

Parks Plan presentation

May 9, 2022

3:35 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Commissioner Grose, Connie Riker, Steve Wohld, Tom Beckwith, Eric Scott, Julie Blazek, Mindy Brooks

Guest(s): Bill Serrahn

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Connie Riker 2020

Connie said a Parks PROS plan is required by the state for future grant opportunities.

Tom Beckwith of Beckwith Consulting presented an overview of the proposed Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) plan.

He discussed the characteristics of Lewis County and then suggested the following improvements for Lewis County's county-owned parks:

Back Memorial Park

- Acquire property that is currently leased for access from
- Dieckman Road if possible
- Upgrade basketball to sports court with basketball, pickleball, volleyball, and tennis uses
- Install playground
- Develop trailhead connection between parking lot and Willapa Hills Trail
- Install modular restrooms
- Maintain buildings to ensure longevity

Claquato Church

- Repair and repaint roof, exterior siding, and foundation
- Renovate interior
- Upgrade building directory signage
- Upgrade or install restrooms in building or on grounds
- Install security cameras

Cowlitz River Public Access Point

- Woodlands

- ADA path along waterfront with footbridge
- Hand-carry boat launch
- 14 cartop parking stalls
- 19 vehicle parking stalls
- Two handicap parking stalls
- Access road from Alta Drive
- Precast concrete restroom

Mineral Lake Access

- Consider surplusing the property because it is too small to be effectively developed and redundant of the Mineral Lake Resort and Washington State Public Boar Launch.

Rose County Park

- Install park and trail directory
- Install modular single user stall restroom building
- Upgrade playgrounds for ADA, all ages
- Upgrade volleyball to sport court
- Upgrade multiuse fields with soccer standards and baseball backstops
- Install security cameras
- Add RV improvements to support a live on-site park host
- Work toward programming year-round park use

Saint Urban Church

- Repair and paint exterior siding
- Upgrade building directory signage
- Upgrade or install restrooms in building or on grounds
- Install security cameras

Schaefer County Park

- Install park and trail directory
- Renovate restrooms –or install modular building
- Improve multiuse field in north green space
- Relocate and improve sport court
- Improve playground for ADA, all ages
- Install additional picnic shelters, tables
- Reconfigure and stripe parking area at Downing Road
- Install security cameras

- Consider campground development
- Consider connection, open field use of Centralia parcel across river
- Consider connection, bank and pond use of County Public Works parcel
- Add RV improvements to support an onsite park host
- Work toward programming year-round use

South County Regional Park

- Install park and trail directory
- Upgrade park entry
- Upgrade playground for ADA, all ages
- Renovate and expand sport court
- Renovate restrooms or install single user modular restroom building with showers
- Monitor pond water quality – add aerating fountain
- Install security cameras
- Consider campground development
- Add RV improvements to support an on-site park host
- Protect trees from wildlife destruction
- Protect river overlook from bank erosion

Tom suggested the following upgrades for the Fairgrounds:

- Complete and approve Master plan
- Consolidate and expand Senior/proposed Parks parking lot
- Construct barn east of Blue Pavilion - 16,000 square feet
- Construct phase 1 barn west of Fair offices - 8,960 square feet
- Construct phase 2 barn west of Fair offices - 8,960 square feet
- Relocate petting farm and expand a full lane along the south boundary for improved access
- Locate exits located on the north across from the access road between Quesadilla Factory and Valley View Health Center, and on the south across from a reconfigured NE Exhibitor Road (moved south to parallel the overhead power lines)
- Plant street trees along Midway for shade and aesthetics
- Develop play area for small children
- Create outdoor eating plaza in front of restrooms
- Upgrade infrastructure including water, power, sewer and drainage
- Consider acquiring property to expand public use buildings and parking
- Create outdoor eating and vending plaza in front of grandstands
- Cover and expand equestrian arena with bleachers on the north – 52,800 square feet
- Construct horse stalling barn south of equestrian arena – 84 stalls, 39,600 square feet
- Construct horse stalling barn south annex – 33 stalls, 15,000 square feet
- Construct horse stalling barn next to rodeo – 74 stalls, 32,400 square feet

- Construct horse stalling barn west of equestrian arena – 134 stalls, 48,600 square feet = 325 total horse stalls
- Construct horse barn offices – 2,160 and 3,600 square feet
- Develop rodeo arena 150x250 with calf roping, bronco and bull riding chutes – 37,500 square feet
- Install bleachers fronting onto rodeo arena – 25,080 square feet
- Expand grandstand north and south around rodeo arena – 13,104 square feet each or 26,208 square feet
- Designate horse trailer parking area west of rodeo loading
- Develop north RV park on former drive-in movie lot with 40 campsites 90-foot and 3 campsites 60-foot pull-through with power, water, internet – 43 total campsites
- Expand maintenance building to provide showers, laundry, clubhouse, and office for north RV park – 2,400 square feet
- Install sewerage dump station in north RV park
- Develop south RV park south of Senior Center with 37 campsites 90-feet and 1 site 60-feet pull-throughs with power, water, internet – 28 total campsites
- Develop clubhouse with showers, laundry, and office – 4,000 square feet
- Install sewerage dump station in south RV park
- Improve groundwater management

Eric Scott and Julie Blazek discussed the need for utilities, paving and landscape improvements.

Tom noted that the consultants sought input from vendors, exhibitors and other fair-goers.

Connie said she believes the next step for the water infrastructure plan will be to issue an RFQ for the work.

Connie noted that much of the fairgrounds and parks work will be done in-house.

Connie noted that the South County Park fishing derby has been rescheduled, likely for Sept. 17.

Meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.