establishment of Nottingham Campground and strongly encourages its opening as soon as possible. When Nottingham opens, Sherwood Campground should be developed into a picnic area with convenient off highway parking. Sherwood should act as a roadside rest.
13. The County supports and encourages completion of a riding trail along the crest of the ridge east of the East Fork of Hood River to Bennett Pass. In addition the East Fork trail from Sherwood to Robinhood warrants support and should be completed as soon as possible. Overnight sites should be developed in non-fragile areas.
14. Neighboring residents should be encouraged to contribute to park development and maintenance (such as Oak Grove Project).
15. The County should reward neighborhood involvement in parks development and maintenance by providing signs or plaques of appreciation, etc.

16. In the Scenic Protection Zone, no more than one dwelling unit per lot or parcel is permitted, and the minimum new lot or parcel size shall be 40 acres. Limitations on use also apply.
17. Recreational Development Criteria:
 - a. Manage to maintain species diversity outside principal use area.
 - b. Retain existing water quality. Sewage will be subsurface on suitable lands or treated to maintain water quality standards.
 - c. Livestock grazing is not permitted.
 - d. Special harvest (programmed) meeting scenic and fire management objectives. Timber on BLM and Forest Service lands will be placed in a special category and not be part of calculated allowable annual harvest.
 - e. Developed recreation sites will be withdrawn from mineral entry.
 - f. Developed sites will include provision for necessary waste disposal, water, service roads and power. Environmental carrying capacity will determine maximum permitted use level.
 - g. Roads and trails will be designed to accommodate developed recreation use.