



**BENTON COUNTY**  
Parks Department

**STAFF REPORT TO  
BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD**

**JUNE 2023**

**FINANCIALS**

<b>Park Development Fund Cash Balance:</b>	\$ 843,187.88 (Jun 06 2023)
<b>2023 Revenue from Camping &amp; Donations:</b>	\$ 15,002.00 (Jun 06 2023)

**GENERAL NEWS**

**Park Board Vacancy:** As of this memo, the Board will have a new candidate to interview. I have scheduled this for after the conclusion of the business meeting.

**Parks Pulse:** Glenn Vaagen is eager to help resurrect the newsletter, and we are aiming for a Summer 2023 edition that will catch things up that have been going on over the past couple of years, as well as feature Linda Smith and the horse camp.

**Comprehensive Parks Plan:** Things are moving a bit slowly down the stretch, but we're hoping to bring things to conclusion on the Plan in the next two months.

**BADGER MOUNTAIN CENTENNIAL PRESERVE**

**Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve – Viewscape Signs:** I am currently working on the drafts for the three signs and will run these past the signage subcommittee before handing them off to Focal Point Marketing to mark-up.

**Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve – Defibrillators:** Friends of Badger board members Bob Bass and Jim Langdon joined me for a second discussion with the City of Richland Fire Department on this topic on June 6 (as an aside I also discussed Two Rivers, see my notes on that below). We decided to move forward with the installation of two AEDs at Badger. One will be at Richland's Trailhead Park, the most popular access to the mountain. Richland will fund, site, and maintain this. We agreed that the best location for the second AED is at the summit. This invites the added layer of another landowner, American Tower Corporation. I will be leading the effort to discuss this with American Tower and get their buy-in. I will work with Richland FD, Friends, and any interested Park Board members to select a proposed location to suggest to American Tower. Another aspect of this location is the possibility of plumbing this AED to power, allowing to be a year-round AED (needs to be kept warm in winter). We discussed the County buying the AED and Friends paying the monthly subscription (about

\$10/month). Let me know if any of you would like to attend these meetings or otherwise be more involved with this topic. If our trials at Badger and Two Rivers go well, we will probably want to look at putting one or two of these at Horn Rapids.

## **CANDY MOUNTAIN PRESERVE**

**Candy Mountain Preserve – East 669 Private Road Northeast Paving:** As of the writing of this memo, the paving work on PR 669 is completed. It was a long saga to get to this point, and this point is still unsatisfying. The section of PR 669 that crosses the Lewis property – about 150 feet – remains unpaved. Benton County is no longer in the paving business at this location and we consider the project completed. Perhaps someday there will be an accord of some kind and the Lewis section will be paved, but that will be someone else’s job and expense. In addition to the roadway we also hardened-up the entrance into the parking lot, as that spot receives a lot of braking, acceleration, and turning wear.

**Candy Mountain Preserve – Additional Properties:** I will be joined by Bob Bass, President of Friends of Badger Mountain to discuss this topic. I will focus more on the BLM parcel to the north of our existing Preserve property, and Mr. Bass will talk more about a separate parcel on the south side. Bob will also discuss easement discussions he has had with a landowner.

## **HORN RAPIDS PARK**

**Horn Rapids Park – Camping:** I didn’t do a comprehensive survey of previous years in writing this memo, but I can tell you that in terms of revenue we are running at a pretty good pace. On average we would be more in the \$10-12k collected at this point of the season. I know that the non-reserved (group) camping is up, but I also have to think that having the camp host helps a little bit. I will look into this further.

**Horn Rapids Park – Wanawish Dam Safety Elements:** I will be asking the Tapteal Greenway to sponsor the placement of two warning buoys in the river, and am seeking advice from local commercial diver Mark Allen on just how to do that. I would then like the County to take up the cause of new and improved signage. This would include a new sign at the boat launch and a new one to replace the “get out of the river” sign nearer to the dam. I will run this through the signage subcommittee and ask for assistance from our construction and capital projects team.

**Horn Rapids Park – Smith Camp:** We will be holding our August meeting at Horn Rapids Park. The business meeting will probably be limited. The focus of the event will be dedicating the horse camp in honor of Linda Smith. We will work out in the next few weeks what we want this to look like, and will involve the horse groups. I will also be including Glenn Vaagen to assist with some advertising and outreach. It would be cool to have a few horses and trailers out there, and Glenn is hoping to do a few interviews.

## **RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN SHOOTING FACILITY**

**Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility – Concessionaire Agreement (“Lease”) Amendment:** With the Land Use Agreement with the State now amended and extended, an amendment to the TCSA/Benton County lease has been drafted. Robert Blain has requested we wait just a little longer on the lease as there is something regarding the new well that may need to be further modified. I will be discussing this with TCSA and sending the draft out to the

Board for review as soon as we have that piece clarified by Robert. I would like the Board to weigh-in, possibly with an endorsement at the July meeting.

## **TWO RIVERS PARK**

**Two Rivers Park – Compliance Inspection:** We had our annual compliance inspection on May 11. It went alright but we did have some hiccups. I am waiting for the report which we should see any time.

**Two Rivers Park – Restroom:** LATE BREAKING NEWS... And it is good news. As this memo was being prepared, the notice of the Project Approval for the Hover parking lot was received from the Corps of Engineers, with a note saying that the restroom approval was on the way shortly behind it. I will report more next week and at the meeting.

**Two Rivers Park – Boardwalk:** I will ask members Emmingham and McBurney for their comments, but we are at 95% drawings and have a final alignment. I have begun work on two interpretive signs and a dedication plaque. We will be bidding the project soon.

**Two Rivers Park – Defibrillator:** Our Risk Manager, Adam Morasch and I working on the purchase of an AED for Two Rivers. We are going to work with Richland Fire Department personnel and any Park Board members that would like to join us in picking a location for the AED. I believe we will use the SaveStation brand, as this is a leader in the industry and the one Richland has been using with good success. I will mention this to the Corps as well so that they may weigh in.

**Two Rivers Park – Grant Opportunity:** Per my separate email to the Board on June 8, we are looking at applying for a state grant for two projects – an irrigation system rebuild at Two Rivers and pavement preservation treatment at both Two Rivers and Horn Rapids.

## **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. I don't think Glenn has turned-up any new information, but that isn't surprising.

**Horse Heaven Vista:** Like has been the case a couple of times in the past, we have a gentleman who is going to stay at the park for two nights later in the summit as part of a statewide ham radio exercise. He is self-contained in his RV and will pay the nightly tent rate that we charge at Horn Rapids. Otherwise, nothing new to report.

**Hover Park:** LATE BREAKING NEWS... And it is good news. As this memo was being prepared, the notice of the Project Approval for the parking lot was received from the Corps of Engineers. The full packet has not yet been received, as that is coming via the mail. More to come.

**Vista Park:** The park looks good. I do not get over there much. Nothing new to report.

**Wallula Gap Preserve:** Nothing new to report.