



**BENTON COUNTY**  
Parks Department

**STAFF REPORT TO  
BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD**

**NOVEMBER 2023**

**FINANCIALS**

<b>Park Development Fund Cash Balance:</b>	\$ 807,801.99 (Nov 07 2023)
<b>2023 Revenue from Camping &amp; Donations:</b>	\$ 33,366.00 (Nov 07 2023)

**GENERAL NEWS**

**Park Board Vacancy:** The Board will be interviewing a potential candidates for the vacancy after this month's meeting.

**Comprehensive Parks Plan:** We will be discussing the plan as we start wrapping this project up.

**Conservation Easements:** Community Development Director Greg Wendt and I have been working on some early drafts of a conservation easement for the Badger Preserve property, and we have shared this with legal counsel. The idea is to begin with an easement for Badger, then use that as a template to apply elsewhere. I hope to have something for the Board to start taking a look at in December or early in the new year.

**Public Safety Sales Tax:** PSST passed in the November 7 election. This might not seem very relevant to Parks, but it takes future pressure off of the County as a whole, which is good news across the board. We're also looking at PSST as a possible assisting revenue source for cameras at a few of our locations, for example.

**BADGER MOUNTAIN CENTENNIAL PRESERVE**

**Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve – Defibrillators:** The cabinet for the AED has been ordered. Riley Ollero, our Construction Manager, has initiated discussions with Sierra Electric about installation. When the cabinet arrives, we will be able to move forward.

**Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve – Westgate:** Jim Langdon of FOBM completed construction of the loading ramp at the maintenance building with the assistance of Backcountry Horsemen volunteers. We have discussed a next step of replacing several of the traffic barriers around the parking lot.

**Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve – Viewscape Signs:** Work continues on the three remaining signs. Board members should look for drafts for review in the next couple of weeks.

**Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve – Badger Mountain Challenge:** We have received the event application, and the long-running Badger Mountain Challenge will return in 2024 on March 22 and 23.

## **CANDY MOUNTAIN PRESERVE**

Nothing new to report.

## **HORN RAPIDS PARK**

**Horn Rapids Park – Planting Party:** On Sunday the 6th, we hosted a sagebrush planting work party the likes of which I don't think I've seen before. Native Plant Society organized the event on the terrace above the Horse Camp. There were at least 30 cars out there. Now, a 62-degree Sunday afternoon in November didn't hurt the cause for sure. Still, what a great turnout, which included Park Board member and Tapteal Greenway director Kit McBurney! We previously did a planting on the terrace slightly to the north which has been very successful (former Board member Bert Lake was heavily involved in that). This beautiful day for planting was bracketed by two rainy days, so that was very helpful and encouraging.



**Horn Rapids Park – Day Use Restroom:** Manager Tom French has recommended closing the restroom for the winter and replacing it with a portable toilet. I think this is a good idea right now. Heating the restroom costs us an average of about \$198 per month. The portable will cost \$100-110. We have also had an expensive spike in vandalism that has added to our expenses. After we adopt the new parks plan and can find some Board agenda, we need to have an extended discussion about our long-term approach to restroom service.

## **RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN SHOOTING FACILITY**

**Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility – Rose-Iris Paving & Smallbore Range:** Both projects have been cleared by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (acknowledged by RCO). TCSA can begin work at any time.

## **TWO RIVERS PARK**

**Two Rivers Park – Boardwalk:** Our construction team received a number of good questions about the project from contractors. In addition, we had a substantive oversight having to do with the length of the boardwalk in our permit applications that we need to correct. So, we pulled the bid, and getting those things fixed, and will get it back out sometime in the next month or two. Still targeting Spring 2024 construction window.

## **OTHER COUNTY PARKS**

**Horse Heaven Cemetery:** Nothing new to report.

**Horse Heaven Vista:** Nothing new to report.

**Hover Park:** We are proceeding with final drawings for the smaller-scaled lot.

**Vista Park:** Nothing new to report.

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

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