



BENTON COUNTY
Parks Department

**STAFF REPORT TO
BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD**

JUNE 2024

FINANCIALS

Park Development Fund Cash Balance:	\$ 796,368.30 (Jun 01 2024)
2024 Revenue from Camping & Donations:	\$ 0.00 (Apr 05 2024)

GENERAL NEWS

Pride in Parks: Big thanks to member Mendez for his appearance on KONA radio on June 12 discuss the Board, his interest in joining, and his commitment to the community.

Park Board Vacancy: We have three applicants for the current vacancy. The plan is to interview them after the July regular meeting. We will keep the July meeting agenda short in anticipation of this.

Comprehensive Parks Plan: An outdoor field meeting is a tough venue to do the final walk-thru on a document like this, so we will do it in July back indoors.

Kennewick Paths & Trails Plan: No update from me. I participated in an interview and a workshop in May, and there was a public meeting which I think one or more Park Board members may have attended. I think there will be an emphasis on existing irrigation canal roads and linking into County and Richland networks.

BADGER MOUNTAIN CENTENNIAL PRESERVE

Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve – Dog Issue: We have the initial batch of signs being made and are ready to work with member Cooper and others on public service announcements and social media posts. The second batch of signs – the kiosk signs – will follow in a few weeks.

Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve – Boot Brushes: The new boot brush stations (2 for Badger, 1 for Candy) have been approved and paid for and are in final production with shipment expected in the next couple of weeks. One station is being paid for by a federal grant, one is being paid for by the County, and one is being donated. A fourth brush is being donated separately for the trailhead at McBee Grade.

CANDY MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

Candy Mountain Preserve – Weed Brigade: The Friends of Badger Mountain noxious weed abatement corps is about to begin its 2024 season on the mountain. It is incredible work that this group, led and coordinated by David Beach, does.

HORN RAPIDS PARK

Horn Rapids Park – Campground: The campground is closed to drop-in camping for the remainder of the 2024 season effective Monday, June 17. We can discuss this more at our meeting. This does not affect groups that have or that will make reservations for use of the entire campground during the rest of the season. Those are much easier for us to handle.

Having mentioned this, there is a businessman in the community who got wind of this situation and who would like to discuss the situation further and we will be meeting onsite with him on the 17th. Perhaps he and his business partner might like to run the campground for us as a concession, which was an option suggested in the parks plan by Tom Beckwith. We will see. There are specific things we need to have in place out there before I am comfortable opening the campground for the 2025 season.

Horn Rapids Park – Weeds: The Noxious Weed Control Board has been doing some informal monitoring of the areas we sprayed over the winter with the ‘Battalion Pro’ product intended to combat cheatgrass. We sprayed a little later in the season than was ideal, but this is about a three-year treatment so it’s really year two that you’re looking at. Nonetheless, early returns are encouraging. Mr. Kauer from the Board said there are some areas that look relatively unaffected so far, but that many areas appear to have stunted cheatgrass coverage. I’ve told Mr. Kauer that I’d really like to look at doing a treatment on the whole of Candy Mountain this winter.

Horn Rapids Park – Paddling Event: We are hosting the annual Tapteal Greenway paddling event that begins at Benton City and ends at the park on Saturday the 15th.

TWO RIVERS PARK

Two Rivers Park – Restroom Situation: We are adding a third portable restroom to the main park location.

Two Rivers Park – Playground: Fresh top-up Softfall mulch was delivered on June 13.

Two Rivers Park – Boardwalk: Procurement/Capital Projects is still waiting on one last item from our Planning Department. We have all of the go-aheads from all other parties.

Two Rivers Park – Compliance Inspection: The annual compliance inspection for Two Rivers and Hover was rescheduled due to a Corps conflict. We will meet at the parks on Thursday, June 27.

OTHER COUNTY PARKS

Horse Heaven Cemetery: Nothing new to report.

Horse Heaven Vista: Nothing new to report.

Hover Park: I will have an update from Procurement/Capital Projects at the meeting.

Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility: It looks like all of the well work is completed as is the final property survey, so with that drawing we can finally complete the revised lease.

Vista Park: Fresh top-up Sof'fall mulch was delivered on June 13. A big thank-you to Carson and also Alex (Fairgrounds) for getting this stuff spread. The mulch is lightweight and easy to work with, but still tedious and time-consuming. I am working with Public Works to get a top-coat of gravel spread and worked here in the next couple of weeks.



Wallula Gap Preserve: Staff is developing a purchase and sale agreement with the landowners with the hope of having that to them for their review during the week of June 17. Once the PSA is in place, Cascade Title Company (Kennewick) will execute the sale of the Yellepit Property.

OTHER NON-COUNTY PARKS

Horse Heaven Rim Trail: I will be GPS groundtruthing another segment of the trail corridor on June 19. This is the section between McBee Grade and Webber Canyon that would be about 95% on BLM property.

Benton City Riverside Disc Golf: The City is moving ahead with purpose on their plan to improve their riverside park for parking, disc golf, and a trailhead. I was able to discuss this with the mayor on June 14 and he is very enthusiastic about getting more and better use out of this property and for the attraction it can be for Benton City if done well.

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