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# A Master Plan for Luckiamute State Natural Area February 2008 Newsletter

## Where Are We In The Planning Process?

As you may recall, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) has produced a draft master plan for Luckiamute State Natural Area, located along the west bank of the Willamette River in Polk and Benton Counties. The draft master plan evolved through several iterations and a series of meetings with an advisory committee and the general public held between November 2005 and November 2006. On January 11, 2007, the draft master plan was presented to the State Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission concurred with the content of the draft plan and told staff to proceed with the process for adopting the master plan and obtaining land use approvals from Polk and Benton Counties. The Commission also asked staff to continue working to address the concerns of some adjacent landowners regarding a proposed canoe access on the Luckiamute River. To address the concerns, staff consulted with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to answer legal questions raised by adjacent neighbors concerning the rights of the public who float the river, the rights of riparian landowners, and the risk of landowner liability if conflicts should occur. With the guidance provided by DOJ, staff are ready to proceed with the adoption process and county land use applications.

Minor updates to the draft master plan are also needed, now that time has elapsed since the draft plan was produced, and several minor corrections and clarifications have also been pointed out to staff. While no significant changes are proposed in the park development and management concepts, the minor updates, corrections and clarifications need to be incorporated into the plan. Staff produced an addendum to the draft master plan for this purpose. The addendum is available for public review together with the draft master plan document at the locations listed in this newsletter. The addendum is also enclosed with this newsletter. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the addendum together with the year-old draft master plan document in the rulemaking hearing process described below.

## Public Hearing Scheduled.

A public hearing on the draft master plan, including the enclosed addendum, is scheduled as follows:

**Time:** March 25  
6:00 to 8:00 PM

**Place:** Monmouth Library  
168 S. Ecols, Monmouth, OR

## What Will Happen At The Hearing?

No decisions will be made at the hearing. The purpose of the hearing will be to accept public testimony on the draft master plan including the addendum. Written testimony may be submitted for a period of 30 days following the hearing.

## What Will Happen After The Hearing?

Public testimony received at the hearing and during the 30-day written comment period that follows will be compiled and forwarded to the OPRD Director. Adoption of the master plan as a state rule by the Director will be delayed until sometime after the written comment period runs out and the Director has reviewed the testimony. Concurrently with the rulemaking process, OPRD is also initiating applications for land use approvals by Polk and Benton Counties. Adoption of the master plan by the OPRD Director will await the outcome of the land use processes. The date of adoption of the master plan as a state rule will be announced in the Oregon Bulletin published by the Secretary of State office.

## What Is Proposed In The Draft Master Plan?

The key proposals for the park include:

- Establish a park management and administration facility using existing buildings on the former Willamette Botanicals property.
- Develop a new south trailhead with a 20-car parking lot, vault toilet, hiking trails, an accessible fishing platform and wildlife-viewing site on the former Vanderpool property.
- Develop a park host site at the former Vanderpool home site.
- Develop a paddlers' access on the Luckiamute River with a 6-car parking lot and vault toilet on the former Baker property.
- Establish a park staff or caretaker residence at the former Baker residence.
- Redesign the existing north trailhead with 10 parking spaces and a vault toilet, and develop additional hiking trails on the original Luckiamute Landing property and the adjacent Baker property.
- Retain the existing boat landing and primitive boat-in camp on the Willamette River.
- Restore and diversify native habitat conditions in various agricultural fields and weedy areas in the park.

## Where Can I Review The Draft Master Plan?

**OPRD web site.** Materials published during this planning process, including the draft plan, any addenda to the draft, the final plan, newsletters, etc., will be available for review on OPRD's website, at [http://egov.oregon.gov/OPRD/PLANS/planning\\_luckiamute.shtml](http://egov.oregon.gov/OPRD/PLANS/planning_luckiamute.shtml)

**Local libraries.** Copies of the draft plan, any addenda to the draft, and the final plan will be provided to the following libraries:

- Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St., Dallas
- Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St, Independence
- OSU Valley Library, 121 The Valley Library, Corvallis
- Corvallis-Benton County Library, 645 N.W. Monroe Avenue, Corvallis
- Monmouth Public Library, 168 S. Ecols, Monmouth

**OPRD offices.** Copies of the draft plan, any addenda to the draft, and the final plan can also be viewed at the OPRD headquarters office in Salem (see address below) and the Willamette Mission State Park office at 10991 Wheatland Road N.E. in Gervais.

**If you need your own copies** of the plan materials, you may request copies by contacting OPRD. See the contact information below.

## Questions or Comments?

Please direct questions or comments to:

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