



Your Parks. Your Vision.

Come Join the Planning Process for
Oregon State Parks in the Columbia River Gorge
See reverse for meeting details

Why are we updating the old plan?

Shortly after the 1992 Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area Management Plan was implemented, OPRD's 1994 Master Plan for the Columbia River Gorge Management Unit was adopted by the State Parks Recreation Commission. In the nearly 20 years since these plans were created, recreation use in the Columbia Gorge has soared, recreation activities have evolved, parking needs have increased, and natural resources are more impacted.

OPRD is compelled by statute to plan for the management of natural resources and recreation activities on all state park lands. This current planning effort is driven by a 12-year cycle rotating around our state park management units with the Columbia Gorge identified as a high priority need by park staff. To plan for these parks OPRD is taking a comprehensive look at natural, scenic area and cultural resource conditions as well as the management needs, outdoor recreation trends in the region, and community partnerships with related ideas and concerns identified through public input further shaping the plan.

Our goal is to update the 1994 Master plan to address current trends of visitation, recreation activities and natural resource health. The updated plan will emphasize management strategies for the park facilities, natural, cultural, and scenic resources and the overall quality of visitor experience. This comprehensive plan will aid OPRD in its mission to protect one of Oregon's most special places now and into the future.

What will the new plan do?

- Summarize the existing conditions of OPRD parks, programs, recreation activities, and natural resources.
- Analyze the opportunities, needs, and constraints for OPRD parks, programs and recreation activities and natural resources.
- Describe the public involvement process and identify guiding values and benefits for the plan.
- Recommend strategies for the state park specific enhancements and overall management strategies relative to how state parks contribute to the existing recreation, cultural resources and natural resources in the National Scenic Area.
- Identify priorities for budget and phasing for identified enhancements and programs including long-term maintenance needs and staffing.

How can I get involved? Five Great Ways You Can Contribute to the Planning Process:

1. Visit www.gorgeparksplan.com and subscribe to our listserve for email updates.
2. Email your questions or comments to gorge.parksplan@state.or.us.
3. Talk to a Park Planner on the phone at 503-986-0723.
4. Send written comments to: Jaime English, OPRD, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C, Salem, OR 97301.
5. Join us for one of our four public meetings. See reverse for the schedule.

NO MORE PAPER?

To opt out of any further paper newsletters or to receive email notifications of upcoming meetings, please call: 503-986-0723 or email: gorge.parksplan@state.or.us.



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At our fourth set of public meetings park staff will present the draft comprehensive plan for state parks in the Columbia River Gorge. The draft plan will include summaries of the assessments, public input, park values and desired benefits, and final recommendations for the future vision and management of state parks in the Gorge. Public engagement and discussion at this meeting is important as this is the last in-person opportunity to share your vision for state parks before the plan is finalized. The draft plan will be posted online on October 8th prior to the public meeting. Go to: www.gorgeparksplan.com to review the materials ahead of time.

Meeting IV. Draft Comprehensive Plan

Cascade Locks

Date: Wednesday October 22, 2014

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Advisory Committee*
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. – General Public

Location: Port of Cascade Locks Pavilion at Marine Park
355 Wa Na Pa St.
Cascade Locks, OR 97014

The Dalles

Date: Thursday, October 23, 2014

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. – General Public

Location: Gorge Discovery Center
5000 Discovery Dr.
The Dalles, OR 97058

*The public may attend the Advisory Committee meeting however, only comments from the committee will be taken at this meeting.

**Services, Programs and activities of OPRD are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If accommodations are needed, please call 503-986-0723 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

What happened at previous public meetings?

At our first public meetings on August 14 and 15, 2013, we asked attendees to make their mark on the map and describe what they would like to see added, changed, removed or just kept the way it is at our state parks in the Gorge. Park planners then gave a presentation describing our process for planning state parks in more detail and what followed was an engaged discussion about what people feel is important about the Gorge. What we heard over and over again is that people love the Gorge because it is a powerful source of inspiration: to play outside, explore new places, learn about geology and history, connect with nature, and to create.

During our second round of public meetings on January 14 and 15, 2014, we presented existing conditions for state parks in the Columbia River Gorge, including recreation and facility inventories, land use, natural and cultural resources, and park surveys. We also presented draft values (Scenic Beauty, Natural Resources, Recreation, Heritage, and Community) based on what we heard at the first round of meetings. These values are recorded in the plan as existing conditions that should be preserved and prioritized during the planning process. The presentation is available for viewing at www.gorgeparksplan.com.

At our third set of public meetings on April 30, and May 1, 2014, we presented planning concepts, proposals, and management strategies for OPRD park properties in the Gorge. Many people commented on these initial proposals both in person and online. The enthusiastic public feedback has helped the planning team clarify priorities for managing state parks in the Gorge over the next fifteen years. You can view the presentation at www.gorgeparksplan.com.