



BENTON COUNTY
Parks Department

**STAFF REPORT TO
BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD**

MAY 2024

FINANCIALS

Park Development Fund Cash Balance: \$ 796,831.26 (Apr 05 2024)
2024 Revenue from Camping & Donations: \$ 0.00 (Apr 05 2024)

GENERAL NEWS

Kennewick Paths & Trails Plan: The City is working on a trails plan which I have separately mentioned to the Board. There is a public open house on Wednesday, May 15; and I have been asked to participate on a steering committee.

Tri-Citizen of the Year: **Sharon Grant** of Friends of Badger Mountain was named the 2024 Tri-Citizen of the Year by the Tri-Cities Kiwanis and Rotary clubs.

BADGER MOUNTAIN CENTENNIAL PRESERVE

Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve – Dog Issue: The Board will workshop this at the meeting. Staff has been working with Friends of Badger Mountain to look at the twin issues of dogs off leash at Badger and Candy, and dog feces. The subcommittee has some strategies it would like to share with the Board for feedback.

CANDY MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

Candy Mountain Preserve – BLM Parcel: Last year, Benton County submitted an application for a Recreation and Public Purposes lease for the Bureau of Land Management parcel on Candy Mountain, shown in the maps. This would be the same type of lease that we once had on much of RMSF before we converted that into a patent acquisition. Nothing happened for months. When I inquired in December and again in March I got no response from the staff person I was working with. I went 'up the ladder', which I don't like to do, but that did result in a response from the district manager and assignment of a new liaison whom I will be discussing this with on April 28. The idea here is to bring this parcel into the Preserve, possibly run a future trail over some portion of the property, and perhaps even acquire the patent later in the future.

HORN RAPIDS PARK

Horn Rapids Park – Wanawish Dam Area: We blocked-off a couple of useless and dangerous paths, and are working on a solution at the opposite end of both of these paths in the form of collapsable bollards.

Horn Rapids Park – Weeds: We are going to be in the Noxious Weed Control Board to help us hammer-away at the poison hemlock in the park.

Horn Rapids Park – Trash: We are starting to see an uptick in rubbish left at the park, and this is a bit of a concern.

TWO RIVERS PARK

Two Rivers Park – Playground: Fresh top-up Sof'fall will be delivered on June 13.

Two Rivers Park – Water: We still have some water not yet on at the park. The correct double check valve was delivered this past Friday. Carson returns from National Guard duty on Tuesday and the plan is for a test run of the system by Wednesday.

Two Rivers Park – Boardwalk: Procurement/Capital Projects is just trying to be sure that we don't have any wires crossed or boxes unchecked with this project. There are a lot of parties that can weigh-in on this and we don't want it blowing-up because we missed something.

Two Rivers Park –Compliance Inspection: The annual compliance inspection for Two Rivers and Hover is scheduled for the morning of Thursday, May 30. Staff will be conducting our own pre-compliance walkthrough at 1:00 on Monday, May 20.

OTHER COUNTY PARKS

Horse Heaven Cemetery: Nothing new to report.

Horse Heaven Vista: We are working on getting the restroom building removed.

Hover Park: Procurement/Capital Projects is just trying to be sure that we don't have any wires crossed or boxes unchecked with this project. There are a lot of parties that can weigh-in on this and we don't want it blowing-up because we missed something.

Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility: Nothing new to report.

Vista Park: Fresh top-up Sof'fall will be delivered on June 13.

Wallula Gap Preserve: We will discuss this topic at the meeting.

OTHER NON-COUNTY PARKS

Horse Heaven Rim Trail: The BLM has followed-up on my discussion with them of a few weeks ago by confirming that a right-of-way for a trail corridor through their Horse Heaven Hills property is a possibility. I am going to groundtruth (GPS) the corridor in mid-June and have informed them that I would like to take the conversation to the next step.

Benton City Riverside Disc Golf: The city has a parcel that is leased from the State along the Yakima River on the upriver side of town. It happens to be a terminus of their partially-developed trail through town, and the Tapteal Greenway has long eyed this location as the upstream end of the Tapteal Trail (though the pieces are not yet connected). Benton City wants to develop a disc golf course on this site, as there is not much else they can do with it. The County might be able to assist with some of its economic development funds if the proposal is structured well. There isn't really a role for County Parks here, but there could eventually be some cross-promotion related both to the Tapteal Trail and the disc golf course.

#