

# Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

September 17, 2014

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Agenda Item: 9a

Information

Topic: Beverly and South Beach Management Units Planning Update

Presented by: Jaime English

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## **Background:**

Beverly Beach and South Beach Management units along Oregon's middle coast are gearing up for the next management unit planning process. Existing conditions assessments are underway, set to be complete this December. Preliminary site visits by the planning team, issues scoping and initial public outreach will continue through the fall. Over the next year and a half the system of parks in these two management units will be evaluated and considered through a big picture lens. Challenges and opportunities will be identified and, with input from local communities and park visitors, a long range vision for the management of the parks will be developed by the Spring of 2016.

This timeline reflects an extended schedule based on lessons learned from the Columbia River Gorge planning process. The additional time allows for adequate stakeholder outreach and internal reviews. This schedule will also enable planning staff to work on other projects, such as park-specific master plans at new properties, park site designs, and statewide design guidelines. Target completion dates for the Bev-South MU planning process are listed below.

## **Schedule:**

- Resource assessments through December 2014
- Initial communications and outreach through February 2015
- Public Meeting I. Kick-off – February 2015
- Public Meeting II. Existing Conditions & Values – June 2015
- Public Meeting III. Concept Alternatives – November 2015
- Public Meeting IV. Draft Plan Review – May 2016
- Plan presented to commission for adoption - September 2016

## **Prior Action by Commission:**

**Action Requested:** none

**Prepared by:** Jaime English

# Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

September 17, 2014

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Agenda Item: 9b

Action

Topic: Willamette Falls MOU

Presented by: MG Devereux

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## **Background**

In June 2014, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission received an update on the Willamette Falls Legacy Project. The partnership between Oregon City, METRO, Clackamas County, and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) formed to help develop public access to the Willamette Falls and surrounding former paper mill site. OPRD has \$5 Million dollars in pass through bond money in the 2013-15 budget to help facilitate early development of the project site. The bond money is contingent on a public easement on the site to secure access to the falls and a finance plan approved by the Governor's office.

## **Current Status**

The partner group has drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the project needs and a role for each partner to move the project forward. This document will be the foundation of fundraising and project development. OPRD's role in the MOU will be to assist with coordination of Tribal input into the project and development of interpretive messaging. The MOU does not commit the agency to expend funds or ownership in the site. While this agreement does not require Commission approval, the project partners have asked that boards or commissions take an official position to help signify support.

The MOU represents the individual organizations commitment and strengths to move the project forward. The MOU is not the limit of OPRD participation. Agency staff will continue to look for ways to support the project partners. Staff recommends approval of the MOU.

**Prior Action by Commission:** None

**Action Requested:** Approval of Willamette Falls Legacy Project MOU

**Attachments:** None

**Prepared by:** MG Devereux

# Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

September 17, 2014

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Agenda Item: 9c

Action

Topic: Management of Bowers Rock State Park

Presented by: Dennis Wiley

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Establishment of Bowers Rock State Park near Albany was authorized by the 1973 State Legislature as one of five state parks to be acquired and developed along the Willamette River as part of the Willamette River Greenway Act. Authorized at 893 acres, to date 568 acres have been acquired. Current public access to the site is limited to entering the site from the river or pedestrian access via an easement along a narrow “private” road. Historical planning for the park includes a 1973 Master Plan Proposal and the 1989 Bowers Rock State Park Development Study but no plan was formally adopted. Both these documents identify additional neighboring farmland and residences to be acquired for the park and indicated the current access easement inadequate for a developed full service park that included major day use areas and campground. Additional land acquisitions and access development by OPRD have not had full community support. As a result, in 1997, Linn County adopted into their Land Use Element Code under Policies for the Willamette River Greenway 905.720, the following: *“The county shall designate the site for Bowers Rock State Park as Agricultural Resource on the plan map and Exclusive Farm Use on the zoning map. Development of the park is not supported at this time, it is recognized that Oregon laws and the greenway goal require county land use designations and ordinances permit the development, use and maintenance of Bowers Rock State Park.”*

The park is currently being managed as Willamette Greenway parkland consistent with the Greenway goal of providing protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitats and limited public access from both the river and upland. OPRD has recently been working with our partner the Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC) in the planning and pursuit of funding for enhancing the natural resource values of the site. During recent public outreach meetings led by the CWC, surrounding neighbors’ uncertainty of issues regarding public access and future acquisition and park development has led to their opposition of the proposed restoration projects, resulting in potential funders expressing concern about the viability of future grant requests. Confirmation by the Commission that no park development plans have been adopted will provide clarity to the local community that is needed to effectively manage the property as a greenway property.

**Prior Action by Commission:** none

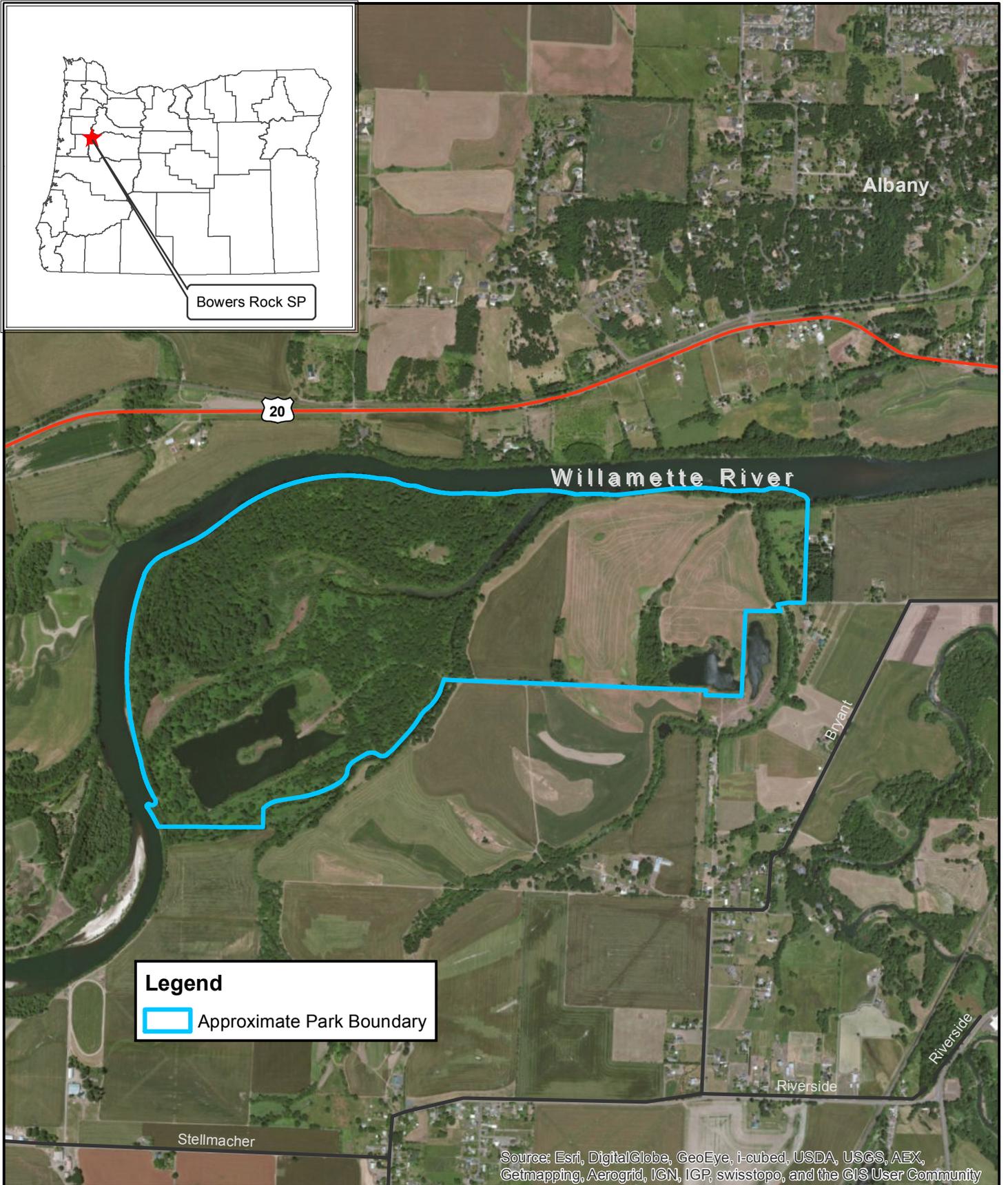
**Action Requested:** Confirm that Bowers Rock State Park is managed as a Willamette River Greenway property and direct staff to not consider any prior proposed master plan or development study as determining the future management of Bowers Rock State Park.

**Attachments:** Site map

**Prepared by:** Dennis Wiley

# Bowers Rock State Park

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