

# Jackson County

## Parks System Master Plan

2004





# Special Thanks & Acknowledgements

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## **Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee:**

Steve Gies, Ashland Representative  
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# Executive Summary

Jackson County provides public park facilities to meet the outdoor and recreation needs of County residents and visitors. Parks enhance the quality of life of residents by providing affordable access to open space and activities such as fishing, camping, hiking, and boating. They serve as gathering places for community members – both formal and informal events are common at county parks. Additionally, native species of plants and animals, unique natural features, and important historic and cultural sites are protected and preserved by parkland.

In 1981 the Jackson County Parks Department created a 20-year parks system comprehensive plan to direct development, operation, and maintenance of Jackson County Parks. The plan provided a vision statement, long-term goals and objectives, an inventory of park facilities, and a capital improvement plan. Changes in demographics, economics, and park facilities necessitated a revision of the plan to reflect the current needs of the community and the parks system.

The 2004 Jackson County Parks System Master Plan is a supporting document of the Jackson County Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework for future park system development, management, and acquisition. This plan incorporates detailed demographic and recreation demand research as well as citizen input through surveys and community workshops. The plan identifies gaps in recreation services and will enable the Parks Department to proactively plan for future recreation needs.

## The Jackson County Parks Department

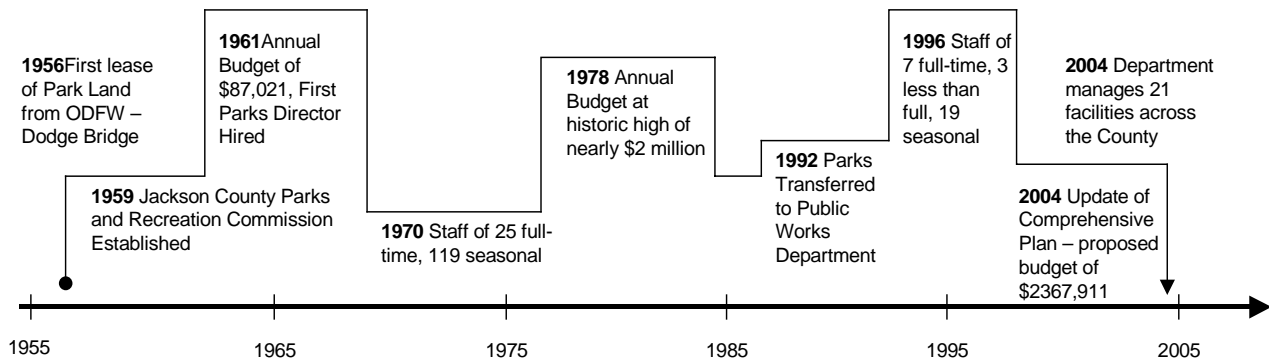
Jackson County has a long history of providing parks and recreation services. In 1959, the County established the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission and hired the first Parks Director in 1961. Since its creation in the latter half of the 1950's, the department has experienced many changes. In 1956, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife gave the County a lease on half an acre of land on the Rogue River that is known today as Dodge Bridge. This represented the first official lease of parks land for the County. It was immediately followed in 1958 by a 50-year lease from the Bureau of Reclamation on both Howard Prairie Recreational area and Emigrant Lake. This same year marked the first donation of land to the Jackson County Parks Department when residents Leland and Elsie Houk donated the 1.35 acres that are now known as Hooper Springs.

In 2004, the Jackson County Parks Department managed 21 facilities, including developed and undeveloped parks and open space areas. These parks provide a broad spectrum of recreational opportunities ranging from camping, boating, and fishing to oval track and drag racing. The range of recreational facilities managed by the Jackson

County Parks Department addresses a unique mixture of recreational needs that no other public or private entity can provide.

Figure 2-1 summarizes key activities of the Jackson Parks Department history since its first land acquisition in 1956.

**Figure 2-1. Jackson County Parks Department History**



## Demand for park facilities

Changes in economic trends and demographic characteristics such as age and income suggest changes in park user needs for Jackson County. The County Park Department should be flexible enough to address these changes to provide appropriate park facilities that reflect the desires of a changing population. As the population of Jackson County diversifies the recreational opportunities provided by the parks must also broaden its base. The following is a summary of key findings from this chapter:

- Jackson County’s unique geographic characteristics provide a wide range of recreational opportunities. These natural features should be used to create a unique opportunity to create an identity for the parks department.
- Jackson County’s economic base has shifted away from a natural resource economy to a more service based economy. Tourism is a more significant part of the local economy.
- Jackson County has a slightly lower median household income and higher poverty rates than those of the State. Income might affect park users’ willingness to pay increased fees.
- Income level effects recreational opportunity for people and therefore influences how they use parks. To serve a broad base of people the Jackson County’s Parks Department should consider the economic characteristics of the area.
- Traffic on State and County roads will increase as the population of the County and surrounding area increases. The

Jackson County Parks Department should plan to accommodate for this increase because it affects access and maintenance of parks and park facilities.

- Jackson County remains a leader in tourism. The Parks Department should take steps to capitalize on the County's increasing tourism economy.
- Jackson County is growing and population forecasts indicate 40,000 new residents between 2000 and 2020. The parks system should plan to accommodate for heavier use in the future.
- Jackson County's population is aging. This should be considered over time when planning for park user needs.
- Jackson County's demographic characteristics are becoming more diverse. The demographic characteristics should be periodically reviewed to ensure park planning reflects community needs.

Demand for recreation facilities is driven primarily by population growth, socioeconomic characteristics, and activity participation trends. The 2004 Jackson County Parks System Master Plan identifies the following issues and priorities in meeting demand for County Park facilities.

- *Enhance Community Awareness of Parks.* Community awareness of County park locations and facilities is an important element for increasing visitation rates. Specific implementation strategies could include: (1) increasing newspaper coverage of County Parks; (2) enhancing email and website exposure; and (3) improving park signage.
- *Enhance Existing Park Facilities.* Providing park facilities is essential to the success of the Jackson County Parks System. Park facilities increase the variety of recreation activities and enable more visitors to recreate at County Parks. Specific implementation strategies could include: (1) developing more hiking, walking, and biking trails; (2) capitalizing on scenic highways; (3) providing more boat ramps; (4) developing interpretative resources; (5) developing more RV camping; and (6) expanding equestrian facilities.
- *Increase Access to Water.* A concern of many Jackson County park users and residents is access to the County's water resources, including various lakes and the Rogue and Applegate Rivers. Access to water is of interest to many community interest groups, including boaters and rafters, fishermen, and swimmers. Specific implementation strategies could include: (1) Enhance and increase boat launch facilities; (2) Enhance and increase areas for swimming; (3) Increase foot access points; and (4) Development of a Water Trail.

- *Enhance Park Safety.* Safety was overwhelming rated the most important park feature by survey respondents. The Parks Department is passionate about providing a safe and enjoyable park experience for visitors, and enhancing those measures already employed by the Department will help avert future injuries, emergencies, and thefts. The following measures would promote the safety of park visitors: (1) increased law enforcement; (2) enhanced lighting; and (3) increased lifeguards at swimming areas.
- *Enhance Park Maintenance.* Park maintenance is an important concern for the Jackson County Parks Department. With extensive and widespread facilities, limited staffing, and tight funding, upholding high maintenance standards is an on-going challenge. Specific implementation strategies could include: (1) replacement and enhancement of restroom facilities; (2) litter and vandalism management; and (3) regular facility and equipment maintenance

## Park facility inventory

Jackson County has parks, forests, and public lands that provide a diverse assortment of facilities, services, and outdoors activities. Crater Lake National Park borders Jackson County to the northeast, and neighboring Rogue and Siskiyou National Forests provide access to outdoor recreation, as well as interpretation and education opportunities. The Bureau of Land Management also administers recreation activities at 41 locations in the Medford District. These sites represent a range of development types from minimally maintained trails and primitive campsites to fully developed recreation areas. Additionally, there are six Oregon State Parks in Jackson County that complement the County's 22 parks.

There are 22 parks in the Jackson County Parks System. Jackson County and the Parks Department own *and* operate 14 parks in the Parks System. Four parks are owned by state or local organizations and operated by the Jackson County Parks Department. The remaining four parks are owned by Jackson County and operated by concessionaires.

## Goals and policies

The following mission statement was adopted in the 2003-2004 Jackson County Parks Strategic Plan:

*To protect Jackson County's recreational resources and provide a quality County Parks system that meets recreational facility needs and provides recreational opportunities to the citizens and visitors of Jackson County.*

The County will implement the mission, goals, and policies in three ways:



1. Through the priorities identified in this plan;
2. Through the five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The County updates the CIP on an annual basis; and
3. Through the development of site-specific master plans.

The plan goals and policies collectively present a vision that Jackson County will work towards to meet the region's current and future park needs. The policies are detailed recommendations for projects or activities that the County should implement to fulfill its goals. Both the goals and policies respond to suggestions and concerns generated by the Jackson County Parks Advisory Board, by the public during the community workshop, the household survey, intercept survey, and the parks user survey. The County should use the CIP in coordination with the annual budgeting process to systematically fund parks projects.

## **System Wide Goals**

**Goal SW-1:** Provide a variety of parks and recreation facilities and services, throughout the County, to benefit the broadest range of ages, socio-economics, and special interests and abilities.

**Policy SW-1-A:** Plan and carry out programs and projects that anticipate and are responsive to changing needs and resources.

**Policy SW-1-B:** Create a master plan for each park that will guide future development, maintenance, and improvements of that park.

**Policy SW-1-C:** Create a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan and update Plan on an annual basis.

**Policy SW-1-D:** Develop parks that complement existing and planned city, state, and federal facilities.

## **Management**

**Goal M-1:** Reduce the County Park Department's reliance on County General Fund revenues.

**Policy M-1-A:** Create a business plan that identifies strategies to reduce the Park Department's reliance on County general fund revenue.

**Policy M-1-B:** Identify and expand revenue-generating activities.

**Policy M-1-C:** Ensure Parks Department is managed to operate within budget.

**Goal M-2:** Preserve and protect existing open spaces and corridors including land useful for recreation; waterways; the Bear Creek Greenway; wildlife habitat; trails; and areas with historical, cultural, or scenic values.

**Policy M-2-A:** Create and implement management plans in coordination with other agencies to identify, preserve and protect existing open spaces and corridors.

**Policy M-2-B:** In sensitive open spaces and wildlife corridors, limit recreational activities that are most damaging.

**Goal M-3:** Prioritize the management and maintenance of existing parks, while responding to appropriate and timely acquisition and development opportunities.

**Policy M-3-A:** Identify system-wide management and maintenance standards.

**Policy M-3-B:** Assess major maintenance needs for each park on an annual basis.

**Policy M-3-C:** Identify and provide adequate staffing to properly manage and maintain each park.

**Goal M-4:** Develop and manage partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as schools, private organizations, and businesses.

**Policy M-4-A:** Identify and document existing partnerships including roles and responsibilities of the County Parks Department and partners.

**Policy M-4-B:** Communicate with current partners on management issues.

**Policy M-4-C:** Seek input from appropriate outside agencies that may be able to assist in park development, maintenance, and management through future partnerships.

**Goal M-5:** Manage contracts with appropriate concessionaires and private businesses to provide services to meet needs that could otherwise not be met by the department staff.

**Policy 5-A:** Evaluate concessionaires on an annual basis to ensure adequate service.

## **Acquisition**

**Goal A-1:** Based on available resources, acquire and develop parkland to meet the current and future needs of the public.

**Policy A-1-A:** Acquire land along the Rogue River for river access and trails.

**Policy A-1-B:** Consider acquisitions that would expand the existing Bear Creek Greenway.

## **Trails**

**Goal T-1:** Partner with local agencies and jurisdictions to identify, protect and acquire trail corridors.

**Policy T-1-A:** Work with partners to create and expand hiking and equestrian trail networks that connect parks, forests, and waterways in urban and rural areas.

**Policy T-1-B:** Collaborate with federal agencies to develop trails that connect the Pacific Crest Trail to existing Jackson County Parks.

**Policy T-1-C:** Partner with BLM and other local agencies to meet the trail needs of ORV users.

**Policy T-1-D:** Plan for the development of Water Trails that utilize existing water access points and that encourage additional use of Jackson County's waterways.

**Policy T-1-E:** Work with partners and local citizen groups to create a Rogue River hiking trail that parallels the Jackson County section of the Rogue and possibly connects to the existing BLM Rogue River National Recreation Trail to the west.

**Goal T-2:** Collaborate with local agencies and organizations to further develop and maintain the Bear Creek Greenway.

**Policy T-2-A:** Strengthen collaborations with groups currently involved with the Bear Creek Greenway project, including local, state and federal government agencies and other partner organizations.

**Policy T-2-B:** Identify and collaborate with new organizations to expand the existing Greenway and link to existing trails and trail systems.

**Policy T-2-C:** Plan to extend the Greenway to Emigrant Lake and Eagle Point.

## **Development and Design**

**Goal DD-1:** Focus future development and design efforts to meet changing park user trends and needs.

**Policy DD-1-A:** As urban areas expand, create better linkages between urban areas and Jackson County parks.

**Policy DD-1-B:** Identify sites appropriate for development of yurts and consider development where feasible.

**Policy DD-1-C:** Identify sites appropriate for development of new or expanded RV camping sites and consider development where feasible.

**Policy DD-1-D:** Create long-term interpretation plan to develop appropriate and affordable interpretive facilities and amenities.

**Goal DD-2:** Encourage development of recreation areas and uses that minimize environmental impacts.

**Policy DD-3-A:** Preserve natural resource areas that have unique recreational potential and, when necessary, encourage thoughtful development of those areas.

**Policy DD-3-B:** Minimize the visual impact of new development.

**Goal DD-4:** Ensure access to all types of recreation activity.

**Policy DD-4-A:** Improve public access to undeveloped parklands.

**Policy DD-4-B:** Provide handicap accessible facilities and recreation opportunities consistent with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**Policy DD-4-C:** Maintain and expand recreation and open space opportunities for residents and visitors of all income levels.

**Policy DD-4-D:** When appropriate, accommodate ORV users in less sensitive natural areas.

**Policy DD-4-E:** Increase boat access points along the Rogue River to approximately every 3 miles.

**Goal DD-5:** Where appropriate, employ design standards that are cost effective and maximize long-term energy conservation.

**Policy DD-5-A:** Consider energy efficient fixtures in new and existing structures.

**Goal DD-6:** Seek funding to perform economic analysis of Gold Ray Dam and to determine future development directions.

## **Maintenance**

**Goal MA-1:** Continue to provide a park system that is well maintained to meet both current and future recreation and safety needs.

**Policy MA-1-A:** Ensure that all individual parks Master Plans address specific park maintenance needs, including roads and parking needs.

**Policy MA-1-B:** When appropriate, maintain facilities to meet ADA compliance standards.

**Policy MA-1-C:** Apply erosion control measures in environmentally sensitive areas such as lakes, stream banks, steep slopes, etc.

**Policy MA-1-D:** Ensure maintenance standards on existing interpretive and education facilities before developing new facilities.

## **Capital Facilities Priorities**

### **Land Acquisition Strategy**

The population of Jackson County is projected to increase by 40,000 between 2000 and 2020. To meet the increased demand, the county

needs to have a strategy for acquiring additional park, recreation, or open space land.

The Jackson County Parks System Master Plan advocates a thoughtful and conservative land acquisition strategy. The County must be conservative in its approach because of limited resources and the financial obligations that come with acquiring new land. Moreover, the County has already developed facilities at the most accessible and obvious locations.

The Plan identifies two acquisition priorities: expanding the Bear Creek Greenway and finding connections between urban and county parks. While these strategies are priorities, the Plan does not preclude the acquisition of other properties that fit in with the overall goals of the Plan.

## **Development and Maintenance**

Because of budget constraints, the Parks Department should direct the majority of future expenditures towards renovating, repairing, replacing, or expanding current facilities. In some cases, new facilities are needed, and should be added to the parks system. Because of current and future demand for park facilities, Jackson County Parks Department must maintain and continue to develop new facilities.

Based from the parks inventory, demand analysis, and the public involvement process, recommended development and maintenance projects for the next 20 years are listed below:

- Improved RV opportunities
- Develop yurts
- Expand interpretive facilities
- Improve park facilities and structures
- Partner to designate and off-road vehicle area
- Improve erosion control
- Improve boating opportunities
- Improve safety
- Renovate lodges and cabins
- Repair or replace basic park amenities



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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

Located in southwestern Oregon, Jackson County's unique natural and cultural features have attracted people for centuries. The discovery of gold near Jacksonville in 1852 and the completion of a wagon road, which joined the county with California to the south and Douglas County to the north, brought many pioneers to the area. Today, the county continues to be a destination for visitors and new residents.

By 2003, Jackson County had grown to 189,100 residents, making it the sixth most populated county in Oregon. The county experienced tremendous growth throughout the 1980s and 1990s – a trend that is expected to continue through the next decade.

Historically, Jackson County has relied on a natural resource based economy. However, significant economic changes have occurred in recent decades, making the county less reliant on natural resources. Today, tourism and recreation are becoming an important industry for Jackson County and its communities. Major points of interest include the Shakespearean Festival, Historic Jacksonville, Southern Oregon University, the Peter Britt Music Festival, the Rogue River, and Crater Lake Highway.

## Purpose of the Jackson County Parks System Master Plan

Jackson County provides public park facilities to meet the outdoor and recreation needs of County residents and visitors. Parks enhance the quality of life of residents by providing affordable access to open space and activities such as fishing, camping, hiking, and boating. They serve as gathering places for community members – both formal and informal events are common at county parks. Additionally, native species of plants and animals, unique natural features, and important historic and cultural sites are protected and preserved by parkland.

Providing resources for the development, operation, and maintenance of park systems is a continual challenge for local governments. To address these challenges, many communities adopt parks master plans to identify priorities and match resources with future management goals and capital improvements.

Parks planning is an important process that:

- Protects existing park facilities
- Enables citizen participation
- Identifies park priorities
- Addresses challenges and opportunities

- Outlines a long-term capital improvement program
- Determines land acquisition criteria

In 1981 the Jackson County Parks Department created a 20-year parks system comprehensive plan to direct development, operation, and maintenance of Jackson County Parks. The plan provided a vision statement, long-term goals and objectives, an inventory of park facilities, and a capital improvement plan. Changes in demographics, economics, and park facilities necessitated a revision of the plan to reflect the current needs of the community and the parks system.

**Growth creates additional demand for park and recreation facilities**

The Jackson County Parks System Master Plan is a supporting document of the Jackson County Comprehensive Plan. Once this plan is adopted by Board of County Commissioners it will be incorporated in the Jackson County Comprehensive Plan by ordinance and reference.<sup>1</sup> The Parks System Master Plan provides a vision for the entire County parks system and is intended to guide development and ensure that the recreation needs of the county are achieved. This Plan is a *system wide* plan, meaning it covers broad, park system issues. Individual parks are addressed in more detailed, specific park master plans.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework for future park system development, management, and acquisition. This plan incorporates detailed demographic and recreation demand research as well as citizen input through surveys and community workshops. The plan identifies gaps in recreation services and will enable the Parks Department to proactively plan for future recreation needs.

## Jackson County Parks Planning Process

The National Recreation and Park Association recommends a “systems approach” to parks and recreation planning. This approach “places an importance on locally determined values, needs, and expectations.”<sup>2</sup> This planning strategy provides guidance for communities so that they may create a plan that is sensitive to the unique social, economic, and institutional structures of the community. The plan becomes a guide for decision makers, which ensures the park, recreation, and open space needs of the community are met. These needs are also based on the financial and economic realities of the area.

The systems approach to parks planning addresses complex social, economic, political, and environmental influences on the implementation of a parks master plan. Planning must produce action,

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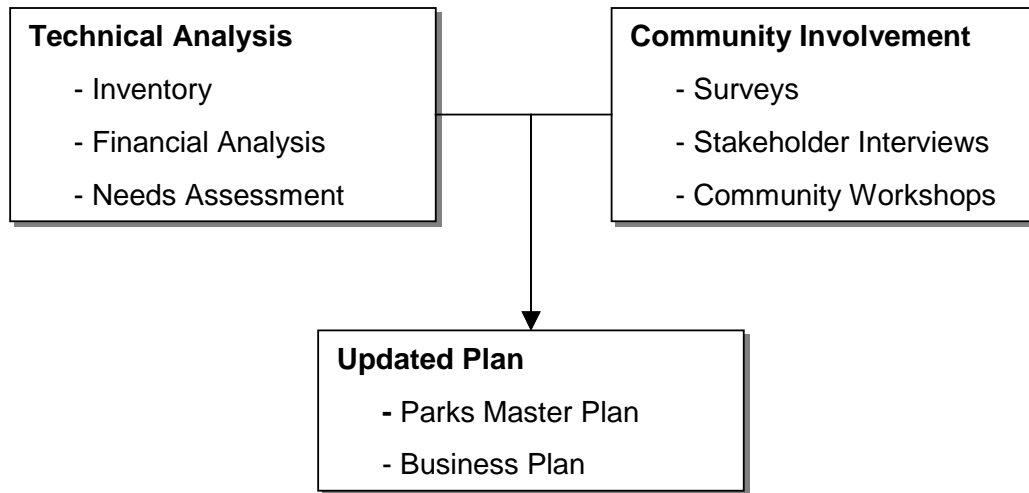
<sup>1</sup> Paul Korbolic, Jackson County Roads & Parks Director; 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Paul Korbolic, Jackson County Roads & Parks Director; 2004.

not just plans. In order to realize this goal, planning must involve collaboration and involvement of multiple stakeholder groups.<sup>3</sup> This master plan uses the systems approach.

Figure 1-1 shows the steps in the Jackson County Parks planning process. The development of this plan employed a variety of research, citizen involvement, and analytical techniques. The initial stages of the planning process included research of demographic and economic characteristics of Jackson County. The inventory was then conducted to identify the condition and quantity of park facilities and amenities.

**Figure 1-1. Jackson County Parks Planning Process**



Source: Community Planning Workshop

The planning process employed several activities that enabled local citizens to share the needs and desires of the community. The process included a community workshop, which provided community input on possible park improvements. Three surveys were also conducted, including an intercept, household, and user survey. The intercept and user surveys were used to gather information specific to park users. The household survey was used to gather information specific to County residents. Additionally, a parks staff focus group was conducted to better understand the concerns within the parks department.

Community input was later used to conduct the demand analysis within this plan. Capital improvements were then determined based from the level of demand.

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<sup>3</sup> Mertes, James D. and James R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. National Recreation and Park Association (1995), (p. 8).

## How This Plan Relates to Other Plans in the Region

Oregon passed Senate Bill 100 (ORS 197) in 1973 – requiring all cities and counties to adopt comprehensive plans. The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) oversees the implementation of this state law by ensuring local comprehensive plans are aligned with the 19 Statewide Planning Goals. Local comprehensive plans guide land-use decisions regarding, but not limited to, transportation, parks and recreation, natural resources, housing, and economic development.

Statewide Planning Goal 8 – *Recreation Needs*, requires local comprehensive plans to “satisfy the recreational needs of the citizens of the state and visitors and, where appropriate, to provide for the necessary recreational facilities including destination resorts.”<sup>4</sup> Jurisdictions throughout Oregon create parks master plans to address specific issues related to meeting Statewide Planning Goal 8.

**A Parks Master Plan provides guidelines for insightful future development**

This parks plan may be referenced by organizations and governing bodies to coordinate recreation opportunities in the area. Although this master plan addresses recreation opportunities, the analysis and future development goals may influence plan making by federal, state, local, and private organizations throughout the region.

The Parks System Master Plan is accompanied by a Business Plan for the Jackson County Parks System. The Parks Master Plan identifies park system goals and priorities, while the Business Plan offers specific recommendations concerning the allocation of resources to achieve those goals and priorities.<sup>5</sup>

## Organization of the Park System Master Plan

The content of this plan is presented in the following 6 chapters and five appendices:

*Chapter 2 County Parks Department* details the history, structure, management, and funding of the parks department, as well as collaborative relationships and concession agreements with other organizations. It gives the context of the parks department and highlights current conditions and trends that are the starting point of this plan.

*Chapter 3 System Master Plan Goals and Policies* outlines the goals and policies of the Jackson County Parks Plan. The goals and policies are the foundation of this plan. They provide the means and processes by which the parks system will meet the recreation needs of residents and visitors of Jackson County. The goals and policies are divided into

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<sup>4</sup> Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 660, Division 015, Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines.

<sup>5</sup> Jackson County Parks Business Plan. Community Planning Workshop (2004).

headings including: System Wide, Management, Acquisition, Trails, Development and Design, and Maintenance.

*Chapter 4 Community Recreation Setting* provides a detailed analysis of current demographic trends and transportation systems in Jackson County. This research ensures that the Jackson County Parks Plan reflects the current and expected populations that will utilize county parks for years to come.

*Chapter 5 Recreation Supply* is a comprehensive survey of recreation opportunities in Jackson County and neighboring areas. In addition to outlining state and federal recreation providers, Chapter 5 provides a detailed inventory of Jackson County park facilities and amenities. The parks are classified into River, Reservoir, Special Use, and Open Space Parks to enable convenient comparisons between parks with similar sizes, usage rates, and levels of development.

*Chapter 6 Recreation Demand* draws information from the various public input instruments employed during the development of the Jackson County Parks' goals and policies. Popular recreation activity trends identified in this chapter illuminates unmet recreation opportunities in Jackson County. Chapter 6 considers the impact of regional recreation trends on county park usage, and pulls community input from the Household, Park User, and Intercept Surveys.

*Chapter 7 Capital Facilities* is the element of this plan that provides recommendations for future park development and acquisition of park, recreation, and open space land. This chapter includes funding opportunities and a 20-year timeline for future park development. The new developments are categorized into themes that were identified through community input as areas of improvement.

The *Appendices* are included as reference material to provide more detailed information regarding the sources for concepts and plans presented in this document. The Plan includes five appendices:

- Appendix A: Jackson County Parks Intercept Survey
- Appendix B: Jackson County Parks User Survey
- Appendix C: Jackson County Parks Household Survey
- Appendix D: Community Workshop Results
- Appendix E: Funding Resource Directory





# Chapter 2

## County Parks Department

This chapter provides an overview of the Jackson County Parks Department. It begins with a brief history of the Jackson County Parks System, then describes the organization, management and funding of the Department.

### Parks Department History

Jackson County has a long history of providing parks and recreation services. In 1959, the County established the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission and hired the first Parks Director in 1961. The next two decades were periods of significant growth for the Department and the parks system.

Since its creation in the latter half of the 1950's, the department has experienced many changes. In 1956, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife gave the County a lease on half an acre of land on the Rogue River that is known today as Dodge Bridge. This represented the first official lease of parks land for the County. It was immediately followed in 1958 by a 50-year lease from the Bureau of Reclamation on both Howard Prairie Recreational area and Emigrant Lake. This same year marked the first donation of land to the Jackson County Parks Department when residents Leland and Elsie Houk donated the 1.35 acres that are now known as Hooper Springs.<sup>6</sup>

According to historical records, during the 1960-1961 fiscal year, the Department had a budget of \$87,021. The Department continued to grow and a decade later, in 1970, the Department had a staff of 25 full time and 119 seasonal employees. By the 1978-1979 fiscal year, the Department budget was at a historical high of nearly \$2 million. The Department had greatly diversified its activities by opening the Sports Park, acquiring the Britt Gardens, and starting a countywide recreation program<sup>7</sup> (see Appendix D for a more detailed discussion of County Park facilities).

During the 1980's and 1990's, the Jackson County Parks Department continued to expand, establishing collaborations with local agencies, concessionaires, and organizations to operate its various facilities. Over the last two decades, the Department has continued to provide recreational opportunities to the community but has had to scale back its activities because of steady budget cuts. During the 1996-1997 fiscal year, the Parks Department recorded an annual budget of \$1,234,761.

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<sup>6</sup> Jackson County Roads and Parks, Parks Directory, 1998

<sup>7</sup> Jackson County Roads and Parks, Parks Directory, 1998

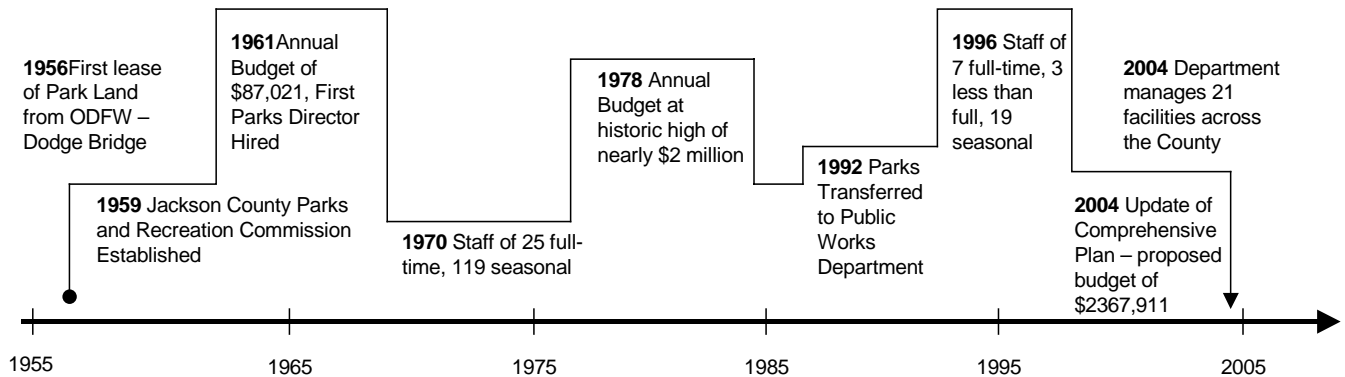
In 2004, the Jackson County Parks Department managed 21 facilities, including developed and undeveloped parks and open space areas. These parks provide a broad spectrum of recreational opportunities ranging from camping, boating, and fishing to oval track and drag racing. The range of recreational facilities managed by the Jackson County Parks Department addresses a unique mixture of recreational needs that no other public or private entity can provide.

In 2004 the Parks Department had 9 full-time employees, including office administration. Since 1992, the number of full-time park staff has decreased by 50%. The Jackson County Parks Department also employs approximately 30 seasonal employees during the summer. The staff is responsible for oversight and maintenance of most of the County Parks.

To cope with staff decreases, the Parks Department has turned to alternative management approaches. Some parks – such as the Sports Park – are operated by concessionaires. Many of the undeveloped parks are self-service.

Figure 2-1 summarizes key activities of the Jackson Parks Department history since its first land acquisition in 1956.

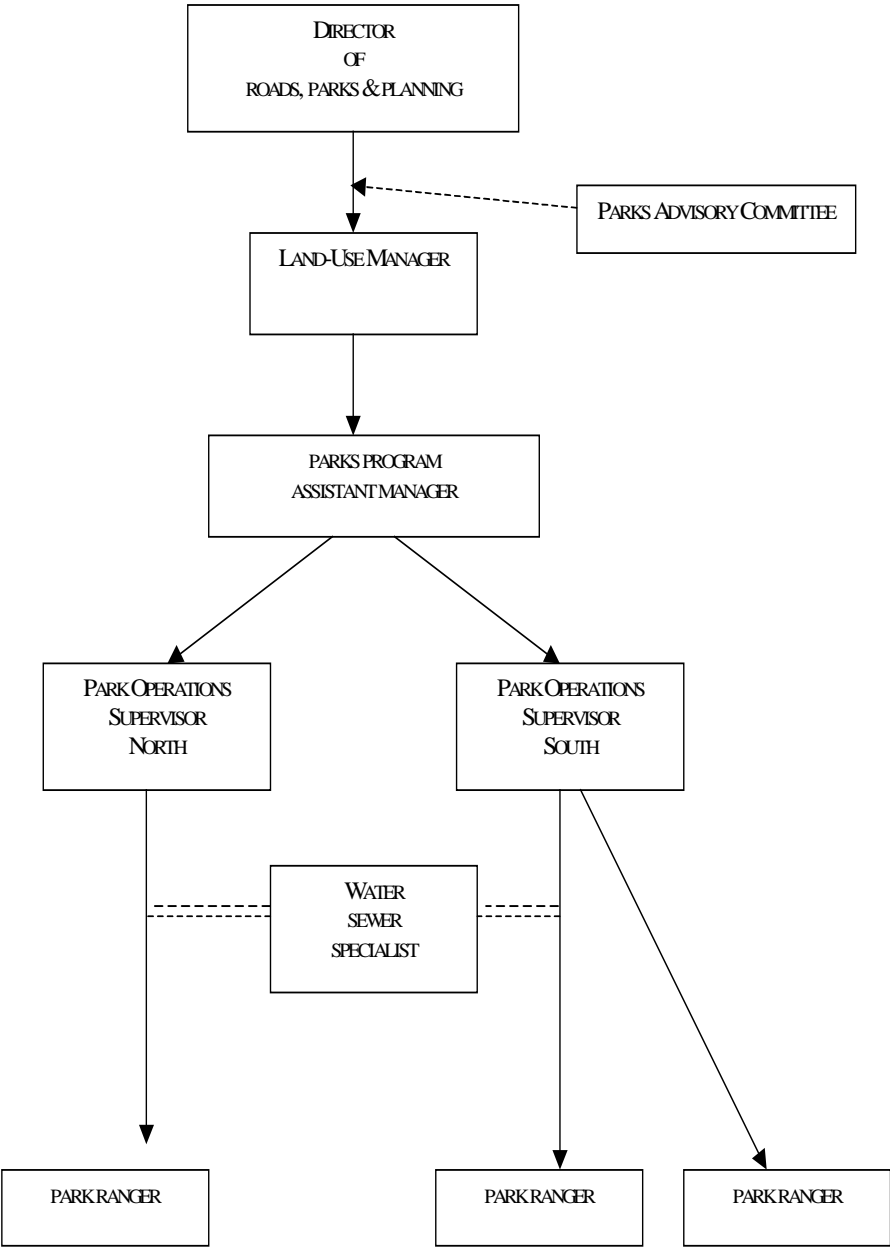
**Figure 2-1. Jackson County Parks Department History**



## Department Structure

Figure 2-2 shows the current organizational structure of the Jackson County Parks Department. The Director of the Roads, Parks and Planning Department is not only responsible for oversight of the Parks Department activities and staff but of the Roads and Planning Departments as well (not shown here).

**Figure 2-2. Jackson County Parks Department Organizational Structure**



The Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) is an elected but voluntary group of community members from across Jackson County that serves to advise the Parks Department staff in the long-term direction of the parks system. Members of the PAC represent a broad spectrum of interests and geographic locations across the county.

**Management**

Maintenance responsibilities within the Jackson County Parks system are split between two districts, “North” and “South.” Each of the

districts has a Park Operation Supervisor who is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance within each district. The North District includes Emigrant Lake, Howard Prairie, and Willow Lake. The South District includes Cantrall-Buckley, Britt Gardens, Agate Lake, and all of the smaller parks situated along the Rogue River. The North District has 1 full-time ranger that assists in the management and maintenance of the parks, while the South District has 2 full-time rangers. During the summer months, seasonal employees are hired to help with maintenance and oversight throughout the park system. Finally, any large maintenance or construction jobs within the park system are sent out to bid and then performed by local contractors.

## Funding

Historically, the Parks Department has attempted to make each of its parks as self-supporting as possible. To accomplish this goal, the Department combines the following revenue streams: user fees; grants; entitlements; revenue generating events; concession contracts with volunteers; social agency cooperation; County general funds and public/private partnerships. The Department continually reviews and re-organizes its revenue strategies in order to provide high quality recreational opportunities for residents at a low cost.

During the 2002-03 fiscal year the Department reported a revised annual budget of \$1,918,021 and 9.35 full time employees. For the current 2004-05 fiscal year (the budget for the year after this plan was prepared), the Department requested a budget of \$2,367,911 and approximately 9 full-time employees. For the 2002-03 fiscal year, the Department received around 8%, or approximately \$189,432, of its revenues directly from the County general fund. The Department's reliance on the general fund has been decreasing in recent years. In the 2003-2004 Strategic Plan, the Parks Department identified "Establish a financially stable park program with adequate operations, maintenance, and capital funding" as its number one goal.<sup>8</sup>

Table 2-1 shows the annual budget for the Jackson County Parks Department for the fiscal years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 and the recommended budget for 2004-2005. This illustrates that the Department is still growing, while trying to increase its revenues to covers its costs.

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<sup>8</sup> Jackson County Parks 2003-2004 Strategic Plan

**Table 2-1. Jackson County Parks Department Annual Budget**

| <b>Expenditures</b>         | <b>2002-2003</b>   | <b>2003-2004</b>   | <b>2004-2005</b>            | <b>2004-2005</b>              |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                             | <b>Actual</b>      | <b>Revised</b>     | <b>Department Requested</b> | <b>Department Recommended</b> |
| Personal Services           | \$682,387          | \$736,865          | \$744,066                   | \$744,066                     |
| Materials & Services        | \$908,910          | \$1,135,987        | \$939,838                   | \$939,138                     |
| Capital Outlay              | \$319,149          | \$25,500           | \$684,707                   | \$684,707                     |
| Other                       | \$0                | \$19,669           | \$0                         | \$0                           |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>\$1,910,446</b> | <b>\$1,918,021</b> | <b>\$2,368,611</b>          | <b>\$2,367,911</b>            |
| <b>Revenues</b>             |                    |                    |                             |                               |
| State/Local Gov't           | \$676,638          | \$584,874          | \$918,412                   | \$918,412                     |
| Federal Gov't               | \$49,195           | \$0                | \$169,450                   | \$169,450                     |
| Fees & Charges              | \$571,120          | \$546,773          | \$513,413                   | \$513,413                     |
| Other                       | \$445,774          | \$786,374          | \$767,336                   | \$766,636                     |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>\$1,742,727</b> | <b>\$1,918,021</b> | <b>\$2,368,611</b>          | <b>\$2,367,911</b>            |
| <b>Full-Time Equivalent</b> | <b>9.65</b>        | <b>9.35</b>        | <b>9.10</b>                 | <b>9.10</b>                   |

Source: 2004-2005 Annual Budget, Jackson County, <http://www.co.jackson.or.us>

## Collaboration

Each year, the Jackson County Parks Department collaborates with federal, state, and private agencies and organizations. These collaborations are one strategy the Department has used to leverage its limited resources.

At the federal level, the Department collaborates with the Bureau of Land Reclamation (BOR) and, in 2004, leased land from the BOR for three of its parks: Emigrant Lake, Agate Lake, and Howard Prairie. The Parks Department collaborates on a situational basis with the local Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests and the Medford District office of the Bureau of Land Management. In 2004, the County and federal agencies also collaborate by agreeing to accept one another's seasonal passes. For example, a visitor could enter the Jackson County Parks by showing the National Parks' Golden Age Pass. In 2004, there were 38 federal parks in Jackson County.

The Department collaborates with several state agencies. Jackson County Parks system works with the Marine Patrol and the Sheriff's Department on public safety. Additionally, the Department sometimes interacts with the Department of Corrections to hire work crews. There is potential to increase collaboration between the State Parks Department and the Jackson County Parks Department. There are a total of six state parks located in Jackson County.

The Jackson County Parks Department has the greatest level of collaboration at the local level. Currently, the Department has strong partnerships with the cities of Shady Cove and Jacksonville. Both cities have Jackson County Parks within their City Limits. Moreover, at the regional level, the Parks Department attends management meetings

with Parks Departments from Klamath, Douglas and Josephine Counties.

The Jackson County Parks Department also has strong partnership with a local organization known as the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation, a non-profit foundation established to oversee the development of the Bear Creek Greenway that runs from Ashland to Central Point.

The Parks Department partners with other non-governmental groups including various Booster Clubs, the Northwest Youth Corps, the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, the YMCA, DARE, Salmon Watch, and a local organization known as Living Opportunities. Finally, the Jackson County Parks Department also works with Southern Oregon University.

## **Concessionaires**

The Parks Department contracts with concessionaires to run facilities in several of the County's Parks. While these relationships differ from true collaborations in that they are based on binding contracts and business interests, the Parks Department could not currently operate some of its facilities without these contracts because of limited funding and staff. At the moment, different concessionaires operate each of the following parks or park facilities:

- Sports Park - Racing, Fishing, Go-karting, and Shooting;
- Britt Gardens: Concert Facilities;
- Cantrall-Buckley Park;
- Howard Prairie: Resort and Camp Apserkaha; and
- Upper Rogue Regional Park: River House Events Facility.

## **Parks Department Future**

The Jackson County Parks Department manages a wide array of facilities in both urban and rural areas. Because of its diversity, planning future park development, maintenance, and acquisition is critical. As the Jackson County Parks Department nears its 50<sup>th</sup> year of service, it is looking to increase revenues, build partnerships, and shape its management strategy to reach financial self-sufficiency. The Jackson County Parks System Master Plan is designed to guide the Parks Department towards these efforts over the next 20 years.

# Chapter 3

## Goals and Policies

This chapter provides a framework for the development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities in Jackson County through 2025. It begins by presenting the Jackson County Parks mission statement and then describes a series of system wide goals and policies that define priorities for the future of the park system. The goals offer a broad vision of what Jackson County would like to achieve in the parks system. The policies provide more specific direction on how the County will implement the goals.

It is essential that the Plan clearly define the relationship between the mission statement, plan goals, and policies. The Plan defines these elements as follows:

- The *Mission Statement* is an action-oriented formulation of the organization's reason for existence. It serves to define how the Department proposes to get from where it is to where it wants to go. It is not defined in expressions of goals or policies, rather it reflects a realistic but farsighted determination of who the Department is, who it serves, what it does, and what it can accomplish. Finally, the mission statement is broad enough that it need not change unless the environment changes.
- The *Goals* are designed to drive policies and actions and they are intended to represent the general end toward which an organizational effort is directed. Goals identify how the Jackson County Parks Department will implement its mission over the next 20 years. Goals link "downward" to policies.
- The *Policies* are the directions, methods, processes, or steps used to accomplish or achieve the Department's goals. Strategies link "upward" toward goals.

The following mission statement was adopted in the 2003-2004 Jackson County Parks Strategic Plan:

*To protect Jackson County's recreational resources and provide a quality County Parks system that meets recreational facility needs and provides recreational opportunities to the citizens and visitors of Jackson County.*

The County will implement the mission, goals, and policies in three ways:

1. Through the priorities identified in this plan;
2. Through the five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The County updates the CIP on an annual basis; and
3. Through the development of site-specific master plans.

The plan goals and policies collectively present a vision that Jackson County will work towards to meet the region's current and future park needs. The policies are detailed recommendations for projects or activities that the County should implement to fulfill its goals. Both the goals and policies respond to suggestions and concerns generated by the Jackson County Parks Advisory Board, by the public during the community workshop, the household survey, intercept survey, and the parks user survey. The County should use the CIP in coordination with the annual budgeting process to systematically fund parks projects.

## Goals

The goals of the Jackson County Parks System Master Plan are organized into six categories: (1) system wide goals; (2) management goals; (3) acquisition goals; (4) trails; (5) development and design goals; and (6) maintenance goals. The goals and policies that follow are not listed in priority order.

### System Wide Goals

**Goal SW-1:** Provide a variety of parks and recreation facilities and services, throughout the County, to benefit the broadest range of ages, socio-economics, and special interests and abilities.

**Policy SW-1-A:** Plan and carry out programs and projects that anticipate and are responsive to changing needs and resources.

**Policy SW-1-B:** Create a master plan for each park that will guide future development, maintenance, and improvements of that park.

**Policy SW-1-C:** Create a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan and update Plan on an annual basis.

**Policy SW-1-D:** Develop parks that complement existing and planned city, state, and federal facilities.

## Management

**Goal M-1:** Reduce the County Park Department's reliance on County General Fund revenues.

**Policy M-1-A:** Create a business plan that identifies strategies to reduce the Park Department's reliance on County general fund revenue.

**Policy M-1-B:** Identify and expand revenue-generating activities.

**Policy M-1-C:** Ensure Parks Department is managed to operate within budget.

**Goal M-2:** Preserve and protect existing open spaces and corridors including land useful for recreation; waterways; the Bear Creek Greenway; wildlife habitat; trails; and areas with historical, cultural, or scenic values.



**Policy M-2-A:** Create and implement management plans in coordination with other agencies to identify, preserve and protect existing open spaces and corridors.

**Policy M-2-B:** In sensitive open spaces and wildlife corridors, limit recreational activities that are most damaging.

**Goal M-3:** Prioritize the management and maintenance of existing parks, while responding to appropriate and timely acquisition and development opportunities.

**Policy M-3-A:** Identify system-wide management and maintenance standards.

**Policy M-3-B:** Assess major maintenance needs for each park on an annual basis.

**Policy M-3-C:** Identify and provide adequate staffing to properly manage and maintain each park.

**Goal M-4:** Develop and manage partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as schools, private organizations, and businesses.

**Policy M-4-A:** Identify and document existing partnerships including roles and responsibilities of the County Parks Department and partners.

**Policy M-4-B:** Communicate with current partners on management issues.

**Policy M-4-C:** Seek input from appropriate outside agencies that may be able to assist in park development, maintenance, and management through future partnerships.

**Goal M-5:** Manage contracts with appropriate concessionaires and private businesses to provide services to meet needs that could otherwise not be met by the department staff.

**Policy 5-A:** Evaluate concessionaires on an annual basis to ensure adequate service.

## Acquisition

**Goal A-1:** Based on available resources, acquire and develop parkland to meet the current and future needs of the public.

**Policy A-1-A:** Acquire land along the Rogue River for river access and trails.

**Policy A-1-B:** Consider acquisitions that would expand the existing Bear Creek Greenway.

## Trails

**Goal T-1:** Partner with local agencies and jurisdictions to identify, protect and acquire trail corridors.

**Policy T-1-A:** Work with partners to create and expand hiking and equestrian trail networks that connect parks, forests, and waterways in urban and rural areas.

**Policy T-1-B:** Collaborate with federal agencies to develop trails that connect the Pacific Crest Trail to existing Jackson County Parks.

**Policy T-1-C:** Partner with BLM and other local agencies to meet the trail needs of ORV users.

**Policy T-1-D:** Plan for the development of Water Trails that utilize existing water access points and that encourage additional use of Jackson County's waterways.

**Policy T-1-E:** Work with partners and local citizen groups to create a Rogue River hiking trail that parallels the Jackson County section of the Rogue and possibly connects to the existing BLM Rogue River National Recreation Trail to the west.

**Goal T-2:** Collaborate with local agencies and organizations to further develop and maintain the Bear Creek Greenway.

**Policy T-2-A:** Strengthen collaborations with groups currently involved with the Bear Creek Greenway project, including local, state and federal government agencies and other partner organizations.

**Policy T-2-B:** Identify and collaborate with new organizations to expand the existing Greenway and link to existing trails and trail systems.

**Policy T-2-C:** Plan to extend the Greenway to Emigrant Lake and Eagle Point.

## Development and Design

**Goal DD-1:** Focus future development and design efforts to meet changing park user trends and needs.

**Policy DD-1-A:** As urban areas expand, create better linkages between urban areas and Jackson County parks.

**Policy DD-1-B:** Identify sites appropriate for development of yurts and consider development where feasible.

**Policy DD-1-C:** Identify sites appropriate for development of new or expanded RV camping sites and consider development where feasible.

**Policy DD-1-D:** Create long-term interpretation plan to develop appropriate and affordable interpretive facilities and amenities.

**Goal DD-2:** Encourage development of recreation areas and uses that minimize environmental impacts.

**Policy DD-3-A:** Preserve natural resource areas that have unique recreational potential and, when necessary, encourage thoughtful development of those areas.

**Policy DD-3-B:** Minimize the visual impact of new development.

**Goal DD-4:** Ensure access to all types of recreation activity.

**Policy DD-4-A:** Improve public access to undeveloped parklands.

**Policy DD-4-B:** Provide handicap accessible facilities and recreation opportunities consistent with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**Policy DD-4-C:** Maintain and expand recreation and open space opportunities for residents and visitors of all income levels.

**Policy DD-4-D:** When appropriate, accommodate ORV users in less sensitive natural areas.

**Policy DD-4-E:** Increase boat access points along the Rogue River to approximately every 3 miles.

**Goal DD-5:** Where appropriate, employ design standards that are cost effective and maximize long-term energy conservation.

**Policy DD-5-A:** Consider energy efficient fixtures in new and existing structures.

**Goal DD-6:** Seek funding to perform economic analysis of Gold Ray Dam and to determine future development directions.

## Maintenance

**Goal MA-1:** Continue to provide a park system that is well maintained to meet both current and future recreation and safety needs.

**Policy MA-1-A:** Ensure that all individual parks Master Plans address specific park maintenance needs, including roads and parking needs.

**Policy MA-1-B:** When appropriate, maintain facilities to meet ADA compliance standards.

**Policy MA-1-C:** Apply erosion control measures in environmentally sensitive areas such as lakes, stream banks, steep slopes, etc.

**Policy MA-1-D:** Ensure maintenance standards on existing interpretive and education facilities before developing new facilities.



# Chapter 4

## Community Recreation Setting

Jackson County's physical characteristics provide many opportunities for parks and outdoor recreation. This chapter describes characteristics and trends in the County that influence the current and future demand for Jackson County Park facilities and activities. It describes Jackson County's geographic setting, transportation networks, historical resources, economy, and demographic characteristics – and their implications for the County's park system. Trends in both the economy and demographics provide a greater understanding to assess future demand for Jackson County Parks. Analysis of geographic characteristics, historical resources and transportation outlines both opportunities and constraints for the Jackson County Parks.

### Geographic Setting

Jackson County, located in southwest Oregon, is the sixth largest county in Oregon at over 2,801 square miles. There are eleven incorporated cities in the county; these include Ashland, Butte Falls, Central Point, Eagle Point, Gold Hill, Jacksonville, Medford, Phoenix, Rogue River, Shady Cove, and Talent.

Approximately seventeen square miles of Jackson County is water. The rivers, lakes, and mountains provide a dynamic and changing landscape, making Jackson County a destination for tourists. The Rogue River is the largest river in the county, providing many recreation opportunities including boating and fishing. The county has an abundance of smaller creeks and lakes that also contribute to recreational opportunities within the county.

The weather in Jackson County is moderate. Temperatures range from an average of 37.6 degrees in January to an average of 72.5 degrees in July. The county receives around 19 inches of rainfall yearly. There are four recognizable seasons in Jackson County.

The Siskiyou and Cascade Mountain Ranges are dominant natural features of Jackson County. Forests extend across much of these mountain ranges and other areas.

### Transportation

Transportation is crucial to the Jackson County Parks System. The County's transportation system provides access points to county parks and connections between communities, park amenities and services. Roads, highways and trails contribute to efficient access to park facilities by both residents and tourists.

Interstate 5 passes through the center of Jackson County, connecting the southern portion of the County to California. The highway is located

near cities such as Ashland, Medford, Jacksonville and Gold Hill. As shown in Table 4-1, Interstate 5 is one of the most used highway in the county. It experiences its heaviest traffic volumes near the city center of Medford. Highway 62 is another major route through the area. It provides a scenic drive along the Rogue River and is one of the main routes to Crater Lake. Highway 62 also experiences high traffic volume. Its highest traffic counts are near the intersection of Highway 62 and ORE 140. Route 238 passes near the Applegate and Rogue River. Beautiful views of Mount McLoughlin, the Rogue River, and the Applegate River make the County a unique place to explore by car. As the population of Jackson County increases in the future, so too will the need to accommodate higher traffic volumes.

**Table 4-1. Average Daily Trips on Jackson County Roadways, 2004**

| Average Daily Vehicle Trips                           | Miles from                                 | ADT* |        |
|---|--|------|--------|
| <b>Interstate 5</b>                                   |  |      |        |
|   | OR-CA border                               |      |        |
| Oregon-California State Line                          |  | 0.0  | 15,000 |
| Medford Viaduct                                       |  | 28.3 | 48,200 |
| 0.50 mile east of Rogue River Interchange             |  | 48.3 | 33,600 |
| <b>Route 238</b>                                      |  |      |        |
|   | Redwood Highway<br>(US 199) in Grants Pass |      |        |
| Josephine - Jackson County Line                       |  | 6.1  | 6,800  |
| Jacksonville - 0.01 mile west of Hanley Road          |  | 34.9 | 9,800  |
| Medford - 0.57 miles southwest of Medford City Limits |  | 37.4 | 8,400  |
| <b>Highway 62</b>                                     |  |      |        |
|   | Rogue Valley Highway<br>(ORE99) in Medford |      |        |
| At Rogue Valley Highway (OR 99)                       |  | 0.2  | 31,300 |
| At Lake of the Woods Highway (ORE140)                 |  | 6.0  | 29,600 |
| South city limits of Shady Cove                       |  | 18.4 | 7,600  |
| At Butte Falls-Prospect Road                          |  | 44.2 | 2,100  |
| At West Diamond Lake Highway (ORE230)                 |  | 57.8 | 640    |

\* Average Daily Trips (ADT)

Source: ODOT, 2004

## Historical Resources

Jackson County has a rich history and an array of historical resources that connect residents and visitors of its past. Jacksonville, located near the center of the County, has special historic significance. The discovery of gold in 1851 attracted miners and led to the development of Jacksonville. The town grew to a population of over two thousand people within its first two years as people gravitated to the area in hopes of finding gold. Over time Jacksonville's community managed to preserve its historic roots. In 1966 Jacksonville was designated a National Historic Landmark. Today one can visit over 100 historic buildings and enjoy the pioneer-like culture of the town known as one of Southern Oregon's most "distinctive destinations".

Peter Britt was one of the original settlers in the area. As a photographer, he captured many of Jacksonville's landscapes and events. His photographs now add to the town's historic preservation

and aid in telling its tale. The grounds that once were home to Britt are now a venue for annual traditions such as the Britt Music festival, the Victorian Christmas winter celebration and other performing arts.

Some of the other historic highlights in Jackson County include railroad relics in Medford and historic trails used by early settlers and Native Americans. The Upper Rogue Historical Society's Trail Creek Museum is one museum that is dedicated to the history of pioneers of the region. Other historical sites are described by contacting the Southern Oregon Historical Society and city specific web sites.

## Economy

Over the past decade, Jackson County's economy has undergone considerable changes. Natural resource industries, such as lumber and wood products, have steadily declined, while service industries have increased within the County. In 2000, the largest employer in the County was the retail trade industry followed by manufacturing, health care and social assistance, and accommodation and food services. Table 4-2 shows the number of people employed by industry in 2000.

**Table 4-2. Number of Employees by Industry, Jackson County, 2000**

|   | # of Employees | % of total Employees |
|---|----------------|----------------------|
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining                              | 2,279          | 2.82%                |
| Construction  | 5,846          | 7.24%                |
| Manufacturing   | 8,805          | 10.91%               |
| Wholesale trade   | 2,714          | 3.36%                |
| Retail trade  | 12,543         | 15.54%               |
| Transportation and warehousing, and utilities                                       | 3,486          | 4.32%                |
| Information   | 2,003          | 2.48%                |
| Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing                             | 4,094          | 5.07%                |
| Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services | 6,416          | 7.95%                |
| Educational, health and social services   | 17,766         | 22.01%               |
| Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services                    | 7,495          | 9.29%                |
| Other services (except public administration)                                       | 4,295          | 5.32%                |
| Public administration   | 2,972          | 3.68%                |
|   | 80,714         | 100.00%              |

Source: US Census, 2000

Table 4-3 shows the percentage of Jackson County residents employed by selected industries in 1990 and 2000. Since 1990, employment sectors in both Oregon and Jackson County have changed in ways that generally mirror one another. The following industries have experienced increases: Construction, Transportation, Entertainment and Recreation Services, and Education/Health Services. There has been an overall decline in the share of employment in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries industry as well as Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade, and Retail Trade industries. Overall, the industries which have experienced the largest growth in their share of total employment are the Entertainment and Recreation industries (8.6%), and the Education/Health Services industries (5.7%).

**Table 4-3. Percentage of Jackson County Residents Employed by Select Industries in 1990 and 2000**

| Industry                            | Jackson County |       | Oregon |       |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                                     | 1990           | 2000  | 1990   | 2000  |
| Ag., Forestry & Fisheries           | 5.0%           | 2.8%  | 5.0%   | 3.2%  |
| Construction                        | 4.0%           | 7.2%  | 5.6%   | 6.9%  |
| Transportation                      | 6.2%           | 7.2%  | 4.1%   | 4.7%  |
| Manufacturing                       | 15.1%          | 10.9% | 17.6%  | 14.1% |
| Wholesale Trade                     | 4.3%           | 3.4%  | 4.6%   | 4.1%  |
| Retail Trade                        | 22.5%          | 15.5% | 18.1%  | 12.5% |
| Finance, Insurance & Real Estate    | 52.0%          | 51.0% | 5.9%   | 6.1%  |
| Entertainment & Recreation Services | 1.7%           | 9.3%  | 1.3%   | 8.2%  |
| Education/Health Services           | 16.3%          | 22.0% | 8.4%   | 19.3% |
| Public Administration               | 3.7%           | 3.7%  | 4.1%   | 4.0%  |

Source: US Census, 2000

From 1996 to 2001, the County's unemployment rate decreased from 8.2% to 6.3%. These numbers are significantly lower than unemployment rates in the 1980's, when the County's rate neared 14%. The unemployment rate in 2004 was 5.8%.

## Income and Poverty

Income level influences how people and families use parks. The economic makeup of Jackson County's population can help determine the types of parks and recreational opportunities the County should provide.

Between 1990 and 2000, the median household income for Jackson County residents increased \$11,392--from \$25,069 to \$36,461. In 2000, the State of Oregon's median household income was \$40,916. Median household income in Jackson County has consistently been below state and national levels.

The number of persons living below the poverty level in Jackson County decreased slightly since 1990. The poverty rate was 13.2% in 1990 and 12.5% in 2000. These numbers are slightly higher than the state as a whole. In 1990, the State of Oregon's poverty level was 12.4 %; this figure decreased to 11.6% in 2000. Table 4-4 shows the percentage of persons living below poverty level in the County and in several cities within Jackson County in 1990 and 2000.



**Table 4-4. Percent of Persons Below Poverty Level in 1990 and 2000**

| Location        | 1990  | 2000  |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| Jackson County  | 13.2% | 12.5% |
| Medford         | 14.2% | 13.6% |
| Ashland         | 16.3% | 19.6% |
| Central Point   | 6.2%  | 6.6%  |
| White City      | 19.5% | 21.1% |
| State of Oregon | 12.4% | 11.6% |

Source: US Census, 2000Tourism

## Travel and tourism

Travel and tourism make significant contributions to the Jackson County economy. In 2002, 4% of Jackson County’s total employment was related to travel. In 1991, the County earned \$161.8 million through direct travel spending. By 2002, this figure had increased to \$270.5 million. Private and public campgrounds are a key component of travel impacts: private and public campgrounds generated \$101 million in 1991 and \$133.7 in 2002.

Table 4-5 shows the 2002 direct travel impacts for Counties in Southern Oregon. The numbers demonstrate that Jackson County remains a regional leader in terms of travel and tourism. Parks provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities and enhance Jackson County as a destination for tourists. Parks can further benefit the economy of Jackson County by improving the livability of the area and by attracting more businesses and tourists to the County.

**Table 4-5. Oregon Direct Travel Impacts by County, 2002**

| County    | Travel Spending | Generated Earnings | Generated Employment |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Jackson   | \$275.6 mil     | \$74.8 mil         | 4150 Jobs            |
| Josephine | \$97.9 mil      | \$27.7 mil         | 1730 Jobs            |
| Douglas   | \$211.7 mil     | \$65.4 mil         | 3740 Jobs            |
| Klamath   | \$110.3 mil     | \$32.4 mil         | 1940 Jobs            |
| Lake      | \$12.3 mil      | \$2.90 mil         | 280 Jobs             |

Source: [www.deanrunyan.com/impactsORcounty.html](http://www.deanrunyan.com/impactsORcounty.html)

According to a survey of Jackson County Park users conducted for the Master Plan, a person visiting Jackson County Parks spends an average of \$108 per day on items such as fuel, food, entertainment, etc. Table 4-6 shows the average amount spent in each expenditure category.

**Table 4-6. Amount Spent Per Person Per Day, During Visit to Jackson County Parks, Park User Survey Respondents, 2004**

| <b>Expenditures</b>      | <b>Median \$ Spent Per Person/Day</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Fuel/Transportation      | \$10                                  |
| Sporting Equipment       | \$15                                  |
| Restaurants              | \$20                                  |
| Food/Groceries/Beverages | \$15                                  |
| Entertainment            | \$30                                  |
| Other                    | \$18                                  |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$108</b>                          |

Source: CPW Jackson County Parks User Survey

A portion of these daily expenditures occurs in the parks themselves, however, visitor spending also impacts other local businesses and organizations.

Given the figures above and assuming that groups have an average of 3 people, this suggests that each group visiting Jackson County Parks spends \$324 per day. Survey data show the average visit duration is 3 days; this indicates that each group that visits Jackson County Parks spends \$972 in the County, supporting the parks, local gas stations, restaurants, grocery stores, and other shops.

Data collected by the County Parks Department show that there were 9,108 overnight camp groups tallied at Jackson County Parks during the peak tourist season in 2003 (between May and September). If each of these groups spent an average of \$324 per day, this suggests that overnight campers contribute a total of \$2,951,000 to the local economy during the peak months of summer. This figure does not take into account the additional spending by the large number of park day visitors who do not camp but similarly spend money in the area.

## **Demographic Characteristics**

Demographic characteristics are important to consider in planning for parks. Population growth creates increased demand for parks. The age characteristics of residents can help determine the types of facilities and amenities that are needed.

### **Population**

The 2003 population of Jackson County was 189,100. Jackson County experienced an average annual growth rate of about 2% between 1990 and 2000 (see Table 4-7). The County grew by 34,880 people during the 1990s. Population trends for the state show a similar increase in population. Oregon experienced an average annual growth rate of 1.9% from 1990 to 2000.

**Table 4-7. Population trends of Jackson County, and Oregon 1980-2040**

| Year | Jackson County | %change SL | AAGR | Oregon    | % change SL | AAGR |
|------|----------------|------------|------|-----------|-------------|------|
| 1980 | 132,456        |            |      | 2,633,105 |             |      |
| 1990 | 146,389        | 10.5%      | 1.0% | 2,842,321 | 7.9%        | 0.8% |
| 2000 | 181,269        | 19.2%      | 2.2% | 3,421,399 | 20.4%       | 1.9% |
| 2010 | 199,415        | 10.0%      | 1.0% | 3,857,000 | 12.7%       | 1.2% |
| 2020 | 221,665        | 10.0%      | 1.1% | 4,326,000 | 12.2%       | 1.2% |
| 2030 | 244,102        | 10.1%      | 1.0% | 4,776,000 | 10.4%       | 1.0% |
| 2040 | 264,933        | 7.9%       | 0.8% | 5,193,000 | 8.7%        | 0.8% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Oregon Office of Economics

AAGR: Average annual growth rate

According to forecasts released by the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis (OEA) in 2004, Jackson County is expected to experience a steady increase in population through 2040. The OEA forecasts suggest that by the year 2020, the Jackson County Parks System will be serving 40,000 more residents than in 2000.

As more people migrate to the area Jackson County will become increasingly developed. As land is developed opportunities to preserve open space will be diminished. It is important for Jackson County to retain to open space and parkland and to take advantage of opportunities to acquire additional open space, as it will be an increasingly precious resource for the current and growing population.

## Age

Each age category has specific needs and recreational preferences. These varying needs play a vital role in the parks planning process.

The population of Jackson County is changing. Since 1990, the most significant change for the County has been an increase in the 45-64 age category. This age group experienced a total increase of 5%. Most of the other age categories experienced a decrease in population since 1990. This coincides with trends for the State of Oregon. Table 4-8 compares the age distribution for Jackson County and Oregon in 1990 and in 2000.

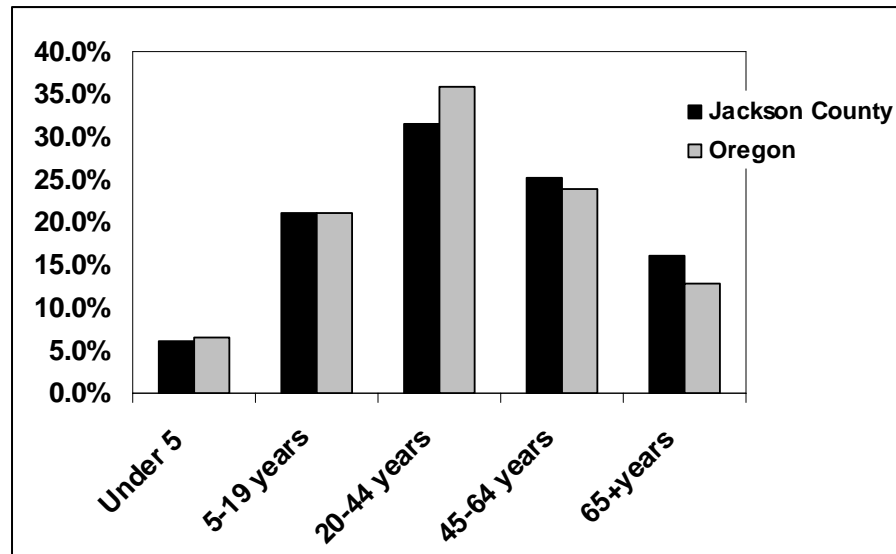
**Table 4-8. Jackson County's and Oregon's Age Distributions For 1990 and 2000**

| Age Category | Jackson County |       | Oregon |       |
|--------------|----------------|-------|--------|-------|
|              | 1990           | 2000  | 1990   | 2000  |
| Under 5      | 6.7%           | 6.0%  | 7.1%   | 6.5%  |
| 5-19 years   | 21.1%          | 21.1% | 21.2%  | 21.1% |
| 20-44 years  | 35.8%          | 31.5% | 39.3%  | 35.9% |
| 45-64 years  | 20.3%          | 25.3% | 18.7%  | 24.0% |
| 65+years     | 16.2%          | 16.0% | 13.8%  | 12.8% |

Source: US Census Bureau

Figure 4-1 shows the age distribution for Jackson County and Oregon for the year 2000. The age distribution for Jackson County is roughly that of the state. However, Jackson County has a greater percentage of older adults and slightly less children under the age of five.

**Figure 4-1. Jackson County’s and Oregon’s Age Distributions in 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

As shown in Figure 4-1, about 25% of the population is 45-64 years old and 16% of the population is over 65 years old. This age group is representative of many retirees that may be moving to the region. The largest age group is the 20-44 year age group at 32% of the population. This age group represents younger families and adults.

### Race and Ethnicity

The ethnic and racial composition of Jackson County is gradually changing. From 1990 to 2000, both the Black and Hispanic population increased. Jackson County saw a decrease in the percentage of both Asian or Pacific Islanders and American Indians or Alaskan natives. Table 4-9 shows the change in racial and ethnic composition for the state and Jackson County from 1990 to 2000.

**Table 4-9. Race and Ethnic Composition in Jackson County and Oregon in 1990 and 2000**

| Race/Ethnicity                    | Jackson County |       | State of Oregon |       |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
|                                   | 1990           | 2000  | 1990            | 2000  |
| White                             | 95.8%          | 91.6% | 92.8%           | 86.6% |
| Black                             | 0.2%           | 0.4%  | 1.6%            | 1.6%  |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 1.3%           | 1.1%  | 1.4%            | 1.3%  |
| Asian or Pacific Islander         | 1.0%           | 0.9%  | 2.4%            | 3.2%  |
| Other Race                        | 1.8%           | 2.9%  | 1.8%            | 4.2%  |
| Two or More Races                 | N/A            | 2.9%  | N/A             | 3.1%  |
| Hispanic or Latino                | 4.1%           | 6.7%  | 4.0%            | 8.0%  |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Although the change in diversity in Jackson County is minimal from 1990 to 2000, an increase in population will probably lead to a continued increase in diversity.

## Summary

Changes in economic trends and demographic characteristics such as age and income suggest changes in park user needs for Jackson County. The County Park Department should be flexible enough to address these changes to provide appropriate park facilities that reflect the desires of a changing population. As the population of Jackson County diversifies the recreational opportunities provided by the parks must also broaden its base. The following is a summary of key findings from this chapter:

- Jackson County's unique geographic characteristics provide a wide range of recreational opportunities. These natural features should be used to create a unique opportunity to create an identity for the parks department.
- Jackson County's economic base has shifted away from a natural resource economy to a more service based economy. Tourism is a more significant part of the local economy.
- Jackson County has a slightly lower median household income and higher poverty rates than those of the State. Income might affect park users' willingness to pay increased fees.
- Income level effects recreational opportunity for people and therefore influences how they use parks. To serve a broad base of people the Jackson County's Parks Department should consider the economic characteristics of the area.
- Traffic on State and County roads will increase as the population of the County and surrounding area increases. The Jackson County Parks Department should plan to accommodate for this increase because it affects access and maintenance of parks and park facilities.

- Jackson County remains a leader in tourism. The Parks Department should take steps to capitalize on the County's increasing tourism economy.
- Jackson County is growing and population forecasts indicate 40,000 new residents between 2000 and 2020. The parks system should plan to accommodate for heavier use in the future.
- Jackson County's population is aging. This should be considered over time when planning for park user needs.
- Jackson County's demographic characteristics are becoming more diverse. The demographic characteristics should be periodically reviewed to ensure park planning reflects community needs.

# Chapter 5

## Recreation Supply

A crucial element of planning for the future of the County's park system is to inventory and assess the current facilities and amenities available in the region. This chapter presents an inventory of park facilities owned by Jackson County, as well as those owned by federal and state agencies.<sup>9</sup>

Although some of the federal and state parks reviewed here are not within the borders of Jackson County, they are included because they offer county residents recreation opportunities and access to unique areas. Many of these parks provide facilities and amenities similar to Jackson County Parks and attract similar visitors.

The Jackson County Parks inventory used specific criteria including park location, size, surrounding land uses, safety issues, and condition ratings for park infrastructure and amenities. The condition assessment is based on input from Jackson County Parks Department staff.

### Parks in the Jackson County Area

Jackson County has parks, forests, and public lands that provide a diverse assortment of facilities, services, and outdoors activities. Crater Lake National Park borders Jackson County to the northeast, and neighboring Rogue and Siskiyou National Forests provide access to outdoor recreation, as well as interpretation and education opportunities. The Bureau of Land Management also administers recreation activities at 41 locations in the Medford District. These sites represent a range of development types from minimally maintained trails and primitive campsites to fully developed recreation areas. Additionally, there are six Oregon State Parks in Jackson County that complement the County's 22 parks. State and federal recreation areas located within Jackson County are listed below in Table 5-1. The *Regional Context Map* illustrates where various parks are located and ownership boundaries of both State and Federal lands.

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<sup>9</sup> The inventory includes parks, boat launches, and camping facilities that are owned or managed by the County and state and federal agencies. It does not include city parks, because they serve a fundamentally different purpose: developed parks and recreation facilities serving city residents. Moreover, it does not include private campgrounds because they meet a different recreational need than county parks.

**Table 5-1. State and federal recreation areas in Jackson County**

|   | Type            | Ownership | Acreage   | Annual Visitation | Fees                         | Campgrounds | Campsites |
|---|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| <b>Federal</b>                          |                 |           |           |                   |                              |             |           |
| Crater Lake N.P.                        | National Park   | Federal   | 183,224   | 455,648           | Day use: Yes<br>Camping: Yes | 2           | 216       |
| Rogue N.F.                              | National Forest | Federal   | 630,000   | N/A               | Day use: Yes<br>Camping: Yes | 9           | 613       |
| Siskiyou N.F.                           | National Forest | Federal   | 1,100,000 | N/A               | Day use: Yes<br>Camping: Yes | 8           | 160       |
| Wimena N.F.                             | National Forest | Federal   | 1,100,111 | N/A               | Day use: Yes<br>Camping: Yes | 16          | N/A       |
| Bureau of Land Management               | Managed Land    | Federal   | 198,500   | 128,000           | Day use: No<br>Camping: Yes  | 14          | 1017      |
| <i>Federal Subtotal</i>                 |                 |           | 3,211,835 | 583,648           |                              | 49          | 2006      |
| <b>State</b>                            |                 |           |           |                   |                              |             |           |
| Casey State Recreation Site             | State Park      | State     | 81        | 231,518           | Day use: No                  | 0           | 0         |
| Joseph H. Stewart State Recreation Area | State Park      | State     | 911       | 263,607           | Day use: No<br>Camping: Yes  | 1           | 199       |
| Prospect State Scenic Viewpoint         | State Park      | State     | 11        | N/A               | Day use: No                  | 0           | 0         |
| Touvelle State Recreation Site          | State Park      | State     | 58        | 339,096           | Day use: Yes                 | 0           | 0         |
| Tub Springs State Wayside               | State Park      | State     | 40        | 67,772            | Day use: No                  | 0           | 0         |
| Valley of the Rogue State               | State Park      | State     | 278       | 1,944,334         | Day use: No<br>Camping: Yes  | 1           | 176       |
| <i>State Subtotal</i>                   |                 |           | 1,379     | 2,846,327         |                              | 2           | 375       |

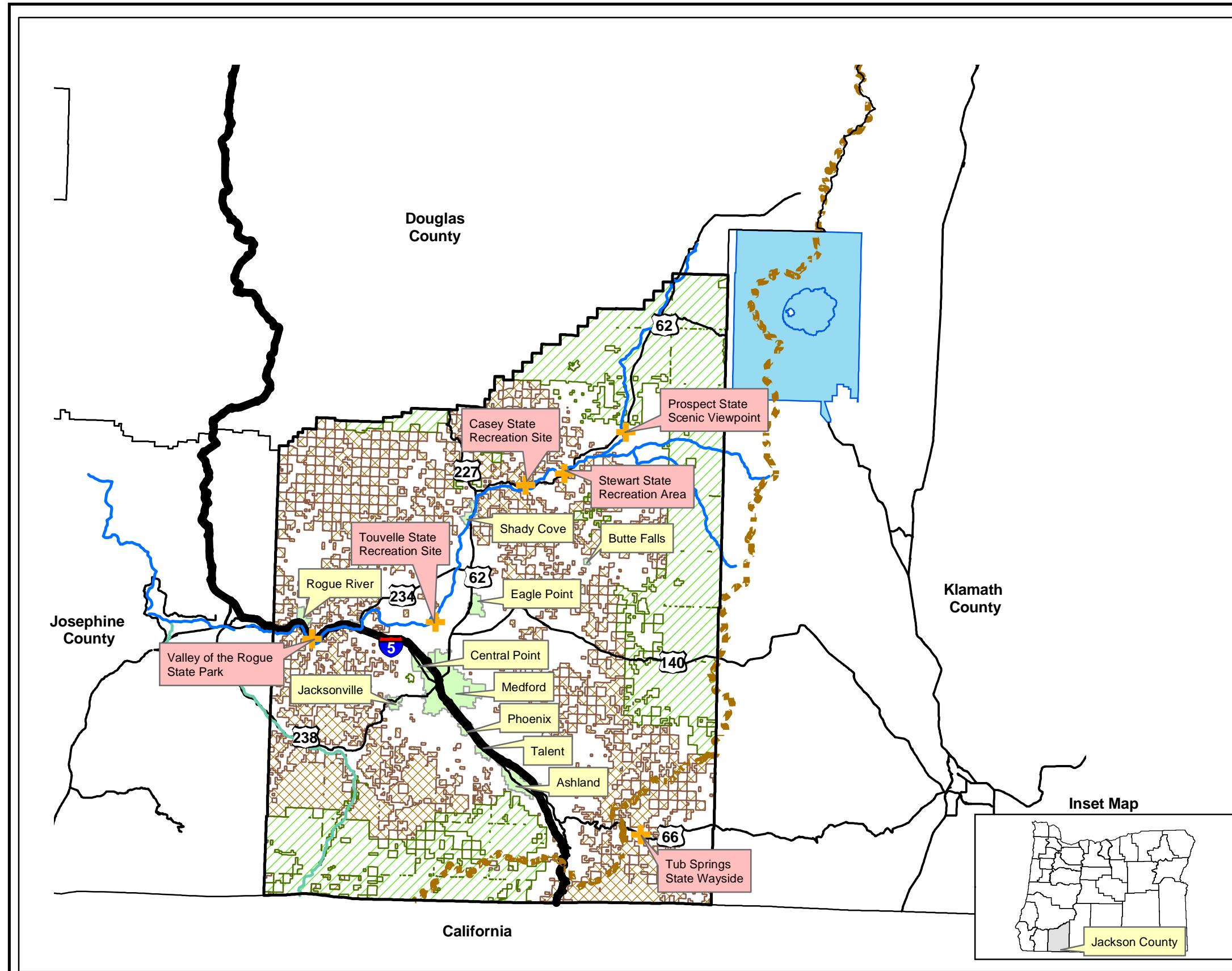
Source: Crater Lake National Park; Rogue River National Forest, Siskiyou National Forest, and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Public Services Division



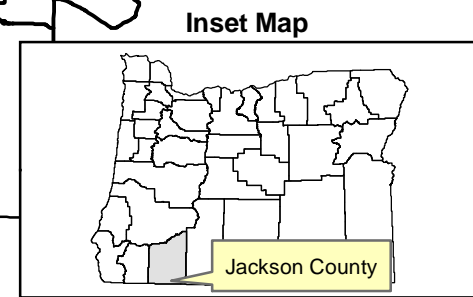
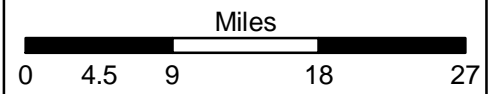
# Regional Context Map

Jackson County

Parks Master Plan



- Jackson County
- Oregon Counties
- State Parks
- Pacific Crest Trail
- Rogue River
- Applegate River
- Interstate 5
- Highways
- Crater Lake National Park
- Urban Growth Boundaries
- Federal Land**
  - BLM
  - USFS



Data Sources: Jackson County GIS, Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon Geospatial Data Clearinghouse  
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic  
Cartographer: Robert Stevens  
June 2004

## Federal Lands

### Crater Lake National Park

Crater Lake, the nation's fifth oldest national park, is located on the northeastern border of Jackson County. In 1902 Congress set aside Crater Lake and its surrounding 180,000 acres of wilderness as a national park to preserve the area's natural objects, timber, and fish for the enjoyment of the citizens of the U.S. Today, the park hosts nearly one-half million visitors annually, who come to drive around the lake, hike in old growth forests, participate in interpretive activities, camp, or stay in a historic hotel. During the eight-month Cascades winter, the national park offers extensive winter activities, including cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.<sup>10</sup>

There are more than 90 miles of trails leading into the backcountry of Crater Lake National Park. Just over 90% of the park is managed as wilderness, though these areas have yet to be designated as such. A permit is required for all overnight trips. The Pacific Crest Trail passes through the park for 30 miles. There are also many trails throughout the park that allow equestrian access.<sup>11</sup>

There are two campgrounds at Crater Lake National Park that offer a total of 216 campsites. Mazama Campground contains 200 sites with running water, fire rings, picnic tables, and flush toilets. Lost Creek Campground contains 16 sites for tent camping only. It is located in the southeast corner of the park on the spur road to the Pinnacles overlook. It is open from July through early October.

### National Forests

The Rogue River National Forest offers hiking, camping, and boating throughout the County. The Rogue River N.F. consists of 45 destinations, each offering a diverse combination of facilities and amenities, including: water, restrooms, handicap accessibility, and picnic tables.

Depending on road maintenance and weather conditions, nearly half of all Rogue River destinations offer winter access for winter sports. A state Sno-Park permit is required to park in these areas between November 15 and April 30. These permits, either day-use or annual passes, may be purchased at the Oregon State Division of Motor Vehicles offices, sporting goods stores, and various winter sport resort areas.<sup>12</sup>

The Siskiyou National Forest, with its 600+ hiking trails, whitewater rapids, fishing opportunities, is well-known area for outdoor recreation

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<sup>10</sup> Crater Lake National Park. [www.nps.gov/crla](http://www.nps.gov/crla) 2/12/2004.

<sup>11</sup> Crater Lake National Park. [www.nps.gov/crla](http://www.nps.gov/crla) 2/12/2004.

<sup>12</sup> Rogue River National Forest. [www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue) 2/12/2004.

in the Jackson County region. This national forest is home to extraordinary igneous and sedimentary rock formations. And because of the varied terrain, its climate varies dramatically throughout the year, providing habitat for many rare plant species, including unique forms of cacti.<sup>13</sup>

There are more than 105 hiking trails in the Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests. These trails provide access into many remote areas and also provide river access along portions of the Rogue River and its tributaries. The Pacific Crest Trail stretches across the southwest portion of the County, and meanders to the northeast into the Rogue River National Forest. The Pacific Crest Trail passes just south of Howard Prairie Lake, and east of Willow Lake.

Facilities for camping are available at 17 campgrounds in the Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests. These areas offer Jackson County residents and visitors a variety of camping experiences ranging from fully developed campgrounds with showers and flush toilets to primitive sites accessed only by foot.

Cutting across the Coast Range and the Siskiyou National Forest, the Rogue River begins near Crater Lake in the Cascade Mountains and carves its way west to the Pacific Ocean. The Siskiyou National Forest manages 35 miles of whitewater in the Wild Rogue Wilderness Area.<sup>14</sup> The Wild Section of the Rogue River is a popular whitewater run that is an attraction for both residents and visitors. The area is especially popular for the steady water level due to upstream dams, the hot, sunny summer weather, and exciting whitewater rapids that pass through lush forests and steep canyons. The river also provides recreation opportunities for other water sports such as fishing and kayaking.

## **Bureau of Land Management**

The Bureau of Land Management maintains 2 million acres of land in western Oregon. Nearly one-tenth of that land is located in Jackson County. The BLM is the largest supplier of campsites in Jackson County. As shown in Table 5-1, the BLM has 14 campgrounds offering between 4 – 305 sites per area for a total of 1,017 campsites.<sup>15</sup>

## **State Parks**

There are six Oregon State Parks in Jackson County. All of the parks are conveniently located near Highway 62 or I-5, and they are close to the area's two main population centers, Medford and Ashland. Four of these parks: TouVelle State Recreation Area, Prospect State Scenic

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<sup>13</sup> Siskiyou National Forest. [www.fs.fed.us/r6/siskiyou](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/siskiyou) 2/12/2004.

<sup>14</sup> Siskiyou National Forest. [www.fs.fed.us/r6/siskiyou](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/siskiyou) 2/12/2004.

<sup>15</sup> Bureau of Land Management, Oregon and Washington. [www.or.blm.gov](http://www.or.blm.gov) 2/12/2004.

Viewpoint, Joseph H. Stewart State Recreation Area, and Casey State Recreation Site are located on Highway 62, which follows the Rogue River northeast of Medford. Valley of the Rogue State Park and Tub Springs State Wayside are situated near I-5, north of Medford.

Access to water recreation activities is an important component of recreation areas within the county. During the hot, dry summers, these areas are popular for people of all ages. State Parks provide significant swimming, boating, fishing, and rafting opportunities within the county. Table 5-2 lists State Park facilities within the county.

TouVelle State Recreation Site is the only state park in Jackson County that charges a day-use fee – the remaining parks are free to the public.<sup>16</sup>

**Table 5-2. Oregon State Park Facilities in Jackson County**

|                    | Casey State Recreation Site | Joseph H. Stewart State Recreation Area | Prospect State Scenic Viewpoint | TouVelle State Recreation Site | Tub Springs State Wayside | Valley of the Rogue State Park |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Evening Programs   | ✓                           | ✓                                       |                                 |                                |                           | ✓                              |
| Camping            |                             | ✓                                       |                                 |                                |                           | ✓                              |
| Playground         |                             |   |                                 |                                |                           | ✓                              |
| Fishing            | ✓                           | ✓                                       |                                 | ✓                              |                           |                                |
| Boating Ramps      | ✓                           | ✓                                       |                                 | ✓                              |                           | ✓                              |
| Boating            | ✓                           | ✓                                       |                                 | ✓                              |                           |                                |
| Marina             |                             | ✓                                       |                                 |                                |                           |                                |
| Hiking             |                             | ✓                                       | ✓                               | ✓                              | ✓                         | ✓                              |
| Restrooms          | ✓                           | ✓                                       | ✓                               | ✓                              |                           | ✓                              |
| ADA Restroom       |                             |   |                                 | ✓                              |                           | ✓                              |
| Showers            |                             | ✓                                       |                                 |                                |                           | ✓                              |
| Swimming           |                             | ✓                                       |                                 | ✓                              |                           |                                |
| Beach Access       |                             | ✓                                       |                                 |                                |                           |                                |
| Dump Stations      |                             | ✓                                       |                                 |                                |                           | ✓                              |
| Bicycle Trails     |                             | ✓                                       |                                 |                                |                           | ✓                              |
| Wildlife           |                             |   |                                 | ✓                              | ✓                         | ✓                              |
| Picnicking         | ✓                           | ✓                                       | ✓                               | ✓                              | ✓                         | ✓                              |
| Historic Resources |                             |   |                                 |                                | ✓                         | ✓                              |
| Mountains          | ✓                           | ✓                                       | ✓                               |                                | ✓                         | ✓                              |
| Waterways          | ✓                           |   | ✓                               | ✓                              |                           | ✓                              |
| Forest             | ✓                           | ✓                                       | ✓                               |                                | ✓                         |                                |
| Lake               |                             | ✓                                       |                                 |                                |                           |                                |

Source: Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department

Trails allow for foot, bike, and cross-country ski access to meadows, forests, and waterways throughout the state parks within Jackson County. Some trails are ADA accessible, and others offer educational and interpretive trail markers (Table 5-2).

Campgrounds are located at Joseph Stewart State Recreation Area and Valley of the Rogue State Park and both are open year-round. The quantity of RV and full hookup sites, as well as their proximity to I-5, make these areas attractive destinations for the growing number of visitors that come to Jackson County each year (Table 5-3).

<sup>16</sup> Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department. [www.prd.state.or.us](http://www.prd.state.or.us) 2/12/2004.

**Table 5-3. State Park Camping Facilities**

|               | Joseph H. Stewart<br>State Recreation Area |                      |                       | Valley of the Rogue State Park |                      |                       |
|---------------|--|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
|               | Units                                      | Rates                |                       | Units                          | Rates                |                       |
|               |  | May 1 to<br>Sept. 30 | Oct. 1 to<br>April 30 |                                | May 1 to<br>Sept. 30 | Oct. 1 to<br>April 30 |
| RV Sites      | 148  | \$16                 | \$12                  | 98                             | \$20                 | \$16                  |
| Tent Sites    | 49   | \$14                 | \$10                  | 48                             | \$16                 | \$12                  |
| Group Sites   | 2  | \$60                 | \$40                  | 21                             | \$60                 | \$40                  |
| Yurts         | 0  | N/A                  | N/A                   | 3                              | \$27                 | \$27                  |
| Extra Vehicle |  | \$7                  | \$7                   |                                | \$7                  | \$7                   |

Source: Joseph Stewart State Recreation Area; Valley of the Rogue State Park


















## Jackson County Parks

This section provides a detailed description and condition assessment of all parks owned and/or operated by the Jackson County Parks System.


















There are 22 parks in the Jackson County Parks System. Jackson County and the Parks Department own *and* operate 14 parks in the Parks System. Four parks are owned by state or local organizations and operated by the Jackson County Parks Department. The remaining four parks are owned by Jackson County and operated by concessionaires.

Table 5-4 summarizes parks in the Jackson County Parks System. Map 5-1 shows the location of County Parks.

**Table 5-4. Jackson County Parks Facilities and Activities**

|                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Special Use Parks</b> |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1                        | Britt Gardens   | o   |   |   |   |   |   |  | o   |   |   |   |   |   | o   |   | o   |
| 2                        | Bear Creek Greenway   | o   |   |   |   |   |   | o  |   |   |   |   | o   |   |   |   | o   |
| 3                        | Sports Park   | o   |   | o   |   |   |   |  | o   |   | o   |   |   |   |   | o   | o   |
| <b>River Parks</b>       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4                        | Cantrall-Buckley  | o   | o   | o   |   |   |   |  | o   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | o   |
| 5                        | Dodge Bridge  | o   |   | o   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   | o   |   |   |   | o   |
| 6                        | Fisher's Ferry  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   | o   |   |   |   | o   |
| 7                        | Rogue Elk   | o   |   | o   |   | o   | o   |  | o   | o   |   |   | o   |   |   |   | o   |
| 8                        | Takelma   | o   |   | o   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   | o   |   |   |   | o   |
| 9                        | Upper Rogue   | o   |   | o   |   |   |   |  | o   |   |   |   | o   |   |   |   | o   |
| <b>Reservoir Parks</b>   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10                       | Agate Lake  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | o   |
| 11                       | Emigrant Lake   | o   | o   | o   |   | o   | o   |  | o   | o   |   | o   |   |   |   |   | o   |
| 12                       | Howard Prairie  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | o   |
|                          | Apserkaha   | o   | o   |   |   | o   |   |  |   | o   |   | o   |   | o   |   |   | o   |
|                          | Grizzly Creek   | o   | o   | o   |   | o   |   |  | o   | o   |   | o   |   | o   |   |   | o   |
|                          | Klum Landing  | o   | o   |   |   | o   | o   |  | o   | o   |   | o   |   | o   |   |   | o   |
|                          | Lily Glen   | o   |   |   |   | o   | o   | o  | o   |   |   | o   |   | o   |   |   | o   |
|                          | Resort  | o   | o   | o   | o   | o   | o   | o  | o   |   |   | o   |   | o   |   |   | o   |
|                          | Sugar Pine  | o   |   |   |   | o   |   |  | o   |   |   | o   |   | o   |   |   | o   |
|                          | Willow Point  | o   |   | o   |   | o   |   |  | o   |   |   | o   |   | o   |   |   | o   |
| 13                       | Willow Lake   | o   | o   | o   |   | o   | o   |  | o   | o   |   | o   |   | o   |   |   | o   |
| <b>Open Space Parks</b>  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14                       | Aiken   |   |   | o   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15                       | Brownsboro Wayside  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 16                       | Givan   |   |   | o   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 17                       | Gold Ray Dam  |   |   | o   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 18                       | Hardy Riffle  |   |   | o   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 19                       | Hooper Springs  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 20                       | May Adam Ellis  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 21                       | Savage Creek  |   |   | o   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 22                       | Vaughn  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

**LEGEND**

|   |         |   |              |   |             |   |                   |   |          |
|---|---------|---|--------------|---|-------------|---|-------------------|---|----------|
|  | Fee     |  | Tent Camping |  | Picnic Area |  | Interpretive Site |  | Restroom |
|  | Hiking  |  | RV Camping   |  | Swimming    |  | Lodges and Cabins |   |          |
|  | Fishing |  | Horse Trails |  | Rifle Range |  | Amphitheater      |   |          |
|  | Yurts   |  | Horse Stable |  | Boat Ramp   |  | ORV Area          |   |          |

The Parks Department partners with a variety of concessionaires and contractors to maintain and operate Jackson County Parks, as listed in Table 5-5. The *County Parks Map* illustrates the location of the parks. These partnerships enable community groups and the Parks Department to manage parks, such as Britt Gardens, based on experience and ability. Yet this flexibility may also contribute to confusion in the community about which parks in Jackson County are county parks.

**Table 5-5. Jackson County Parks Ownership and Operators**

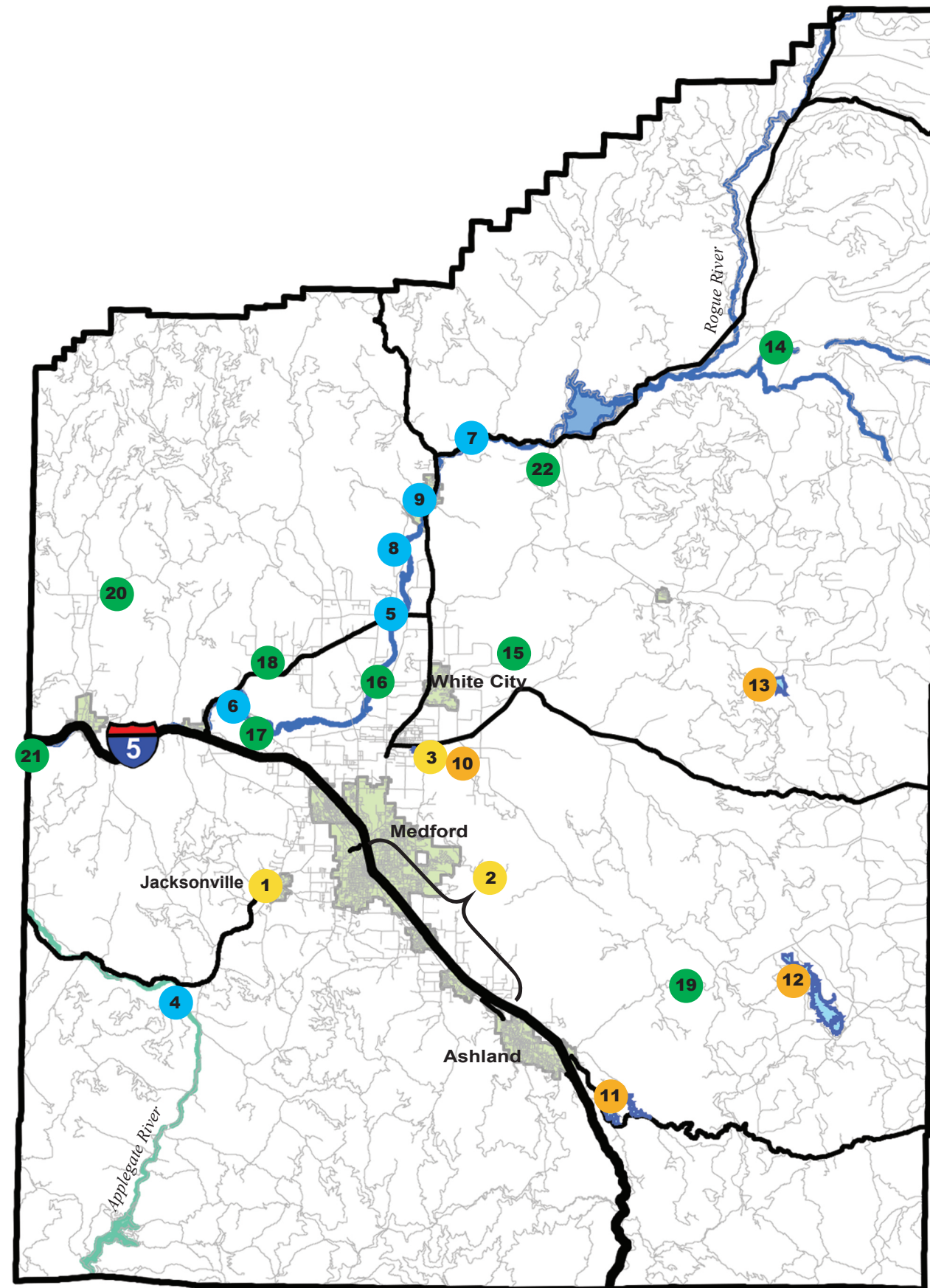
| Jackson County Parks (JCP) | Owner                    | Operator   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Special Use Parks</b>   |                          |  |
| Britt Gardens              | County                   | JCP and Britt Festivals  |
| Bear Creek Greenway        | County                   | JCP, Rogue Valley Council of Governments Bear Creek Greenway Committee, and the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation |
| Sports Park                | County                   |  |
| Hoover Ponds               | County                   | JCP  |
| Southern Oregon Fields     | County                   | Oregon District 6 Little League  |
| Oval Track and Drag Strip  | County                   | John Skinner   |
| Shooting range             | County                   | Rogue Valley Shooters  |
| Kart track                 | County                   | Southern Oregon Karters  |
| <b>River Parks</b>         |                          |  |
| Cantrell Buckley           | County                   | Applegate Partnership  |
| Dodge Bridge               | County                   | JCP  |
| Fishers Ferry              | County                   | JCP  |
| Rogue Elk                  | Oregon Fish and Wildlife | JCP  |
| Takelma                    | County                   | JCP  |
| Upper Rogue Regional       | County                   | JCP  |
| <b>Reservoir Parks</b>     |                          |  |
| Agate Lake                 | BOR                      | JCP  |
| Emigrant Lake              | BOR                      | JCP  |
| Howard Prairie Lake        | County                   |  |
| Apserkaha                  | BOR                      | YMCA   |
| Grizzly                    | BOR                      | JCP  |
| Klum Landing               | BOR                      | JCP  |
| Lily Glen                  | BOR                      | JCP  |
| Resort                     | BOR                      | Johnston Stores  |
| Sugar Pine                 | BOR                      | JCP  |
| Willow Point               | BOR                      | JCP  |
| Willow Lake                | City of Medford          | JCP  |
| <b>Open Space Parks</b>    |                          |  |
| Aiken                      | County                   | JCP  |
| Brownsboro Wayside         | County                   | JCP  |
| Givan                      | County                   | JCP  |
| Gold Ray Dam               | County                   | JCP  |
| Hardy Riffle               | County                   | JCP  |
| Hooper Springs             | County                   | JCP  |
| May Adam Ellis             | County                   | JCP  |
| Savage Creek               | County                   | JCP  |
| Vaughn                     | County                   | JCP  |

Source: Jackson County Parks

# County Parks Map

Jackson County

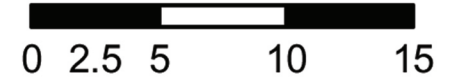
Parks Master Plan



- Jackson County
- Lakes
- Interstate 5
- Highways
- Streets
- Rogue River
- Applegate River
- Urban Growth Boundaries



Miles



Data Sources: Jackson County GIS, Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon Geospatial Data Clearinghouse  
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic  
Cartographer: Robert Stevens  
June 2004



## Park Classification

Park classifications serve as guidelines that inform management decisions affecting current and future park user needs. In terms of park management, the function of each park is more important than its size. For that reason, the following classifications on the unique features and activities offered at Jackson County Parks.

Water is an important element at all Jackson County Parks. For urban residents, waterways and lakes provide a contrast to urban environments. They offer the sight of moving water, pleasing sounds, recreation opportunities, and serve as a natural system for storm-water collection. Waterways provide natural habitat that serve as wildlife corridors between rural and urban areas.<sup>17</sup> In addition to providing habitat, reservoirs and lakes give a sense of place and are important gathering points for community members.

Both the Sports Park and Howard Prairie Recreation Area contain more than two distinct zones, or sub-parks. Except where otherwise noted in this plan, the Sports Park and Howard Prairie Recreation Area are considered individual parks.

The four classifications for Jackson County Parks include: Special Use, River, Reservoir, and Open Space Parks.

### Special Use Parks

#### Size: Varies

Special Use Parks provide a variety of active and passive recreation activities. They are located near population centers, and include facilities for organized groups, as well as individuals and families. These parks offer unique activities that are attractive to tourists as well as residents. Special Use Parks contribute character and create a sense of place.

#### Benefits and Function

Special Use Parks provide easily accessible recreation opportunities for all age groups. They preserve open spaces and historic features that allow for educational and interpretive experiences. These parks serve as community focal points, and provide venues for community activities. They offer amenities such as sports facilities, amphitheaters, group picnic areas, interpretive centers, and community centers.

Jackson County has three special use parks:

- Britt Gardens
- Bear Creek Greenway
- Sports Park

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<sup>17</sup> Jackson County Parks Department. *Bear Creek Greenway Plan: Management Policies and Guidelines*. 1982. Page 1.

## **River Parks**

### **Size: Varies**

River Parks offer residents access to the Rogue and Applegate Rivers. Water is an important recreation feature in Jackson County, and although these parks tend to be small, they experience significant amounts of use. They vary in size, and may or may not be located near residential areas.

### **Benefits and Function**

River Parks allow residents and visitors to connect with waterways in Jackson County. Activities at these areas include swimming, boating, fishing, and rafting.

Jackson County has six river parks:

- Cantrell Buckley
- Dodge Bridge
- Fisher's Ferry
- Rogue Elk
- Takelma
- Upper Rogue Regional

## **Reservoir Parks**

### **Size: Varies**

Reservoir Parks are located near natural and man-made lakes. They provide access to unique wildlife habitat and open space. These parks provide a variety of water activities that are open to people of all ages. Reservoir Parks vary in size and level of development.

### **Benefits and Function**

Reservoir Parks offer a variety of active recreation opportunities including, swimming, fishing, and boating. Passive activities available at Reservoir Parks include nature study, walking, sitting, and picnicking. These parks are unique areas which create a sense of identity and place.

Jackson County has four reservoir parks:

- Agate Lake
- Emigrant Lake
- Howard Prairie Recreational Area
- Willow Lake

## **Open Space Parks**

### **Size: Varies**

Open Space Parks provide visitors with a unique outdoor experience. These parks offer few facilities or amenities, but allow access to minimally developed open space. Each Open Space Park is located either along the Rogue River or a variety of streams. They vary widely in size from 1.35-acre Hooper Springs, to 301-acre Givan Park.

## **Benefits and Function**

Open Space Parks are less developed areas that afford visitors the opportunity to experience unhampered natural areas. Parks in this classification

There are nine Open Space Parks in Jackson County:

- Aiken
- Brownsboro Wayside
- Givan
- Gold Ray Dam
- Hardy Riffle
- Hooper Springs
- May Adam Ellis
- Savage Creek
- Vaughn

## **Park Classification Summary**

Reservoir Parks constitute 60 percent of all Jackson County Parks when measured by area – due in part to the inclusion of lake acreage in each park’s acreage. Table 5-6 lists the acreage, fees, and number of campsites by park classification. Special Use Parks account for 32 percent of county-parkland. Although River Parks make-up just 2 percent of parkland they experience significant use by fishing and boating enthusiasts. Open Space Parks account for 6 percent of all county-parkland.

More than 89 percent of the campsites available in the park system are located in Reservoir Parks. The remaining 11 percent are found at Cantrell Buckley and Rogue Elk Parks.

There are 30 parks and sub-parks in the park system – of these, 13 charge a day-use fee. The majority of reservoir parks and river parks charge day fees, while the majority of special use parks and open space parks do not.

**Table 5-6. Jackson County Parks Classification, Size, Fees, and Camping Facilities**

| <b>Jackson County Parks</b>                           | <b>Acreage</b> | <b>Day Use Fee</b> | <b>Campsites</b> |
|---|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Special Use Parks</b>                              |                |                    |                  |
| Britt Gardens   | 13             | No                 | None             |
| Bear Creek Greenway                                   | 1,000          | No                 | None             |
| Sports Park   | 687            |                    |                  |
| Hoover Ponds  | 256            | Yes                | None             |
| Southern Oregon Fields                                | 10             | No                 | None             |
| Oval Track, Drag Strip,<br>Shooting Range, Kart Track | 421            | Yes                | None             |
| <i>Subtotal</i>                                       | <i>2,387</i>   |                    |                  |
| <b>River Parks</b>                                    |                |                    |                  |
| Cantrell Buckley                                      | 89             | Yes                | 31               |
| Dodge Bridge  | 23             | Yes                | None             |
| Fishers Ferry   | 4              | No                 | None             |
| Rogue Elk   | 33             | Yes                | 42               |
| Takelma   | 40             | Yes                | None             |
| Upper Rogue Regional                                  | 8              | Yes                | None             |
| <i>Subtotal</i>                                       | <i>197</i>     |                    | <i>73</i>        |
| <b>Reservoir Parks</b>                                |                |                    |                  |
| Agate Lake  | 693            | No                 | None             |
| Emigrant Lake   | 1,467          | Yes                | 73               |
| Howard Prairie Lake                                   | 712            |                    | 480              |
| Apserkaha   | 66             | No                 | None             |
| Grizzly   | 80             | Yes                | 21               |
| Klum Landing  | 156            | Yes                | 30               |
| Lily Glen   | 40             | Yes                | 26               |
| Resort  | 155            | Yes                | 352              |
| Sugar Pine  | 156            | No                 | 11               |
| Willow Point  | 59             | Yes                | 40               |
| Willow Lake   | 927            | No                 | 57               |
| <i>Subtotal</i>                                       | <i>4,511</i>   |                    | <i>610</i>       |
| <b>Open Space Parks</b>                               |                |                    |                  |
| Aiken   | 9              | No                 | None             |
| Brownsboro Wayside                                    | 8              | No                 | None             |
| Givan   | 301            | No                 | None             |
| Gold Ray Dam  | 29             | No                 | None             |
| Hardy Riffle  | 64             | No                 | None             |
| Hooper Springs  | 1              | No                 | None             |
| May Adam Ellis  | 6              | No                 | None             |
| Savage Creek  | 7              | No                 | None             |
| Vaughn  | 13             | No                 | None             |
| <i>Subtotal</i>                                       | <i>438</i>     |                    |                  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>7,533</b>   |                    | <b>683</b>       |

Source: Jackson County Parks Department

## Special Use Parks

### Britt Gardens (Special Use Park)

Britt Gardens is a 12.8-acre developed park located on the fringe of Jacksonville, overlooking the Rogue River Valley. The park offers a unique array of passive recreation activities for the community and visitors including, nature viewing, hiking, photography, and bird watching. Trees planted by Peter Britt, the park benefactor, have been preserved, and the interpretive center and trail allow easy access to the natural and cultural features of the park.

Britt Gardens is located on the corner of California Street and First Street in Jacksonville. There are public parking lots on C and D Streets, and overflow parking for concerts is available at Cascade Christian High School at E and 6th Streets. Free trolley transportation is offered from all lots to the main gate prior to concerts. A handicapped designated parking lot is located across First Street from the main park entrance. Three slot racks for bicycle parking are also available on the grounds. The total seating capacity at Britt Festivals is 2,200.

The park is operated by Jackson County Parks from September 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 31<sup>st</sup>. Between June 1<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> Britt Festivals, which hosts a local chamber orchestra, presents educational programs, summer camps, and weekly concerts by nationally renowned performers. The park is open year-round for day-use and fees are charged only to attend Britt Festival performances.

With a maximum capacity of 2,200, Britt is able to attract world-class artists while maintaining an intimate atmosphere. Britt Gardens is publicly owned by Jackson County and maintained by the Parks Department. The Britt Festivals Association is a non-profit performing arts organization that utilizes the Britt Gardens under a long-term lease with Jackson County.

Signage directing traffic is posted on Highway 238 from Medford and Grants Pass, and additional signage is located at the main entrance and throughout the park. There is an area for passenger drop off, facilities for people with disabilities, concessions, bathrooms, and a designated smoking area. There is bench seating, open fields, and 35 picnic tables for day-use and concert evenings. A concession stand is open during performances. Timed sprinklers connected to City of Jacksonville water lines irrigate the grass fields at Britt Gardens.

#### Amenities

- Fifteen park benches
- One equipment shed
- One field for concert seating
- Lighting

Figure 1. Britt Gardens amphitheater



Source: Jackson County Parks

- Three picnic areas
- Thirty-five picnic tables
- One pay phone
- Fifteen restrooms
- Two handicapped restrooms
- One snack shack
- One trail
- Five trash cans
- Two water fountains

### Concerns

- None

### Bear Creek Greenway (Special Use Park)

The Bear Creek Greenway is a narrow corridor of publicly owned land that follows Bear Creek from Ashland to Central Point. The Greenway contains over 1,000 acres of land that will one day include a continuous 21-mile path from Oak Street in Ashland to the Seven Oaks Interchange in Central Point. Unlike an urban park, which is an island of green within a city, the Greenway is an open space connecting communities and their parks.

**Figure 2. Bear Creek Greenway**



Source: Jackson County Parks

The Medford and Talent paths are paved and are suitable for joggers, walkers, bicyclists, and wheelchair users. Motorized vehicles, with the exception of maintenance vehicles, are prohibited.

The Greenway is essential for preserving both the quality of Bear Creek's water and its unique stream-side habitat. This corridor is a refuge for animals and it will increase in importance as population in the Bear Creek Valley grows. The Greenway is a great place for exercise, nature study, or just a quick escape from the urban environment.<sup>18</sup>

The Jackson County Parks Department is the primary planning and management body of the Bear Creek Greenway. The only exceptions are the sections running through Medford and Ashland, which are managed by their respective jurisdiction. The cities of Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, Central Point and Eagle Point have assisted in land acquisition and planning.

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<sup>18</sup> Jackson County Parks Department. *Bear Creek Greenway Plan: Management Policies and Guidelines*. 1982. Page 4.

Patrolling the Bear Creek Greenway will continue to be an important management issue. As use increases, so does the need for patrolling. There is always a potential that someone will take advantage of the remote and secluded sections of the greenway to engage in illegal or socially unacceptable behavior. Ensuring adequate staff resources for law enforcement is an essential greenway management priority.<sup>19</sup>

Future development of the Bear Creek Greenway could include an extension to the City of Rogue River. The proximity of I-5 would make this new section a popular location for both residents and travelers on the interstate. In addition, as the Greenway follows the Rogue River from Ashland to Medford it passes several Open Space Parks. Creating convenient access points from the Greenway may increase visitation rates at these parks.

### **Amenities**

- Pedestrian, bike, equestrian access
- Multiple trailheads
- Parking
- Access to Jackson County Open Space Parks

### **Concerns**

- Patrolling
- Resources for management staff

## **Sports Park (Special Use Park)**

The Jackson County Sports Park is composed of five sub-parks. The Sports Park complex is popular for its proximity to White City and Medford and for the broad range of activities offered:

### **Hoover Ponds**

Hoover Ponds encompasses 256 acres, with 46.5 acres of pond area. The park is located on Kershaw Road, eleven miles northeast of Medford. The area is owned by Jackson County and operated by the parks department.

Drainage is handled by a gravity-fed system between ponds. However, illegal all-terrain vehicle access has contributed to the deterioration of the banks separating each pond. As the banks erode, the ponds have begun to converge – a process that may create one large pond.

In order to prevent vandalism the park requires an entry gate key purchased for \$2.50 from the parks department.

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<sup>19</sup> Jackson County Parks Department. *Bear Creek Greenway Plan: Management Policies and Guidelines*. 1982. Page 71.

### **Southern Oregon Ballfields**

Southern Oregon Fields is a 10-acre, developed facility that is free to the public. It is located at the intersection of Kershaw Road and Highway 140. Surrounding land uses include Hoover Ponds County Park, the Jackson County Sports Park (including a drag strip, oval track, and shooting range) as well as residential areas.

Although the fields are used seasonally for softball and baseball, the Oregon District 6 Little League association operates the facility – including two snack shacks – year-round. Vandalism, graffiti, and litter are a continual problem, and all structures and improvements are in need of replacement or repair.

**Figure 3. Southern Oregon Ballfields**



Source: Jackson County Parks

### **Oval Track and Drag Strip**

The site of the Oval Track, Drag Strip, Kart Track, and Public Shooting Range was originally home to Camp White Military Rifle Range until Jackson County began leasing the area from the Bureau of Reclamation. On September 5, 1974, the site was officially deeded to the County. Then first lady, Mrs. Pat Nixon, wife of President Richard M. Nixon, presented Jackson County with the property as part of the Legacy of Parks Program.

**Figure 4. Drag strip**



Source: Jackson County Parks

There is a motorized vehicle activity fee and shooting range fee for Sports Park visitors. At present, the Oval Track and Drag Strip are operated by John Skinner.

### **Kart Track**

The Kart Track consists of a 1/8 mile, banked clay oval with a racing surface approximately 35 ft. wide. The facility is owned by Jackson County and operated by

**Figure 5. Kart Track**



Source: Southern Oregon Karters

Southern Oregon Karters, which host 6 classes of kart races. General admission is \$5.00 per spectator - \$3.00 for kids and seniors.

### **Public Shooting Range**

The Public Shooting Range is open year-round to shooting enthusiasts. Visitors pay a fee to use this facility managed by the Rogue Valley Sports Shooting Association.



## Amenities

- Hoover Ponds - Pond area
- Southern Oregon Fields - Two snack shacks; Lighting; 10 Fields; Signage; Water system
- Oval Track and Drag Strip
- Kart Track
- Public Shooting Range

## Concerns

- Hoover Ponds – Vandalism; Erosion
- Southern Oregon Fields - Rotting bathroom facilities; All structures in need of replacement; Vandalism
- Oval Track and Drag Strip
- Kart Track
- Public Shooting Range

Figure 6. Public Shooting Range



Source: Jackson County Parks

## River Parks

### Cantrell Buckley (River Park)

Cantrell Buckley is an 88.6-acre park located on Cantrell Road, eighteen miles southwest of Medford, and eight miles west of Jacksonville via Highway 238. The park is situated on the bank of the Applegate River and includes 1.75 miles of river frontage. The park offers a variety of passive and active recreation activities throughout the year.

The surrounding area is owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Cantrell Buckley is owned by Jackson County Parks and is operated by the Applegate Partnership, a local community group. There are 70 parking spaces and 2 handicapped parking spaces. Signage is posted at the entrance and throughout the park, but new and updated signs are needed to designate areas of the park. Day-use at Cantrell Buckley is \$3 per day, and camping is \$10 per night. The campground offers 31 tent sites and four showers.

Cantrell Buckley facilities include two playground areas, a caretaker's house, several picnic areas, a campground, and hiking trails. Most of the structures were constructed from 1960-1980 and are showing signs of disrepair. Many of the amenities are built of plywood and are in need of replacement. Running water and lighting are provided only at Shelter A, which has several safety concerns including: an outdated ceiling heat system with exposed wires and glass lighting fixtures, flooded roof, and outdated showers that do not drain properly. The paving throughout the park is uneven or damaged, and curbing in the

Figure 7. Cantrell Buckley



Source: Jackson County Parks

parking lots is deteriorating. In general paving throughout the park is inadequate, presenting hazards to pedestrians.

### **Amenities**

- Seven BBQ grills
- Four benches
- Three equipment sheds
- Five horseshoe courts
- Four picnic areas
- One hundred picnic tables
- Ten restrooms
- One trail
- Trash cans
- Seven water fountains
- Thirty-one tent sites
- Four showers
- Five slides
- Four swings

### **Concerns**

- Bathroom in need of repair
- Playground equipment not structurally sound
- Interpretive Center deteriorating
- Curbing in parking lots deteriorating
- Insufficient paving throughout the park
- Showers in need of repair
- Irrigation system damaged
- Tables and benches in need of replacement
- Running water and lighting needed throughout the park
- Park signage needed
- Litter and vandalism
- In general, all amenities and facilities outdated and in need of improvement

### **Dodge Bridge (River Park)**

Dodge Bridge located on the Rogue, 16 miles northeast of Medford via Highway 62. The park is 23.4 acres with 0.35 miles of Rogue River frontage. In 1974, Alicia Ruhl donated the park to Jackson County. The park was named for Burdette Dodge, who owned the land at the time the bridge was built. Fishing is a popular activity at Dodge Bridge and the park offers a boat ramp, handicapped fishing platform, and raft inflator to serve this use. The park is open year-round and does not charge a day-use fee. The raft inflator is accessible for a fee.

### **Amenities**

- Handicapped fishing platform
- Boat ramp
- Restrooms
- Parking

### **Concerns**

- Graffiti
- Break-ins
- Litter
- Security
- Lighting

### **Fishers Ferry (River Park)**

Fisher's Ferry is a 3.5-acre park that includes 0.28 miles of Rogue River shoreline. The park is named for Daniel F. Fisher, who ran a ferry on the Rogue River in the vicinity of Downey Falls in the 1850s. The park is the location of the old Fisher's Ferry River Crossing. It is situated eleven miles northwest of Medford. This park is one mile below Gold Ray Dam, a popular location for fishing. Fisher's Ferry is free to the public, year-round.

### **Amenities**

- One boat ramp

### **Concerns**

- None

### **Rogue Elk (River Park)**

Rogue Elk Park is 33 acres, including 0.75 miles of Rogue Elk River frontage. The park is located immediately outside Shady Cove.

The park is equipped with standard and handicapped parking areas, and signage. A new playground – constructed in 2002 – is an added attraction for families camping in the park. Rogue Elk is the most popular camping location of all Jackson County Parks. The park supplies 27 tent sites. Electricity hookups, water hookups, and a trailer dump station, are provided for 15 RV sites.

The park's most prominent feature is its access to the Rogue River. Visitors can take advantage of fishing, rafting, swimming, and boating activities. A boat launch allows for boat access, and 38 fire pits and picnic tables are available for picnickers and campers.

**Figure 8. Rogue Elk**



Source: Jackson County Parks

### **Amenities**

- One boat ramp
- Thirty-eight fire pits
- Thirty-eight picnic tables
- One playground
- One pay phone

- One restroom
- Twenty-seven tent sites
- Fifteen RV sties
- Two showers
- One equipment shed

**Concerns**

- Landscape maintenance
- Road re-surfacing
- Staff availability for maintenance
- Litter
- Non-paying visitors

**Takelma (River Park)**

Takelma is a 40-acre park, including 0.38 miles of Rogue River shoreline. It is situated along the Rogue River, 19 miles north of Medford on Highway 234.

This site was named for a tribe of Indians who made their home along the Rogue River. Takelma means “those dwelling along a river.”

Frederick W. Hodge in his “Handbook of American Indians, North of Mexico,” describes them as occupying the middle portion of the course of the Rogue River in Southwestern Oregon.

Takelma is surrounded by agricultural land. The park is minimally developed, but a boat ramp and one permanent bathroom facility are provided. Work is scheduled to begin in June 2004 on a new bathroom and paved parking area. Visitors pay a \$3.00 day-use fee at Takelma.

**Amenities**

- Signage
- Parking
- Culverts
- Drainage
- One bathroom
- One boat ramp

**Concerns**

- Restroom repair
- Vandalism
- Graffiti
- Lighting
- Maintenance and repairs

**Figure 9. Takelma**



Source: Jackson County Parks

## Upper Rogue Regional Park (River Park)

Upper Rogue Regional Park is located in Shady Cove, on Rogue River Drive. The park is 7.86-acres, and includes 0.17 miles of Rogue River frontage. The Riverhouse – an event space – is situated in the park on the east bank of the Rogue River.

Both Upper Rogue Regional Park and the Riverhouse are open year-round. The park is a popular put-in spot for rafts, and the park provides a raft inflater for a fee. A two-lane boat launch, handicapped fishing platform, and shoreline enable visitors a variety of water related activities. Several barbeques, picnic tables, and restrooms are provided throughout the park.

The Riverhouse is an event space that is used for weddings, retreats, reunions, and seminars. The facility houses a full service commercial kitchen, multiple restrooms, tables and chairs, and deck for guest use. The lawn and garden area contain a fish pond and outdoor barbeque grill. A designated parking area provides ample space for visitors to the Riverhouse.

In addition to routine litter and vandalism, the availability of restrooms poses a challenge for Upper Rogue Regional Park. During formal events the interior restroom is frequently occupied, forcing many guests – dressed in formal attire – to share the exterior restrooms with boat and raft enthusiasts passing through the area.

### Amenities

#### Upper Rogue Regional Park

- One boat ramp
- One dock
- One equipment shed
- Seven BBQ grills
- Five picnic tables
- Three restrooms
- One handicap accessible restroom
- One slide
- One pay phone
- Irrigation system
- Parking

#### Riverhouse

- One gazebo
- One grill

**Figure 10. Upper Rogue Regional Park**



Source: Jackson County Parks

**Figure 11. River House**



Source: Jackson County Parks

- Garden
- One fish pond
- Eight benches
- Walkway
- Irrigation system

### **Concerns**

#### **Upper Rogue Regional Park**

- Landscape maintenance
- Maintenance
- Litter
- Vandalism

#### **Riverhouse**

- Child safety regarding proximity to river
- Storage space needed
- Additional restrooms needed

## **Reservoir Parks**

### **Agate Lake (Reservoir Park)**

Agate Lake is a man-made reservoir located near White City and Central Point. This 693-acre park includes 3.33 miles of lake front property, and is adjacent to a golf course and decommissioned landfill.

Parking is available at a large gravel parking lot, and signage is posted for visitor reference. The lake contains a concrete dock with floatation devises.

The lack of lighting is a safety concern in terms of vandalism and the proximity of water. The gravel parking area, roadway, and grass areas are consistently torn-up by four-wheelers.

Shotgun shells are often littered at Agate Lake. Although the Sports Park shooting range is located nearby, visitors are allowed to use shotguns at Agate Lake as well.

#### **Amenities**

- Restrooms
- Parking area
- Water system – well

#### **Concerns**

- Vandalism
- Lighting
- Unauthorized access

## Emigrant Lake (Reservoir Park)

At 1,427 acres, Emigrant Lake is the largest park in the Jackson County Parks System. The park is located on Highway 66, 20 miles southeast of Medford and 5 miles east of Ashland. Day-use is allowed year-round, and camping is available from March 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>. The waterslide operates from Memorial Day and Labor Day. There are numerous passive and active recreation activities available for visitors of all ages, and handicapped facilities are provided throughout the park. Emigrant Lake boasts the second highest annual attendance of all Jackson County Parks.

The 806-acre lake is a major attraction for visitors. Despite the large numbers of swimmers and boaters using the lake, there are few accidents reported each year. The lake is also used by hang-gliders and para-sailors. Water is a precious commodity in the area and parks staff report that neighbors are constantly attempting to gain water rights to the lake. The Parks Department recently installed a 300-foot well to complement the existing water treatment system. There are numerous culverts and drainage systems, primarily located in the Oak Hill Campground, to control run-off and erosion.

The waterslide, constructed in 1984, is a unique recreation opportunity in the area, and throughout the summer months this facility operates at full capacity. Staff expressed concern that the 20-year old waterslide system may need significant structural repair in the near future. The half-mile entry drive houses a fee booth where the \$3 day-use fee is collected. Camping facilities are available in three areas: tent camping on Oak Hill, the Point RV Park, and four group campsites. There are more than 220 parking spaces including 9 handicapped spaces. Yet, due to high summer visitation rates, available parking is a significant issue at Emigrant Lake. Additionally, park staff noted land supply as a limitation to expanded parking facilities. Emigrant Lake is bordered by orchards, ranches, a golf course, and residential properties – making it difficult to expand the park boundary.

### Amenities

- Fifteen benches
- Two boat ramps
- Two docks
- Two equipment sheds
- One field
- Eighty fire-pits

Figure 12. Emigrant Lake



Source: Jackson County Parks

Figure 13. Emigrant Lake



Source: Jackson County Parks

- Eight horseshoe courts
- One memorial (Hill Cemetery)
- Four picnic areas
- One hundred picnic tables
- One pay phone
- Six restrooms
- Two handicapped restrooms
- Three shelters
- One snack shack
- Multiple walkways
- Four volleyball courts
- One waterslide
- Camping
- 41 tent sites
- 32 RV sites
- 4 group campsites

### **Concerns**

- Drainage issues throughout the park.
- Minor potholes.
- Parking
- Aging waterslide facility
- Low water recreational activities
- Dogs belonging to park visitors

### **Howard Prairie Recreational Area (Reservoir Park)**

Howard Prairie Recreational Area is a 712-acre park consisting of seven sub-parks located 26 miles east of Ashland. These sub-parks encompass Howard Prairie Lake with 6.3 miles of lake-frontage. Howard Prairie was leased by Jackson County from the Bureau of Reclamation in 1958. The 50-year lease signed at that time expires December 30, 2008.

Howard Prairie is one of the most popular county parks in part due to its water features, camping and hiking opportunities, and access from urban areas. In addition, Howard Prairie is the only county park that connects hiking trails to the Pacific Crest Trail. The seven sub-parks of this area are described below.

#### **Apserkaha Organizational Campground**

Currently, Jackson County subleases Apserkaha to YMCA of Medford for the purpose of operating an organizational camp – the park is not open to the general public. Apserkaha offers a covered cooking and eating area, first aid room, campground, as well as fishing, hiking, and swimming activities.

#### **Grizzly**

This area is known for the grizzly bears that once roamed in this vicinity. Grizzly Creek and Grizzly Prairie are now under Howard



Prairie Reservoir. Grizzly consists of 80 acres and 1.4 miles of lake-frontage.

Grizzly is open from April thru November, and visitors pay day use and camping fees for this area. In addition to a boat ramp, this sub-park provides picnicking areas, restrooms, showers, and recreation opportunities.

### **Klum Landing**

Named for the Klum Family, who owned land at Howard Prairie and raised cattle there, Klum Landing is open to the public annually from April to November. The park is 156 acres and offers 0.94 miles of lake-frontage.

### **Lily Glen Equestrian and Group Campground**

Lily Glen is named for the ranch owned by Margaret Lindsay in 1900. Much of the original land purchased by the government for the Howard Prairie Reservoir is now under water. Today, Lily Glen consists of 40 acres, and is open to visitors throughout the year. This sub-park charges day-use and camping fees, and offers a barn and horse corrals.

**Figure 13. Lily Glen**



Source: Jackson County Parks

### **Resort**

The 155-acre Resort sub-park has been successfully operated by Johnston Stores concessionaires since 1962, and is one of the most developed sub-parks at Howard Prairie. With more than 1.6 miles of lake-frontage, this area offers the visitors a wealth of services and facilities unique to the area. In addition to boat docks and 4 boat ramp lanes, the Resort contains a marina for long-term boat storage. There are 185 trailer campsites with hookups, 167 tent sites, and 19 prairie schooner rentals at the Resort – three-quarters of the campsites at Howard Prairie are located at the Resort sub-park.

### **Sugar Pine Organizational Campground**

Sugar Pine Organizational Campground is a group camping facility available only to visitors with reservations. Since Sugar Pine is one of the largest sub-parks at Howard Prairie Recreational Area, while at the same time offering the least campsites, it offers a secluded camping experience unique to the area. There is a group fire ring, fire pits, and barbeques on site.

### **Willow Point**

Willow Point is named for Willow Creek, which enters Howard Prairie Lake at this point. Two boat ramps are situated on Willow Point's 0.87 miles of lake-frontage. Visitors pay day use fees to access boat ramps, fish cleaning stations, picnic areas, and hiking trails, as well as fees for camping at one of 40 campsites.

**Figure 14. Howard Prairie Resort**



Source: Jackson County Parks

Campsites, parking, and restrooms are accessible to handicapped visitors.

### **Amenities**

#### **Apserkaha**

- Boating
- Fishing
- Twelve sleeping shelters (10 people each)
- Hiking (Connecting to the Pacific Crest Trail)
- Swimming
- Gathering area with fire ring
- Vault toilets

#### **Grizzly**

- One boat ramp
- Picnic areas
- Vault toilets
- Water
- Boating
- Camping
- Picnicking
- Swimming
- Hiking (Connecting to the Pacific Crest Trail)

**Figure 15. Willow Point**



Source: Jackson County Parks

#### **Klum Landing**

- One boat ramp
- Restrooms and showers
- Water
- Boating
- Thirty trailer campsites
- Picnicking
- Swimming
- Hiking (Connecting to the Pacific Crest Trail)

#### **Lily Glen**

- Barn and horse corrals
- Horseback riding
- Two group camping areas
- Twenty-six trailer sites (no hookups)
- Picnic areas
- Vault toilets
- Water

#### **Resort**

- Boat Docks
- Boat Ramps (72' x 200' - 4 Lanes)

- Marina
- Water skiing
- Fireplaces
- Fish Cleaners
- Gas Pumps
- Hiking Trails
- Three hundred fifty-two campsites (185 with hookups and 167 without hookups)
- Nineteen prairie schooner rentals
- Trailer Dump Station
- Picnic Tables
- Restrooms (With Showers)
- Vault Toilets
- Store and Restaurant
- Pay Telephone (Resort Restaurant)

### **Sugar Pine**

- Group Fire Ring, Fire Pits, and Barbeques
- Horseshoe pits
- Picnic tables
- Eleven campsites (without hookups)
- Vault Toilets
- Water
- Grey Water Dump Sites

### **Willow Point**

- Two boat ramps
- Fish cleaning station
- Forty campsites (without hookups)
- Picnic Tables
- Vault Toilets
- Water (Well)

### **Concerns**

**RANDY: PLEASE HELP WITH THIS SECTION**

### **Apserkaha**

### **Grizzly**

### **Klum Landing**

### **Lily Glen**

## **Resort**

## **Sugar Pine**

## **Willow Point**

### **Willow Lake (Reservoir Park)**

Willow Lake is a 927-acre park located 7.5 miles east of Butte Falls on Fish Lake Road. It is open year-round, and offers fishing, hiking, camping, and boating in the shadow of Mt. McLaughlin. The Rogue River National Forest surrounds the park.

Informational signage is posted throughout the park. The City of Medford Water Commission owns Willow Lake; the water is piped and treated for use by Medford residents. The park is operated by Jackson County Parks.

The lake, and 4.4 miles of shoreline, provide habitat for a diverse array of wildlife including: osprey, heron, deer, elk, raccoon, trout and bass. There is a designated swimming area provided, and two boat ramps allow access for boat enthusiasts. In addition, visitors can utilize two docks for fishing and launching canoes.

#### **Amenities**

- Eight barbeque grills
- Two boat ramps
- Two docks
- One equipment shed
- Sixty-eight fire pits
- Sixty-eight picnic tables
- One pay phone
- Seven restrooms
- Two handicapped accessible restrooms
- Seven cabins
- One trail
- Five trash cans
- One lodge

#### **Concerns**

- Major repairs to lodge
- Repairs to three cabins
- Water system upgrade
- Drainage and erosion

## **Open Space Parks** <sup>20</sup>

### **Aiken (Open Space Park)**

Aiken Park consists of 9 acres, and includes 0.45 miles of Rogue River frontage. It is located 4.5 miles east of Prospect on Butte Falls-Prospect Road.

The site was named for Squire Stanford Aiken, who relocated to the area from Jacksonville. He became Prospect's first postmaster in 1889. Recreation opportunities at Aiken include fishing, wildlife observing, walking, and picnicking.

### **Brownsboro Wayside (Open Space Park)**

Brownsboro Wayside is located on Lake of the Woods Highway 140, 15 miles northeast of Medford. The park is 7.6 acres with 0.13 miles of Little Butte Creek frontage.

The site was named after nearby Brownsboro, Oregon. The property was purchased by Jackson County in 1975.

### **Givan (Open Space Park)**

Givan, a 301-acre park with 1.75 miles of Rogue River frontage, is the largest Open Space Park in the Jackson County Parks System. The park is located 11.5 miles north of Medford, and is accessed via Agate Road.

The site was purchased incrementally from 1972-1976, and was named after the owners, the Givan Family. The park offers nature viewing, fishing, and picnicking.

### **Gold Ray Dam (Open Space Park)**

Gold Ray Dam is a 29.1-acre park, and includes 0.10 miles of reservoir frontage, and 0.17 miles of Rogue River frontage below the dam. It is located 14 miles northeast of Medford on John Day Road.

The area was named for the Ray Family, who purchased the land to operate a hydroelectric dam on the property. The Gold Ray Power Plant went into service in December 1904. It was one of the first hydro plants with rope driven turbines and at the time of retirement in 1972, it was the last of its kind in the State of Oregon.

The park is well suited for fishing and picnicking.

### **Hardy Riffle (Open Space Park)**

Hardy Riffle, the second largest Open Space Park in the Jackson County Park System, is located on Gold Ray Road, 13 miles northwest of Medford. The park is 64 acres, including 0.5 miles of Rogue River frontage.

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<sup>20</sup> Amenities and concerns are less significant in Open Space Parks because of the minimal level of development and facilities.

The park is named for a Mr. Hardy, who mined extensively in the area. Remnants of the wing dam he built on the Rogue River still remain in the river. The park offers fishing, nature viewing, and picnicking opportunities.

### **Hooper Springs (Open Space Park)**

Hooper Springs was donated to Jackson County by Leland and Elsie Houk in December, 1958. The park is located miles northeast of Ashland on Dead Indian Memorial Road. This 1.35-acre park was named for the Charlie Hooper Family who homesteaded the area in 1892.

The spring has been used by travelers for more than 100 years. Drivers stopped at Hooper Springs while en-route to and from the high mountain ranges and the Klamath basin. Stagecoaches stopped here to water and rest the horses.

### **May Adams Ellis (Open Space Park)**

May Adams Ellis is a 6-acre park, including 0.10 miles of Evans Creek frontage. It is located 28 miles northeast of Medford on Covered Bridge Road.

Jackson County acquired the property by donation from the May Adam Ellis Family in September, 1989. May Adam Ellis, the park's namesake, was a long-time community member dedicated to beautifying the area around the covered bridge.

### **Savage Creek (Open Space Park)**

Savage Creek is a 6.73-acre park with 0.5 miles of Savage Creek frontage. The park is situated 3 miles north of the City of Rogue River, on Savage Creek Road.

The site is named for James Savage, a pioneer settler who came to Oregon in 1853 from Illinois. Savage Rapids on the Rogue River is also named after him. The original land was acquired by Jackson County through a tax foreclosure in 1953. In 1962 the area was increased to its present acreage through a purchase from William and Edna Whipple.

The park contains several hiking and walking trails, a vault toilet, and hand pump well.

### **Vaughn (Open Space Park)**

Vaughn is a 13.1-acre park along 0.28 miles of Big Butte Creek frontage. It is situated on Crowfoot Road, 31 miles northeast of Medford.

The park is named for the Roy and Tressie Vaughn Family, who were descendents of early settlers in the Laurelhurst area. Besides raising cattle on the Vaughn Ranch, the family had five acres of strawberries that required from fifteen to twenty pickers during the spring and summer. Jackson County purchased the property in 1966.

## Conclusion

Jackson County is a popular tourist destination offering access to natural areas and cultural activities including nationally renowned performances at Britt Gardens in Jacksonville and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland. In recent years the area has become popular with outdoor enthusiasts and retirees, a trend that accounts for a portion of Jackson County's population growth.

There are abundant recreational opportunities in Jackson County and adjacent areas. Crater Lake National Park, Rogue River National Forest, Siskiyou National Forest, BLM land, and Oregon State Parks are prominent recreation providers in Jackson County, but many of these areas not located near urban centers. Jackson County Parks provide easy access to lakes, rivers, and streams – a valuable asset during the region's hot, dry summers.

Jackson County has a diverse array of County Parks varying in size from 1,467-acre Emigrant Lake to one-acre Hooper Springs; the park system provides an equally broad range of activities, amenities, and services. The Bear Creek Greenway, for example, is a unique trail system in the region connecting urban areas by a 21-mile corridor of green space.

Providing access to water recreation is a consistent theme in the Jackson County Parks System – 18 of Jackson County's 22 parks offer access to streams, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. The varied level of development and service at Jackson County Parks ensures open space is preserved for future generations. The following chapter specifically addresses gaps in level of service, as well as regional recreation trends, to highlight potential development areas for Jackson County Parks.





# Chapter 6

## Recreation Demand

This chapter describes demand for outdoor recreational activities in Jackson County. It analyzes recreation participation trends at the national and statewide levels and then compares it to trends within Jackson County. Key indicators of park demand include demographic characteristics; the supply of County and competing park facilities; park use; and citizen input

### Outdoor Recreation Trends

Demand for recreation facilities is driven primarily by population growth, socioeconomic characteristics, and activity participation trends. The recent influx of retirees and the rising importance of tourism will affect future park demand in Jackson County. In addition, the regional decline of natural resource industries is changing economic characteristics in the region.

Evaluating demand for various recreation activities is relevant to parks planning because it allows the County to anticipate which facilities will be most used within the parks system. The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) publishes sports participation and demand at the national level in its annual *Sports Participation Trends* reports. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) compiled similar data at the regional and state level in 2002 for the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

The NSGA publishes annual data for participation in 42 sports at the state and national level. Participation trends outlined in this data are useful in assessing demand for outdoor recreation facilities in Jackson County. According to the 2003 National Sporting Goods Association's survey data, the following sports have the highest level of participation nationwide:

1. Exercise Walking: 79.5 million participants
2. Camping (vacation/overnight): 51.4 million participants
3. Exercising with Equipment: 48.6 million participants
4. Swimming: 47.0 million participants
5. Bowling: 39.4 million participants
6. Fishing: 38.2 million participants
7. Bicycle Riding: 36.3 million participants

As compared to the national averages, additional NSGA data from 2001 show a number of sports that are popular in Oregon (NSGA, 2001). The

five most popular sports at the state level compared to the national average include:

1. Camping: 2.3 times greater in Oregon
2. Volleyball: 2.2 times greater in Oregon
3. Mountain Biking (on road): 2.1 times greater in Oregon
4. Fishing (salt water): 1.8 times greater in Oregon
5. Hiking: 1.8 times greater in Oregon

Camping and water-based recreation activities are especially popular at both the state and national level. These activities are well suited to the natural features and the existing facilities within the Jackson County Parks system.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) also gathers data on activity participation trends. The OPRD completed their Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning process in 2002 (Oregon Parks and Recreation Department – SCORP 2002). The SCORP data identifies outdoor recreation trends by comparing recreation participation at two points over a fifteen-year period (1987 and 2002). The data is presented at the regional and state level. Jackson County is located in Region Five, along with Douglas and Josephine Counties. In the SCORP report, Region Five findings are combined with Region Eight, which includes Klamath County.

Table 6-1 shows recreation participation in 1987 to 2002 for 39 outdoor activities in Regions Five and Eight and the State of Oregon. The table identifies activity participation growth and loss during the 15-year period.

**Table 6-1. Outdoor Recreation Trends in Regions Five/Eight and the State of Oregon, 1987 and 2002**

| Recreation Activity Types                          | User Occasions Regions 5&8 |           | User Occasions Statewide |            | Change in Number of User Occasions 1987-2002 |            | Percent Change in User Occasions 1987-2002 |           |
|--|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|------------|--|------------|--|-----------|
|  | 1987                       | 2002      | 1987                     | 2002       | Region 5&8                                   | Statewide  | Region 5&8                                 | Statewide |
| <b>Trail &amp; Off-Trail Activities</b>            |                            |           |                          |            |  |            |  |           |
| Day Hiking   | 547,181                    | 765,902   | 4,504,691                | 4,506,079  | 218,721                                      | 1,388      | 40.0%                                      | 0.0%      |
| Horseback Riding                                   | 255,194                    | 273,156   | 3,080,365                | 2,111,160  | 17,962                                       | -969,205   | 7.0%                                       | -31.5%    |
| Backpacking  | 86,246                     | 231,357   | 1,619,740                | 1,147,048  | 145,111                                      | -472,692   | 168.3%                                     | -29.2%    |
| <b>Motorized Activities</b>                        |                            |           |                          |            |  |            |  |           |
| Four Wheel Driving                                 | 574,947                    | 305,376   | 2,325,199                | 2,254,544  | 269,571                                      | -70,655    | -46.9%                                     | -3.0%     |
| ATV Riding (3 & 4 Wheeler)                         | 288,641                    | 231,357   | 1,562,596                | 2,162,449  | 57,284                                       | 599,853    | -19.8%                                     | 38.4%     |
| Motorcycling                                       | 199,623                    | 140,000   | 1,159,290                | 1,120,861  | 59,623                                       | -38,429    | -29.9%                                     | -3.3%     |
| Snowmobiling                                       | 13,758                     | 252,130   | 211,082                  | 416,195    | 238,372                                      | 205,113    | 1732.6%                                    | 97.2%     |
| Dune Buggy Driving                                 | 3,496                      | 1,024     | 150,262                  | 101,169    | 2,472  | -49,093    | -70.7%                                     | -32.7%    |
| <b>Snow Related Activities</b>                     |                            |           |                          |            |  |            |  |           |
| Downhill Skiing                                    | 4,281                      | 123,107   | 175,194                  | 2,279,201  | 118,826                                      | 522,007    | 2775.7%                                    | 29.7%     |
| Sledding or General Snowplay                       | 153,490                    | 145,594   | 1,367,929                | 1,623,316  | -7,896                                       | 255,387    | -5.1%                                      | 18.7%     |
| <b>Fishing Activities</b>                          |                            |           |                          |            |  |            |  |           |
| Fishing From a Boat                                | 317,367                    | 600,850   | 3,633,525                | 5,242,758  | 283,213                                      | 1,609,233  | 89.2%                                      | 44.3%     |
| <b>Boating Activities</b>                          |                            |           |                          |            |  |            |  |           |
| Power Boating (Ocean, Lake & River)                | 258,447                    | 292,596   | 2,668,085                | 2,751,190  | 34,149                                       | 83,105     | 13.2%                                      | 3.1%      |
| Water Skiing or other Towing Sports                | 196,746                    | 179,580   | 1,083,882                | 1,379,010  | -17,166                                      | 295,128    | -8.7%                                      | 27.2%     |
| Non-Motorized Boating (Ocean, Lake & River)        | 101,578                    | 335,512   | 929,369                  | 2,210,552  | 233,934                                      | 1,281,183  | 230.3%                                     | 137.9%    |
| Sailing  | 45,821                     | 4,067     | 480,347                  | 197,079    | -41,754                                      | -283,268   | -91.1%                                     | -59.0%    |
| Windsurfing  | 17,774                     | 26,284    | 210,670                  | 182,082    | 9,010  | -28,588    | 50.7%                                      | -13.6%    |
| <b>Swimming &amp; Beach Activities</b>             |                            |           |                          |            |  |            |  |           |
| Swimming in an Outdoor Pool                        | 1,113,847                  | 1,035,384 | 8,607,771                | 5,767,911  | -78,463                                      | -2,839,860 | -7.0%                                      | -33.0%    |
| Beach Activities Including Swimming (Fresh & Salt) | 528,495                    | 372,149   | 8,481,691                | 9,442,654  | 156,346                                      | 960,963    | -29.6%                                     | 11.3%     |
| <b>Nature Study Activities</b>                     |                            |           |                          |            |  |            |  |           |
| Nature/Wildlife Observation                        | 1,105,770                  | 3,601,402 | 6,531,197                | 17,633,495 | 2,495,632                                    | 11,102,298 | 225.7%                                     | 170.0%    |
| Outdoor Photography                                | 253,586                    | 856,867   | 4,621,474                | 4,820,311  | 603,281                                      | 198,837    | 237.9%                                     | 4.3%      |
| <b>Hunting Activities</b>                          |                            |           |                          |            |  |            |  |           |
| Big Game Hunting (Rifle)                           | 622,866                    | 588,954   | 2,352,262                | 3,987,648  | -33,912                                      | 1,635,386  | -5.4%                                      | 69.5%     |
| Hunting: Waterfowl, upland birds & small game      | 163,492                    | 757,367   | 1,153,132                | 1,499,764  | 593,875                                      | 346,632    | 363.2%                                     | 30.1%     |
| Big Game Hunting (Bow)                             | 42,764                     | 83,347    | 237,578                  | 532,227    | 40,583                                       | 294,649    | 94.9%                                      | 124.0%    |
| <b>Camping Activities</b>                          |                            |           |                          |            |  |            |  |           |
| RV/Trailer Camping                                 | 597,042                    | 2,023,958 | 5,643,612                | 11,033,241 | 1,426,916                                    | 5,389,629  | 239.0%                                     | 95.5%     |
| Car Camping with a Tent                            | 396,104                    | 432,439   | 3,514,197                | 2,689,093  | 36,335                                       | -825,104   | 9.2%                                       | -23.5%    |
| Boat Camping                                       | 147,586                    | 184,218   | 664,373                  | 779,924    | 36,632                                       | 115,551    | 24.8%                                      | 17.4%     |
| Horseback Camping                                  | 26,434                     | 97,517    | 420,719                  | 258,600    | 71,083                                       | -162,119   | 268.9%                                     | -38.5%    |
| <b>Picnicking &amp; Sightseeing Activities</b>     |                            |           |                          |            |  |            |  |           |
| Sightseeing/Driving for Pleasure                   | 885,637                    | 1,418,441 | 10,168,480               | 12,343,859 | 532,804                                      | 2,175,379  | 60.2%                                      | 21.4%     |
| Picnicking   | 380,076                    | 574,302   | 5,286,033                | 3,998,644  | 194,226                                      | -1,287,389 | 51.1%                                      | -24.4%    |
| Train or Bus Touring                               | 41,332                     | 8,687     | 326,295                  | 140,721    | -32,645                                      | -185,574   | -79.0%                                     | -56.9%    |
| <b>Outdoor Sports &amp; Games</b>                  |                            |           |                          |            |  |            |  |           |
| Using Playground Equipment                         | 540,753                    | 989,793   | 4,245,608                | 8,846,220  | 449,040                                      | 4,600,612  | 83.0%                                      | 108.4%    |
| Golf   | 271,788                    | 902,052   | 3,340,884                | 9,635,657  | 630,264                                      | 6,294,773  | 231.9%                                     | 188.4%    |
| Baseball   | 246,620                    | 500,746   | 2,643,106                | 4,479,768  | 254,126                                      | 1,836,662  | 103.0%                                     | 69.5%     |
| Outdoor Basketball                                 | 287,868                    | 412,261   | 2,913,689                | 3,694,109  | 124,393                                      | 780,420    | 43.2%                                      | 26.8%     |
| Soccer   | 246,011                    | 219,137   | 1,937,562                | 3,339,052  | -26,874                                      | 1,401,490  | -10.9%                                     | 72.3%     |
| Softball   | 356,462                    | 342,261   | 2,403,064                | 2,523,175  | -14,201                                      | 120,111    | -4.0%                                      | 5.0%      |
| Football/ Rugby                                    | 146,808                    | 502,692   | 902,812                  | 2,005,697  | 355,884                                      | 1,102,885  | 242.4%                                     | 122.2%    |
| Outdoor Tennis                                     | 158,486                    | 133,067   | 2,039,943                | 1,193,598  | -25,419                                      | -846,345   | -16.0%                                     | -41.5%    |
| Outdoor Volleyball/Badminton                       | 131,778                    | 113,871   | 1,513,852                | 978,297    | -17,907                                      | -535,555   | -13.6%                                     | -35.4%    |

Source: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department – SCORP 2002 Survey

The ten activities that experienced the greatest “change in number of user occasions” in Regions Five and Eight between 1987 and 2002 include:

- Nature/Wildlife Observation (2,495,632)
- RV/Trailer Camping (1,426,916)
- Golf (630,264)
- Outdoor Photography (603,281)
- Sightseeing/Driving for Pleasure (532,804)
- Using Playground Equipment (449,040)
- Football/ Rugby (355,884)
- Fishing From a Boat (283,213)
- Four Wheel Driving (269,571)
- Baseball (254,126)

With the exception of Golf, Football/Rugby, and Baseball, these are all activities that are currently offered at one or more Jackson County Park facilities.

To contrast the growth and decline of sports participation at the regional and state level, SCORP data identifies activities that experienced a decrease in participation in Regions five and eight and an increase at the state level. The ten recreational activities that experienced a decrease in participation within Region five and eight are listed below.

- Swimming in an Outdoor Pool (-78,463)
- Sailing (41,754)
- Big Game Hunting (-33,912)
- Train or Bus Touring (-32,645)
- Soccer (-26,874)
- Outdoor Tennis (-25,419)
- Outdoor Volleyball/Badminton (-17,907)
- Water Skiing or other Towing Sports (-17,166)
- Softball (-14,201)
- Sledding or General Snowplay (-7,896)

The popularity of recreational activities depends on the characteristics of the region and the types of recreational facilities that are available. Three of the top ten activities experiencing decreased numbers are water sports. These include swimming in an outdoor pool, sailing, and water skiing. However, as indicated earlier, “fishing from a boat” was one of the top ten activities that increased within Region five and eight.

## Outdoor Recreation Participation Trends in Jackson County

To plan for future recreation demand in Jackson County it is important to identify recreational activities that are popular within the region—both now and in the future. The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning report (SCORP) notes residents of Region 5 (Jackson, Douglas, and Josephine Counties) frequently participate in the following activities:

- Sightseeing/driving for pleasure (45%)
- Walking for pleasure (33%)
- Nature and wildlife observation (29%)
- Picnicking (28%)
- Bird watching (26%)
- Running/Walking for exercise (25%)
- Visiting cultural/historical sites (25%)
- Collecting – rocks, plants, mushrooms, etc. (22%)
- Fishing from a bank or shore (20%)
- RV/trailer camping (20%)

These percentages are especially significant because in the case of the following activities – walking, nature observation, bird watching, running and walking, collecting, and fishing – participation rates for the region are twice those at the national level. The popularity of these activities is attributable both to the characteristics of the resident population and to abundant recreation opportunities.

To better understand county resident participation patterns, CPW conducted a survey of Jackson County households. Table 6-2 shows the percent of survey respondents that participate in each activity within the Jackson County Parks system. More than 50% of the respondents indicated they participated in picnics/barbeque, walking, and sightseeing.

**Table 6-2. Activity Participation Rates of Household Survey Respondents, 2004**

| Activity   |     | Activity                |     |
|--|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Picnics/BBQ  | 65% | Using shooting range    | 14% |
| Walking  | 60% | Watching sports         | 14% |
| Sightseeing  | 55% | Hunting                 | 12% |
| Fishing  | 48% | Motor sports (i.e. drag | 12% |
| Swimming/wading                                      | 45% | Golf                    | 10% |
| Concerts   | 44% | Horseshoes              | 10% |
| Camping (tent)                                       | 41% | Volleyball              | 10% |
| Festivals/special events                             | 38% | Soccer                  | 9%  |
| Bicycling  | 31% | Jogging                 | 8%  |
| Playground use                                       | 30% | Basketball              | 7%  |
| Boating (motorized)                                  | 29% | Equestrian              | 4%  |
| Bird watching  | 28% | Skateboarding           | 4%  |
| Camping (RV)   | 28% | Tennis                  | 3%  |
| Dog walking  | 27% | None                    | 1%  |
| Boating (non-motorized)                              | 26% | Other                   | 1%  |
| Water slide  | 25% | Baseball/softball       | 0%  |
| Watersports (water-skiing, canoeing, kayaking, etc.) | 23% |                         |     |

Source: Community Planning Workshop, Household Survey, 2004

These results are significant because they correspond with popular activities identified in the SCORP report. A total of 16 of 22 Jackson County Parks currently provide facilities for these activities. Water access is an essential element of many popular activities highlighted by survey respondents; 20 of 22 Jackson County Parks contain water features such as streams, rivers, and reservoirs.

## Use of Jackson County Parks

To focus on recreation demand within Jackson County, CPW conducted three surveys including both park users and county residents and conducted a community workshop. The theme of the surveys and public workshop addressed the following questions:

- How important are parks?
- What park facilities and features are most important?
- What factors impact community awareness of parks?

### How important are parks?

Recreation areas in Jackson County are a significant resource for residents and visitors. In fact, more than 90 percent of respondents indicated parks are “somewhat” to “very important” to their household. Jackson County residents usually stay in the County to recreate. About 25 percent of survey respondents indicated they leave the County more

than once a month for recreation purposes. Table 6-3 shows that respondents cited County parks as their main recreation provider over Oregon State Parks, National Parks and Forests, and city-owned parks.

**Table 6-3. Most Visited Outdoor Recreation Locations, Household Survey Respondents, 2004**

| Location                         | Percent |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Jackson County Park              | 38%     |
| State of Oregon Park             | 25%     |
| National Park or National Forest | 24%     |
| City-Owned Park                  | 10%     |
| Other                            | 3%      |

Source: Community Planning Workshop, Household Survey, 2004

### **What park facilities and features are most important?**

Table 6-4 shows the importance of certain park facilities and features to survey respondents. The following facilities were important to more than half of survey respondents:

- Natural trails
- Picnic sites
- Public river access
- RV and tent campsites

**Table 6-4. Level of Importance for Park Facilities and Features, Household Survey Respondents, 2004**

| Category                            | More Important |     |     | Less Important |     |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----|-----|----------------|-----|
|                                     | 5              | 4   | 3   | 2              | 1   |
| <b>Facilities</b>                   |                |     |     |                |     |
| Athletic fields                     | 16%            | 12% | 20% | 16%            | 36% |
| Boat launches                       | 25%            | 11% | 21% | 13%            | 30% |
| Disabled person access              | 18%            | 11% | 16% | 13%            | 42% |
| Equestrian                          | 3%             | 5%  | 12% | 15%            | 65% |
| Group campsites                     | 22%            | 21% | 23% | 15%            | 19% |
| Group picnic areas                  | 25%            | 22% | 26% | 13%            | 14% |
| Developed parks                     | 36%            | 31% | 22% | 6%             | 5%  |
| Undeveloped open space              | 35%            | 22% | 20% | 13%            | 10% |
| Natural trails                      | 50%            | 24% | 15% | 7%             | 4%  |
| Paved trails                        | 19%            | 26% | 30% | 14%            | 11% |
| Picnic sites                        | 33%            | 37% | 19% | 8%             | 3%  |
| Playgrounds                         | 21%            | 19% | 25% | 18%            | 17% |
| Public river access                 | 42%            | 25% | 18% | 6%             | 9%  |
| Motor Sport (Sports Park)           | 10%            | 8%  | 13% | 13%            | 56% |
| RV campsites                        | 25%            | 15% | 12% | 14%            | 34% |
| Swim center (Emigrant Lake)         | 20%            | 19% | 26% | 17%            | 18% |
| Tent campsites                      | 30%            | 25% | 22% | 10%            | 13% |
| Yurt facilities                     | 14%            | 14% | 23% | 14%            | 35% |
| <b>Features</b>                     |                |     |     |                |     |
| Close to home or work               | 29%            | 28% | 26% | 9%             | 8%  |
| Convenient hours of operation       | 47%            | 30% | 15% | 4%             | 4%  |
| Facility is well-maintained         | 72%            | 20% | 6%  | 2%             | 0%  |
| Good value for the money/affordable | 73%            | 18% | 6%  | 3%             | 0%  |
| Not crowded                         | 68%            | 19% | 11% | 2%             | 0%  |
| Safe environment                    | 82%            | 12% | 4%  | 1%             | 1%  |

Source: Community Planning Workshop, Household Survey, 2004

The data in Table 6-4 show that natural trail use is ranked the highest, with approximately 74% of respondents ranking it as “important” or “more important.” Similar to regional rates, 70 percent of households surveyed identified picnic sites as important park facilities. Fishing is a popular activity for County parks visitors – nearly half of survey respondents fish when visiting Jackson County Parks, and two-thirds of all respondents agree public river access are key facilities.

RV camping is increasing in popularity. According to the SCORP report, RV camping participation in the Jackson County area (Regions five and eight) increased by 1,426,916 “user occasions” between 1987 and 2002. This trend is consistent with trends in the RV industry and may also be a reflection of higher rates of tourism and retired residents in the area. In fact, survey respondents currently using Jackson County Parks (identified using campsite reservation records) rated RV campsites as “more important” park features. At the same time, a random sample of Jackson County residents revealed 50 percent of households rated tent camping facilities as “more important” park features. These results suggest that RV camping is popular among park users making reservations including retirees and tourists (probably due to a limited number of RV spaces), while tent camping continues to be popular among Jackson County residents.



A discrepancy exists in the survey results regarding the importance of equestrian facilities. Among respondents from a random sample of Jackson County households, 80 percent of residents believe equestrian facilities are “less important” than other park facilities. However, 24 percent of current park users (identified using campsite reservation records) typically participate in equestrian activities when visiting Jackson County parks. Equestrian facilities appear to be an important amenity for a distinct group of park users. Lily Glen and the Resort – both sub-parks at Howard Prairie – currently offer equestrian amenities and riding opportunities. In addition, portions of the Bear Creek Greenway allow horseback riding.

Survey results suggest that park users are generally satisfied with their experience in Jackson County parks. A key element to retaining these users—and keeping attendance high—is providing a quality park experience. In other words, County Parks should focus on maintaining or enhancing users’ experience. According to survey respondents, the features of a good park experience overwhelmingly include:

- Good value for the money/affordable
- Safe environment
- Facility is well-maintained

When planning for parks, it is important to understand how users and residents would improve County parks. Not surprisingly, it is difficult to determine which improvements will receive future funding because people tend to favor facilities they are more likely to use. Therefore, it is helpful to identify improvements that will satisfy the greatest number of park users and residents. One method to better understand how park users and Jackson County residents would improve County parks is to ask them, “If you had \$100.00 to spend on County managed parks, facilities, and open spaces, how would you divide it among the following categories?” Table 6-5 provides survey responses to this question by Jackson County Parks users.

**Table 6-5. Park Expenditure Priorities, Jackson County Park Users, 2004**

| Activities/Facilities                               | Average Dollar Amount |
|---|-----------------------|
| Additional facilities at the Sports Park            | \$3                   |
| Additional campsites                                | \$12                  |
| Additional boat launches                            | \$8                   |
| Additional natural areas                            | \$15                  |
| Additional trails                                   | \$13                  |
| Additional sports facilities/fields                 | \$4                   |
| Additional RV hook-ups                              | \$5                   |
| Maintenance and improvements to existing facilities | \$34                  |
| Other:  | \$4                   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$100</b>          |

Source: Community Planning Workshop, Park User Survey, 2004

Two-thirds of respondents indicated the current \$3 day-use fee for Jackson County Parks is comparable in value to other recreation providers in the area. Additionally, 65 percent of respondents believe fees at Jackson County Parks are a better value than other entertainment activities including movies and bowling. Survey results show that 25 percent of respondents do not visit Jackson County Parks because fees are too high.

Safety was highlighted as an essential feature of a good park experience. In fact, 94 percent of survey respondents rated “safe environment” important park features. Law enforcement is a vital safety element for park users by deterring crime and providing support during emergencies. The remote locations of many Jackson County Parks make them targets for theft and vandalism. In order for visitors to enjoy their park experience it is important to ensure unlawful behavior is prevented by law enforcement officers or campground hosts.

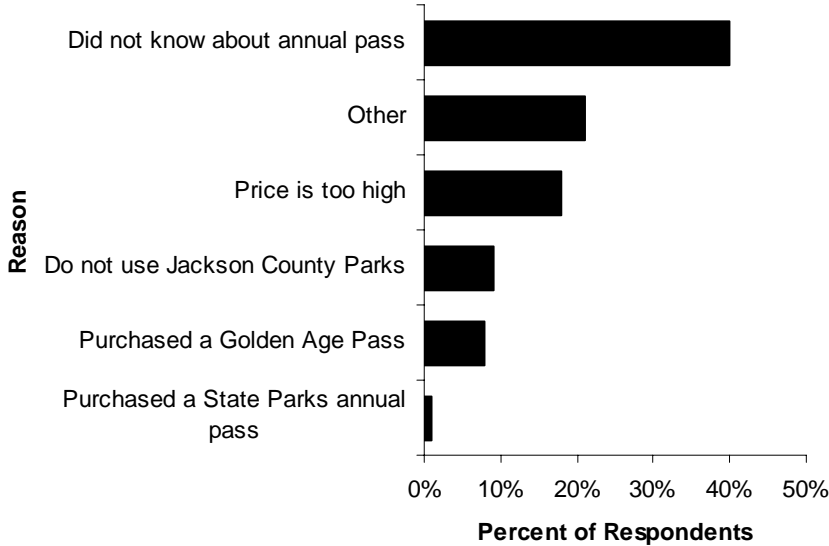
Poorly maintained park facilities deter visitors and encourage vandalism. Ninety-two percent of respondents rated maintenance as an “important” or “very important” park features. Furthermore, when asked how they would spend \$100 to improve Jackson County Park respondents tended to allot twice as much money for maintenance and improvements to existing facilities compared to any other improvements. In terms of additional activities and facilities, respondents tend to support more natural areas, trails, and campsites.

**What factors impact community awareness of parks?**

In addition to highlighting important activities and features at parks, the surveys addressed residents’ awareness of online services and availability of Jackson County Parks Annual Pass. As illustrated in Figure 6-1, “not knowing about annual pass availability” was among the most cited reasons for not purchasing an annual pass. Annual passes

are particularly valuable for County residents, and increasing pass visibility could significantly increase park visitation and support.

**Figure 6-1. Reasons Visitors Do Not Purchase Jackson County Parks Annual Passes, Park User Survey, 2004**



Source: Community Planning Workshop, Park User Survey, 2004

The Internet has become a valuable resource for obtaining recreation information. Today, it is common for RVs to have Internet access on-board, and making camping reservations online is an added convenience for any park visitor. However, nearly three-quarters of Jackson County residents and park users are unfamiliar with the Jackson County Parks website. In terms of reservations, only 51 percent of respondents were aware camping reservation can be made by email.

## Implications for Jackson County Parks

The public input process provides guidance for the Jackson County Parks Department as to what facilities and amenities should be created or improved. The implications for Jackson County Parks have been placed into five main categories: enhance community awareness of parks; enhance existing park facilities; increase access to water; enhance park safety; and enhance park maintenance. Key points are listed beneath each category.

### Enhance Community Awareness of Parks

Community awareness of County park locations and facilities is an important element for increasing visitation rates. Jackson County is largely rural and many County parks are dispersed in remote areas. Many residents expressed confusion about which parks in the County are owned and/or operated by the Jackson County Parks Department.

Measures such as directional signage on major roadways will increase park visibility for residents and visitors passing through the area.

Based on community input, the following strategies can promote community awareness and park visitation:

- *Increase newspaper coverage of County Parks.* Survey results indicated 50 percent of Jackson County residents get information regarding recreation activities from newspapers. The Parks Department could increase public awareness of County parks by highlighting activities and events in locale and regional newspapers. In particular, tourists find newspapers especially helpful because they are easily accessible and inexpensive.
- *Enhance email and website exposure.* Camping is one of the most popular activities at Jackson County Parks, and reservations are required for camping at Emigrant Lake, Howard Prairie, and Cantrell Buckley. However, only 51 percent of county residents were aware reservations can be made by email. Ensuring the County Parks web and email addresses are posted in prominent locations on hand-outs and publications will increase awareness of the website and online reservation opportunities.
- *Improve park signage.* Residents and park visitors expressed confusion regarding ownership of parks in Jackson County. Instituting consistent signage design for all Jackson County Parks will help visitors ‘recognize’ parks owned and/or operated by the Parks Department. Also, installing directional signage to County Parks from Interstate 5 and major roadways will provide guidance for tourists and increase awareness of parks among residents. Directional signage is especially important for remote parks that residents and visitors are unlikely to pass-by.

## **Enhance Existing Park Facilities**

Providing park facilities is essential to the success of the Jackson County Parks System. Park facilities increase the variety of recreation activities and enable more visitors to recreate at County Parks. The following facility enhancements may boost park visitation and increase the duration of overnight visitors:

- *Hiking, walking, and biking trails.* Trails were highlighted as important County Park facilities by 50 percent of survey respondents. The success of the Bear Creek Greenway can be expanded by planning for future Greenway developments toward the City of Rogue River. Greenway developments could also include an extension northwest of Medford along the Rogue River – terminating at the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). Enabling access to the PCT from Willow Lake and Emigrant Lake Parks would be appealing for visitors interested in sharing the PCT hiking experience. Also, access trails could be created between

Highway 238 and the Applegate River to increase fishing opportunities along this isolated river.

- *Scenic highways.* Sightseeing is among the most popular recreation activities in the Jackson County region. Scenic highways direct visitors to unique landscapes and cultural sites easily accessible by car. Scenic highways would be especially appealing to visitors from outside Jackson County, as well as elderly and disabled persons. A scenic highway from Ashland could extend beyond Emigrant Lake and Howard Prairie before heading north toward Willow Lake – returning via Highway 62 and I-5. A ‘Rogue River Scenic Highway’ between Prospect and Gold Hill could include interpretive signage at Jackson County Parks providing beautiful vistas and historical background regarding the Rogue River Valley. As the number of elderly residents and retired tourists in Jackson County grows a designated scenic highway could become a popular passive recreation activity.
- *Boat ramps.* Access to water is a significant feature of 21 Jackson County Parks, and more than 48 percent of County park visitors fish when visiting County parks. Constructing additional boat ramps (up to one every 3 miles) along the Rogue River between Prospect and Gold Hill will enable more people to take advantage of this unique resource. All new boat access points should include safety measures to limit vandalism and break-ins.
- *Interpretative resources.* Cultural, historic, and environmental education helps develop a sense of place in visitors and residents. Nearly all Jackson County parks are associated with historic figures, prominent settlers, or important locations in the area. Including historic background information on all County park brochures and maps will expand visitors’ appreciation of Jackson County’s past and the generosity of park benefactors.
- *Camping.* Five Jackson County Parks offer camping facilities. RV camping is becoming more popular statewide and survey results show tent camping is an important activity for 55 percent of County residents. Designing and building more RV and tent campsites at Howard Prairie, Rogue Elk, Cantrell Buckley, Givan, or the Seven Oaks Interchange could increase annual visitation of both residents and tourists.
- *Expand equestrian facilities.* Many Jackson County Parks underutilized trails could be open to equestrian uses. Identifying suitable parks that will accommodate horse trailers and installing the necessary facilities (tie-outs, water, mounting blocks) will increase use of County parks. Potential areas for improved equestrian facilities include Cantrell Buckley, Agate

Lake, Givan, Hardy Riffle, and portions of the Bear Creek Greenway.

## **Increase Access to Water**

A concern of many Jackson County park users and residents is access to the County's water resources, including various lakes and the Rogue and Applegate Rivers. Access to water is of interest to many community interest groups, including boaters and rafters, fishermen, and swimmers. It is also important to park visitors interested in passive recreation such as hiking, photography, and bird watching as water resources often enhance these activities as well. Survey results show that more than a third of respondents consider boat launches as very important or important park facilities and more than two-thirds of respondents consider river access as very important or important. Along the Rogue River in particular, staff and residents suggested a long-term goal of increasing river access to a minimum of one access point every three miles.

Based on staff and public input, priorities designed to increase access to water should include:

- *Enhance and increase boat launch facilities.* Many residents expressed a specific interest in improving existing boat launch facilities while adding additional launches. Enhancement issues at existing launches could include signage, parking lot safety, and structural improvements to launches themselves. Boat launches could be increased on both the Rogue and the Applegate Rivers although the Applegate presents greater access challenges. Boat launches could also be increased at the County's lakes where demand dictates.
- *Enhance and increase areas for swimming.* According to the National Sporting Goods Association's listing of national sports trends, swimming is one of the most popular sports with 47 million participants nationwide. Swimming in Oregon is a growing sport and grew in popularity over the last 15 years by 11.3%. In Jackson County, according to recent survey results, more than 45% of those asked say that they participate in swimming activities, either for exercise or recreation.

Currently, there are County swimming areas at Emigrant, Agate, Willow, Howard Prairie Lakes. From respondents who currently use Jackson County Parks, the average satisfaction rating for existing swimming facilities was at the "somewhat dissatisfied" level. Additionally, when households were asked what types of Jackson County facilities were most in need of improvement, swimming areas were in the top two facility types needing improvement (second only to restrooms). When combined, this data seems to support the idea that there is demand for both an increase and improvement in swimming areas in the County's Parks.

- *Increase foot access points.* Given the high percentage of survey respondents who consider access to water as important or very important (see reference above), there is also a demand in Jackson County for increased foot access to the County's waterways - on trails and at viewpoints. Supplying increased access to the areas rivers and lakes would serve the growing number of people across the region who are interested in non-motorized boating, hunting, outdoor photography, and nature and wildlife observation (Oregon Parks and Recreation Department SCORP 2002 Survey). Conversations with both staff and County residents also indicate a growth in popularity of both hiking and walking activities, consistent with national and state trends, and increasing trails and access along and around the area's rivers and lakes would help to meet this demand as well.
- *Development of a Water Trail.* Conversations with Parks Department staff and the Parks Advisory Committee indicate growing local interest in the development of Water Trails in Jackson County waterways. According to North American Water Trails, Inc., a Water Trail is a "stretch of river, a shoreline, or an ocean that has been mapped out with the intent to create an educational, scenic, and challenging experience for recreational canoers and kayakers." Given the growth of the non-motorized boating sector in the Region (230.3% over the last 15 years), there appears to be growing local demand for this type of amenity. Additionally, it is an amenity that would require fairly minimal capital investment. It would involve only the initial design and mapping of the trail, followed by trail marking and then long-term maintenance of signage.

## **Enhance Park Safety**

Safety was overwhelming rated the most important park feature by survey respondents. The Parks Department is passionate about providing a safe and enjoyable park experience for visitors, and enhancing those measures already employed by the Department will help avert future injuries, emergencies, and thefts.

The following measures would promote the safety of park visitors:

- *Increased law enforcement.* Law enforcement continues to be a top priority for the Parks Department. The remote locations of many Jackson County Parks limit emergency response time for park staff and law officers, which according to staff is especially difficult during busy summer months. A recent string of automobile break-ins at Takelma and Dodge Bridge highlight the importance of this issue. A current partnership with the City of Shady Cove provides enhanced patrolling of Upper Rogue Regional Park; other similar agreements could address law enforcement issues at Takelma, Dodge Bridge, and Agate Lake. Informal law enforcement initiatives are also a potential

solution given current financial constraints. Implementing campground host or ‘civilian patrol’ programs to address campground and boat related law enforcement will discourage disruptive and unlawful behavior at County parks.

- *Enhanced lighting.* Proper lighting of park facilities is especially important at Jackson County parks since drowning is a real danger at nearly all County parks. Lighting may also help prevent vandalism, which is a significant issue at Sports Park, Takelma, Dodge Bridge, Agate Lake, and Upper Rogue Regional. New lighting features should provide adequate coverage to increase visibility and safety, while being sensitive to the character of County parks – overly lit parks limit the ‘getting away from it all’ experience that attracts many visitors. Fixtures that direct light downward prevent light pollution in neighboring areas and campgrounds.
- *Increased lifeguards at swimming areas.* Lifeguards help prevent drowning. Parks staff indicated a need for improved lifeguard services at Willow Lake, Emigrant Lake, Howard Prairie, and Agate Lake. Staff suggested offering lifeguard training is prohibitively expensive, but partnerships with area organizations may consolidate training opportunities. The Parks Department could obtain lifeguards by joining area partners – relationships that could also provide information regarding funding resources for this service.
- *Hours of Operation* Jackson County facilities vary in their hours of operation. Some parks, with on-site staffing and entrance gates, adhere to strict hours of operations. Other more remote and undeveloped parks are less monitored and less able to control when visitors come and go. The department has attempted to enforce strict parks hours of operation and, in some cases, has tried to gate un-developed parks during “closed” hours but has found enforcement to be a constant challenge. In order to address the issue, the Department could consider bringing on volunteer hosts to various parks during months with peak usage. Additionally, there needs to be increased monitoring by County law enforcement officials. However, similar to the County Parks Department, law enforcement in the area is hampered by limited and reduced funding.

## **Enhance Park Maintenance**

Park maintenance is an important concern for the Jackson County Parks Department. With extensive and widespread facilities, limited staffing, and tight funding, upholding high maintenance standards is an on-going challenge. However, according to recent survey results, when users of the Jackson County Parks were asked the theoretical question of how they would spend \$100 on parks, facilities, and open spaces, they overwhelmingly choose maintenance as their top-priority. In fact, respondents choose to “spend” a third of the money on



maintenance, with the remaining portion being distributed amongst eight other categories. Additionally, when residents and visitors were asked to rate the importance of maintenance, they consistently gave it the highest rating.

- *Replacement and Enhancement of Restroom Facilities.* While maintenance of facilities overall was important to residents and visitors, maintenance of restrooms in particular was given the highest priority. According to a survey of households across the County, existing restrooms were the County Parks facilities most in need of improvement. Conversations with staff highlighted on-going issues of restroom vandalism at some of the County's more remote parks. Additionally, the Department is currently working to ensure that facilities have restrooms that meet ADA standards.
- *Litter and Vandalism Management.* Restroom facilities are not the only facilities threatened by vandalism or excessive litter. Maintaining parks and both preventing and addressing issues of vandalism and litter in all facilities is a constant challenge. Litter and vandalism was a top concern among Parks Staff. Jackson County Parks are spread across the County's 2,801 square miles, making it impossible for the Department's limited staff to monitor all parks at any given time. Because many of the parks are remote and do not have hosts or resident staff, both litter and vandalism can escalate and detract park users and inhibit use. Providing a sufficient number of trash receptacles is essential to helping park users keep areas clean, while appropriate signage on the negative impact of litter may have some positive effects. Also, appropriate lighting and placement of structures can help decrease the incidence of vandalism.
- *Regular Facility and Equipment Maintenance* Many residents and staff have voiced specific concerns regarding maintenance of some of the region's most remote and unattended parks. These include: Takelma, Dodge Bridge, and Agate Lake. These parks especially suffer from the issues of vandalism and litter mentioned above. However, at all parks, staff are challenged by limited time and resources and must tend with issues of aging amenities including: picnic tables; grills; landscaping; playground equipment; lighting; payphones; and water fountains. As long as funding remains a concern for the department and staff continues to be stretched thin, maintenance will be an issue. The Parks Department is committed to find ways to ensure the highest possible maintenance standards for County facilities.



# Chapter 7

## Capital Facilities

The capital facilities chapter is the element of a parks master plan that provides direction to reach the goals and policies of the master plan. This chapter provides recommendations for capital facility and land acquisition in the Jackson County Parks System for the next 20 years. Capital improvements provide a strategy for long-term development, acquisition, and financing of facilities. Projects that can be classified as routine maintenance or part of daily operations are not addressed in this chapter. In summary, the capital facilities improvements identified in this chapter are intended to provide a long-term, system-level overview of key opportunities.

The capital facilities element takes the current and expected financial limitations of the Jackson County Parks System into consideration. The level of implementation of future improvements will depend on the amount of funding available to the parks department. Specific funding issues are outlined in the supporting business plan.

The following factors were considered in identifying capital improvement projects:

- Goals and policies
- Population projections
- Public comment
- Previous capital improvements
- Project sequencing
- Current funding commitments
- Expansion or enhancement of existing facilities
- Staff review and comment
- Access to natural resources and features

The capital facilities element is a plan for the expenditure of county funds for acquisition and development of parks, recreation facilities, open space areas, and trails for the next 20 years. The *County Parks Map* in this chapter illustrates the locations of possible future capital improvements. The purpose of this chapter is to provide an overall vision that will guide parks staff in preparing more detailed, annual Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs).

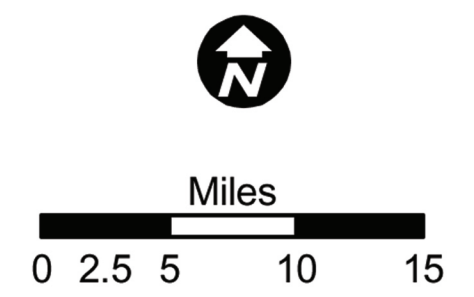
The Jackson County Parks Department develops an annual, detailed CIP and creates park specific master plans. This chapter provides a broad framework that staff and the PAC can consult during the development and update of the annual CIP. Map 7-1 summarizes proposed capital improvements. Table 7-1 lists improvements by park.



# County Parks Map

## Jackson County

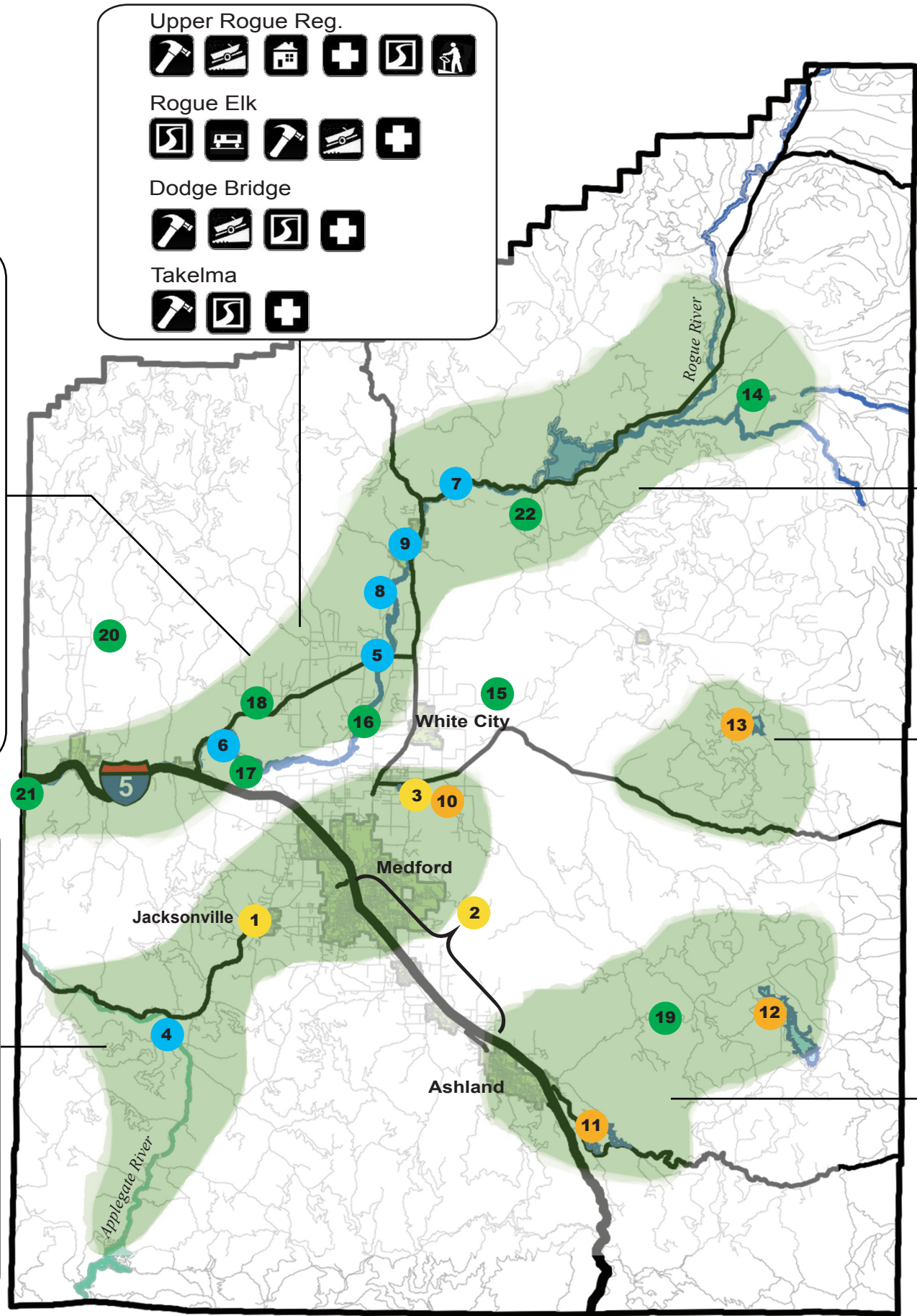
### Parks Master Plan


















































-  Areas of Opportunity
-  Jackson County
-  Lakes
-  Interstate 5
-  Highways
-  Streets
-  Rogue River
-  Applegate River
-  Urban Growth Boundaries



  Community Planning Workshop

Data Sources: Jackson County GIS, Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon Geospatial Data Clearinghouse  
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic  
 Cartographer: Robert Stevens  
 June 2004




- Upper Rogue Reg.**  
     
  - Rogue Elk**  
   
  - Dodge Bridge**  
   
  - Takelma**  
  
- 
- Givan**  
    
  - Hardy Riffle**  

  - Gold Ray Dam**  
 
  - Fisher's Ferry**  
  
  - Savage Creek**  

  - May Adam Ellis**  

- 
- Agate Lake**  
    
  - Sports Park**  
   
  - Britt Gardens**  

  - Bear Creek Grnwy.**  
 
  - Cantrell Buckley**  
  
  -    

- Aiken**  

- Vaughn**  


- Willow Lake**  
    
-     
- Brownsboro Wayside**  


- Howard Prairie**  
    
-     
- Hooper Springs**  
 
- Emigrant Lake**  
  
-    

# Land Acquisition Strategy

The population of Jackson County is projected to increase by 40,000 between 2000 and 2020. To meet the increased demand, the county needs to have a strategy for acquiring additional park, recreation, or open space land.

Financing is a significant obstacle to overcome with regards to land acquisition. Budgets in Jackson County, like many other jurisdictions around the State of Oregon, have limited funds for acquiring new land.

The Jackson County Parks System Master Plan advocates a thoughtful and conservative land acquisition strategy. The County must be conservative in its approach because of limited resources and the financial obligations that come with acquiring new land. Moreover, the County has already developed facilities at the most accessible and obvious locations.

The land acquisition strategy is also opportunistic in nature. The County Parks Department will identify and pursue acquisitions as opportunities arise. The County will accept donations or bargain sales of lands that meet identified land acquisition criteria. The County will also continue to explore partnerships to accomplish land swaps or long-term leases with other government agencies.

There are a number of criteria the County should assess when deciding to accept/purchase land:

- The size, location, topography, geology, and access to the land available for dedication/purchase;
- Potential beneficial/adverse effects on environmentally sensitive areas;
- Compatibility with the Parks System Master Plan at the time of dedication/purchase;
- Vehicular and pedestrian access to the site;
- Availability of previously acquired property; and
- Parkland need based on demand for likely improvements.

By acquiring new parkland in key locations, Jackson County will be able to meet current and future park needs while protecting the valuable natural ecosystems are part of the County's unique character.

The Plan identifies two acquisition priorities: expanding the Bear Creek Greenway and finding connections between urban and county parks. While these strategies are priorities, the Plan does not preclude the acquisition of other properties that fit in with the overall goals of the Plan.

## **Strategy 1: Bear Creek Greenway**

Public comment from surveys and workshops suggest trails are one especially popular recreation facility. The Bear Creek Greenway is a highly successful facility and is nearing completion of the initial Phase. However, there appears to be significant demand for expansion of the Greenway. Because of this, the county should pursue completion and expansion of the Bear Creek Greenway.

The Greenway is the only major trail system owned and operated by the Jackson County Parks Department. The expansion of the Greenway provides an opportunity to connect Jackson County Parks with existing state/federal trail networks and parks. The expansion could include linkages to Emigrant Lake on the south and to the Rogue River and Eagle Point on the north.

## **Strategy 2: Connecting Urban and Rural Parks**

Development of other trail networks within the Jackson County Parks system is needed to better connect urban and rural parks. One strategy the county should pursue in acquiring lands for trails includes developing partnerships with state and federal government agencies and land trusts. This allows the county to use land to develop trails without the added constraint involved in purchasing the land. The partner agency would retain ownership of the land and Jackson County Parks would manage the trails. Also, Jackson County needs to pursue public and private grants to acquire, manage, and maintain land for trails on its own.

## **Development and Maintenance**

Because of budget constraints, the Parks Department should direct the majority of future expenditures towards renovating, repairing, replacing, or expanding current facilities. In some cases, new facilities are needed, and should be added to the parks system. Because of current and future demand for park facilities, Jackson County Parks Department must maintain and continue to develop new facilities.

Based from the parks inventory, demand analysis, and the public involvement process, recommended development and maintenance projects for the next 20 years are listed below. These projects involve renovation, repair, replacement, and/or expansion of current facilities.

### **Strategy 1: Improved RV Opportunities**

Community input has suggested that RV campsites are in high demand. New RV sites should be considered along the Rogue River. Existing sites at Willow Lake need to be updated and expanded. The timeframe is 5-10 years, as shown in Table 7-2.

### **Strategy 2: Yurts**

Yurts provide an opportunity for increased group camping within Jackson County Parks. Oregon State Parks has started constructing

yurts at some of their facilities. Due to financial constraints, it would be more feasible to construct temporary-style yurts and permanent ones in the future, should financial circumstances change. Possible opportunities for yurts include Willow Lake and parks along the Rogue River. The timeframe is 10-20 years, as shown in Table 7-3.

### **Strategy 3: Expanded Interpretive Facilities**

Community input also has shown a need for more interpretation or historical facilities. The parks system priority should be on renovating the existing interpretative center at Cantrell-Buckley. The timeframe is 5-20 years, as shown in Tables 7-2 and 7-3.

### **Strategy 4: Improved Park Structures**

At most parks restrooms and other basic amenities, such as playgrounds, are in need of major repair or upgrade. Some improvements include outside lighting, painting, and ADA compliance. The timeframe is 1-5 years, as shown in Table 7-1.

### **Strategy 5: Designated Off-Road Vehicle Area**

At Agate Lake, there has been the problem with people using off-road vehicles despite park regulations forbidding such activities. This problem creates added maintenance and repair for the parks system. A designated off-road vehicle area could help manage where off-road activities occur. The least environmentally sensitive areas should be prioritized as possibilities for designated off-road vehicle areas. The timeframe is 1-5 years, as shown in Table 7-1.

### **Strategy 6: Improved Erosion Control**

An ongoing maintenance issue identified by parks staff is controlling for erosion in all areas of many of the park facilities. The timeframe is 1-5 years, as shown in Table 7-1.

### **Strategy 7: Improved Boating Opportunities**

Improved boating facilities have been expressed as an important capital project. Parks staff has expressed the desire to have river access every three miles along the Rogue River. Existing parks, Emigrant and Willow Lake for example, have boat launches. Community input has shown that these boating launches need to be widened to provide better access. The timeframe is 1-10 years, as shown in Tables 7-1 and 7-2.

### **Strategy 8: Improved Safety**

A serious concern expressed by the community and Parks Advisory Committee is that cars are being broken into. Safety improvements need to be a major priority of the parks system. Safety can be improved through increased lighting, signage, and access gates. The timeframe is 1-5 years, as shown in Table 7-1.

### **Strategy 9: Renovate Lodges and Cabins**

Parks staff commented during the inventory that many of the buildings in the park system (i.e. Lodge and Cabins at Willow Lake) need major











repairs such as painting, structural work, and basic refurbishing. The timeframe is 5-20 years, as shown in Tables 7-3 and 7-4.

### **Strategy 10: Repair or Replace Basic Park Amenities**

The parks inventory noted that many of the basic amenities of the parks are need despite need of repair and in many cases outright replacement. Basic amenities include picnic tables, roads, parking areas, fire rings, and barbeque grills. The parks department needs to prioritize the importance of specific park amenities and determine work these improvements into the annual capital improvement plan. The timeframe is 1-5 years, as shown in Table 7-1.



**Table 7-1: Proposed Development and Maintenance Capital Projects, Years 1-5**











| Years 1 - 5              |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Special Use Parks</b> |                      |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1                        | Britt Gardens        |   |   | o   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2                        | Bear Creek Greenway  |   |   | o   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3                        | Sports Park          |   |   | o   |   |  |   | o   |   | o   | o   |
| <b>River Parks</b>       |                      |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4                        | Cantrell Buckley     |   |   | o   |   |  | o   | o   |   | o   |   |
| 5                        | Dodge Bridge         |   |   | o   | o   |  | o   |   |   | o   |   |
| 6                        | Fisher's Ferry       |   |   | o   |   |  | o   |   |   | o   |   |
| 7                        | Rogue Elk            |   |   | o   | o   |  | o   |   |   | o   |   |
| 8                        | Takelma              |   |   | o   |   |  | o   |   |   | o   |   |
| 9                        | Upper Rogue Regional |   |   | o   | o   |  | o   | o   |   | o   |   |
| <b>Reservoir Parks</b>   |                      |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10                       | Agate Lake           |   |   | o   | o   |  | o   |   |   | o   |   |
| 11                       | Emigrant Lake        |   |   | o   | o   |  | o   |   |   | o   |   |
| 12                       | Howard Prairie       |   |   | o   | o   |  | o   | o   |   | o   |   |
| 13                       | Willow Lake          |   |   | o   | o   |  | o   | o   |   | o   |   |
| <b>Open Space Parks</b>  |                      |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14                       | Aiken                |   |   | o   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15                       | Brownsboro Wayside   |   |   | o   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 16                       | Givan                |   |   | o   |   |  |   | o   |   | o   |   |
| 17                       | Gold Ray Dam         |   |   | o   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 18                       | Hardy Riffle         |   |   | o   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 19                       | Hooper Springs       |   |   | o   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 20                       | May Adam Ellis       |   |   | o   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 21                       | Savage Creek         |   |   | o   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 22                       | Vaughn               |   |   | o   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |

**LEGEND**

|  |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
|  Yurts    |  Boat Ramps  |  Interpretive    |  Structures    |  ORV    |
|  RV Sites |  Maintenance |  Erosion Control |  Lodges/Cabins |  Safety |

Source: CPW

**Table 7-2: Development and Maintenance Capital Projects, Years 5-10**

| Years 5 - 10             |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Special Use Parks</b> |                      |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 1                        | Britt Gardens        |   |   | o   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 2                        | Bear Creek Greenway  |   |   | o   |   | o   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 3                        | Sports Park          |   |   | o   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| <b>River Parks</b>       |                      |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 4                        | Cantrell Buckley     |   | o   | o   |   |   |  | o   |   |   |   |
| 5                        | Dodge Bridge         |   |   | o   | o   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 6                        | Fisher's Ferry       |   |   | o   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 7                        | Rogue Elk            |   | o   | o   | o   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 8                        | Takelma              |   |   | o   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 9                        | Upper Rogue Regional |   |   | o   | o   |   |  | o   |   |   |   |
| <b>Reservoir Parks</b>   |                      |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 10                       | Agate Lake           |   |   | o   | o   |   |  | o   |   |   |   |
| 11                       | Emigrant Lake        |   | o   | o   | o   |   |  | o   |   |   |   |
| 12                       | Howard Prairie       |   | o   | o   | o   |   |  | o   |   | o   |   |
| 13                       | Willow Lake          |   | o   | o   | o   |   |  | o   |   | o   |   |
| <b>Open Space Parks</b>  |                      |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 14                       | Aiken                |   |   | o   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 15                       | Brownsboro Wayside   |   |   | o   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 16                       | Givan                |   |   | o   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 17                       | Gold Ray Dam         |   |   | o   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 18                       | Hardy Riffle         |   |   | o   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 19                       | Hooper Springs       |   |   | o   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 20                       | May Adam Ellis       |   |   | o   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 21                       | Savage Creek         |   |   | o   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| 22                       | Vaughn               |   |   | o   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |

**LEGEND**

|  |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
|  Yurts    |  Boat Ramps  |  Interpretive    |  Structures    |  ORV    |
|  RV Sites |  Maintenance |  Erosion Control |  Lodges/Cabins |  Safety |

Source: CPW

**Table 7-3: Development and Maintenance Capital Projects, Years 5-10**

| Years 10 - 20            |                      |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Special Use Parks</b> |                      |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 1                        | Britt Gardens        |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 2                        | Bear Creek Greenway  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 3                        | Sports Park          |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| <b>River Parks</b>       |                      |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 4                        | Cantrell Buckley     |  | ○ |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 5                        | Dodge Bridge         |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 6                        | Fisher's Ferry       |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 7                        | Rogue Elk            |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 8                        | Takelma              |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 9                        | Upper Rogue Regional |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| <b>Reservoir Parks</b>   |                      |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 10                       | Agate Lake           |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 11                       | Emigrant Lake        |  | ○ |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 12                       | Howard Prairie       |  | ○ |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 13                       | Willow Lake          |  | ○ |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| <b>Open Space Parks</b>  |                      |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 14                       | Aiken                |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 15                       | Brownsboro Wayside   |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 16                       | Givan                |  | ○ |  |  |  |  |  |  | ○ |  |
| 17                       | Gold Ray Dam         |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  | ○ |  |
| 18                       | Hardy Riffle         |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 19                       | Hooper Springs       |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  | ○ |  |
| 20                       | May Adam Ellis       |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 21                       | Savage Creek         |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 22                       | Vaughn               |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |

**LEGEND**

|          |             |                 |               |        |
|----------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|--------|
| Yurts    | Boat Ramps  | Interpretive    | Structures    | ORV    |
| RV Sites | Maintenance | Erosion Control | Lodges/Cabins | Safety |

Source: CPW

## Open Space Park Development

Financial constraints are a limitation on the development of existing Open Space Parks. The county should to keep these parks because future financial circumstances may allow development of these areas. It is important that the county not liquidate these parks, as future resources for park development will be scarcer and more costly later on as the county continues to grow and more and more land is needed for basic human needs other than parks, recreation, and open space areas.

Moreover, land will become more expensive and difficult to acquire in the future.

## Funding Opportunities

Given the limited financial resources available to the county, to make the land acquisition strategy and development and maintenance projects a reality the county will need to seek out grants and other financial assistance. Examples of possible grants and other assistance programs are located in Appendix E (Funding Resource Directory). For example, Appendix E provides contact information for the Oregon Community Foundation, the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Land Trusts. Possible financial assistance programs are potentially endless and thus this parks master plan cannot present every possible program that might apply to the Jackson County Parks System.

Jackson County will also need to further develop and seek out new partnerships. Partnerships can provide financial and/or management assistance to the parks system. After conducting interviews with stakeholders from throughout much of Southern Oregon, a list of possible partner agencies and organizations has been generated. These agencies and organizations are:

- Jackson County Sheriff
- Siskiyou National Forests
- Crater Lake National Forest
- Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation
- Medford Boys and Girls Club
- Boy Scouts of America
- Medford YMCA
- Upper Rogue Little League
- Medford Motorcycle Riders
- Medford Fly Fishing Club
- Sierra Club
- Northwest Youth Corp
- Southern Oregon University
- Rogue Valley Community College
- School Districts

# Appendix A

## Intercept Survey

The Intercept Survey was intended to gather information on the length of a typical visit, type of accommodations, primary activities and locations, and quality of experience at Jackson County Parks. The intercept survey was administered in September 2003 at selected Jackson County parks.

### Methods

To conduct the intercept survey the University of Oregon's Community Planning Workshop (CPW) created a two-page survey that was administered on location at six of the Jackson County parks. A total of ninety-two (92) surveys were completed. The number of surveys per park is as follows: Sports Park (32), Rogue Elk (11), Howard Prairie Lake (12), Upper Rogue Regional Park (10), Willow Lake (13), and Emigrant Lake (14). A postcard was also left with survey participants and at available registration areas at specific parks for people to provide additional comments or suggestions.

### Limitations of Sampling Methodology

This survey was used to identify the recreational habits of Jackson County park visitors, their use patterns, satisfaction with County facilities, and preferred types of improvements. The responses were collected in a non-random manner. In addition, the survey was conducted at a variety of locations that were not randomly selected. Because of these methods this survey is not statistically valid. However, the results may contain valuable insights and information.

The Appendix is organized into the following sections:

***Recreation Habits:*** This section describes the recreation habits of Jackson County residents. It identifies the types of recreation, frequented locations, quality of visit, and perceived value of fees.

***Jackson County Park Use:*** The questions in this section concern the frequency of visits to Jackson County Parks and respondents' willingness to pay more money for day-use and Annual Passes.

***Demographics:*** These questions seek to outline the general demographics of the survey respondents including such factors as age, size of household, and location of residence.

### Recreation Habits

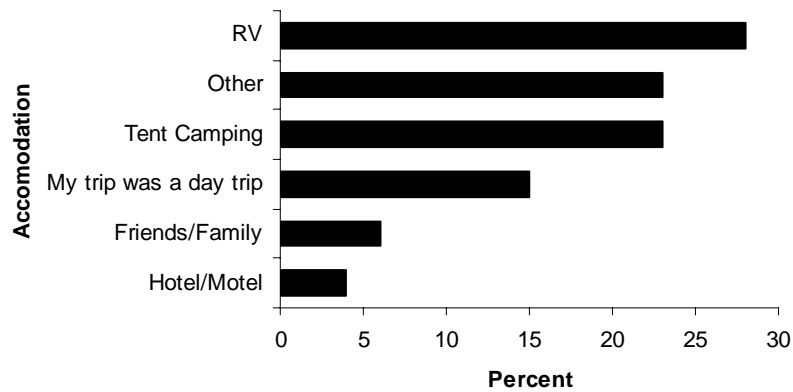
This section of the survey profiled the number of respondents who paid fees within the Jackson County park system and the perceived value of the activities provided by the County. It also questioned respondents about their level of satisfaction with Jackson County park facilities.

Key findings from the Intercept Survey respondents related to the length and type of visit within Jackson County include:

- 85% of visitors paid a fee at the facility where the survey was completed.
- 53% of respondents paid more than \$10, and 47% paid less than \$10.
- Nearly 80% of park users felt that the fees they paid were of equal or better value when compared to other recreation activities.

Figure A-1 illustrates the types of accommodations used by park visitors. Of these respondents, RV and camping accommodations are the most popular ('Other' is generally a combination of RV and camping)

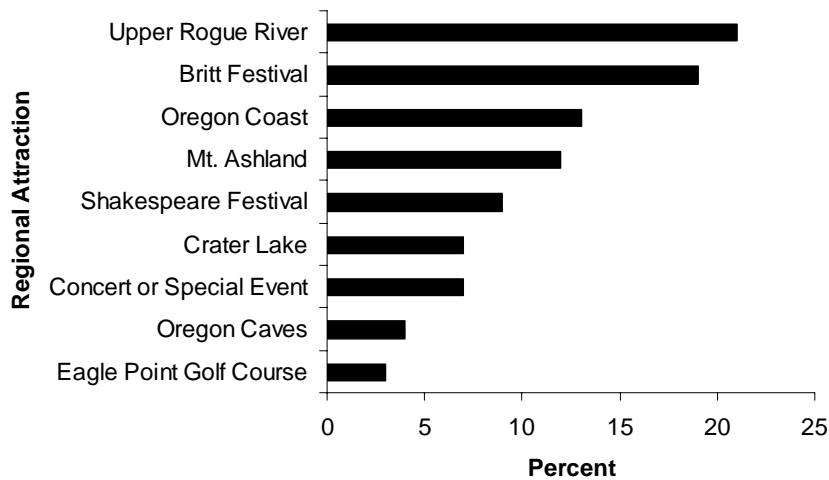
**Figure A-1. Type of Accommodations**



Source: Jackson County Park User Survey, CPW, 2004

Figure A-2 outlines the regional attractions most often visited by survey respondents.

**Figure A-2. Frequently Visited Regional Attractions**



Source: Jackson County Park User Survey, CPW, 2004

The survey also asked participants to rate aspects of Jackson County Parks.

- 62% of respondents rated the conditions of the facility where they received the survey as ‘good’ to ‘very good.’
- More than 80% of the respondents rated the condition of the camping facility where they received the survey as ‘good’ to ‘very good.’
- 41% of respondents rated the quality of their experience as ‘good,’ and 29% rated their experience as ‘very good.’

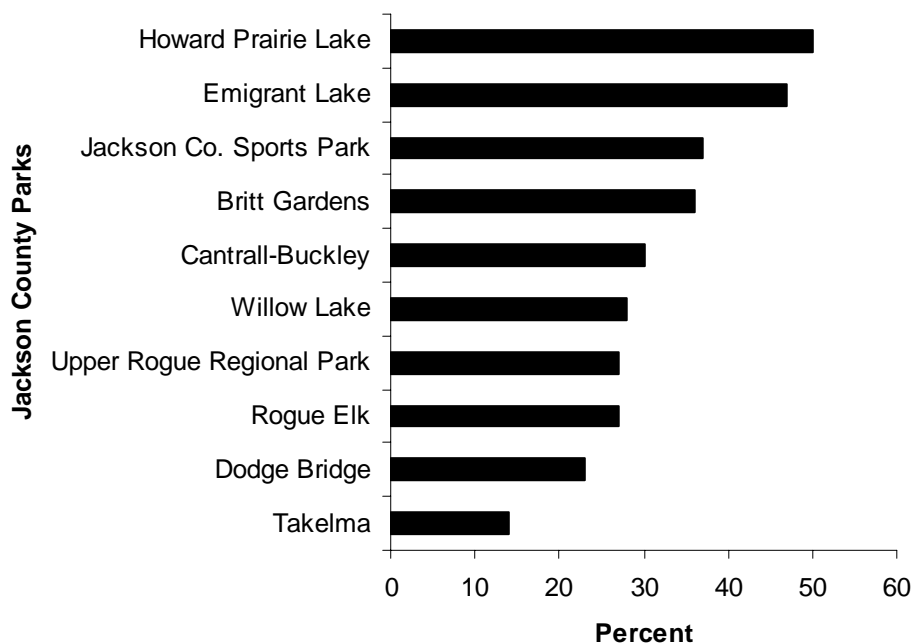
## Jackson County Park Use

This section of the survey asked respondents about their willingness to pay increased fees at Jackson County Parks. The key findings from this section include:

- 56% of park users in this survey did not purchase an Annual Parks Pass. Of those that purchased a pass, 23% are unwilling to pay more for them.
- More than 80% of park users in this survey are unwilling to pay higher day-use fees. Of the 19% who are willing to pay more, nearly half consider paying \$5 more per day as reasonable.

Figure A-3 highlights all parks visited by the survey participants. The top three most often cited parks include Howard Prairie, Emigrant Lake, and the Sports Park.

**Figure A-3. Frequency of Visits to Jackson County Parks**



Source: Jackson County Park User Survey, CPW, 2004

## Demographics

Age and gender are important factors in determining recreation needs. The following demographic summary provides a better understanding of Jackson County park users and their recreation habits.

Key findings from the demographic section include:

- The rate of visitation were highest amongst individuals aged 31-60. This portion of the population made up nearly 80% of the participants in this survey.
- 66% of respondents were male and 34% were female.



# Appendix B

## Jackson County Parks User Survey

The Jackson County Parks User Survey was intended to gather information from current park users on use patterns, satisfaction with county facilities, and preferred types of improvements. The survey was administered to individuals that purchased an annual pass or made a campground reservation in 2003.

### Methods

To conduct the user survey CPW developed an eight page survey that was mailed to 600 Annual Pass holders or individuals that made campground reservations in 2003. Parks Department staff also handed out approximately 300 surveys to park users that visited the Parks Department office during Fall 2003. The user survey mailing included a cover letter, the survey instrument, a postage-paid return envelope, and a coupon for a free night of camping. In February 2004, a second copy of the survey was mailed to recipients that had not yet returned the survey.

CPW contracted the data entry of the three surveys to a private contractor. The CPW research team then used the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) computer program to analyze the data using frequency distributions and cross-tabulations.

### Limitations of Sampling Methodology

This survey was used to identify the recreational habits of Jackson County residents, their use patterns, satisfaction with County facilities, and preferred types of improvements. One limitation of the study's methodology is potential bias due to individuals that did not respond to the survey. If one were to assume the sample was perfectly random and that there was no response bias, then the survey would have a margin of error of  $\pm 5\%$  and a 95% confidence level. This means that if the survey were conducted 100 times, the results would end up within 5% of those presented in this report.

Non-response bias is an issue in all surveys, but is particularly important in mailed surveys due to response rates. The User Survey had a 35% response rate. The question that we cannot answer with 100% confidence is whether those 35% are representative of the entire population, or of some portion of the population that holds a different set of opinions. The purpose of the survey, however, was to get input on the range of opinions and experiences of park users. The survey provides a representative picture of how users perceive Jackson County Parks.

## Organization of Survey Findings

This appendix is organized into the following sections:

**Recreation Habits:** This section describes the recreation habits of Jackson County residents. It identifies the types of recreation and frequented locations, as well as sources of recreation information.

**Jackson County Park Use:** These questions address people who visit Jackson County parks. This section highlights their perceptions regarding the level of service and the need for improvements.

**Improving Park Facilities and Services:** This section reviews the value and quality of Jackson County park facilities. It seeks to identify respondent's support for funding park operations through fees and the perceived value of Jackson County park activities.

**Sports Park:** In this section the survey seeks to identify familiarity with services and facilities offer at the Sports Park and to what frequency users participate in activities there.

**Demographics:** These questions seek to outline the general demographics of the survey respondents including such factors as income, age, size of household, and location of residence.

## Recreation Habits

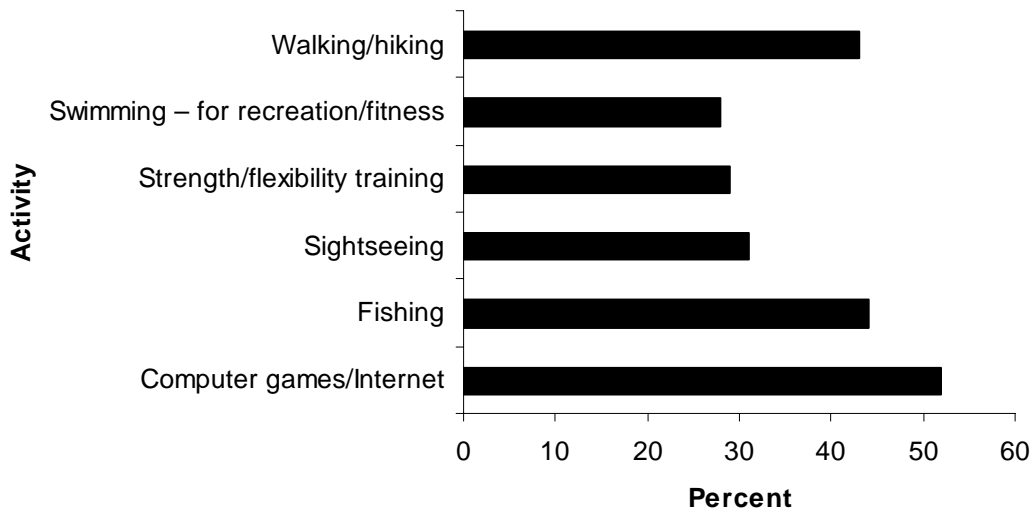
This section of the survey asked respondents about the importance of parks, the media source most frequently utilized to acquire information about parks, the frequency of participation in recreational activities, and the length of visits.

Key findings from the User Survey respondents related to the importance, location, and type of recreation within Jackson County identified:

- 53% of the respondents stated that parks are 'very important.'
- 93% of respondents stated that the quality of their last visit was 'good' to 'very good.'
- 29% of the respondents identified newspapers as their primary source of information about recreational opportunities and events. Other top sources included friends, relatives, and the internet.
- Approximately 1/3 of the respondents were in a party of 1-2 persons during their most recent visit. Nearly 1/3 were in parties of 3-4, and the remaining third had parties of 7 or more.

Figure B-1 highlights the six most popular recreation activities among survey respondents. It is important to note that hiking/walking, fishing, sightseeing, and swimming are highly ranked.

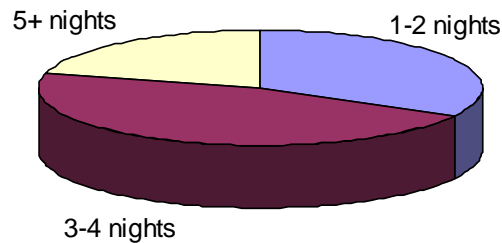
**Figure B-1. Six Most Frequently Participated Activities**



Source: Jackson County Parks User Survey, 2004, CPW

Figure B-2 illustrates the average length of visit for survey respondents. Almost half of respondents indicated that they stayed 3-4 nights. 61% of visitors to Jackson County were on a day-trip, and 39% stayed at least one night.

**Figure B-2. Length of Visit**



Source: Jackson County Parks User Survey, 2004, CPW

## Jackson County Park Use

This section of the survey asked respondents about their familiarity with the department's website, the conditions and variety of park facilities, the need for improved facilities, and the level of importance of services and amenities. Key findings from the User Survey respondents related to the parks' website and the need for improved facilities:

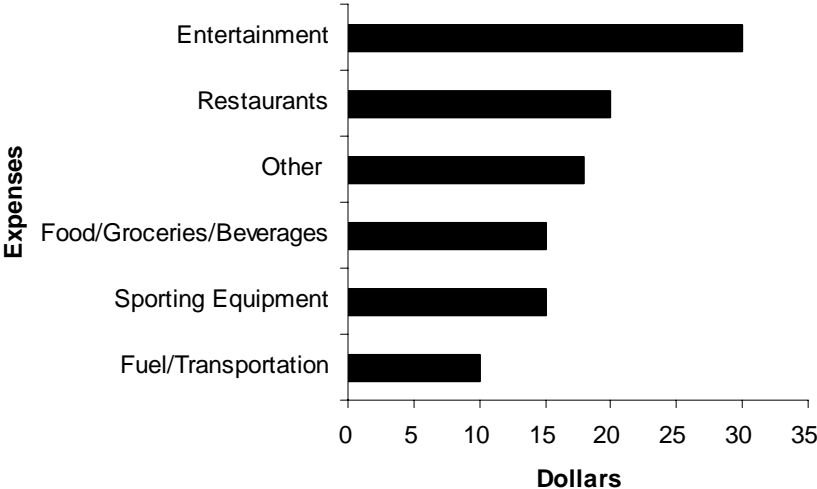
- 51% of respondents were aware they could reserve camping facilities on the department website, and 41% have visited the website.
- 85% of households have visited a Jackson County Park or recreation facility in the last year.
- 75% of respondents rated the conditions of the Jackson County Parks facilities as 'good' to 'very good.'
- 77% of park users rated the variety of facilities as 'good' to 'very good.'
- Nearly 2/3 of park users stated that there is not a need for improved services.
- According to the results of this survey, the three most important features of county parks are safety, good value, and well maintained facilities.

### **Improving Park Facilities and Services**

This section of the survey sought to prioritize facilities that respondents feel are in need of improvement, the value of fees and participant's willingness to pay more for services.

- 41% of surveyed park users did not own an Annual Pass.
- 71% of respondents would not be willing to pay more for day-use fees, and 69% of these respondents would not be willing to pay more even if they knew the money would go to a specific service or project.
- Of the 29% that are willing to pay more, 68% indicated they would pay \$3-5 more per day.
- 65% of respondents felt that the current day use fee is 'about the same' value compared to other outdoor recreation activities and 64% felt that the fee was a 'better value' compared to other entertainment activities.
- The other types of park fees frequently paid by park users include: the State Park entry fee, the National Park entry fee, and the Snow Park Pass.

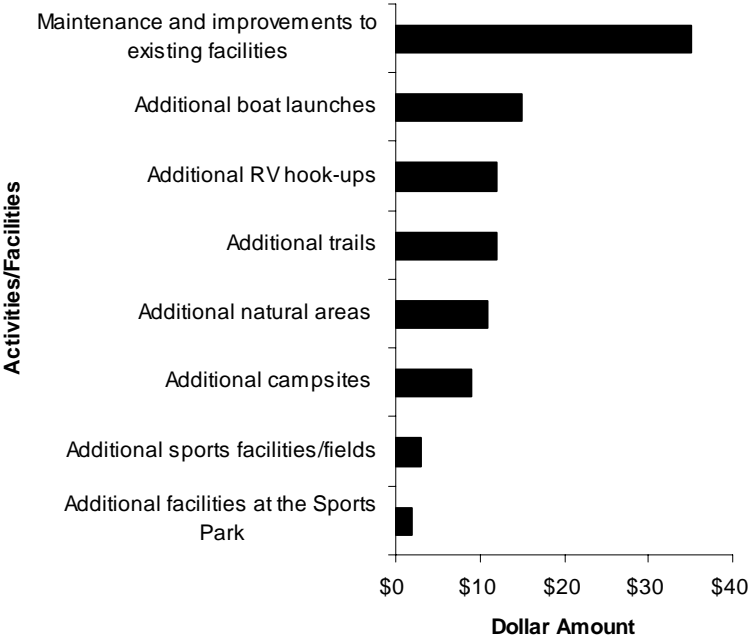
**Figure B-3. Average Dollar Amount Spent Per Person/Per Day in Jackson County**



Source: Jackson County Parks User Survey, 2004, CPW

During their last visit to Jackson County, most park users spent a significant amount of money on entertainment and restaurants. They spent the least amount of money on fuel and transportation.

**Figure B-4. How Respondents Would Spend \$100 on Jackson County Parks Facilities and Activities**



Source: Jackson County Parks User Survey, 2004, CPW

## Sports Park

The Sports Park is a unique facility in Jackson County. The diverse activities available present opportunities and challenges for the parks department. This section of the user survey was designed to get at recipients' familiarity with Sports Park facilities, usage rates, and condition assessments.

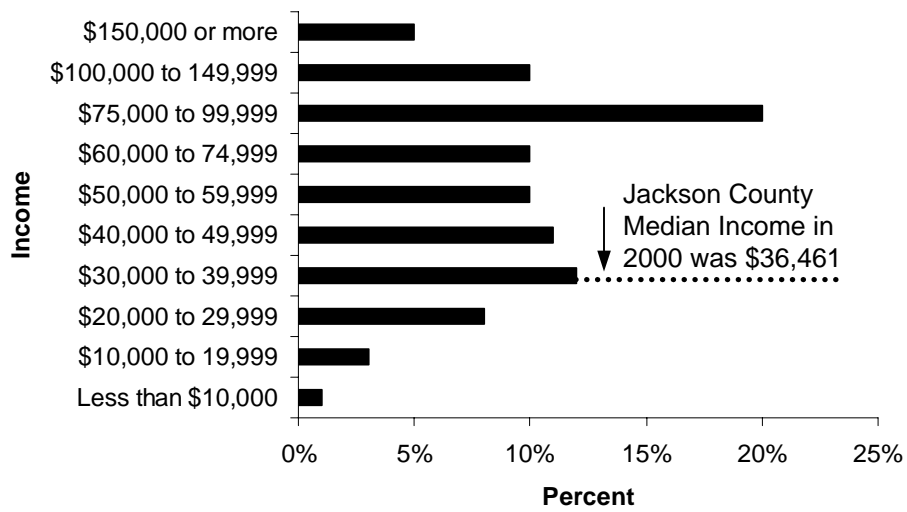
- 48% of respondents are at least somewhat familiar with the facilities and services at Sports Park.
- On average, respondents that were familiar with services and facilities at Sports Park do not participate in activities at the Oval Track, Drag Strip, Softball Complex, or Go-kart Track. Average annual visitation to the Shooting Range and Fishing Ponds was between 1-6 times per year.
- When asked to rate the way facilities at Sports Park are currently managed respondents indicated 91% approval for the Go-kart track and fishing ponds management. The softball complex attained an 84% approval rating, while the shooting range received 82% approval. The oval track and drag strip received the lowest management rating with 75%.

## Demographics

Age, income, home ownership, and household size are key factors in determining recreation needs. The following summary provides a better understanding of households that visit Jackson County Parks.

- 56% of respondents to this survey were male; 44% were female.
- 76% of the user survey respondents are Jackson County residents. Roughly one-third of these have been in Jackson County for 1-10 years; one-third have lived in the county for 11-20 years; and approximately one-third have lived in the county for 21-30 years.
- Around 50% of survey respondents were between the ages of 36 and 55. Only 15% of the respondents were under the age of 35.
- Nearly one-quarter of respondents were 36-45 years old; approximately one-quarter were between 46-55 years old; and one-quarter were 56-65 years old.

**Figure B-8. Total Household Income Before Taxes in 2003**



Source: Jackson County Parks User Survey, 2004, CPW





# Appendix C

## Household Survey

The Household Survey was intended to gather information on the importance of parks, the level of use at Jackson County parks, improvements that citizens would like to see at specific parks or throughout the park system, the public's willingness to fund the park system, and demographics. The survey was distributed to randomly selected households in Jackson County.

### Methods

The household survey was administered to 1,200 randomly selected households in Jackson County. The names were drawn from a list of registered voters provided by the Jackson County Elections Office. The household survey mailing included a cover letter, the survey instrument, a postage-paid return envelope, and a coupon for a free night of camping. Completed household surveys were returned to CPW. A second mailing was sent out to those that had not returned the survey in April 2004.

CPW contracted the data entry of the three surveys to a private contractor. The CPW research team then used the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) computer program to analyze the data using frequency distributions and cross-tabulations.

### Limitations of Sampling Methodology

This survey was used to identify the recreational habits of Jackson County residents, their use patterns, satisfaction with County facilities, and preferred types of improvements. One limitation of the study's methodology is potential non-response biases from the mailed survey. If one were to assume the sample was perfectly random and that there was no response bias, then the survey would have a margin of error of  $\pm 5\%$  and a 95% confidence level. This means that if the survey were conducted 100 times, the results would end up within  $\pm 5\%$  of those presented in this report.

Non-response bias is an issue in all surveys, but is particularly important in mailed surveys due to response rates. The Household Survey had a 23% response rate. The question that we cannot answer with 100% confidence is whether those 23% are representative of the entire population, or of some portion of the population that holds a different set of opinions.

The objective of the household survey, however, was to develop a general picture of how County residents value and use parks. For this purpose, CPW believes that the household survey identifies the range of values that exist among County residents.

## Organization of Survey Findings

The report is organized into the following sections:

***Recreation Habits:*** This section describes the recreation habits of Jackson County residents. It identifies the types of recreation and frequented locations, as well as sources of recreation information.

***Jackson County Park Use:*** These questions address residents who recently visited Jackson County parks. This section highlights respondent's perceptions regarding the level of service and demand for improvements and additions to the parks.

***Improving Park Facilities and Services:*** This section reviews the value, quality, and extent of Jackson County park facilities.

***Reasons for Not Using Jackson County Parks:*** This section addresses reasons why Jackson County households do not use Jackson County parks and/or recreation facilities.

***Funding Operations With Fees:*** This section seeks to identify respondent's support for funding park operations through fees and the perceived value of Jackson County park activities.

***Demographics:*** These questions seek to outline the general demographics of the survey respondents including such factors as income, age, size of household, and location of residence.

## Recreation Habits

This section of the survey asked respondents about the importance of parks, the media source most frequently utilized to acquire information about parks, the frequency of participation in recreational activities outside of the County, and the level of importance of services and amenities.

Key findings from the Household Survey respondents related to the importance, location, and type of recreation within Jackson County identified:

- 63% of the respondents stated that parks are 'very important.'
- 50% of the respondents identified newspapers as their primary source of information about recreational opportunities and events.
- 40% of Jackson County residents leave the County once a month or more to recreate.

Key findings from Table C-1 are as follows:

- The majority of respondents believe that equestrian facilities are 'less important'. More than half of the respondents felt that the Sports Park was 'less important'.
- Respondents equally value developed parks and open space.

- More than 68% of respondents rated the following features as ‘more important’: safe, good value for the money, facility is well-maintained, not crowded.
- Respondents also identified nature trails and public river access as additional features with high importance.

**Table C-1. Importance of Service in Jackson County Parks**

| Category                           | More Important |            |            | Less Important |            |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|----------------|------------|
|                                    | 5              | 4          | 3          | 2              | 1          |
| <b>Facilities</b>                  |                |            |            |                |            |
| Athletic fields                    | 16%            | 12%        | 20%        | 16%            | 36%        |
| Boat launches                      | 25%            | 11%        | 21%        | 13%            | 30%        |
| Disabled person access             | 18%            | 11%        | 16%        | 14%            | 42%        |
| <b>Equestrian</b>                  | <b>3%</b>      | <b>5%</b>  | <b>12%</b> | <b>15%</b>     | <b>65%</b> |
| Group campsites                    | 22%            | 21%        | 23%        | 15%            | 19%        |
| Group picnic areas                 | 25%            | 22%        | 26%        | 13%            | 14%        |
| <b>Developed parks</b>             | <b>36%</b>     | <b>31%</b> | <b>22%</b> | <b>26%</b>     | <b>5%</b>  |
| <b>Undeveloped open space</b>      | <b>35%</b>     | <b>22%</b> | <b>20%</b> | <b>14%</b>     | <b>11%</b> |
| <b>Natural trails</b>              | <b>50%</b>     | <b>24%</b> | <b>15%</b> | <b>7%</b>      | <b>4%</b>  |
| Paved trails                       | 19%            | 26%        | 30%        | 14%            | 11%        |
| Picnic sites                       | 33%            | 37%        | 20%        | 8%             | 13%        |
| Playgrounds                        | 21%            | 19%        | 25%        | 18%            | 17%        |
| <b>Public river access</b>         | <b>42%</b>     | <b>25%</b> | <b>18%</b> | <b>6%</b>      | <b>9%</b>  |
| <b>Motor Sport (Sports Park)</b>   | <b>10%</b>     | <b>8%</b>  | <b>13%</b> | <b>13%</b>     | <b>56%</b> |
| RV campsites                       | 25%            | 15%        | 13%        | 14%            | 54%        |
| Swim center (Emigrant Lake)        | 20%            | 19%        | 26%        | 17%            | 18%        |
| Tent campsites                     | 30%            | 25%        | 22%        | 10%            | 13%        |
| Yurt facilities                    | 14%            | 14%        | 23%        | 14%            | 35%        |
| <b>Features</b>                    |                |            |            |                |            |
| Close to home or work              | 29%            | 28%        | 26%        | 9%             | 9%         |
| Convenient hours of operation      | 47%            | 30%        | 15%        | 4%             | 4%         |
| <b>Facility is well-maintained</b> | <b>72%</b>     | <b>20%</b> | <b>6%</b>  | <b>2%</b>      | <b>0%</b>  |
| <b>Good value for the money</b>    | <b>73%</b>     | <b>18%</b> | <b>6%</b>  | <b>2%</b>      | <b>0%</b>  |
| <b>Not crowded</b>                 | <b>68%</b>     | <b>19%</b> | <b>11%</b> | <b>2%</b>      | <b>0%</b>  |
| <b>Safe environment</b>            | <b>82%</b>     | <b>12%</b> | <b>4%</b>  | <b>0%</b>      | <b>1%</b>  |

Source: Jackson County Parks Plan Household Survey, CPW, 2004

## Jackson County Park Use

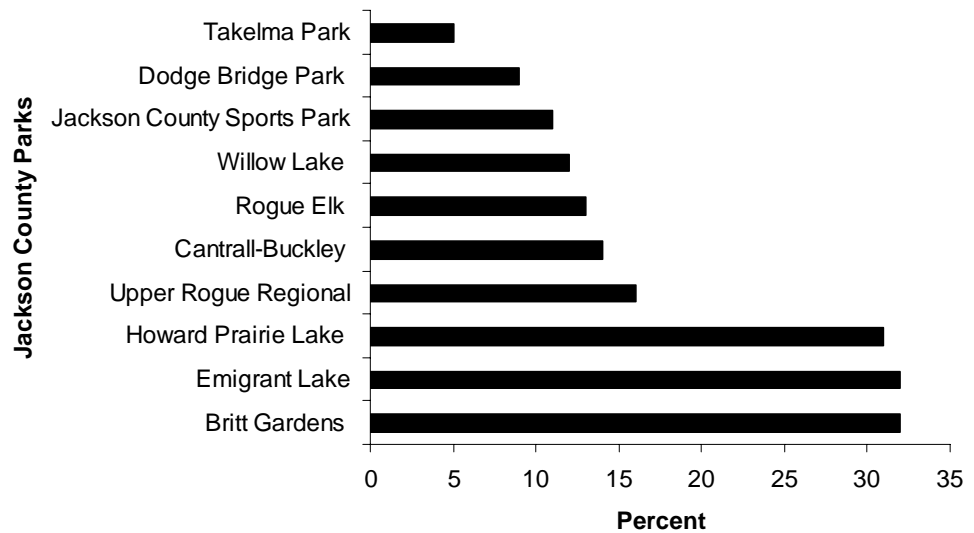
This section of the survey asked respondents about their familiarity with the department’s website, the need for new facilities and services, their willingness to pay for new facilities, and the rate of visitation at 10 of Jackson County’s most developed parks. In addition, there were questions in this section which address the length of recent visits to Jackson County Parks.

Key findings from the Household Survey respondents related to the parks’ website, the frequency of use, and the need for additional facilities:

- 72% of respondents have never visited the Jackson County Parks website, and only 40% were aware they could reserve camping facilities on the website.

- 85% of households have visited a Jackson County Park or recreation facility in the last year.
- 54% of the respondents indicated that if new facilities or services were added it would increase their rate of park use. Of these, nearly half answered that they would visit these parks several times per month.
- Nearly 75% of respondents would be willing to pay \$1-5 more per visit for improved facilities. More than 20% are not willing to pay more for improved facilities.
- 59% or more of the respondents indicated they do not participate in Sports Park activities. However, nearly 45% of these are not aware of the facilities and services available at the Sports Park.
- 52% indicated that the quality of their last park visit was ‘good.’ 28% claimed it was ‘very good.’

**Figure C-1. Jackson County Parks Most Recently Visited**

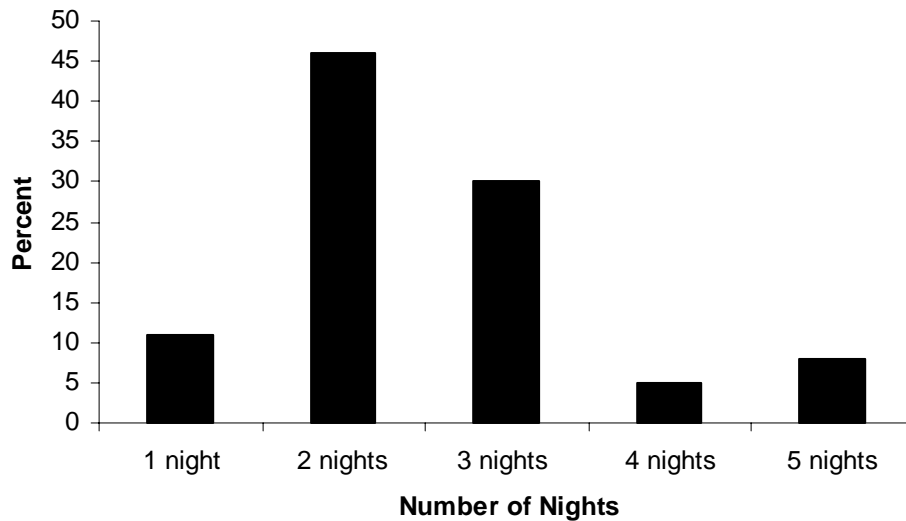


Source: Jackson County Parks Plan Household Survey, CPW, 2004

According to the survey results, Britt Gardens, Emigrant Lake and Howard Prairie were recently visited more than twice as often as other parks. These three parks are located near urban centers in the southern half of the county, while the remaining parks are generally located in rural areas in the north.

The majority of Jackson County Parks visits (86%) are day-visits, and of the visitors that spend the night 76% stay between 2-3 nights.

**Figure C-2. Length of Most Recent Overnight Visit to a Jackson County Park**



Source: Jackson County Parks Plan Household Survey, CPW, 2004

## Improving Park Facilities and Services

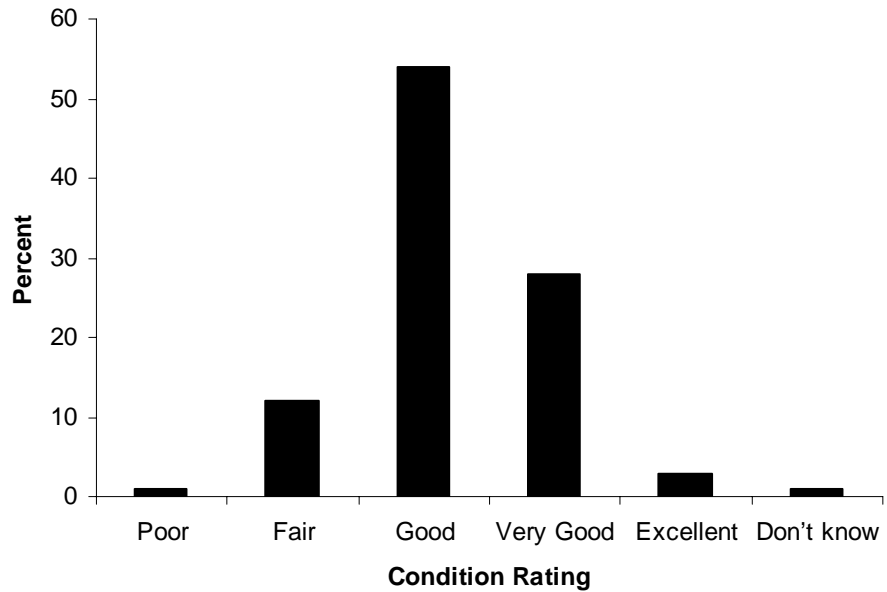
Improving facilities and services are an important aspect of park system management. However, improvements can be costly. This section of the survey gathered data on how respondents would allocate resources to improve park facilities and services.

Key findings from this section of the survey address respondents' perceptions regarding the conditions and variety of facilities in the County Parks System, as well as the need for improvements of these facilities:

- 71% of household respondents rated the variety of facilities in the parks system as 'good' to 'very good.'
- 71% of respondents rated the condition of most frequently used campsites in the parks system as 'good' to 'very good.'
- Nearly two-thirds of campers use tents, while nearly one-third camp in RVs. The remaining respondents camp using a combination of these and group sites.
- 54% of respondents indicated a need for additional parks.

Figure C-3 illustrates that 82% of household respondents rated the condition of facilities in the parks system as 'good' to 'very good.'

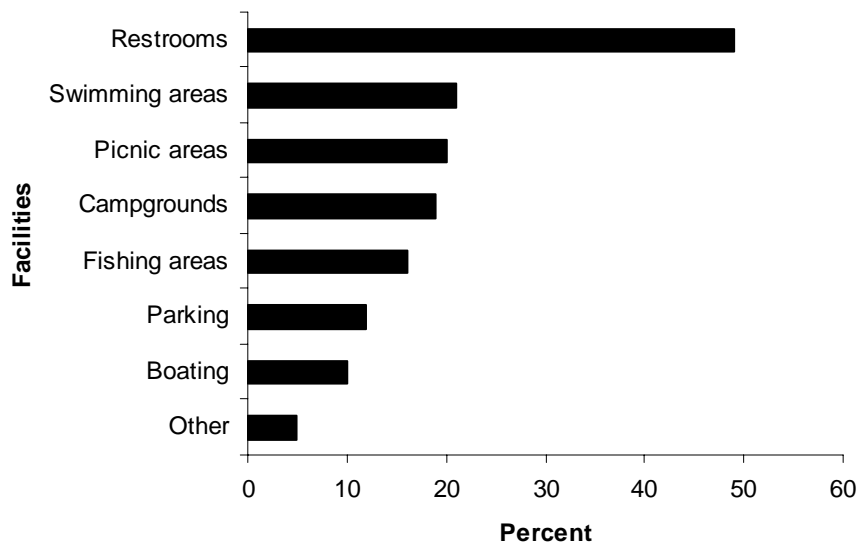
**Figure C-3. Condition of Jackson County Park Facilities**



Source: Jackson County Parks Plan Household Survey, CPW, 2004

Figure C-4 shows facilities identified as needing improvement by survey respondents. Forty-nine percent of respondents identified restroom improvements as a priority – more than twice the rate of any other needed improvement.

**Figure C-4. Facilities Identified as Needing Improvements**



Source: Jackson County Parks Plan Household Survey, CPW, 2004

## Reasons for Not Using Jackson County Parks

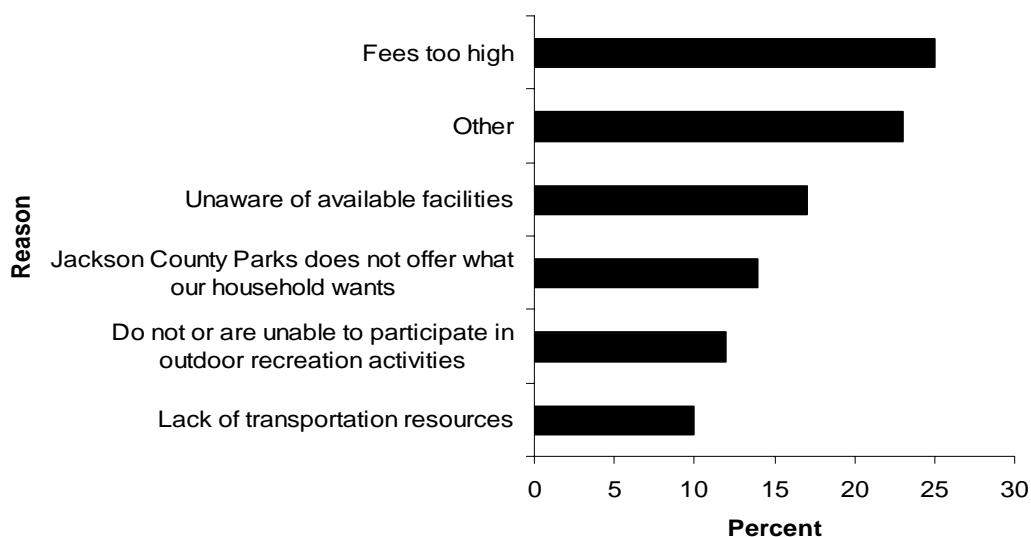
In determining the park system's ability to attract new and repeat visitors, it is important to understand the specific reasons why residents do not visit Jackson County Parks. This section was intended to help indicate why households may not visit Jackson County Parks more frequently:

Of those households that visited parks not operated by Jackson County, almost 70% visited other parks within Oregon, 15% traveled to California and Nevada to recreate.

When asked, "What is the most important reason that your household does not use Jackson County park and/or recreation facilities?" there was only a 13% response rate in the returned surveys. The responses from this group indicate that high fees are the main reason for not visiting Jackson County Parks. Additionally, 17% of these respondents claimed they are unaware of Jackson Count Park facilities.

Figure C-5 illustrates the additional reasons why respondents did not visit Jackson Count Parks.

**Figure C-5. Reasons for Not Visiting Jackson County Parks**



Source: Jackson County Parks Plan Household Survey, CPW, 2004

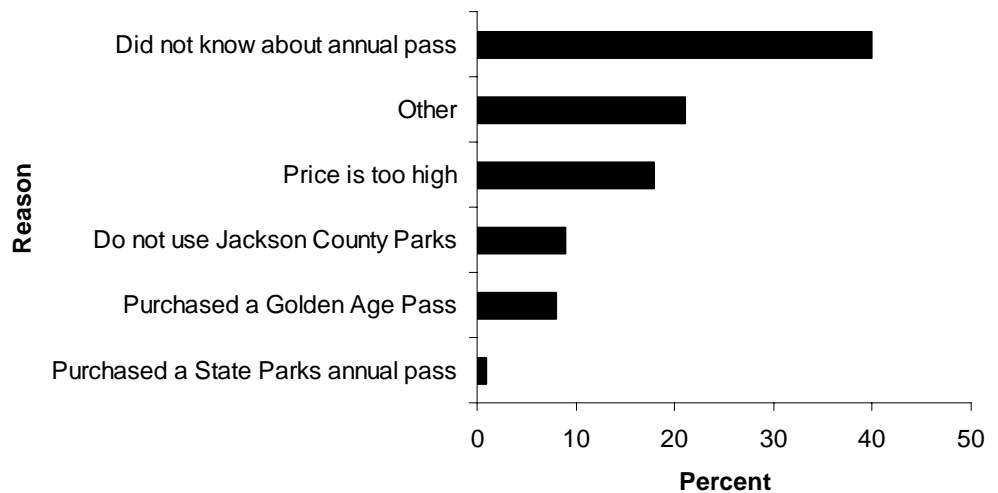
## Funding Operations With Fees

The survey included a series of questions designed to determine whether survey respondents would support or accept fee increases. Key findings include:

- 83% of Jackson County households did not purchase a Jackson County Park Seasonal Day Entry pass in 2003 or 2004.

- Around 71% of respondents indicated that they feel the \$25 Seasonal Day Entry fee is 'about the same' value as compared to other outdoor recreational activities and/or facilities not managed by the County Parks Department.
- Almost two-thirds of households are not willing to pay more for a Jackson County Annual Parks Pass, yet nearly 20% would be willing to pay \$3-5 more per Annual Pass.

**Figure C-6. Reasons for Not Purchasing Annual Parks Pass**

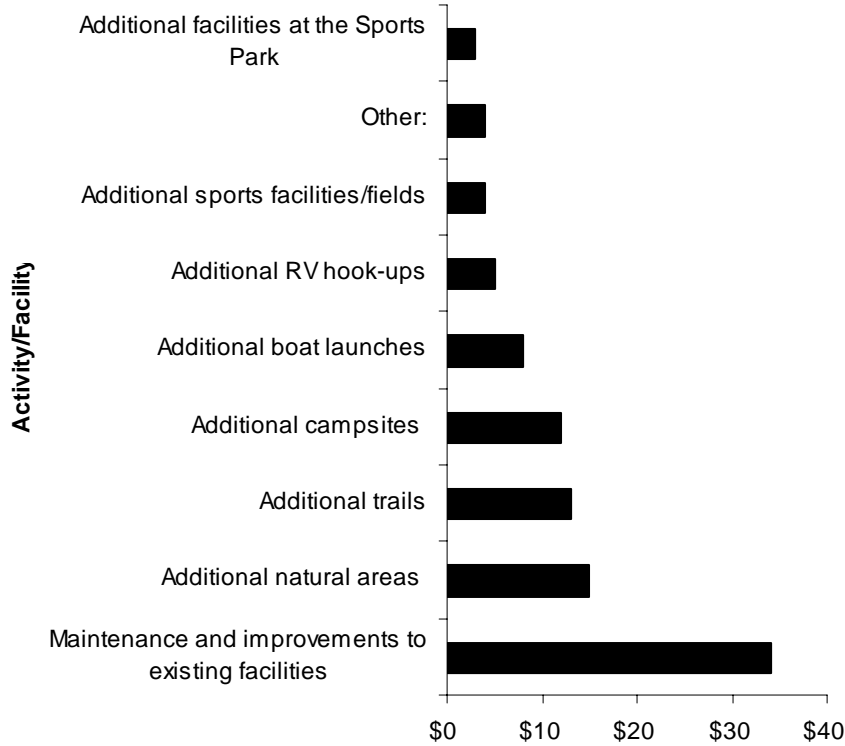


Source: Jackson County Parks Plan Household Survey, CPW, 2004

- Around 75% of households would not be willing to pay more for a day use fee. Of those willing to pay more, 92% indicated that they would pay \$1-5 more per day visit.
- 90% of the respondents believe the daily fee charged by Jackson County Parks is of equal or better value than other entertainment activities (i.e., movies, bowling, etc.).
- The rate that respondents purchased Snow Park passes, National Park entry fees, and State Park entry fees are 28%. Less than 6% purchased Northwest Forest Passes or Trail Park Passes.



**Figure C-7. How Respondents Would Spend \$100 on Jackson County Parks Facilities and Activities**



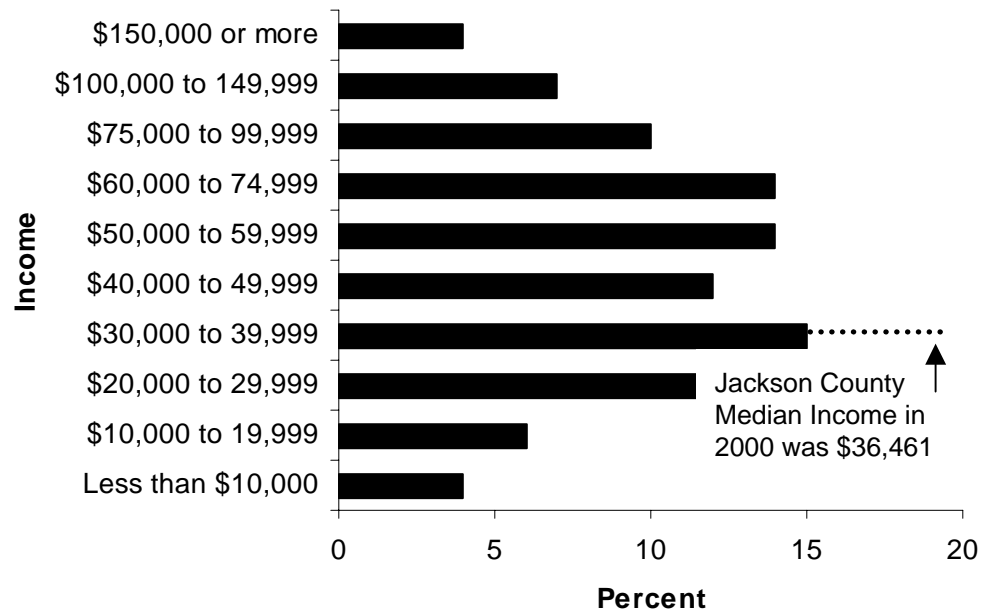
Source: Jackson County Parks Plan Household Survey, CPW, 2004

**Demographics**

Age, income, and home ownership are key factors in determining recreation trends. The following demographic summary provides a more comprehensive understanding of the households within Jackson County and their recreation habits and level of park use.

- Around 50% of the survey respondents were between the ages of 36 and 55. Only 15% of the respondents were under the age of 35.
- 85% of the survey respondents stated that they own their home, while 15% indicated they rent their home.
- The following graph indicates that the survey respondents may tend to make more money than a typical Jackson County household.

**Figure C-8. Total Household Income Before Taxes in 2003**



Source: Jackson County Parks Plan Household Survey, CPW, 2004

# Appendix D

## Community Workshop

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004, CPW conducted a community workshop to gauge community members' opinions regarding the Jackson County park system. This Appendix provides a summary of the workshop events and the responses by community members. The workshop activity was done in two smaller groups. The input is organized by group: first group one, and then group two. *The recorded participant responses do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Community Planning Workshop or Jackson County Parks Department.*

### Group #1

#### Question 1

##### **What are the strengths of the Jackson County parks system?**

The first strength identified by the community was the diversity of activities offered by the Jackson County Parks system. The wide range in activities was seen as a unique asset to the community. These activities included: camping, fishing, shooting, race-track, picnicking, hiking, waterslide and boating. Although there was recognition of a variety in activities available it was noted that some of the park areas needed improvements to be used appropriately (there was emphasis on the drag strip and shooting range). The parks system was noted as providing access to activities not available elsewhere and was said to provide a good venue for family activities (excluding the Drag Strip).

The second strength identified by the community was access to natural areas. Under this theme, accessibility to beautiful and natural environments were identified. Assets under this theme included: the bike path, wildlife, views, rivers, and lakes. Willow Lake and the Greenway were specifically identified as strengths. The proximity to such a wide range of bodies of water was noted as a strength and opportunity for the Jackson County Parks System.

The third strength identified by the community was low fees which leads to access to the amenities and activities offered by the Jackson County Parks System. The fees were seen as reasonable in comparison with other parks. Most of the facilities were noted as being well maintained. In discussion it was noted that the Sports Park has the ability to generate more revenue than it is and that the fees that it cost to use these facilities are not being used towards maintaining or improving the grounds.

After identifying the above strengths, workshop participants were asked to prioritize the above themes and decide which ones were the most important or most significant within the Jackson County parks

system. The group decided that the diversity of activities was the most important. Following that, it was important to the group that fees were kept reasonable to allow access to these activities. Maintenance and upkeep of all areas was seen as crucial.

## **Question 2**

### **What opportunities exist to improve Jackson County parks?**

The first opportunity identified to improve Jackson County parks was improvements to the park facilities. This theme had two general categories. The first were improvements and maintenance of existing facilities. Under these category improvements of campgrounds, roads, keeping facilities clean and maintenance of bathrooms were included. Specific improvements at Willow Lake included road maintenance and improving screening between campsites. A suggestion was made to plant trees or other plantings for screening. The bathrooms at Grizzly were specified as needing to be improved. Participant concerns focused on numerous improvement and maintenance issues at the Sports Park and Drag Strip. The second category under this theme was improvement to the parks system by introducing and expanding facilities. Under this theme the addition of fly-casting ponds, bike paths and vistas for bird watching were listed.

The second opportunity for the Jackson County Parks identified by the community were fees and marketing. Marketing opportunities to promote the area through natural, scenic images were noted. Under this theme there were two points directed at funding. The first of these was that there should be more money going directly into improvements of the facilities. The second was the opportunity for funding to be generated through motel tax and RV parks.

A third opportunity identified by the community members was developing and fostering activities, programs and facilities for youth. These included additional fishing ponds for youth along the bike trail, the development of programs for youth groups that could offer activities such as fly fishing, swim access for kids along the river, and bus connection between community and parks through the offer of a bus-parks pass (Emigrant Lake). The community saw the youth as a portion of the population that provides special opportunities for the Jackson County Parks System.

The Fourth opportunity identified focused on management. Under this theme the community members identified improvements in management as a major opportunity. Better supervision of certain private sectors of County controlled facilities was noted as an opportunity for improving management. Discussion of this point was centered on the Sports Park. Having people on site at facilities was noted as an opportunity to provide a safer environment and to improve promotion of the facilities.

When asked to prioritize the opportunities the community members emphasized improving the facilities through maintenance and

management. The second most important opportunity was seen as developing activities and programs for youth groups.

## Group #2

### Question 1

#### **What are the strengths of the Jackson County parks system?**

The first strength identified was the activities offered by the Jackson County parks. Under this theme was included: Dog areas, skateboard and bike parks, shooting ranges (ranges require major up-grading), trails (Bear Creek-need parallel horse trails), picnic facilities, hiking trails and other sports like water and boating, river access, and music in the parks. All of these activities/amenities were thought by the participants to be well-represented and positive attributes of the Jackson County parks system. Another strength identified was the diversity of the Jackson County park system. Under this theme was included: the diversity of programs, the diversity of activities, the presence of activities not available elsewhere, and the presence of partnerships with several community groups. A third strength identified was the landscape and natural areas of Jackson County. The two areas deemed positive under this theme were the presence of wildlife habitat, and the availability of open space. A fourth strength identified was the management of the Jackson County parks system. Under this theme the participants included: the relatively low costs to use the parks, affordable rates, management, and the responsiveness to public needs. Handicap access within Jackson County parks was the fifth strength identified by a workshop participant. And finally, the location of the Jackson County parks was the sixth strength listed by workshop participants. Under this theme they included: the proximity of parks to population centers and the convenient access from I-5.

After categorizing the above themes, participants were asked to discuss and expand on their ideas with the small group. The following ideas and suggestions emerged from the conversation. Many participants thought that it was important to get the community to use the parks as a community. One individual suggested that the parks department charge an extra fee for certain community-minded events such as a special dog day or a special boat day. Participants thought that it is necessary to improve upon the facilities that people use most. And many people suggested that the park expand its equestrian and hiking trails. The group mentioned the Greenway trail specifically, and stated that the parks department would benefit from developing equestrian trails in other area. Several individuals identified the location of Jackson County parks as a major strength and thought that many of the parks were well maintained because of their proximity to cities. One community member thought that the situation might be a “catch 22” and stated that “parks that are used most often are well-maintained, but wondered if that’s why they’re used most often.” The group thought that it is important to have parks that can accommodate large groups, and to have these parks near population centers. Finally, several

participants mentioned that city parks are being used more frequently, and pointed out that this might be because they are free.

After identifying the above strengths, workshop participants were asked to prioritize the above themes and decide which ones were the most important or most significant within the Jackson County parks system. The group decided that the diversity of activities within the parks system was most important strength and stressed that it is essential that all interests be represented. The participants decided that management and wildlife habitat/natural areas were tied for second place in terms of strengths.

## **Question 2**

### **What opportunities exist to improve Jackson County parks?**

The first opportunity identified to improve Jackson County parks was focused around the condition of facilities. Included in this theme was: the need for more cabins and yurts, improvement of the Sports Park, the need for more disabled parking and access, the need for more “passive uses” such as trail use and bird watching, the need for more RV hook-ups in the parks, the need for more interpretive trails and programs, the need for improved swimming areas, and the need to improve boat ramps. The second area of improvement identified by participants was related to the issue of access. Several participants thought that the parks needed more disabled parking and improved access. Other individuals thought that the park would benefit from improvements to park access roads (in specific, Cantrall-Buckley was mentioned), and would also benefit from staying open later. The third area of improvement identified by participants was connected to the issue of partnerships and concessions. Several group members stated that the Jackson County park system should initiate more and stronger partnerships. Under the heading of partnerships, several participants also felt that the park system should give more credibility to the Parks Advisory Committee. The participants felt that the members of the PAC are not effectively listened to and respected. In regards to concessions, several people thought that there was a need for more availability of food within the parks and the need to attract other concessions to the parks. On the flipside, several individuals stated that they thought the parks department should quit trying to make money with concessions, and that they should not let concessions get in the way of user interests. The fourth area of improvement was focused on park development. Under this theme, people thought that there should be more development of undeveloped park lands, and that there is a need to restore the ponds and streams. The final area of improvement identified was related to the issue of fees. The following suggestions and ideas emerged: the need to have community events and gatherings by which the Jackson County Parks Department could charge a small fee, the need to charge a “special event fee” for activities such as equestrian meetings, parades, and potlucks, and the need to develop systems that ensure that users do in fact pay for the facilities and amenities.

Again, as with question one, after categorizing the themes workshop participants were asked to discuss and expand on their ideas with the small group setting. The following ideas and suggestions emerged from the conversation. Many participants felt that park access could be improved upon, and disabled access to river properties was emphasized. Several people thought that the current condition of many Jackson County boat ramps was dangerous and unfit for use. In regards to the collection of fees, several individuals expressed the idea that money collected in particular parks should stay in that particular park. For example, if an individual pays a day use fee for the Sports Park, then this money should go back to the Sports Park and not the park system in general. Several people discussed the power of the Parks Advisory Committee and felt that the structure should be altered so that the PAC has more influence and say in park matters. And finally, in regards to park concessions, many different opinions were shared. Many participants expressed the opinion that although concessionaires in the Sports Park do make money, this money does not go back into the park. Another individual thought that there should be more food concessions, and then several other people expressed mixed feelings about the presence of concessions. Some participants felt that the problem with concessions is that there is no way by which to hold them accountable, and that this has negative effects upon the park system. Another person stated that the concessionaires could be doing better, and another individual expressed fear that they are all about the money and do not have the best intentions in mind for Jackson County parks. Finally, another participant expressed the notion that without the presence of concessionaires, the Jackson County Parks Department could not operate because of the lack of resources.

When asked to prioritize the opportunities for improvement, the community members emphasized improving the facilities through maintenance and management. The second most important opportunity was seen as developing partnerships between federal, state, and local stakeholders.





# Appendix E

## Funding Resource Directory

This Funding Resource Directory is a supplement to Chapter 7, Capital Facilities. This directory provides a listing of grants from private organizations, the federal government, and the State of Oregon. Some of the foundations listed may not receive applications from government agencies, but the information is included as it is valuable for private agencies that may partner with the Jackson County Parks System. The list of grant programs is not a complete list of all possible grants, but lists programs that are appropriate for Jackson County and Southern Oregon.

### Financial

#### Private Organization Grants

##### Oregon Community Foundation Grants

Proposals to the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) for their Community Grants are prioritized for funding based on their fit with a set of basic guiding principles and four specific funding objectives.

- To nurture children, strengthen families and foster the self-sufficiency of Oregonians;
- To enhance the educational experience of Oregonians;
- To increase cultural opportunities for Oregonians;
- To preserve and improve Oregon's livability through citizen involvement;

OCF awards nearly 200 Community Grants annually. Most Community Grants are between \$5,000 and \$35,000, but multi-year grants may range up to \$150,000 for projects with particular community impact. Only about 5 percent of Community Grants exceed \$50,000. Larger grants are reserved for projects that demonstrate a close match with OCF funding priorities and have a broad scope of impact.

##### **Contact:**

Oregon Community Foundation  
925 W. 8th St  
Medford, Oregon 97501  
Phone: (541) 773-8987  
Fax: (541) 245-8796  
Website: <http://www.ocf1.org/>

##### The Collins Foundation

The Collins Foundation's purpose is to improve, enrich, and give greater expression to the religious, educational, cultural, and scientific

endeavors in the State of Oregon and to assist in improving the quality of life in the state. In its procedures, the Foundation has not been an "Operating Foundation" in the sense of taking the initiative in creating and directing programs designed to carry out its purpose. Rather, the trustees have chosen to work through existing agencies and have supported proposals submitted by colleges and universities, organized religious groups, arts, cultural and civic organizations, and agencies devoted to health, welfare, and youth.

**Contact:**

The Collins Foundation  
1618 SW First Avenue, Suite 505  
Portland, Oregon 97201  
Phone: (503) 227-7171  
Website: <http://www.collinsfoundation.org/>

**Bonneville Environmental Foundation**

The Bonneville Environmental Foundation is a charitable and nonprofit public benefit corporation dedicated to encouraging and funding projects that develop and/or apply clean, environmentally preferred renewable power and acquire, maintain, preserve, restore and/or sustain fish and wildlife habitat within the Pacific Northwest. The BEF was founded in 1998 to support watershed restoration programs and develop new sources of renewable energy. Funding for these efforts has been provided in a way that would be called unusual for most foundations. BEF, a not-for-profit organization, markets green power products to public utilities, businesses, government agencies and individuals.

**Contact:**

Bonneville Environmental Foundation  
133 SW 2nd Avenue, Suite 410  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
Phone: (503) 248-1905  
Fax: (503) 248-1908  
Website: <http://www.b-e-f.org/>

**Ben B. Cheney Foundation**

The Ben B. Cheney Foundation prefers to fund projects that develop new and innovative approaches to community problems, facilitate the improvement of services or programs, and invest in equipment or facilities that will have a long-lasting impact on community needs. The Ben B. Cheney Foundation sets a priority on funding projects serving communities where the Cheney Lumber Company was active. This area includes Southwestern Oregon, particularly around the Medford area.

**Contact:**

Ben B. Cheney Foundation  
1201 Pacific Avenue, Suite 1600

Tacoma, Washington 98402  
Phone: (253) 572-2442  
Website: <http://www.benbcheneyfoundation.org>

## **Federal Government Grants**

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

Funds are available for the acquisition of lands and waters or for the development of public outdoor recreation facilities that are consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the Implementation Program, and recreation elements of local comprehensive plans.

This program uses federal dollars from the Department of Interior, National Park Service for acquisition, development and major rehabilitation of park and recreation areas and facilities.

#### **Contacts:**

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants Program  
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
Phone: (503) 986-0711  
Fax: (503) 986-0793  
Website: [http://www.prd.state.or.us/grants\\_lwcf.php](http://www.prd.state.or.us/grants_lwcf.php)

### **U.S. Department of Transportation**

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) was enacted June 9, 1998 as Public Law 105-178. TEA-21 authorizes the federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 6-year period 1998-2003. The TEA-21 Restoration Act, enacted July 22, 1998, provides technical corrections to the original law. TEA-21 funding for parks and connections includes:

- Bicycle transportation and pedestrian walkways;
- Recreational trails program;
- National Scenic Byways Program;
- Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot.

#### **Contact:**

U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590  
Phone: (202) 366-4000  
Websites: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/index.htm> and  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/sumenvir.htm#btapw>

## State of Oregon Grants

### Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)

#### **State Pedestrian and Bicycle Grants**

ODOT provides grants to cities and counties for pedestrian or bicycle improvements on state highways or local streets. Grants amount up to \$200,000, with a local match encouraged. These grants require the applicant to administer project. Projects must be situated in roads, streets or highway right-of-ways. Project types include sidewalk infill, street crossings, intersection improvements, minor widening for bike lanes. These grants are offered every two years.

#### **Contact:**

Oregon Department of Transportation  
Bicycle & Pedestrian Program  
355 Capitol St. NE, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Salem Oregon 97301  
Phone: (503) 986-3555  
Fax: (503) 986-3749  
Website: <http://www.odot.state.or.us/techserv/bikewalk/index.htm>

More ODOT funding information can be found on the Oregon Governor's Economic Revitalization Team website: <http://www.gert.oregon.gov/Gov/ERT/funding.shtml>. This information includes a detailed table of available funding, program contacts, application cycles, and a description of who can apply.

### Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

#### **Water Quality Nonpoint Source Grants (319 Grants)**

Approximately \$2.3 million is available each year in grants from the DEQ for nonpoint source water quality and watershed enhancement projects that address the priorities in the Oregon Water Quality Nonpoint Source Management Plan. These grants require a minimum 40% match of non-federal funds and a partnership with other entities. Applications are generally due around October 15<sup>th</sup> each year. Contact the program for specific deadlines. Funds are awarded March of the following year.

#### **Contact:**

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
811 SW 6th Ave.  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
Phone: (800) 452-4011  
Website: <http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/>

More DEQ funding information can be found on the Oregon Governor's Economic Revitalization Team website: <http://www.gert.oregon.gov/Gov/ERT/funding.shtml>. This information includes a detailed table of available funding, program contacts, application cycles, and a description of who can apply.

## **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department administers several grant programs including the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (described under “Federal Government Grants” in this section), Community Opportunity, Local Government, and Recreation Trails grants.

### **County Opportunity Grants**

This program provides funding for acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and planning for county park and recreation sites that provide, or will provide, overnight camping facilities.

### **Local Government Grants**

This program uses lottery dollars for land acquisitions, development and rehabilitation projects for park and recreation areas and facilities. Eligible agencies include city and county park and recreation departments, Metro, park and recreation districts, and port districts. The Local Government Grant program provides up to 50 percent funding assistance for cities/park districts with populations of more than 5,000 and counties with populations greater than 30,000

### **Recreation Trail Program Grants**

Every year, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department accepts applications for Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grants. The list of eligible projects includes:

- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails
- Development and rehabilitation of trailhead facilities
- Construction of new recreation trails
- Acquisition of easements and fee simple titles to property

Grant recipients are required to provide a minimum 20% match. Projects must be completed and costs billed within two years of project authorization.

### **ATV Grant Program**

The ATV Grant Program provides supplementary funding for ATV recreational projects in the following categories:

- Acquisition, Planning, Development, Operation and Maintenance
- First Aid and Law Enforcement
- Safety Education

ATV grant applicants are required to contact the field representative in their area before submitting the grant application. This will enable the ATV program representatives to help ensure the grant is eligible, and to assist the grant applicants through the process.

### **Contact:**

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C

Salem, Oregon 97301  
Phone: (503) 986-0707  
Website: <http://www.prd.state.or.us/grants.php>

### **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board considers grant applications on a regular schedule. Deadlines are set on an annual basis.

The following are activities that grants are considered for:

- Watershed restoration and enhancement
- Watershed assessment and monitoring
- Watershed education and outreach
- Land and water acquisition
- Watershed council support
- Technical assistance
- Small Grant Program

#### **Contacts:**

Grant Program Manager  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
Phone: (503) 986-0203

Program Representative, Southwest Oregon  
942 SW 6th Street, Suite E  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526  
Phone: (541) 471-2886

Website: <http://www.oweb.state.or.us/>

### **Oregon State Marine Board**

#### **Facility Grant Program**

The Oregon State Marine Board's Facility Grant Program provides competitive grants to help public agencies acquire, develop, expand, and improve boating facilities. Some projects include boat ramps, floats, parking areas and restrooms. Cities, counties, park and recreation districts, port districts, and state agencies are eligible. Funds are awarded each fiscal year to priority projects. This is a matching fund program with 75% from the state and 25% from local or state agencies.

#### **Contact:**

Oregon State Marine Board  
Grants/Contracts Coordinator  
PO Box 14145  
435 Commercial St. NE Suite 400

Salem, Oregon 97309

Phone: (503) 378-8587

Web: <http://www.boatoregon.com/facilities/FacilityFunds.html>

## **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

### **Sport Fish and Restoration Program Funds**

Cities, counties, park and recreation districts, port districts, and state agencies may receive funding from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Funds are awarded at the start of each federal fiscal year to priority projects. This is a matching fund program of 75% federal and 25% by the State Marine Board. Eligible projects include acquisition and construction of public recreational motorized boating facilities, such as: boat ramps, boarding floats, restrooms, access roads, parking areas, transient tie-up docks, dredging and signs.

#### **Contact:**

Realty Manager

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

3406 Cherry Ave. NE

Salem, Oregon 97303

Phone: (503) 947-6140

Website: <http://www.boatoregon.com/facilities/FacilityFunds.html>

## **Land Trusts**

### **Bear Creek Greenway Foundation**

The mission of the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation is to support acquiring land, restoring and protecting habitat, enhancing safety and security, constructing trails and bridges, and developing park facilities with the Bear Creek Greenway for the benefit of the general public.

#### **Contact:**

Bear Creek Greenway Foundation

PO Box 4561

Medford, Oregon 97501

Phone: (541) 482-4927

Region: Between Ashland and Central Point

Web: <http://www.bearcreekgreenway.com>

### **Southern Oregon Land Conservancy**

#### **Contact:**

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

PO Box 954

Ashland, Oregon 97520-0032

Phone: (541) 482-3069

Region: Jackson and Josephine counties

### **The Wetlands Conservancy**

The Wetlands Conservancy (TWC), founded in 1981, is the leading organization in Oregon dedicated to protecting Oregon's greatest wetlands. Working throughout the state, the Conservancy protects and restores these key lands by promoting private and community stewardship, supporting conservation, and working in partnership in local communities. TWC owns and manages many wetlands preserves in the Portland metropolitan area and along the Oregon coast.

#### **Contact:**

The Wetlands Conservancy  
PO Box 1195  
Tualatin, Oregon 97062-1195  
Phone: (503) 691-1394  
Region: Oregon wetlands  
Web: <http://www.wetlandsconservancy.org/>

### **The Pacific Forest Trust**

The Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) is dedicated to enhancing, restoring and protecting private, productive forests, with a primary focus on California, Oregon and Washington. PFT also works nationally to advance these goals. Founded in 1993, PFT is a problem-solving nonprofit conservation organization that collaborates with landowners, forest managers, government agencies and the public to sustain private, working forests for all the values they provide.

#### **Contact:**

The Pacific Forest Trust  
620 Southwest Main St., Suite 302  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
Phone (503) 827-0794  
Region: Private forest land in Oregon  
Web: [www.pacificforest.org](http://www.pacificforest.org)