



BENTON COUNTY
Parks Department

**STAFF REPORT TO
BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD**

MAY 2023

FINANCIALS

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Park Development Fund Cash Balance: | \$ 854,099.99 (May 01 2023) |
| 2023 Revenue from Camping & Donations: | \$ 50.00 (May 01 2023) |

GENERAL NEWS

Comprehensive Parks Plan: The final survey is out and getting good responses. We are working on scheduling a workshop with the Board, a final online open house for the public, and wrapping-up the project.

BADGER MOUNTAIN CENTENNIAL PRESERVE

Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve – Viewscape Signs: There are three signs remaining from the four-sign project. Columbia Center Rotary has stepped forward wanting to assist with the completion of the project. We have photos in hand, as well as the sign holders and a contract with Focal Point to complete the signs. The narratives for the signs still needs to be completed. The Board be able to review these three signs for approval before we go to production. The sites are chosen. Installation is not yet resolved, but will likely include a combination of Rotary and Friends of Badger Mountain volunteers.

CANDY MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

Candy Mountain Preserve – PR 669 Paving: Please see Robert Blain’s update.

HORN RAPIDS PARK

Horn Rapids Park – Camping: I am not as connected with the day-to-day aspects of camping anymore, but I do handle the larger groups. Most of our ‘regulars’ are back for 2023, and we have two large family reunions coming. The season will close with the “Barons Ball” put on by the local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism. We have hosted this event in the past, including last year.

Horn Rapids Park – Wanawish Dam Safety Elements: Tapteal Greenway is taking the lead on the signage elements and will have some proposals for the Board to consider in the near future. The centerpiece of this will be a proposal to replace the large warning sign on the shore, and may also include warning buoys and better take-out signage. One Greenway board member has made a video of a large log that is roiling around in the tailrace of the dam. This happens often, and a log can get hung-up there for weeks at a time. The video is intended to illustrate what can happen to your kayak or your body if you go over that dam.

RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN SHOOTING FACILITY

Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility – Land Use & Concessionaire Agreements: The term for the Land Use Agreement with the State of Washington has been extended to 2052. We are currently working on updating TCOSA's concessionaire agreement with the County, and along with some other things this will include also extending its term date to 2052.

TWO RIVERS PARK

Two Rivers Park – Compliance Inspection: Our annual compliance inspection with the Corps of Engineers is Thursday, May 11, beginning at Two Rivers and then proceeding over to Hover.

Two Rivers Park – Restroom: Please see Robert Blain's update..

Two Rivers Park – Boardwalk: Please see Robert Blain's update.

OTHER COUNTY PARKS

Horse Heaven Cemetery: We are developing our final, best roster of people we believe are buried at the cemetery in preparation for design of the all-persons marker for the site.

Horse Heaven Vista: Nothing new to report.

Hover Park: Please see Robert Blain's update.

Vista Park: Nothing new to report.

Wallula Gap Preserve: Nothing new to report.

OTHER NON-BENTON COUNTY PARKS NEWS

Volunteer Groups: Tapteal Greenway and Chinook Cycling Club organized an informal social event for leaders from various trail-oriented groups in the Tri-Cities area, held April 30. Everyone seemed to think this was nice and a success. A few initiatives came out of the meeting, foremostly that they should meet again; but also the need for a better community calendar where all of the groups can share their events and the interested public can see these related things in one place. The newly-created Shrub-Steppe Trails Alliance has agreed to develop and maintain this calendar, and a prototype is already up for review.