



BENTON COUNTY
Parks Department

**STAFF REPORT TO
BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD**

JULY 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

Park Board Vacancy: The Board will interview four candidates after the July meeting.

Traffic Counters: One of the takeaways from our initial staffing committee meeting was a desire to start trying to measure our actual park use better again. To that end we are purchasing some new [car] traffic counters for Horn Rapids, Hover, and Two Rivers. We will also start coordinating with TCSA about getting entrance data for Rose-Iris, and will coordinate with Friends of Badger for more regular counts from the trail counters at Badger and Candy.

Upcoming Park Board Meetings: The August meeting will be held at Higgins Field, probably preceded by a short tour and demonstration. The September meeting will be held at the Shotgun House at Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility, preceded by a tour of the new Law Enforcement Training Area.

Annual Joint Park Boards Dinner: West Richland is hosting this year. No word yet on a date, but it will probably be in the late-September/early-October timeframe.

BADGER MOUNTAIN CENTENNIAL PRESERVE

Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve – Boot Brushes: I am told that the boot brushes are “in the mail”.

CANDY MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

Candy Mountain Preserve – Weed Brigade: The Friends of Badger Mountain noxious weed abatement corps is hard at work again. Their work parties are every Wednesday morning.

Candy Mountain Preserve – Rogue Trail: The Trailmaster tells me that somebody is building an unapproved trail within the property. We will be going to take a look in the next couple of weeks when things cool down a bit.

HORN RAPIDS PARK

Horn Rapids Park – Campground: The campground is closed to drop-in camping for the remainder of the 2024 season. While I have not yet had an extensive debrief with Parks staff, I have not heard of any issues or blowback with this.

Horn Rapids Park – Adoption?: The local chapter of the Washington State Geocaching Association has expressed an initial interest in possibly adopting Horn Rapids Park, a location they say they use a lot and where they recently staged a regional event. I will report back soon.

Horn Rapids Park – Cleanup: The Taptéal Greenway is leading a cleanup of the park this coming weekend, beginning at 8:00 on Saturday morning. This will focus primarily on the Wanawish Dam area with secondary work at Omaha Beach, time and heat withstanding.

Horn Rapids Park – Boat Launch: The Greenway is also looking at a fall project to do some work on boat launches up and downstream of Wanawish Dam. These would involve extensive vegetation removal to open-up the mouth of both sites, and other cleanup work. The two sites are our Horn Rapids Park site and also the Snively Road site which is immediately downstream of the HRP boundary. The Snively location probably also needs some ramp work (natural tread).

Horn Rapids Park – Meacham Hall Garden: The area around and behind Meacham Hall is showing its age. Taptéal Greenway is working with one of the primary Scout leaders in Richland about a restoration project at that location, either built around a single Eagle Scout project or a pack project, or both.

TWO RIVERS PARK

Two Rivers Park – Restroom Situation: The third restroom was added at the park. It is not an ADA-accessible unit, and I'm told they did not have one of those units immediately available, so we will get one when we can.

Two Rivers Park – Boardwalk: Our Capital Projects manager is out of the office for a few days so I do not have my monthly update on this. I am told however that the last comment period for both the boardwalk and parking lot projects passed with no additional comments received. I'll take that as promising news.

Two Rivers Park – Compliance Inspection: The annual compliance inspection for Two Rivers and Hover went very well. Corps of Engineers personnel seemed happy with the work we are doing and were complimentary. I expect to see the report soon with only a couple of minor findings.

OTHER COUNTY PARKS

Horse Heaven Cemetery: The family that placed the Sagsvold marker several years ago has expressed interest in placing two more for other family members buried in the cemetery. They originally had a plan to do this project in 2024 but have informed me that they are putting this off for another year.

Horse Heaven Vista: Nothing new to report.

Hover Park: Our Capital Projects manager is out of the office for a few days so I do not have my monthly update on this. I am told however that the last comment period for both the boardwalk and parking lot projects passed with no additional comments received. I'll take that as promising news.

Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility: Nothing new to report.

Vista Park: After the delivery of the Soffall material that was spread by Parks and Fairgrounds staff, the Roads Department cleaned-up the parking area.

Wallula Gap Preserve: Closing date for the sale of the Ayers Road/Yellepit Property is tentatively set for August 16. I have had a conversation with the Chief of Corrections about use of the "Ecology Crew" this fall or winter for cleanup of the property and he was very positive about this. The Ecology Crew is a designated Corrections work crew that is funded by a grant from the Department of Ecology. They are supposed to work on cleanup or environmental stewardship type projects specifically, not general labor.

OTHER NON-COUNTY PARKS

Horse Heaven Rim Trail: I ground-truthed the McBee-Webber section (solid red lines), and will be completing the short McBee-Chandler section this coming weekend.



Kennewick Paths & Trails Plan: No update at this time.