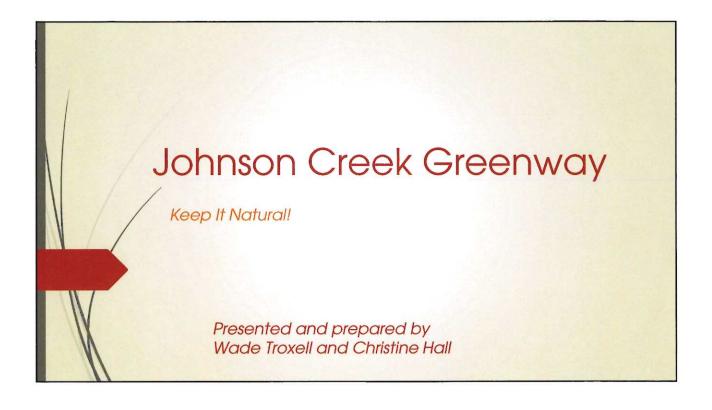


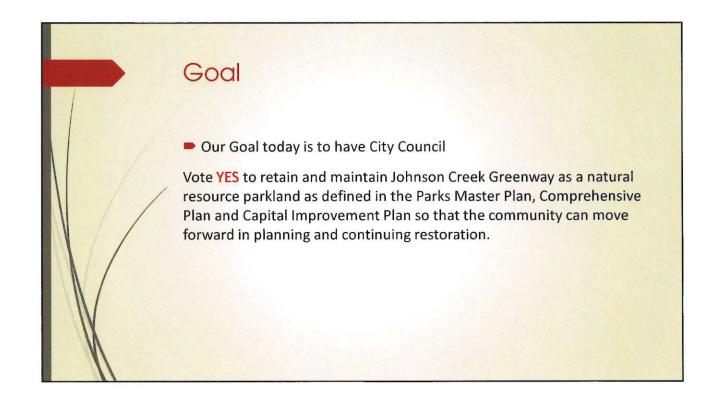
# Johnson Creek Greenway Keep It Natural



#### **Johnson Creek Greenway Presentation- Support Documents**

- 1. Copy of PP presentation
- 2. Maps of JCG Area (3)
- 3. Aerial Photo southern Bandon-homes near Seabird Drive
- 4. Pages from City Master Plan with NR15 and NR 16
- 5. City of Bandon- System Development Charges report from May 2004
- Notes from 2009 City Council meeting highlighting utility surcharge and NR/Greenways remaining natural
- 7. Notes from 7/2/2019 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting
- 8. Copy of 2019 Conceptual Plan
- 9. Community Survey Results (2020)
- 10. Planning Department Public Invitation to Johnson Creek Event- 8/8/2023
- 11. Standards for Outdoor Recreational Areas
- 12. Email: Department of State Lands- Jevra Brown 6/10/2024
- 13. Guidebook: Organizing a Park District- Illinois Association of Park Districts
- 14. Article: "After Shutting Down, These Golf Courses Went Wild" NY Times- 2/15/2024
- 15. Article: "The Importance of Wild" Wild Rivers Land Trust
- 16. Article: Yachats Community Park and Wetlands
- 17. Vision: Johnson Creek Greenway Park Features
- 18. Example: Additional Room Occupancy Taxes- Olympia, WA hotel receipt June 2024
- 19. Copy: FOBPR Petition for keeping Johnson Creek Greenway in its natural state
- 20. Letters of Community Support





## Objective

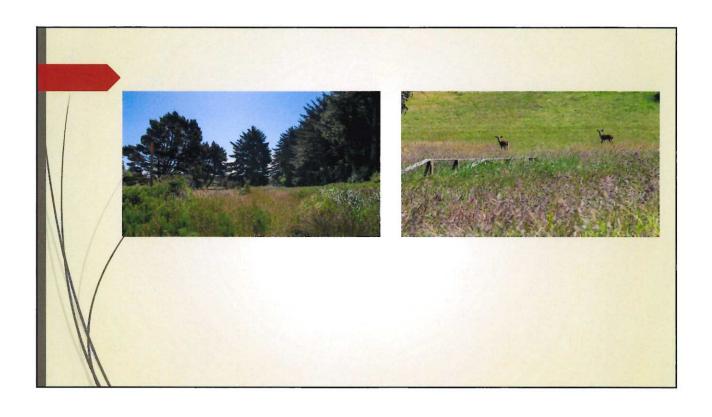
 To illustrate the potential outcomes and benefits by retaining Johnson Creek Greenway as part of the City's park system.

#### We will present:

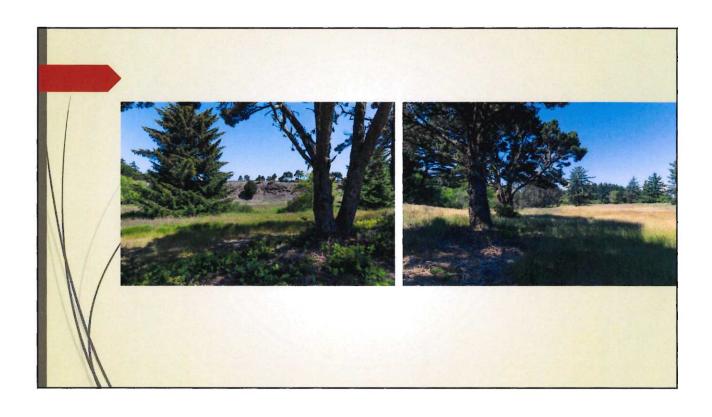
- Definitions
- Facts
- Considerations
- Vision
- Recommendations

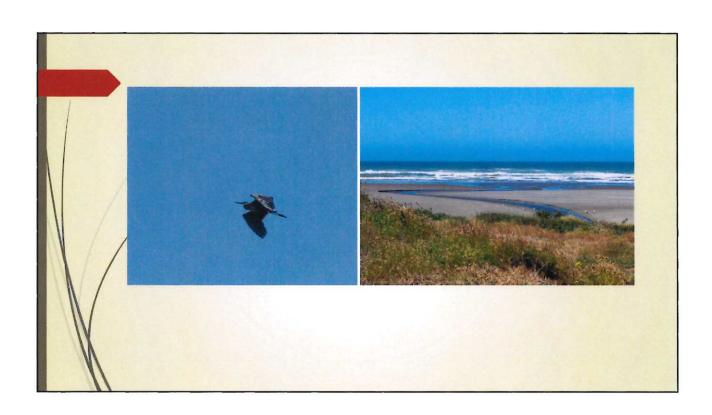


This 37-acre site is a nature escape located off Beach Loop Drive. The land features numerous examples of vegetation, habitats, and environments including: wetlands, a creek, pond, meadows and mature trees.









#### Facts- City Master Plan

Park Name	General Goals	Specific Goals	General Policy	Specific Policy	Desired Amenities/
A TO THE PARTY OF	General Golds	Specific Goals	Profession a cross	Special Policy	Facilities
(Continued) NR-13			engineering plan may be needed		
Periwinkle Welland at Fairway Court SW NR-14	To develop environmental and/or educational facilities for wildlife viewing and passive recreation	To enhance publicly- owned land near the natural recourse area by providing residents and tourists an area and opportunity to only and learn about plant and wildlife habitats	To develop a Conceptual Plan which maximizes the goals of the Natural Resource areas and Guenways while minimizing required maintenance A survey and engineering plan may be needed.	To implement the plan by providing.  9.4 CENTERON, PROVING SETTING 10.4 CENTERON, PROVING SETTING 10.4 CENTERON CONTROL OF SETTING 10.4 CENTERON CONTROL OF SETTING 10.4 CENTERON CONTROL OF SETTING 10.4 CENTERON CONTROL 10.4 CENTERON CONTROL 10.4 CENTERON	1 bench short footpath
Johnson Creek south of the Inn at Pace Rock NR-15	To develop environmental and/or educational facilities for wildlife viewing and passive recreation	To enhance publicly- owned land near the natural insource area by providing residents and tourists an area and opportunity to eyloy and learn about plant and wildlife habitals	To develop a Conceptual Plan which mudinizes the goals of the Natural Resource areas and Greenways while minimizing required maintenance A survey and engineering plan may be needed.	To englement the plan by providing;  3 PETITION THE TIME THE PROVIDED TO THE PROVIDED TO THE PROVIDED TO NATURAL RESOURCE Areas and wildlife (where necessary)	2 benches walking trail
Johnson Creek Wetland near Pelican Place NR-18	To develop environmental and/or educational facilities for wildlife viewing and passive recreation	To enhance publicly- owned land near the natural resource area by providing residents and tourists an area and opportunity to enjoy and learn about plant and wildlife habitats	To develop a Conceptual Plan which maximizes the goals of the Natural Resource areas and Greenways while minimizing required maintenance. A survey and engineering plan may be needed.	To implement the plan by providing:  E PLINICIAN - PRODUCT STATE  Reded)  E STATE COMMITTEE COMM	1 bench short footpath

After purchase, property was added to Parks
Master Plan- with designation as a "Natural Resource." NR-15 Johnson Creek and NR-16 Johnson Creek Wetland were created.

Page 84 of H

#### Definitions- a very unique property

#### Johnson Creek Greenway is

A **Greenway** —A strip of undeveloped land near an urban area set aside for recreational use or environmental protection. Designed for walkers to promote a healthy lifestyle.

A natural **Wetland** whose purpose is protecting and improving water quality; providing fish and wildlife habitats; storing floodwaters; and maintaining surface water flow during dry periods.

Its own Watershed as it provides flow directly into the Pacific Ocean.

A **Wet Prairie Habitat**, one of the most endangered types on our coast.(95% of coastal wetlands have been lost during the last century!) The habitat is found in flat or gently sloping areas with wet, but not inundated, soils. The length of time that soils are flooded ranges from 3-7 months each year.

#### Facts-The Land

- In Oregon, wetlands are regulated through the authority of several federal and state laws and, in some cases, city or county ordinances. If development activities involve earthwork (filling, excavating, ditching, grading, leveling, etc.) within a wetland- state, federal and or local permits may be required.
- Johnson Creek Greenway distributes the run-off from the homes in the Seacrest/Seabird area. In addition, if workforce housing is considered in the Woolen Mill area, any loss of wetlands in its development then Johnson Creek could mitigate the loss.
- The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has deemed Johnson Creek a fish bearing stream and notes the presence of cutthroat trout, picklebacks, coast range skulpin and lampreys.

#### Facts-Volunteer Investment

- An estimated 1900 volunteer hours have been invested since 2019 at Johnson Creek Greenway.
- Native species focus—three planting events have added 150 trees (donated by Stillwater Natives Nursery- estimated cost \$2,636). Trees planted include: Western Red Cedar, Pacific Ninebark, Crabapple, Red Flowering Currant, Douglas Spirea, NootkaRose and Twinberry.
- Darcy Grahek: "The trees were planted in an original native design. From overhead, the pattern mimics the KoKwell tribe basket pattern. The Red Cedars planted represent a sacred tree to these indigenous people."

#### Facts-City Action

- City completed an online survey in 2020 regarding Options for Johnson Creek Property. Of the 180 respondents, the majority (36%) selected- "find funding and donors to keep the property in public hands."
- A community open house was held in September 2023- there were an estimated 30 in attendance and the event gathered community input regarding potential future use.

#### Considerations-Important Property

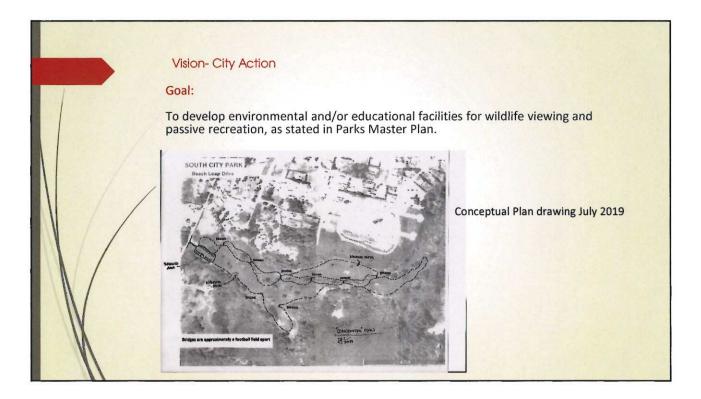
- This is the last open piece of property on Beach Loop Drive.
   A property of this size is irreplaceable for future generations of Bandon.
- Growth in Bandon is South of town and soon will be 1/3 of Bandon's population.
- There are an estimated 336 homes on the south end of town (south of Carter Street SW) with approximately an additional 115 to be built in the next several years. These residents are within walking distance of JCG which reduces the need for onsite parking.

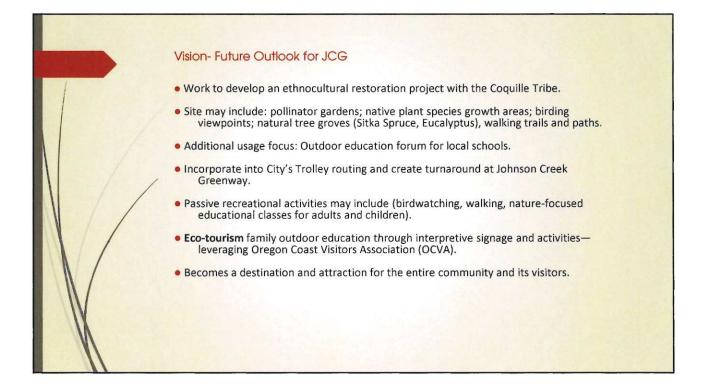
#### Considerations-Cities Need Parks

- On the website of the American Planning Association, it cites the National Recreation Association (PAS Report 194- Standards for Outdoor Recreational Areas) in recommending that smaller cities have at least 10 acres of parks for every 1000 citizens. For Bandon, this equates to about 32 acres.
- Currently, City Park has about 15 acres with 30-40% used for structures and parking and 11<sup>th</sup> street dissecting the park.

#### Considerations- Golf Course Challenges

- Since 2006, golf course closures have outnumbered openings.
- There are a growing number of examples of golf courses failing and land being returned to wetlands, parks, trails and other public use properties including: San Geronimo, CA; Ocean Meadows, CA; Rancho Canada, CA; Cascade Valley, OH.
- There is a national trend of profitability challenges. Inherent expense management issues including considerable maintenance and upkeep requirements (specialized mowers, frequent watering, fertilizers, grass seed and labor needs).





## Recommendations — City of Bandon/FOBPR Partnership for Growth

## Implement permanent funding solution(s) including:

- Create a System Development Charge (SDC) for Parks (as identified in 2004 Bandon Municipal Code).
- Reintroducing discussion from 2/2/2009 City Council meeting where ballot measure from Parks and Recreation Commission for a \$2 surcharge for utility bills (directed towards city parks) had been approved by City Council but not implemented.
- Create a "Park District" that would designate funds for Parks and Recreation Dept.
- Use FOBPR non-profit 501c3 status to be a community partner with the City to obtain grants and
  funding we have identified several organizations with available funding for JCG restoration projects.
  For example: Apply to Department of Land Conservation and Development grants program who pledged \$207M over the next five years for projects of Habitat Protection and Restoration.
- Consider additional fees for room and vacation rental occupancy stays.
- Consider a Local Improvement District (LID) South of Carter St. to Seacrest.

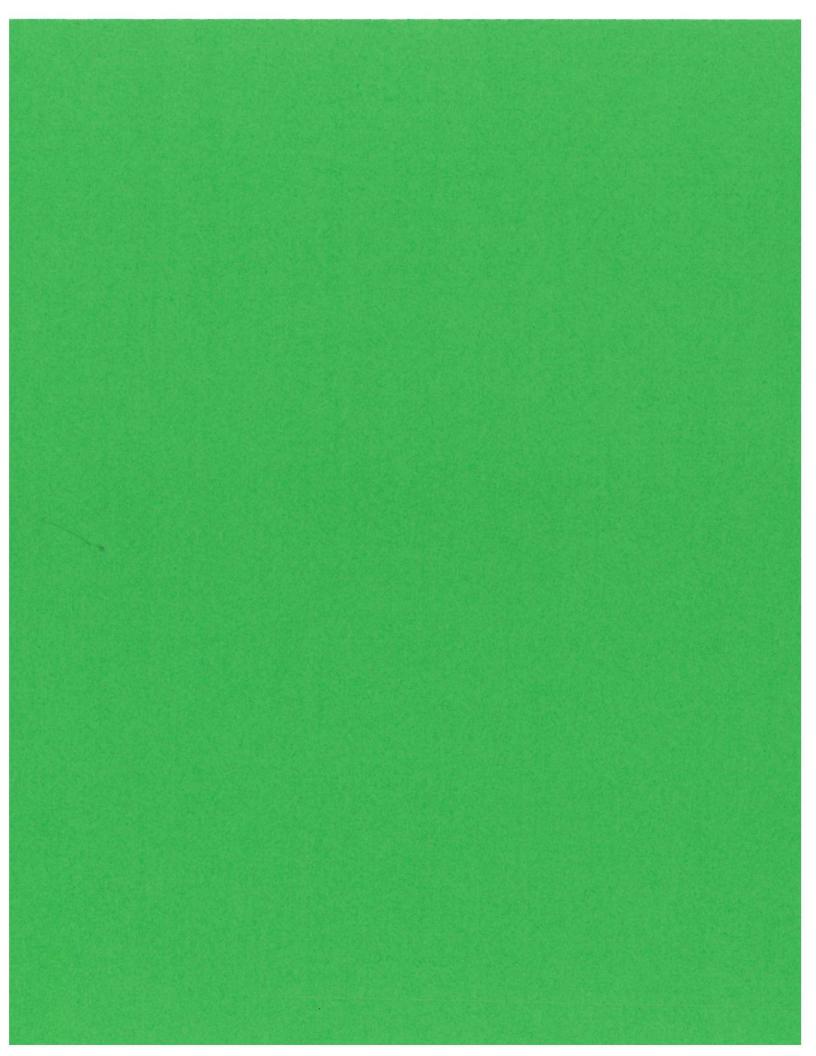
## Recommendations for City Council

We are proposing that Johnson Creek Greenway highest and best use is to remain a minimally disturbed City of Bandon-owned property to be used as environmental protection for urban stormwater.

#### Action Step:

City Council vote YES to retain and maintain Johnson Creek Greenway as a natural resource parkland as defined in the Parks Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan and Capital Improvement Plan.





## Maps of Johnson Creek Greenway

- 1. Map of Johnson Creek Watershed
- 2. Map of Johnson Creek NR City Designation
- 3. Map of former golf course in Johnson Creek area



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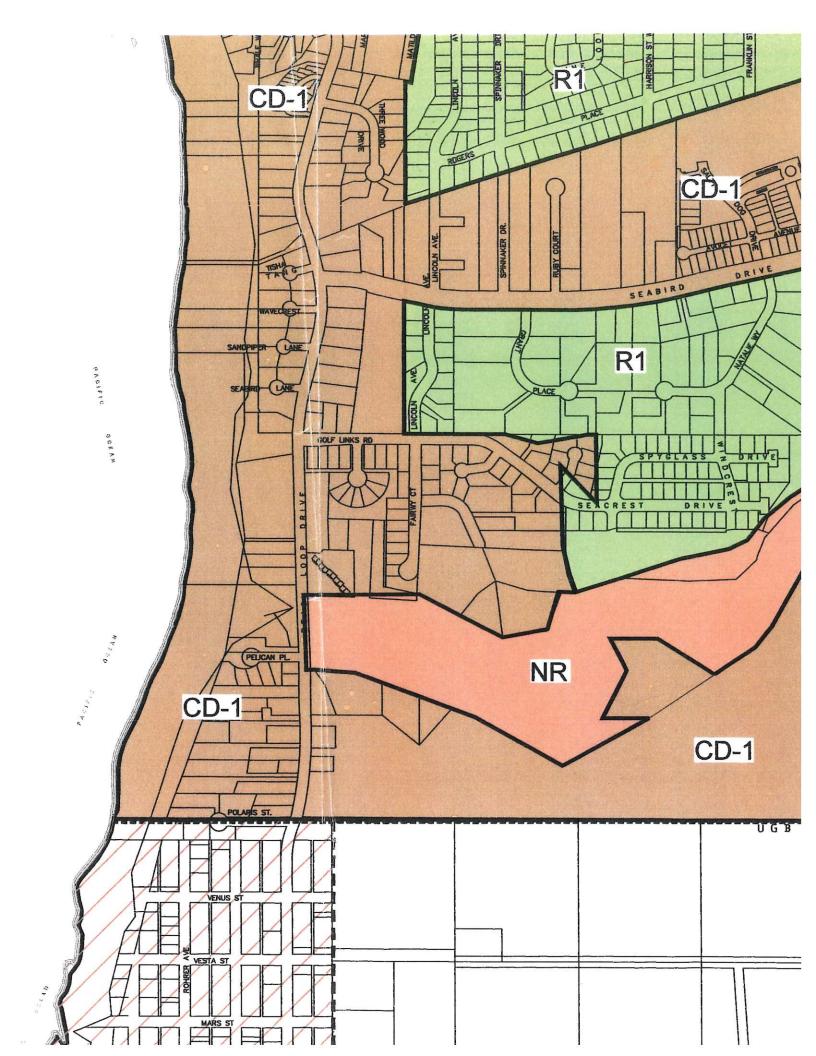


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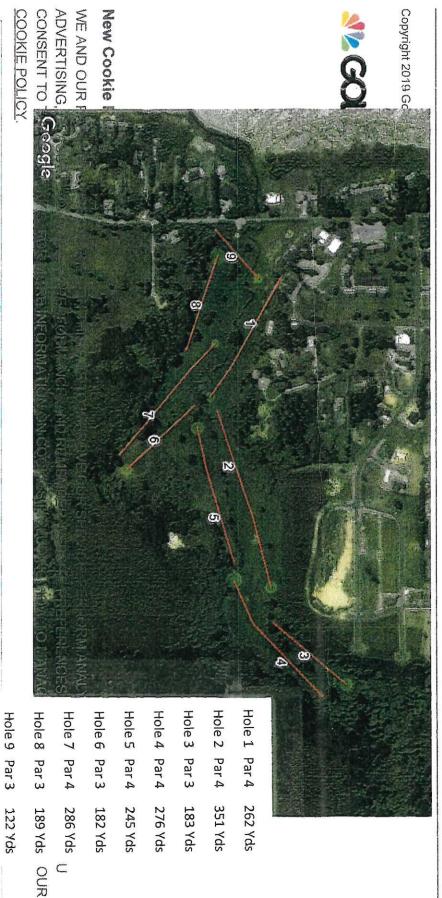
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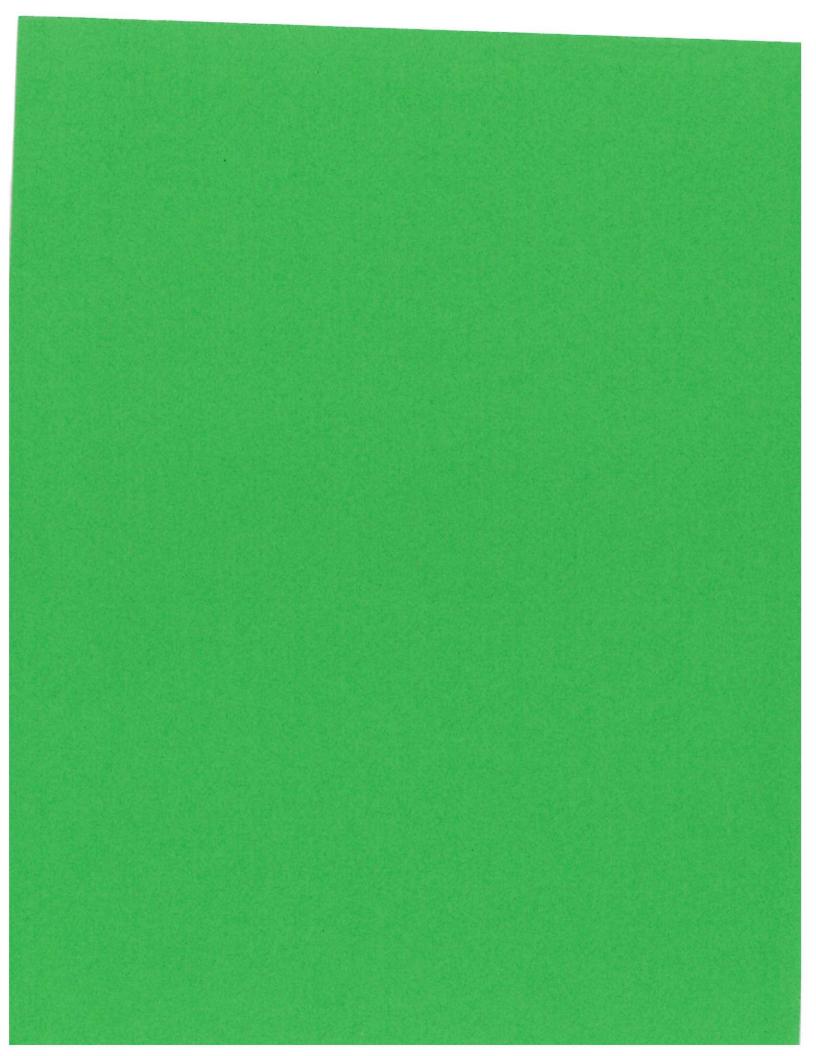


Stay Connected



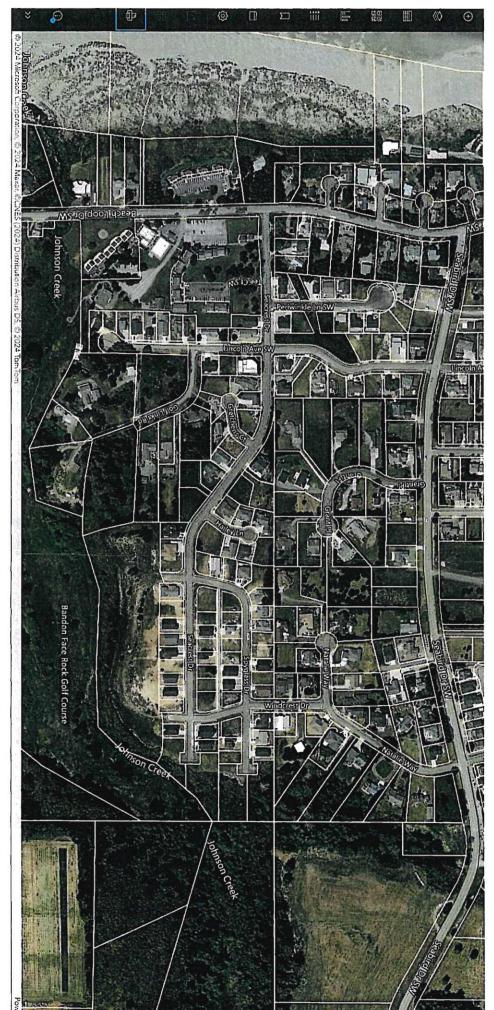


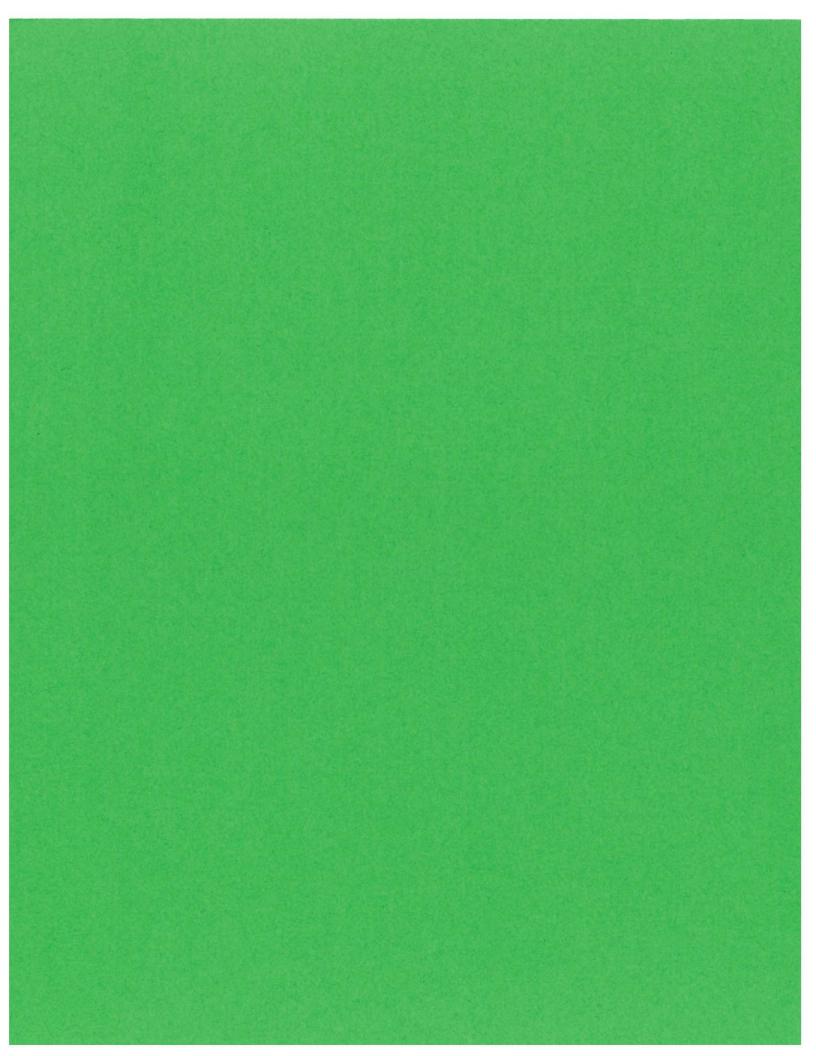
CONTINUE



#### Aerial Photo: Homes in southern Bandon sector

Source: City of Bandon





## Pages from City Master Plan with NR15 and NR16

Source: City of Bandon

#### Chapter 17.68

#### NATURAL RESOURCE AND OPEN SPACE (NR) ZONE

#### Sections:

17.68.010 Purpose.

17.68.020 Permitted uses. 17.68.030 Conditional uses.

#### 17.68.010 Purpose.

The purpose of the NR zone is to protect important natural resources, such as open space areas, significant fish and wildlife habitats, outstanding scenic views and sites, ecological and scientific natural areas, wetlands and watersheds, historical areas and structures, and areas necessary to maintain or protect the quality of air, land and water resources from inappropriate or incompatible development. In an NR zone uses shall be limited to those uses that are consistent with protection of natural values.

#### 17.68.020 Permitted uses.

In the NR zone the following uses are permitted outright:

- A. Wildlife and marine life sanctuaries;
- B. Public parks;
- C. Low-intensity recreational uses which do not include the use of structures;
- D. Harvesting wild crops.

#### 17.68.030 Conditional uses.

In the NR zone, the following uses may be allowed in accordance with Chapter 16.12 and the provisions of this title:

- Public utilities and facilities, except that all utilities shall be underground;
- Structures for recreational activity or public use, except that such structures shall be built
  and located so as to minimize their impact on visual and resource values of the area;
- C. Historical structures and rehabilitation of such structures;
- D. Aquaculture and accessory facilities;
- E. Propagation and selective harvesting of forest products;
- F. Grazing:
- G. Nonstructural foredune maintenance, repair or restoration, not including foredune grading.

		NATURAL RESOUR	RESOURCE AREAS AND GREENWAYS	VAYS	
Park Name	General Goals	Specific Goals	General Policy	Specific Policy	Desired Amenities/ Facilities
(Continued) NR-13			engineering plan may be needed.		
Periwinkle	To develop environmental	To enhance publicly-	To develop a	To implement the plan by	1 bench
Fairway Court	facilities for wildlife	natural resource area by	maximizes the goals of	<ul> <li>Appropriate signage (where</li> </ul>	of corporation of the corporatio
SW	viewing and passive	providing residents and	the Natural Resource	needed)	
	recreation	tourists an area and	areas and Greenways	<ul> <li>Safety measures for the</li> </ul>	
NR-14		learn about plant and	while minimizing required maintenance.	<ul> <li>Protective measures for</li> </ul>	
TOPARDOCORD BY 177		wildlife habitats		Natural Resources Areas and	
)			A survey and	wildlife (where necessary).	
			engineering plan may		
Johnson Creek	To develop environmental	To enhance publicly-	To develop a	To implement the plan by	2 benches
south of the Inn	and/or educational	owned land near the	Conceptual Plan which	providing;	walking trail
at Face Rock	facilities for wildlife	natural resource area by	maximizes the goals of	<ul> <li>Appropriate signage (where</li> </ul>	
20	viewing and passive	providing residents and	the Natural Nesource	needed)	
NAT O	lecieation	connectionity to enjoy and	while minimizing	public (where needed)	
		learn about plant and	required maintenance.	Protective measures for	
		wildlife habitats		Natural Resources Areas and	
			A survey and	wildlife (where necessary).	
			engineering plan may be needed		
Johnson Creek	To develop environmental	To enhance publicly-	To develop a	To implement the plan by	1 bench
Wetland near	and/or educational	owned land near the	Conceptual Plan which	providing;	short footpath.
relicali riace	viewing and passive	providing residents and	the Natural Resource	needed)	
NR-16	recreation	tourists an area and	areas and Greenways	<ul> <li>Safety measures for the</li> </ul>	
		opportunity to enjoy and	while minimizing	public (where needed)	
		learn about plant and	required maintenance.	Protective measures for	
		wildlife nabitats		Natural Resources Areas and	
			A survey and	wildlife (where necessary).	
			engineering plan may		

for holding the rainwater through the summer months, and plant many more willows on both sides of the street. Within a few years there will be lots of birds and small aquatic animals to see.

Benches for observation and relaxation near the sides of the lots and a short path on each parcel are recommended along with a picnic table near the edge of one parcel.

Some on-street parking is available. Signage directing walkers to the connecting paths going to the ocean by way of Lincoln and Spruce Grove Trail is recommended.

#### (NR 14) Periwinkle Wetland

This natural resource area is located off Fairway Court SW. These two lots have been set aside by the developer who plans to do some additional work to make them into attractive natural area parks, for public use.



#### (NR 15) Johnson Creek

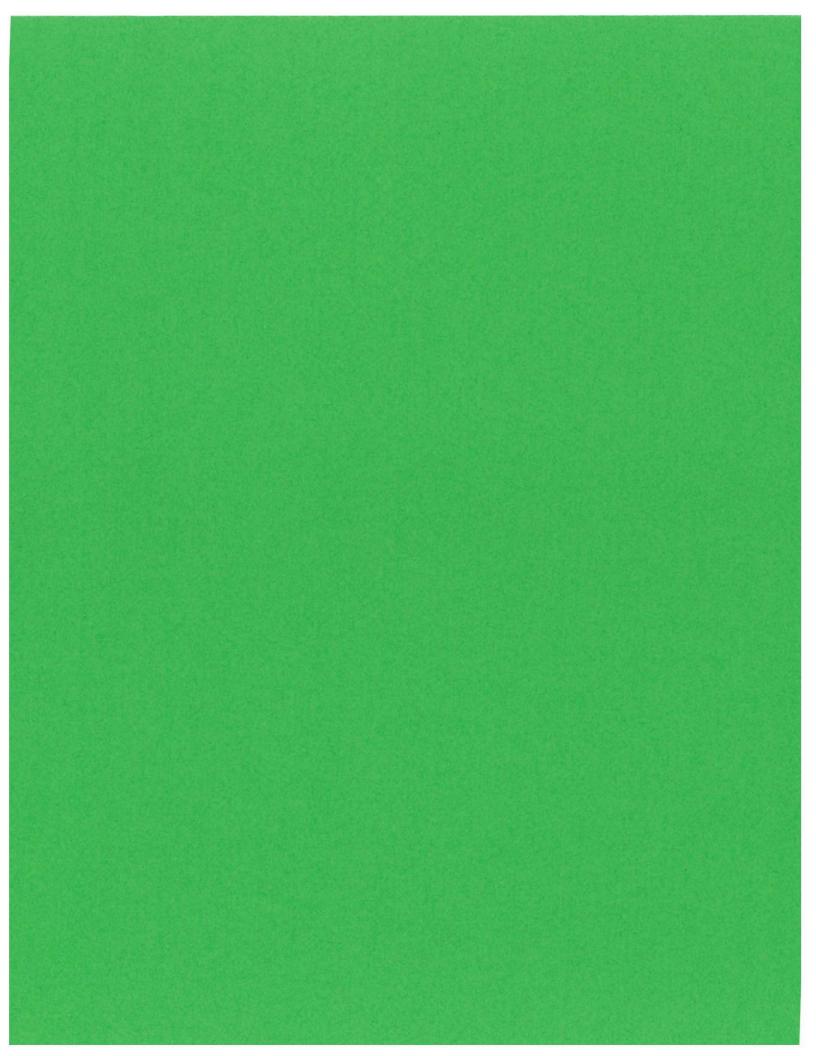


Johnson Creek is a stream which flows from east of Hwy 101, through a golf course, and out into the Ocean. It is recommended that future efforts be made to designate a walking trail along the stream with benches and picnic tables placed along side of it.

#### (NR 16) Johnson Creek Wetland

This wetland is located on Beach Loop Drive at the comer with Pelican Place (a private road). These two City owned lots are listed as Johnson Creek Wetland, and are good examples of wetland habitat. There are lots of skunk cabbage and willow, sedges and rushes, and standing water in the winter. There are two large dead spruce snags here also, where neighbors report seeing eagles resting. There are also several baby spruce trees along one edge.



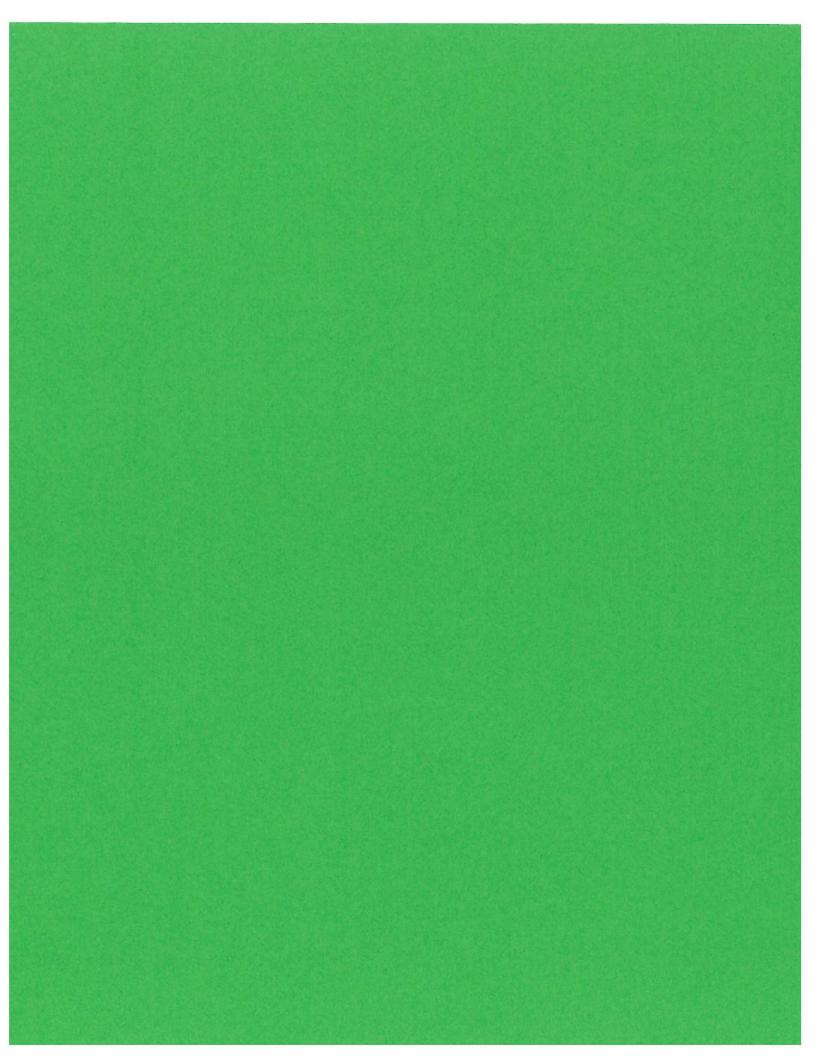


## **City of Bandon: System Development Charges**

#### Page 9

• Section 1.3 Scope of Study. References- "A SDC for parks is being developed internally by the City of Bandon and will be issued under separate cover."

Source: The Dyer Partnership Engineers and Planners, Inc. report of May 2004



#### **Notes from City Council Meeting (2/2/2009)**

Source: Scholarsbank.uoregon.edu

#### On page 7 (of 184)

References Comprehensive Plan for Johnson Creek property

#### On page 15

 References ballot measure introduced by the Parks and Recreation Commission and then approved by City Council of a \$2 utility bill surcharge

#### On page 16

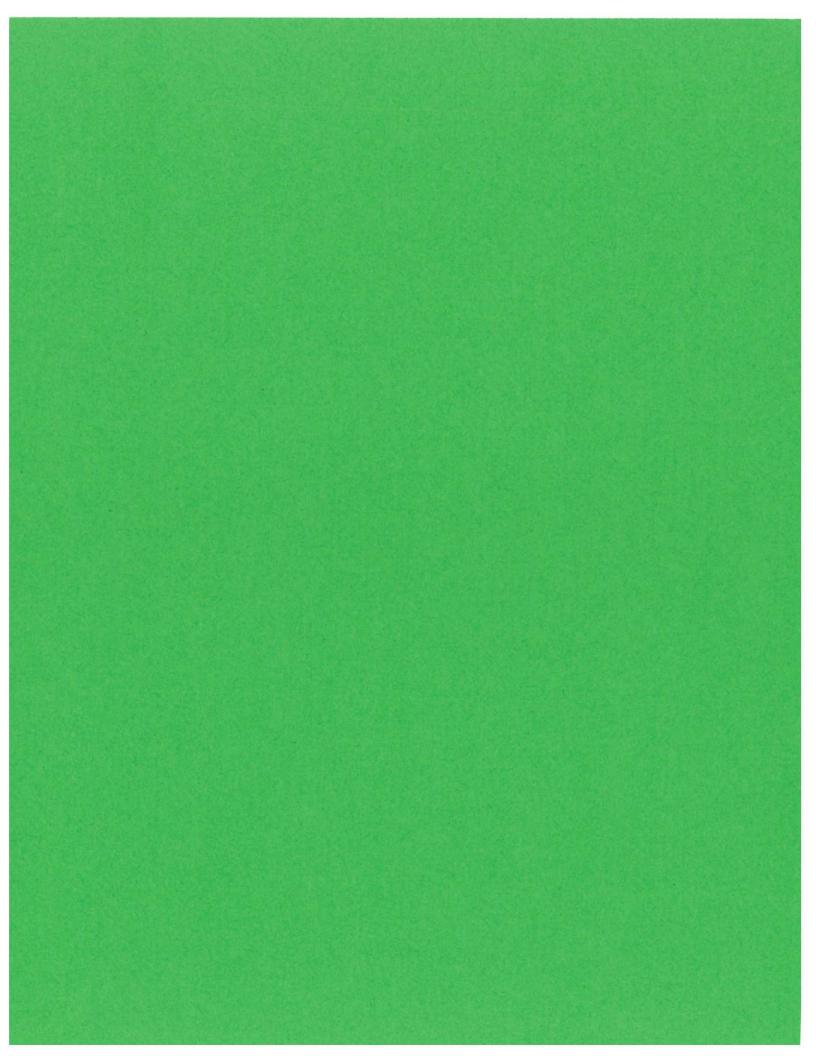
 Recommended and approved by City Council- a ballot measure to voters on 3/102009 election to add a \$2 surcharge to utility bills for exclusive use for parks maintenance

#### On page 17

- Discussion around City Engineer preparing a SDC plan for developers and builders, and to then present to Parks and Recreation commission and City Council for review and consideration for possible submission to voters for approval
- Discussion on Natural Resource Capital Improvement Plan

#### On page 34

 Discussion around Capital Improvement Plan- NR areas and Greenways will remain as natural as possible; protective measures for these same areas and wildlife therewithin; need for necessary, suitable landscaping including paths and access points



## Notes from Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting (7/2/2019)

Discussion on Johnson Creek Greenway including: layout, community involvement, future development, and cost management strategies.

PARKS and RECREATION - sub-committee re: new Johnson Creek city park area July 2, 2019 Christine Hull, Bob Eck, Estelle Womack and citizen advisor, Darcy

Grahek

We discussed the general layout of the park and the variety of sub-areas within the 37 acres of the park. The park is curved, long and fairly narrow in places and follows the general path of Johnson Creek to Beach Loop Drive where it goes under Beach Loop in a culvert and on to the ocean.

The P and R committee would recommend the entire community - elementary school children to our senior population be encouraged to get involved. We view the development of the park as an ongoing and fluid process that will encourage health, wellness and social activities within the community while involving the users with each other in educational and participatory activities.

Working together we can make this truly a community park and community endeavor

In the development of the park we identified certain goals that we would want to keep in mind as we worked on individual projects.

Purpose - to increase the happiness, health and wellness of the people of Bandon - Make sure it is accessible to all.

Develop the vegetation within the Park to conform with the native and natural vegetation of the area

Identify and encourage the native wildlife of the Park area

Recognize and honor the present and historic culture and arts of the area- native Americans, early settlers, and visitors who came and influenced our history. We need to identify the very wet, the wet and drier areas for proper development.

Then we face the realistic questions regarding cost. First of all and clearly understood is that this is an ongoing "over the years" project. Some cost will be minimal while others will not.

Costs will be met in a variety of methods:

City services pay for Bandon business partnerships Meet with and involve GBA Invite clubs, organizations and citizens of Bandon to participate, Grantwriting on multiple levels

Projects need to be examined, understood and evaluated so we can moved forward. Some projects we feel can be done in the near future :

We could make effective use of a handout/brochure that we could distribute over the summer at various community events to inform the community and increase their interest and buy-in to the park development.

A sign could be put on the park land facing the Beach Loop. Dr. so people could

identify the location.

Apply for a governmental assessment of the creek and what restrictions we will have to be aware of as we move forward.

Request input from fish and wildlife experts.

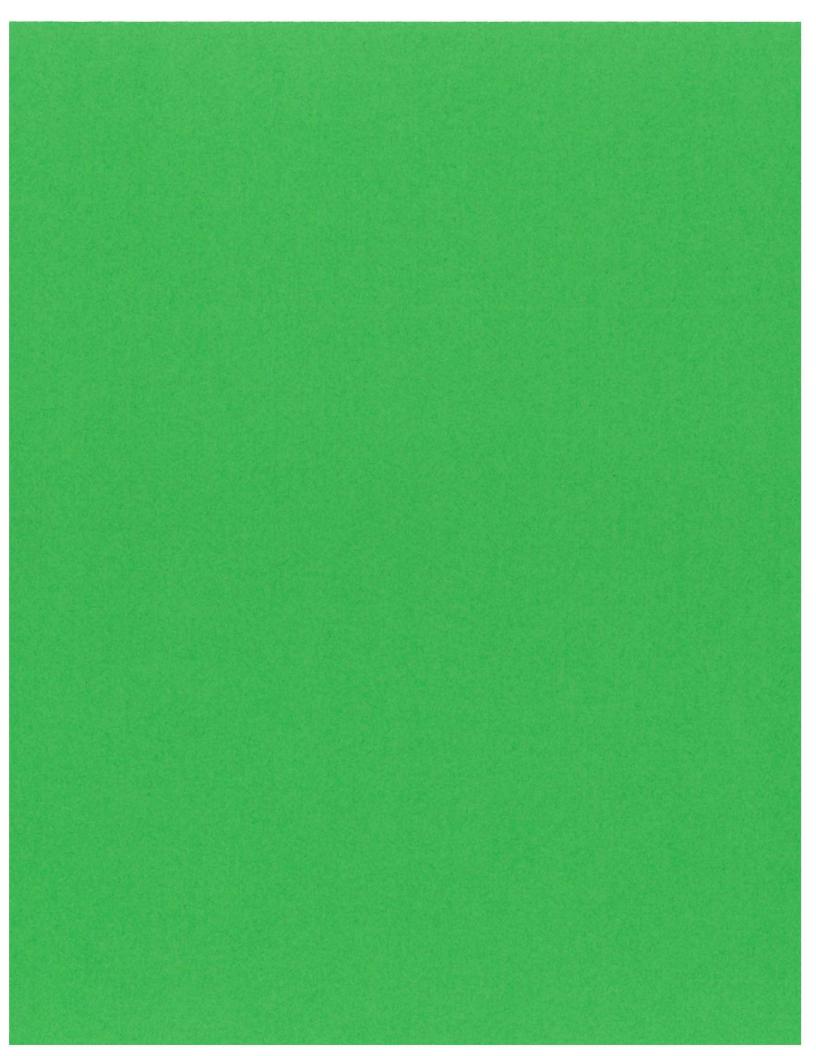
Invite comments from local Native American groups

Plan for an existing parking area or areas while we examine future possibilities. Have a knowledgeable person evaluate the safety of the bridge - and take necessary

steps to make it safe, if it is not. The washed out overpass and bridge 6 look the most feasible to correct and make safe

Request the city to keep the area mowed so that it can be walked on, evaluated and explored.

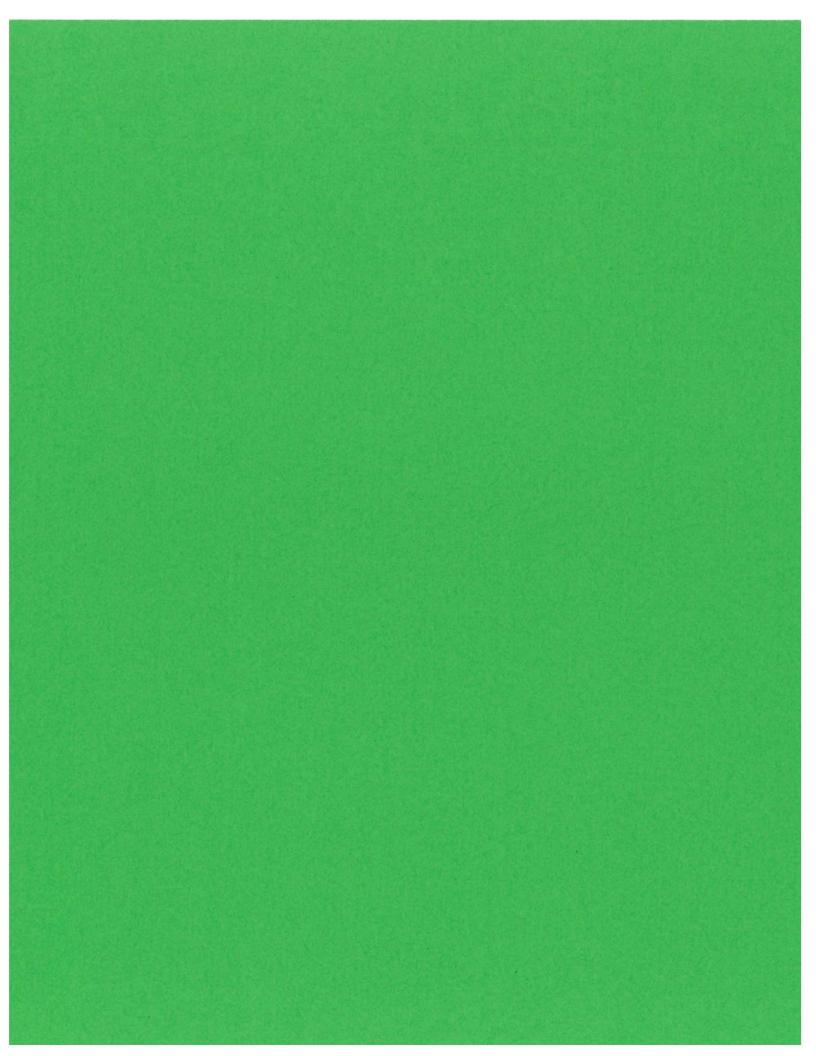
This is an ongoing process that will vary and change in some aspects as time goes by. So patience and long term planning becomes a virtue.



## Johnson Creek Greenway Conceptual Plan- 7/9/2019

Source: City of Bandon





#### **Community Survey Results (2020)**

Source: City of Bandon

From: christine hall christinehall4@icloud.com Subject: Options for Johnson Creek Property

Date: April 1, 2024 at 12:54 PM

To: Christine Hall seethelight979@gmail.com



https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5894606/Options-for-Johnson-Creek-Property

## JOHNSON CREEK PROPERTY (OLD FACE ROCK GOLF COURSE) OPTIONS

1. What should the City of Bandon do with the

Johnson Creek property? \*

Find funding and donors and keep the property in public hands.

Offer the property for sale on the condition that the buyer build a new golf course.

Walk away from the transaction and convey the property back to the seller

Try to sell a part of the property to a buyer for enough to cover all of city's costs.

## Report for Options for Johnson Creek Property

#### Response Counts

**Completion Rate:** 

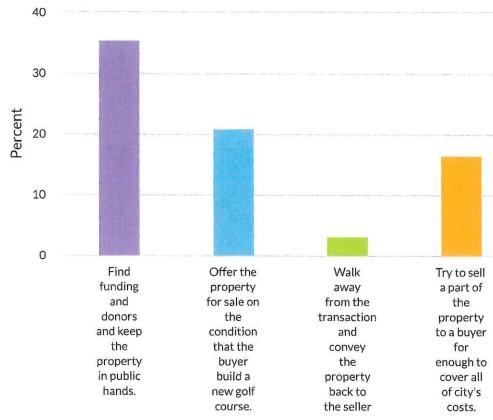
100%

Complete

180

Totals: 180

### 1. What should the City of Bandon do with the Johnson Creek property?



Value Percent Responses

Find funding and donors and keep the property in public hands.	35.6%	64
Offer the property for sale on the condition that the buyer build a new golf course.	21.1%	38
Walk away from the transaction and convey the property back to the seller	3.3%	6
Try to sell a part of the property to a buyer for enough to cover all of city's costs.	16.7%	30
Something else	23.9%	43
Try to find a partner to develop a modest campground on the site.	17.8%	32

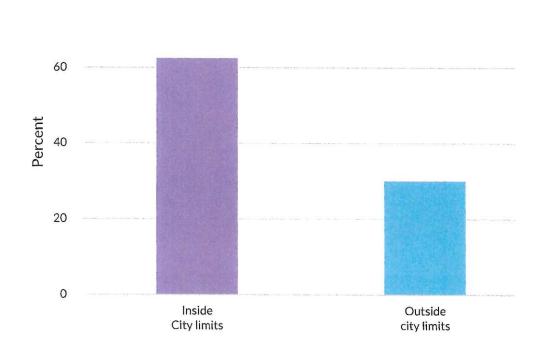
#### 2. Are there other ideas you think the city should consider?



#### Show Responses ▶

80

#### 3. Where do you live?



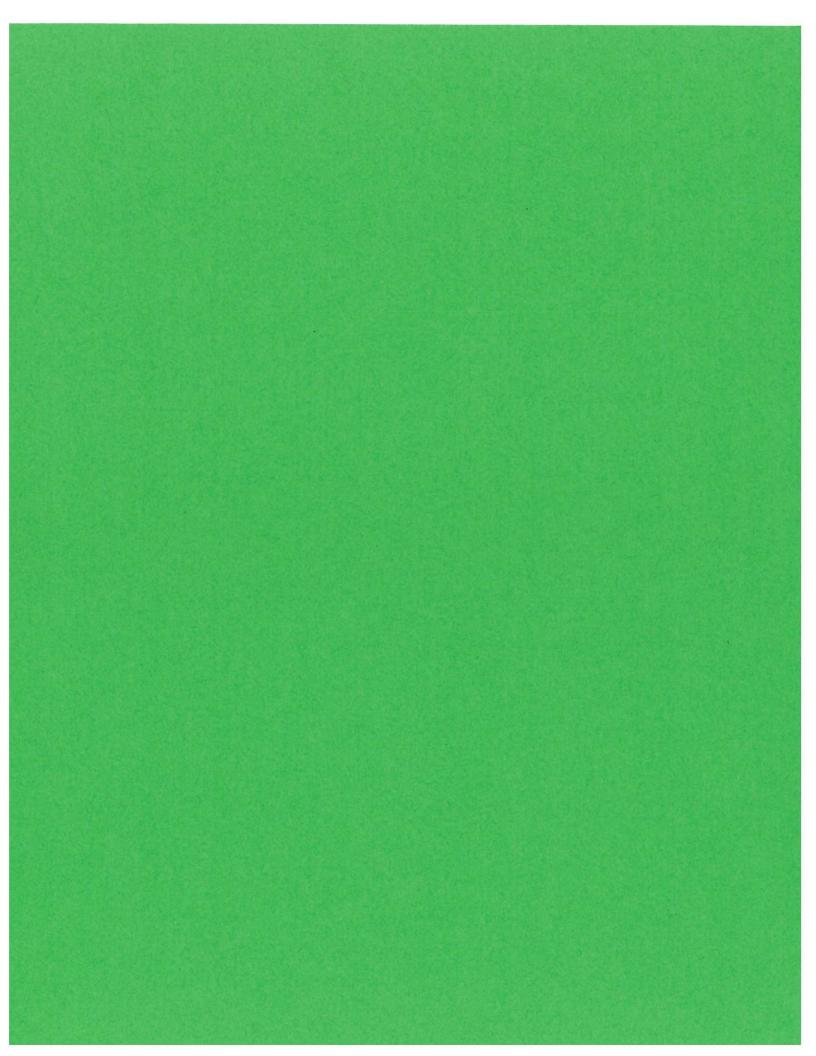
Value	Percent	Responses
Inside City limits	62.9%	110
Outside city limits	30.3%	53

Outside the city, but own property in city limits.

8.6%

15

This is a report for "Options for Johnson Creek Property" (Survey #5894606)



#### Planning Department Community Event Invitation- 8/8/2023

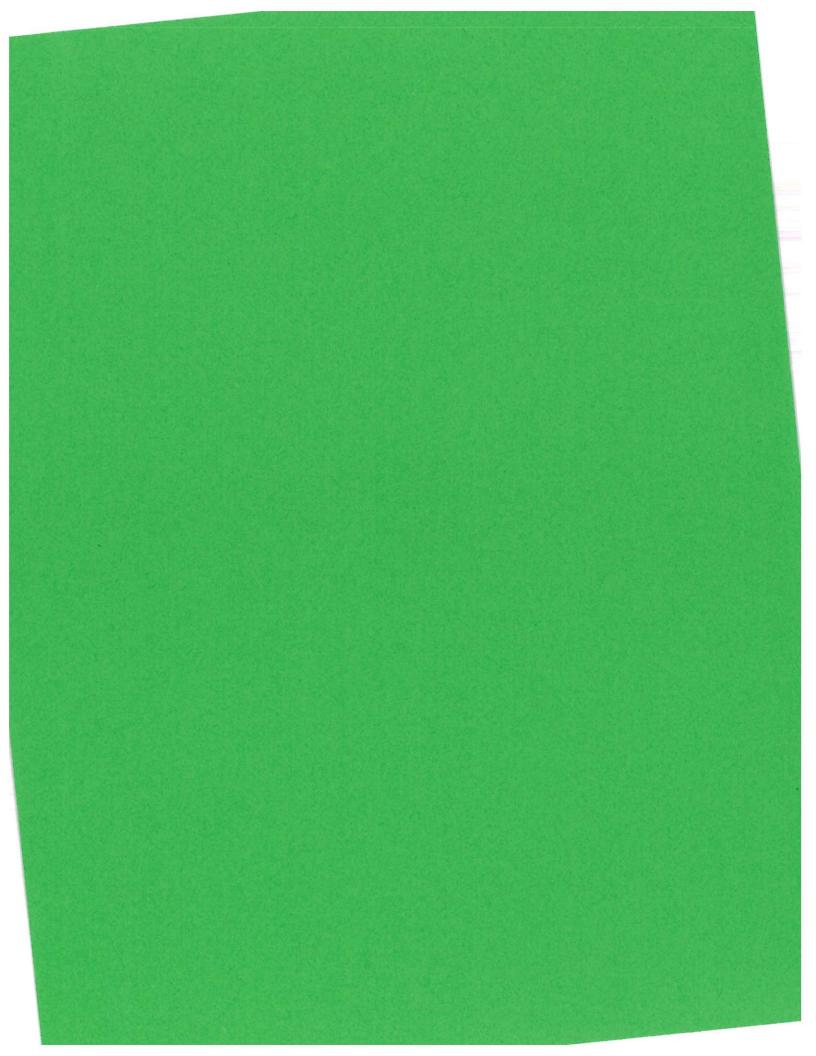
Source: City of Bandon

# JOHNSON CREEK INVITATION

You're Invited to Envision with Us!

Thursday August 8 at 5:30 PM
Johnson Creek Pump Station Parking Lot
Please carpool.

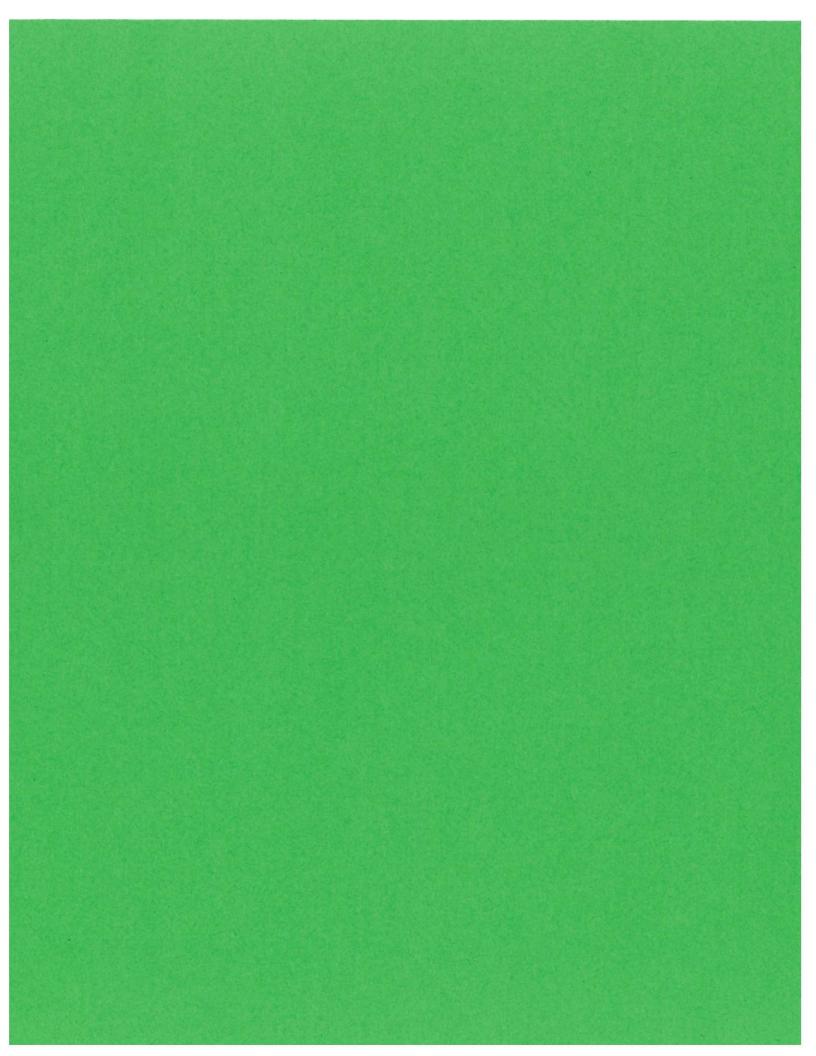
See the former golf course with new eyes. A tee box transforms into a pollinator garden; Hole 1, a wetland bog trail; the pond includes an observation Deck for Birders and Photographers; the Creek becomes an outdoor science class; a Fitness area nestles in the meadow; a Native tree grove thrives with Redwood cedars, Cascara and Spruce; an upland trail radiates with native shrubs; all trails with interpretive signage throughout. Take the first step of 10,000 steps. Join us.



#### **Standards for Outdoor Recreational Areas**

American Planning Association

Web link: https://www.planning.org/pas/reports194.htm



#### **Email: Department of State Lands (6/10/2024)**

Source: Correspondence between Christine Hall and Jevra Brown, DSL Aquatic Resource Planner

From: BROWN Jevra \* DSL < jevra.brown@dsl.oregon.gov>

Subject: RE: Can you help us Keep Johnson Creek Greenway Natural?

Date: June 10, 2024 at 9:35:10 AM PDT

RE: Map: 29S-15W-01 TL300; 3225 Beach Loop Dr SW, Bandon, OR 97411

Hi Christine,

Thank you for providing the sample letters explaining the proposed situation with Johnson Creek Greenway Natural Area. While DSL does regulate ground disturbance in wetlands and waters to help ensure the replacement and maintenance of the important functions that wetlands and waters provide to the human and natural environment, we are bound by local land use compatibility and the removal-fill law. This means that we cannot permit (or must permit with conditions) proposed land use that is incompatible with the local comprehensive plan. Further our permit must encourage or ensure the mitigation steps of avoidance (in which case there will be no DSL permit), minimization (may or may not require a permit), or, if impacts to wetlands or waters is unavoidable then, compensation must replace the lost wetland or waters functions and values elsewhere in the watershed.

There may be several steps that may need to be taken by the city to make this land use change compatible with the comprehensive plan, for example this may take a zone change that may be a post adoption plan amendment (PAPA) which is a process involving the Department of Land Conservation and Development and public comment. DSL may be asked to comment on that proposal by the City or DLCD. This proposal may also require local permitting that may also require public review. For DSL and the US Army Corps of Engineers, the proposal will likely require a wetland and waters delineation report that must be approved by each agency. Then, based upon the approved boundaries, if impacts are proposed to wetlands and waters, then a permit may be required from each agency. DSL individual permits have a public review and comment period.

I checked our database and we have no documentation submitted for the abovementioned property location. The Friends may monitor if a delineations has been submitted

here: https://lands.dsl.state.or.us/index.cfm?fuseaction=Wetlands.SelectCounty

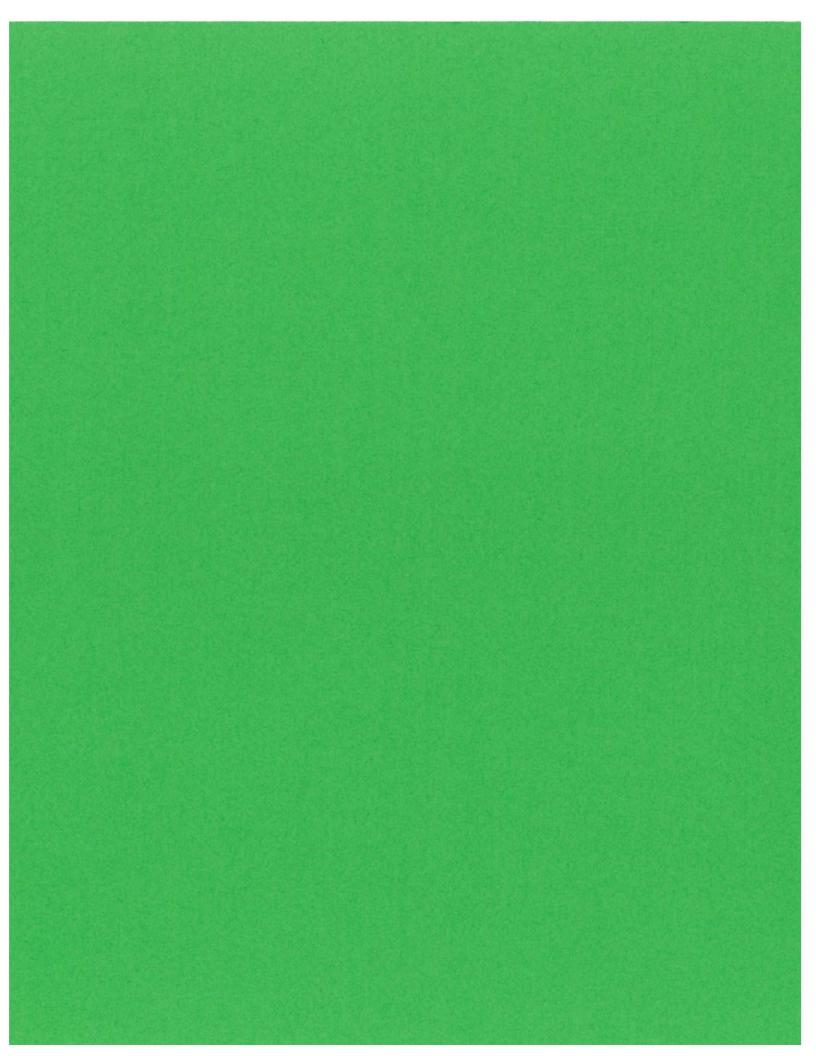
Check for permit and submit public comment

here: https://lands.dsl.state.or.us/index.cfm?fuseaction=Comments.SelectCounty

Thank you for contacting DSL with your concerns, and thank you for recognizing and seeking to protect the valuable functions of Oregon's wetlands and waters!

Jevra Brown, Aquatic Resource Planner- Department of State Lands

Cell 503-580-3172 | Jevra.Brown@DSL.Oregon.gov



#### Organizing a Park District- Illinois Association of Park Districts

Source: https://www.ilparks.org/page/organizing a pd

# Organizing a Park District - Illinois Association of Park Districts

A Guide to Organizing a Park District

Today, there are currently more than 360 existing park districts throughout Illinois. The quality of park lands and recreational services offered by these agencies has earned Illinois its reputation of having the best public park and recreation system in the nation. This system which is more than 100 years old has a proven track record of accountability and efficiency. Your efforts to create a park district present an exciting opportunity for your community.

After you have had an opportunity to review *A Guide to Organizing a Park District*, please do not hesitate to contact Peter M. Murphy, IAPD President/CEO, at 217/523-4554 if you have any questions.

To download A Guide to Organizing a Park District, click here.\*

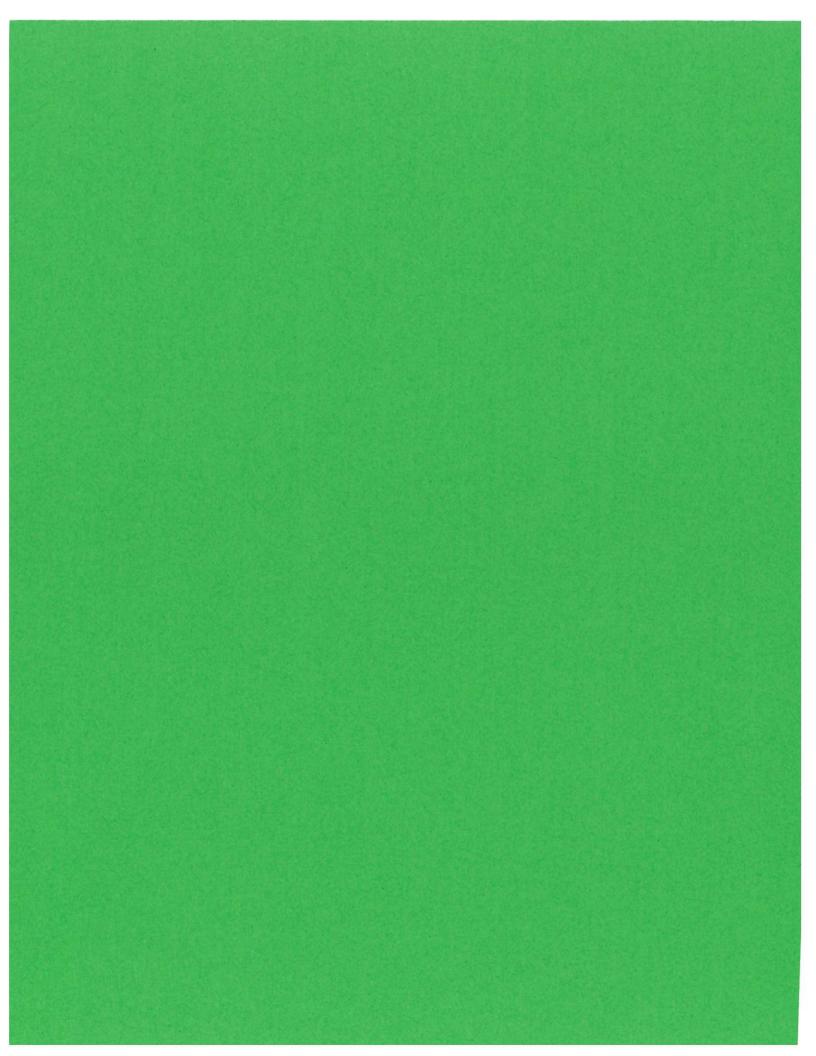
To download a summary of procedures for organizing a park district, <u>click</u> here.

To obtain election calendars and other materials from the State Board of Elections visit IAPD's <u>Tools webpage</u>.

\* Note that recent amendments to the Election Code, which have occurred since the last publication of this Guide, have adjusted some of the timelines set forth in the Guide and appendices as well as petition and other requirements. As indicated in the publication, the services of a competent lawyer will be required to ensure that all legal requirements are satisfied.

\*For competing discussions on the information required on petition sheets for forming a park district see the Election Code as well as the following cases:

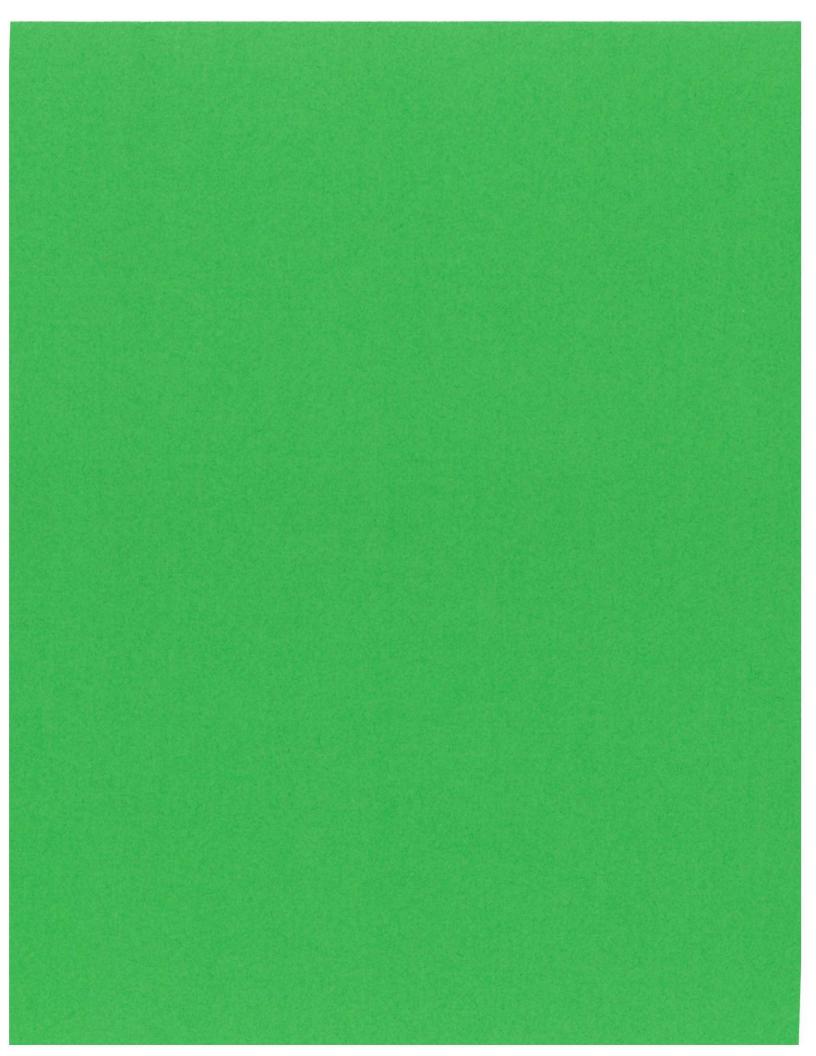
- Organization of Greater Algonquin Park District, 103 III. App.3d 1056 (1982)
- Adsit v. Sanders, 157 III. App. 3d 416 (1987)
- Petition to Form a New Park District, 182 III. App.30 973 (1989)



#### Article: "After Shutting Down, These Golf Courses Went Wild"

Source: New York Times 2/15/2024

https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/15/climate/golf-courses-conservation-nature.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare



#### Article: "The Importance of Wild"

Source: Wild Rivers Land Trust

## The Importance of Wild

#### Why Wild is Important

We live in a place that is irreplaceably wild, yet our home is rapidly changing. With increasing population and development, a steady influx of tourists, and more extreme weather—our wild lands and waters are at great risk of irreversible changes.

Today, there is overwhelming pressure being placed on our natural systems for clean water, fresh air, nutrient-rich foods, jobs, and outdoor recreation – all required for our existence. Conserving wild lands and estuaries, abundant agricultural lands, and all of the natural resources they provide, helps maintain balance between nature and humankind. This conservation work is critical to reduce the impacts of a changing climate and ensure an evolving, sustainable, and healthy livelihood for ourselves and generations to come.

## "The first rule of sustainability is to align with natural forces, or at least not try to defy them." – Paul Hawken

Wild Rivers Land Trust takes its name from the hallmark of our coast—wild, free-flowing rivers—one of the last truly wild and intact coastal regions on the Oregon Coast. Here a network of rivers and streams support world-class recreational and commercial fisheries, working ports, endangered salmon runs, enormous sand dunes, and a unique ecological system found nowhere else on the planet.

WRLT's 2.3 million-acre service area stretches from summit to sea stacks, from Tenmile Lakes at Lakeside to the California border south of Brookings, and from the Pacific Ocean to the upland forest headwaters of most of our region's coastal rivers. The area we serve encompasses vast seascapes, multi-generational ranches, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, ancient forests, and numerous town sites within Coos and Curry counties.

This corner of Oregon is a special place—not only are there amazing wild rivers, but our region contains some of the last strongholds of ancient forests, thousands of acres of wetlands, and over 100 miles of stunningly beautiful coastline. It's a dynamic place to call home, full of unique plants, animals, and hard-working people that are well-connected by our shared natural world.

#### **Our Challenge**

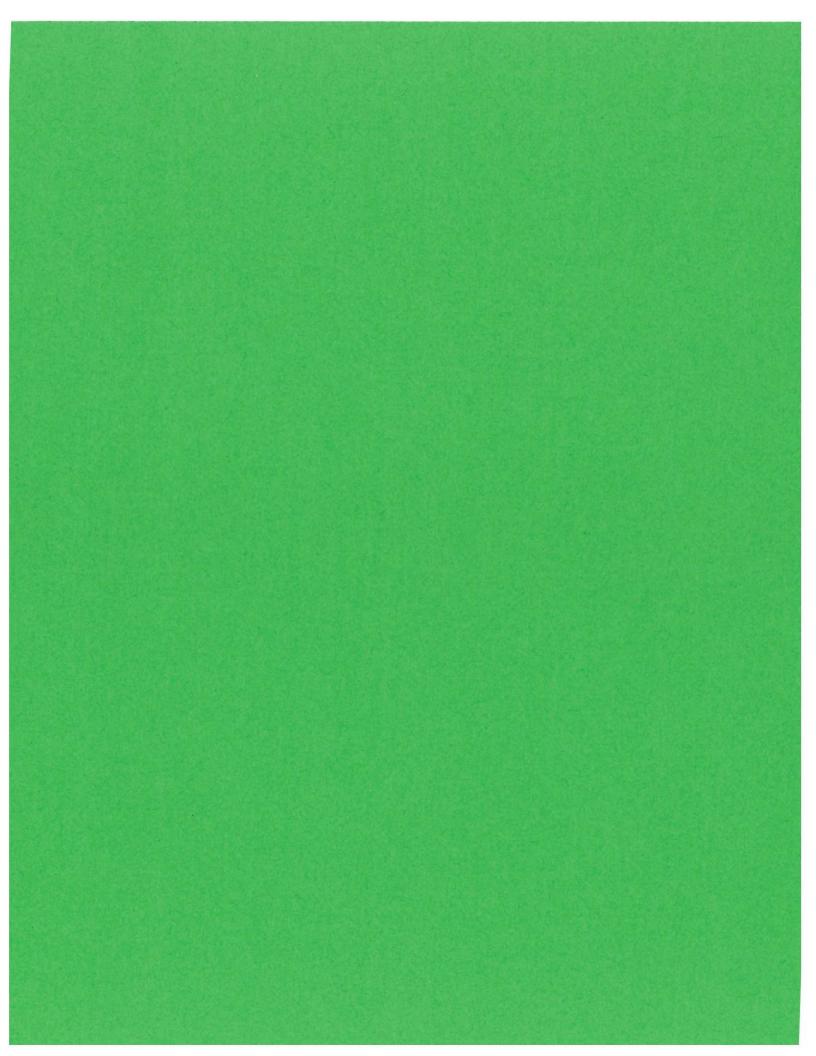
Keeping habitat wild for species that are threatened or endangered ensures they will reproduce and continue to exist. If lands are overdeveloped and habit destroyed, we will be removing those species that are indicators of the health of the planet. As *Robin Wall Kimmerer* states in her book:

"It is the intertwining of science, spirit and story – old stories and new ones that can be medicine for our broken relationship with earth, a pharmacopeia of healing stories that allow us to imagine a different relationship, in which people and land are good medicine for each other." – from Braiding Sweetgrass

This list represents some of the wildlife in our area currently threatened, endangered or species of concern. Their survival depends on protection of their habitat and how humans will mitigate climate changes. Here's an overall link specific to our area: Species of Concern

- · Coho salmon
- Chinook salmon
- Steelhead
- Pacific lamprey
- Marbled murrelet
- Northern spotted owl
- Snowy plover
- Mountain quail
- Port Orford Cedar

- MacDonalds rockcress
- Oregon spotted frog
- Freshwater shrimp
- Fisher
- Humboldt Marten
- Pygmy rabbits
- Oregon silverspot butterfly
- Silvery Phacelia
- Pink Sand Verbena
- Western Lily



#### **Article: "Yachats Community Park and Wetlands"**

Source:

https://www.yachatstrails.org/uploads/4/2/0/0/42005667/yachats community park and wetland s final.pdf

#### YACHATS COMMUNITY PARK AND WETLANDS

For years, a hidden treasure lay behind the Yachats Commons—a natural wetlands once fed both by streams and by rainwater running down the hills from the east side of Highway 101. Then a manmade ditch drained it and left it to become a tangle of blackberry, salal, and willows. It became a garbage dump for many and was frequented by transients. Over the past ten years, a dedicated corps of volunteers has reclaimed this environmental jewel and brought it back to a healthy, functioning wetlands. This is the story of how the Yachats wetlands was restored.

\*

In 1997, when Jerry Kraft retired from his position as an entomology professor at Western Washington University, he and his wife Cheryl moved to Yachats. Both of them became active volunteers in the Yachats community. Jerry joined the Yachats Watershed Council and the Mid-Coast Watersheds Council of Lincoln County. He received a grant to monitor water quality in four watersheds in the county, including the Yachats River, and he trained volunteers to do the monitoring. Jerry joined the Yachats Parks & Commons Commission and was elected to City Council where he began developing plans to restore the wetlands behind the Commons. This wetlands area, approximately 4.3 acres in size, was city property. The restoration project had been considered ever since the old elementary school, now called the Yachats Commons, was bought in 1989 to serve as the location for city government and as a center for community activities. After City Council accepted a master plan for the Yachats Parks & Commons Commission, Jerry developed a three-year plan for the project.

Sadly, Jerry died of cancer in 2003. In his memory, a task force was formed by Cheryl and then-mayor, Lee Corbin. The task force included the following people: Don Niskanen, president of the Friends of the Yachats Commons; Cy Kauffman, chair of the Parks & Commons Commission; Leslie Carter, Parks & Commons Commission; David Schlesinger, fish biologist; Paul Engelmeyer, National Audubon Society; Keith Kraft, Jerry's brother and also an entomologist; Chad Link, developer; Betty Bahn, Master Gardener; Jim Gerdemann, botanist; Jim Adler,

water quality monitor; Ray Meehan, city council member; Mark Doyle, excavator; and Larry Lewis, Yachats city planner. Evelyn Everett joined the task force later.

In 2003, the wetlands appeared as an impenetrable barrier of Himalayan blackberry, ivy, and other invasive species. On the west side of the wetlands was a spruce grove, shaped by years of high winds and salt-laden air. The area had been used as an illegal dump and was inhabited by transients and illicit drug users.

In the 1970s, the Yachats fire chief, Frankie Petrick, home-schooled children in the firehouse. When she took her students into the wetlands for a botany lesson, she pointed to a gnarled spruce tree, Big Spruce, in the middle of the wetlands and told them to meet there if they got separated—it was the only visible landmark above the blackberries. It was hard to know at the time that wetlands existed in the area, but people like Jerry and other members of the task force had the expertise to identify the treasure buried under the snarl of brush and garbage.

Historical evidence supported the biological analysis. Sam Case, Farm Agent for the Alsea Sub-agency that managed the forced relocation of Indians during the years 1860-1875, noted in his annual report for 1869 that crops planted in a boggy area, even root vegetables, failed to thrive. That boggy area may well have been the wetlands west of the Commons. Betty Bahn's mother reported her own mother's accounts of seeing migratory fowl, including swans, landing in the wetlands.

When enough of the blackberries had been removed, members of the task force discovered a deep ditch exiting at W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street that had been excavated to drain the wetlands. Bert Harley, who moved to Yachats in 1946, and Al Green who attended the Yachats School, also in 1946, remember a stream that they think may have been manmade. Al and his friends played with frogs and pulled skunk cabbage out of the waterway. He remembers it being muddy and he didn't venture too far into the water. Back in 1948, Judy (Carson) Kauffman and Sherri Hall were not supposed to play that far to the west of the elementary school. Sherri said her parents, Doris and Lester Hall, would have been upset if she had come home with muddy shoes, although Judy remembers that the native plants

provided a great place for hide-and-seek. The boys, more willing to venture into

the tangle, discovered the ditch. Elaine Harley attended the Yachats School for 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade (1945-1948). Like Judy and Sherri, she doesn't recall going far into the area to play. The spruces on the west side of the wetlands were tiny, Elaine remembers, and you could see the ocean from the school, something that is no longer possible. Another classmate, Doris Gardenhire, remembers how wet the area was, from the back of the school all the way to the Adobe Resort, a memory corroborated by Al Green. By the early seventies, when Frankie and her students cleared a trail for their botanizing expeditions, the area was already a blackberry jungle, although she does also recall the ditch and the swampy conditions.

No one knows for sure why the ditch was excavated. Betty Bahn, a retired nurse, speculates that it was the polio scare of the 1930s and the locals' fears that the wetlands could be a breeding ground for insects that carried the virus. Elaine Harley, also a nurse, supports Betty's speculation. It's also possible that parents thought their children faced more danger from the wetlands than from the possibility of falling into the ditch. One thing is certain: the mud was like glue and difficult to wash off, something the task force members and other wetlands volunteers can personally attest to.

Members of the task force divided into committees to tackle several jobs. The biggest were grant-writing and fundraising. Planner Larry Lewis searched for grant money. Leslie Carter and Cheryl Kraft led the quest for private donations.

Phase 1 was a challenging learning curve for the task force. Permits and approvals had to be obtained from a variety of agencies, even after the Yachats City Council approved the project. Planning, hiring consultants, and complying with State and Federal regulations for wetland restoration work were ongoing tasks. Public hearings were held to get input from local citizens and groups about what they wanted in the wetlands area. Students in the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP) had some strong desires, including a skate park and a swimming pool. Despite some strong lobbying on behalf of the skate park, neither idea became part of the wetlands restoration project, but other valuable additions did

come out of the students' input. One of their wishes was for a Peace Garden, and

at the initiation of Leslie Carter, it was constructed in 2004. The kids continue to tend the garden, producing vegetables and beautiful flowers in raised boxes shaped like a peace symbol. An arbor and trellis were designed and built by Syri Hamilton, bordering the parking lot behind the Commons and creating a separation between the cars and the children's playground to the west.

Larry Lewis, with the assistance of Don Niskanen, wrote a grant application to the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department for \$75,000. The task force met the 40% match requirement, for a total budget of \$125,000.

The task force hired retired OSU professor and landscape architect John Stewart to create a conceptual master plan. John's fee was \$4,000; however, he never sent in a bill for his work, in essence donating his fee to the wetlands project.

In December 2003, a boardwalk was constructed between Big Spruce in the middle of the property to West Sixth Street, connecting to the Yachats Library on Seventh Street. The boardwalk was built by Lake Price, a contractor from Reedsport. The treated wood was environmentally safe, but careful attention was paid to make sure that no treated wood would touch the ground or the wetlands themselves. Concrete pilings supported the framing and decking. One part of the boardwalk is removable, and it was removed temporarily when the west pond was graded in 2006.

Before any further wetlands restoration work could begin, a permit was needed from the DSL. One of the permit requirements was a wetland delineation report. Loverna Wilson, an environmental consultant, prepared a report which documented four separate wetlands areas. Both John Stewart and Loverna visited the site several times in order to complete their reports. Paul Adamus, a wetland scientist, and Nancy Holzhauser, a wetlands consultant, prepared the final report on which the DSL application was based, with a detailed plan for restoration of a fresh-water wetlands.

While DSL is vigilant about approving restoration plans, they may have been

"kinder" to the Yachats task force, since it was obvious that the task force was proceeding with persistence and incredible attention to detail to reverse the

damage to this fragile landscape. It took some time, but DSL finally approved the project.

Approval was also needed from the Army Corps of Engineers. However, since the project was small, DSL and the Army Corps of Engineers agreed that no additional permit was needed. The task force also contacted the State Water Board to make sure no additional permits or other requirements would be imposed. They were assured that none were.

While approval of the DSL permit was pending, David Schlesinger, on behalf of the City of Yachats, prepared a grant application to the state Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) for a supplemental grant for wetland restoration. The guidelines for the grant included improvement of access to coastal resources. Of course, that is not what the project intended. The access was there; money was needed to improve the wetlands (coastal resources). Despite not fitting the guidelines, a grant of \$27,000 was awarded with no match requirements. The task force speculated that the reviewers were impressed with the project goals, the objectives already met, and the honesty of the task force.

In 2006, Phase 2 began. Bill Bodewig, a local tree cutter and invasive species remover, and Calder Bell, arborist, were hired to clear out the invasive plants so that others could access the property and start restoration work. The first project was to remove the blackberries and other invasive species covering the four wetland areas, grade those areas, and fill in the drainage ditch that had been there for decades. Steve Trask, a fisheries biologist from Alsea, was hired as the project manager. Terry Duman from Florence, who had done similar work for the Forest Service, was hired to do the grading.

It was determined that additional boardwalks were needed. Application was made to LCDC to re-direct funds still remaining in the grant to finish the boardwalk project. They readily approved, since the boardwalk additions clearly met the application guidelines for enhancing access. Doug Thompson from

Roseburg was hired to construct the boardwalk from Big Spruce to Fourth Street. An additional extension was built from the main boardwalk into the spruce forest.

Later, an additional path was built along the east side of the wetlands, again with volunteer labor.

The ballfield was re-oriented from the northwest to the northeast section of the open area adjacent to the wetlands. Fencing was installed on the north border of the field and around home plate to prevent balls from hitting cars, people, and nearby buildings. Nine benches were constructed by Steve Kolstad of Yachats and placed around the wetlands area. All were donated by people to commemorate different individuals. The first plaque was in honor of Jerry Kraft.

An osprey platform was installed. This took some ingenuity. Ordinarily, utility poles are used. New poles, made of specially-raised Douglas fir from Canada, cost \$6,000. Some "retired" poles were located in the Central Lincoln PUD utility yard. The platforms themselves are usually built with a pallet or similar material. However, Betty Bahn and the task force decided they needed something sturdier and found a suitable pallet plan online. PUD paid for the pallet and the task force used their funds to have all the nuts and bolts changed to stainless steel. Ray Meehan built the platform. PUD brought the pole to the chosen site and augured a hole thirteen feet deep. While the PUD staff went to breakfast, task force volunteers attached the nesting platform to the top of the pole. When the pole was finally in place, it stood 60+ feet off the ground. To date, no ospreys have made a home there, but hope remains.

It was agreed that there would be no further alterations beyond the grading and removing invasive species and planting native species. If the wetlands were to fill with water, nature needed to run its course. The task force agreed to wait and see—and as is obvious today, the wetlands did fill with water.

The next phase—planting—was crucial. The deep wetland soils are clay and highly acidic, which is why it takes a lot of scrubbing to remove it from clothes and skin. However, certain plants thrive in this environment. Many wetland plants returned

by themselves; a testament to the dormant seeds in the soil bank awaiting suitable conditions to grow. Much to the delight of the task force members, native plants started to appear almost immediately. Green false hellebore

6 (*Veratrum viride*), Coast Boykinia (*Boykinia elata*), and cattails (*Typha latifolia*) soon appeared.

Two major planting days were scheduled, one in the fall and one in the following spring. Volunteers placed over 4,000 plants in the ground during those two planting days. Nootka rose (Rosa nutkana) was planted around the osprey pole, extending thirteen feet out to discourage people from trying to climb it.

Experimentation is ongoing to determine what will grow and thrive in the four wetland areas. Kathleen Sand, previous co-owner of the Gerdemann Botanical Preserve, David Schlesinger, and Betty Bahn planted Western lily (Lilium occidentale), a rare and endangered plant, originally collected by Jim Gerdemann. This proved quite successful. An illustrated list of plants can be found on the vachatstrails.org website under the Commons Wetland tab.

Many wildlife species now make their home in the wetlands. Red-legged frogs, an endangered species, are present, as are a variety of ducks, including mallards, scaups, and red phalarope. Green herons, great blue herons, and egrets frequent the wetlands. There are rough-skinned newts and numerous songbirds, including red-winged blackbirds and marsh wrens whose calls ring out from their nests in the willows and cattails. In summer 2012, a muskrat was seen in the main pond harvesting the cattails.

Another YYFAP wish was to have a treehouse adjacent to the playground. The kids brainstormed the design features. Over the next several years, funds were raised and then increased by additional contributions from the Friends of the Commons and the Commons budget. However, when sufficient funds were available, the project stalled because a county permit was needed, including an engineering design. Several local engineers were approached and all declined—for liability reasons and probably lack of experience in designing treehouses. A year or so

later, Charlie Greenwood at Treehouse Engineering, agreed to provide the plans at 10% of his standard fees. Bids were obtained from a local licensed builder, but the engineered design and the higher-than-expected labor costs, left the project short of the necessary funds. Ultimately, Chris Graamans, a local wood artist who

had served as chair of YYFAP for many years, offered to build the tree house for free. YYFAP scraped together more money for materials. Construction began in October 2010 and was completed in December.

The covered picnic shelter behind the Commons was completed several years earlier, sponsored by the Lions and the Parks & Commons Commission. However, the cold north winds that blow in the summer diminished its usability. In 2011, glass enclosures were installed under the direction of Dave Rieseck, a city council member at the time.

Maintenance of the wetlands is an ongoing project. It was originally undertaken by Betty Bahn, David Schlesinger (now deceased), and Don Niskanen. Dylan McDowell, a high school student, monitored the area for a year, reporting on plant and wildlife in the wetlands to the Parks & Commons Commission.

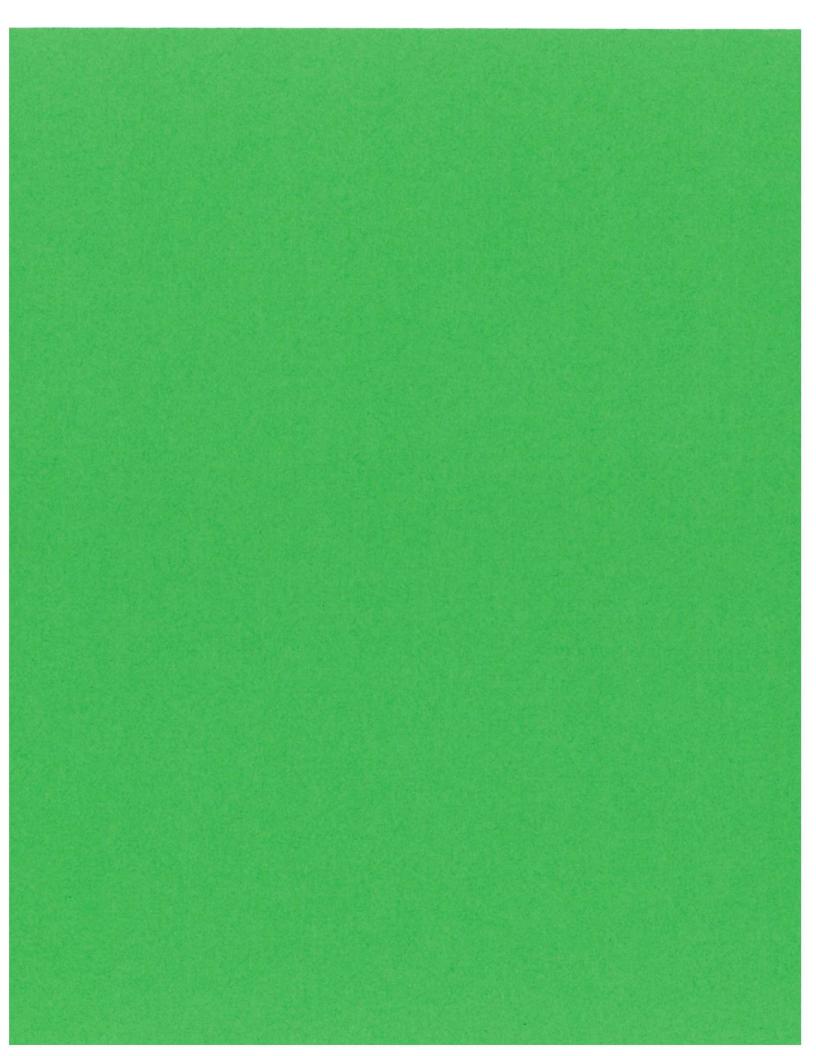
YIPS volunteers – a subcommittee of the Yachats Trails Committee – are now doing much of the wetlands maintenance. They have spent many hours in the wetlands park removing blackberry and ivy and mulching the cleared areas with bark. Once the invasive plants are under control, there are plans to add more native plants.

While oral reports from people who lived in Yachats in the mid-forties make it clear that the ditch that drained the wetlands went in before that time, their testimony also attests to the persistence of the wet, boggy area, begging to come back as a functioning wetlands.

This was achieved, as is so much, in Yachats, by the competence, collaboration, tenacity, and vision of the local all-volunteer wetlands task force, and all the many others who donated labor and expertise to achieve that vision. Yachats is a community that is proud of its achievements. As long as we continue in this

tradition of volunteers and cooperation, our village will thrive and continue to meet its mission.

The history of the Commons Park and restoration of the wetlands was compiled by Joanne Kittel in consultation with Betty Bahn, Frankie Petrick, David Schlesinger, Don Niskanen, Cheryl Kraft Wade, Al Green, Sherri Hall, Elaine Harley, Bert Harley, Doris Gardenhire, Larry Lewis, and Andrea Scharf.



## Vision: Johnson Creek Greenway Park Features

The following are ideas/concepts that encompass the future vision for Johnson Creek Greenway.

## **Physical Features:**

- Creating upper entrance with overlook point (to allow access from Seacrest Dr)
- Park Entry signage- upper and lower
- ADA parking at lower entrance
- Short ADA accessible pathway from lower parking area
- Bicycle racks- upper and lower
- Longhouse shelter for use as education center, school activities, meeting space
- Amphitheatre
- Labyrinth
- Walking trails
- Interpretive signage or QR codes that link to educational information
- Safe bridges
- · Covered sit and rest benches along trails
- Picnic sites within Eucalyptus Grove and Sitka Spruce Grove
- Restrooms
- Trash Receptacles
- Washed Ashore sculpture

## Natural Displays:

- Pollinator gardens
- Dry/wet meadow planting- wildflowers, native plant species
- Birding viewpoints
- Camera focal spots for "selfies"
- Native tree pods (future groves)
- Demonstration composting site

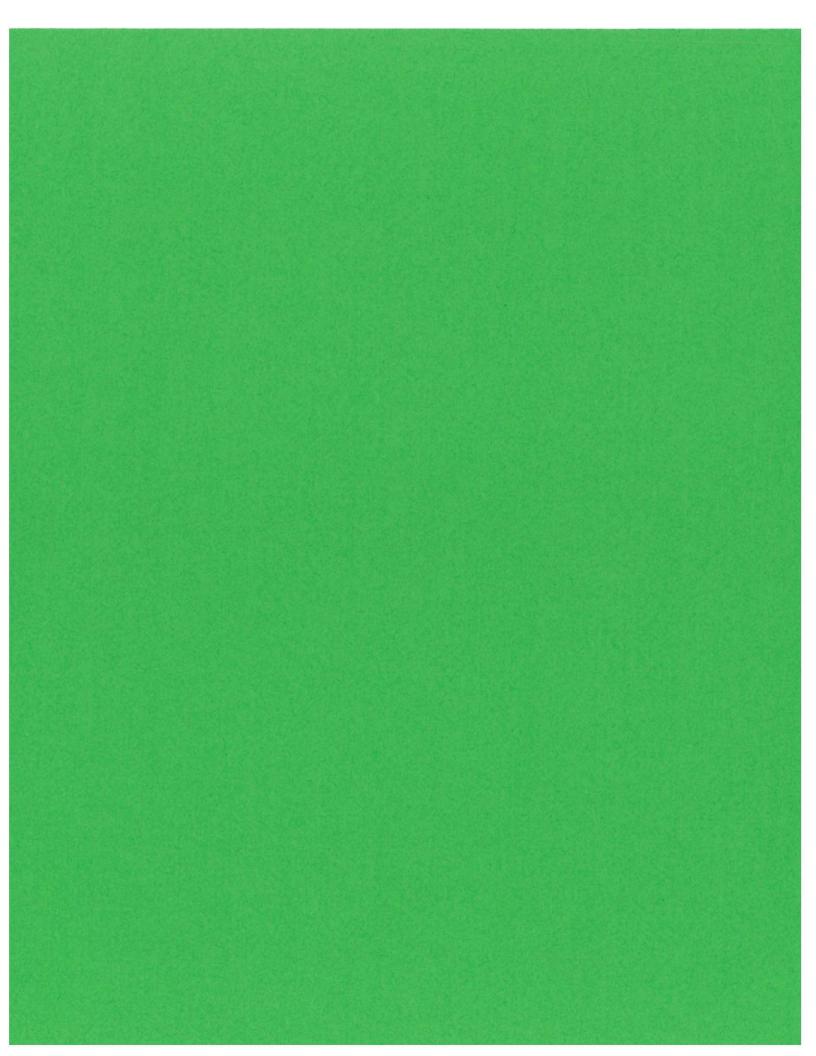
#### Community Engagement Ideas:

- Youth outdoor education-guided trail walks ( with Naturalists, Tribal members)
- School day camping opportunities
- Paid High School Internship focused on property management and wetland restoration
- Eco-tourism- attract tourists; provide environmental training; equip them to "take it home" and reproduce

## Potential Funding Partners/Resources (this list is a work in progress):

- 1. Pew Charitable Trusts
- 2. The Healy Foundation
- 3. Oregon Community Foundation

- 4. Ford Family United Way of Southwestern Oregon
- 5. Coquille Tribe
- 6. Judith Ann Mogan Foundation
- 7. Three Rivers Foundation
- 8. Department of Land Conservation and Development- Coastal Zone Management Habitat Protection and Restoration Grants
- 9. Oregon Coast Visitors Association
- 10. The Roundhouse Foundation



Example: Additional Room Occupancy Taxes- Olympia, WA hotel receipt June 2024



Courtyard by Marriott® Olympia 2301 Henderson Park LN SE, Olympia, WA 98501 P 360.943.8448 Marriott.com/SEAOC

Time: 01:36PM

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43-16 Showhar, 1715 M.

Bandon OF USET

Graduation

Arrive: 14Jun24

Room: 417

Room Type: EQNN Number of Guests: 2

Rate: \$197.00

Clerk: TWM

The control of the co

Time: 07:52AM

Folio Number: 71548

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CHARGES	CREDITS
14Jun24	Room Charge	211.00	
14Jun24	State Occupancy Tax	14.35	
14Jun24	Occupancy Sales Tax	4.22	
14Jun24	City Tax	6.33	
→ 14Jun24	Convention and Tourism Tax	2.00	
15Jun24	Restaurant Room Charge	15.85	
15Jun24	Room Charge	197.00	
15Jun24	State Occupancy Tax	13.40	
15Jun24	Occupancy Sales Tax	3.94	
15Jun24	City Tax	5.91	
→ 15Jun24	Convention and Tourism Tax	2.00	
16Jun24	Visa	2	476.00

Depart: 16Jun24

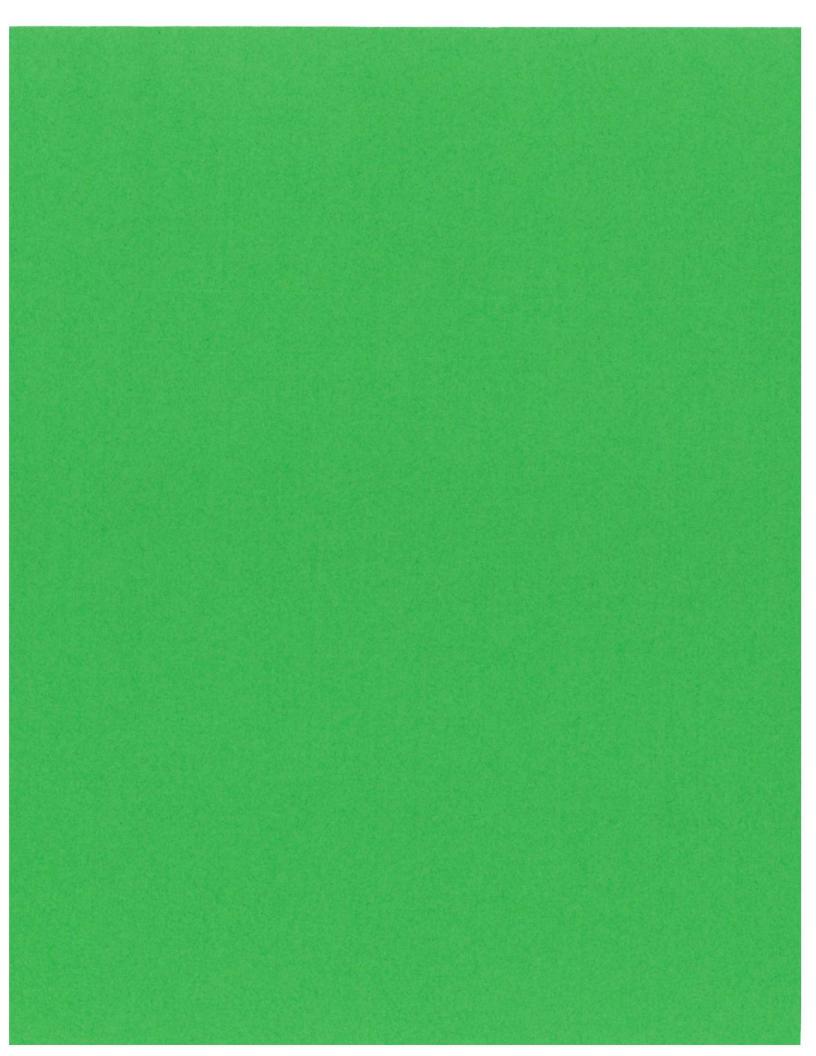
Card #: VIXXXXXXXXXXX2645/XXXX Card Type: VISA Card Entry: MANUAL Approval Code: 514163

BALANCE:

0.00

Marriott Bonvoy Account # XXXXX0039. Your Marriott Bonvoy points/miles earned on your eligible earnings will be credited to your account. Check your Marriott Bonvoy account statement or your online statement for updated activity.

See our "Privacy & Cookie Statement" on Marriott.com.



Copy: FOBPR Petition for keeping Johnson Creek Greenway in its natural state



Thank you,
Friends of Bandon Parks and Recreation

Christine Hall, President Laura Brownfield, Vice President Wade Troxell, Treasurer

We have come to treasure Johnson Creek Greenway as a sanctuary of peace and natural beauty in Bandon. In three years, our connected community of 75 volunteers has lovingly invested time, planted trees, and nurtured native shrubs in an effort to restore this significant wetland and dry prairie. Our collective efforts have been met with a flourishing habitat, and we've watched with pride and satisfaction as local wildlife returned.

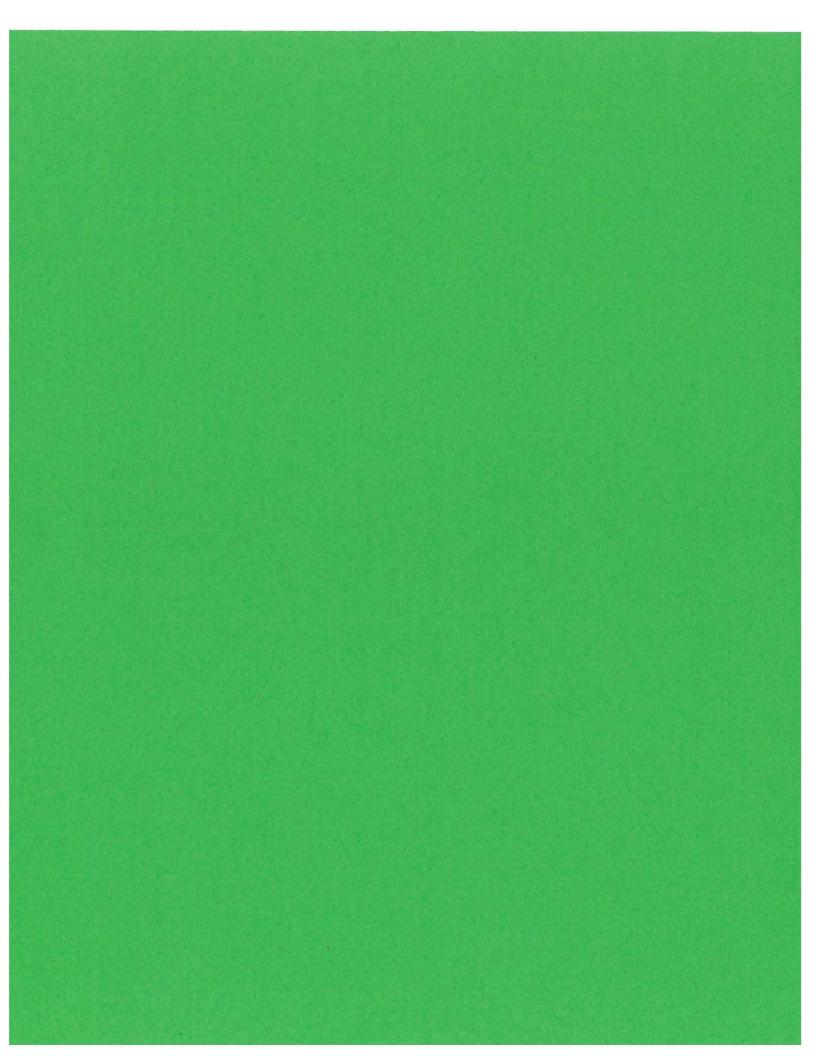
Yet, the natural state and future of Johnson Creek Greenway is currently under threat. It is vital to retain the Johnson Creek Greenway as a Natural Resource parkland, preserving the Greenway for passive recreation — our walks, birdwatching, and quiet contemplation. Bandon is blessed with an assortment of State parks, but the Johnson Creek Greenway holds a unique value as natural wetland environment for everyone in our community.

Maintaining the Greenway not only preserves our volunteer efforts spent in the wetlands and dry prairie but also aligns with national and local sustainability goals. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, natural wetlands are vital in filtering and improving water quality, providing fish and wildlife habitats, storing floodwaters and maintaining surface water flow during dry periods. By preserving Johnson Creek Greenway, we contribute to these broader environmental goals.

We urge the Bandon City Council to recognize the unequivocal value of Johnson Creek Greenway, considering our labor, commitment, and the ecological benefits that this wetland and dry prairie brings to our community. Let's preserve this natural oasis for generations yet to come. Please sign this petition to support the conservation of Johnson Creek Greenway.

Support Petitior Preserve Johnson Creek Greenw We the undersigned urge Bandon City Council to keep Johnson Creek Greenway
a natural resource area for passive recreation like walking and birding.

		a natural resource area or va		
		i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	P	Please return completed petitions
Sign Below			pt.	to Laura Brownfield:
				ltbbrownfield@gmail.com
Date	Print Name	Signature	Address	Email
9				



# **Letters of Community Support**

- 1. Shoreline Education for Awareness- 6/11/2024
- 2. Bandon Inclusivity Group- 6/17/2024
- 3. Martha Lane- 6/24/2024
- 4. Darcy Grahek- 6/27/2024
- 5. Native Plant Society of Oregon, South Coast Chapter- 7/7/2024
- 6. Steven Miller- 7/7/2024



Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Dear Mayor Schamehorn and City Council Members,

We are writing on behalf of Shoreline Education for Awareness (SEA) in support of maintaining the Johnson Creek Greenway in Bandon as a natural area. SEA is a non-profit local organization that works to improve stewardship and education of our coastal habitats. SEA works with both state and federal agencies as well as conservation groups to include Oregon Institute of Marine Biology (OIMB), US Dept of Fish and Wildlife, State Parks, ODFW and the South Slough National Estuary Reserve. SEA's primary goal is to enhance public awareness and to increase conservation efforts throughout the south coast areas.

There are many valuable aspects in keeping Johnson Creek as a natural habitat. To name a few, this area has been restored to its native habitat to ensure that the flora and fauna are allowed to exist and thrive. As a result, this biodiversity allows continued provision of an essential ecosystem such as clean air and water. This natural area has the capacity to store floodwaters and maintain surface flow during dry periods. It will also be essential in filtering runoff from nearby housing developments (growing day by day) which will result in improved water quality. With regard to positive impacts on the community, this protected wildlife area will provide opportunities for healthy outdoor activities for the community and tourists alike. In this stressful world, people are inclined and desperately seeking opportunities to access natural areas for hiking, breathing fresh air and finding tranquility. Johnson Creek offers an ideal environment for this. Also, by protecting this natural wetland prairie environment, Bandon is demonstrating how it values and honors the rich indigenous history found here. Consequently, this provides opportunities for education and environmental study. The biological benefits are also numerous, especially for pollinator survival, animal protection, seed dispersal, germination and nutrient cycling.

We feel that maintaining Johnson Creek Greenway, as it is currently in both the City of Bandon's Park Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan, as a greenway park to be managed as a natural area is essential. It goes without saying that the public, both local and out of towners, will significantly benefit from this natural area as demonstrated in public input and known desires.

Thank you,

Shoreline Education for Awareness Board Members

Dear Mayor Schamehorn and City Council Members:

The Bandon Inclusivity Group (BIG) is sending this letter to voice our support of maintaining Johnson Creek Greenway as a Natural Area. We believe there are many benefits to doing so:

This greenway is capable of filtering runoff from nearby housing developments (currently 200 homes and growing) thus protecting and improving water quality. Every time we increase "hard surfaces" (roads, parking lots, and building) in these small "headwater" drainages, their functions promoting infiltration and natural water protection suffer. These little drainages may seem insignificant, but they each play a role in sending clean water back to ocean.

Development activities often lead to loss of the complex native ecosystems which provide and maintain the diverse plant and animal communities that drive our local economies. The greenway is a vibrant example of our land's ability to heal itself, following the removal of damaging enterprise and given a little boost for native plant restoration. Bandon is known far and wide not just as a beautiful place, but also an ecological oasis. How about exploring options for eco-tourism instead of golfing?

Protecting the greenway and creating a city park will provide the opportunity for local residents to easily enjoy a peaceful walk with wildlife viewing; to learn about native habitats; to join in acknowledging and honoring the indigenous history present at Johnson Creek Greenway; and to participate in citizen science activities – all these will enhance the value of living in Bandon.

Clearly, protecting one small drainage will not fix our waters, but this is an issue that requires many small steps, including educating our citizens and decision makers to the benefits of these natural drainages. People who want to create economic opportunities by developing these sensitive areas should remember that it is much cheaper to prevent these different forms of pollution than it is to go back and fix the damage.

In an era of summer-long red tides and other toxic events along the entire west coast, it is our responsibility to safeguard every habitat we can and protect each native species possible for the future wellbeing of our freshwater, marine ecosystems and Mother Earth.

It is our understanding that maintaining Johnson Creek Greenway as a greenway is currently in both the City of Bandon's Park Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan. We believe it is an essential area and as residents of Bandon we ask the City not to sell the property and to designate it as a Natural Area.

Thank you, Micky Franks, Amy Wilhite, Nancy Mesner, Jeannie Culp, and Agnieszka Furmann

Bandon Inclusivity Group www.bandoninclusivitygroup.com PO Box 1072, Bandon OR 97411 Sunday, June 16, 2024

Dear Mayor Schamehorn and City Council Members,

I am writing in support of maintaining the Johnson Creek Greenway in Bandon as a natural area as in the City of Bandon's Park Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan.

The City has ignored too many opportunities over the years to provide for the future needs of both its residents and tourists to use and enjoy the distinctive and wild beauty of this area. Over time we have been pinched off to a few waysides and a park.

Only through the efforts of persistent citizens with vision was a small portion of the bluff area preserved at the end of 11th street. And what a shame the city ignored it's right on behalf of all of us to have a larger area there when it allowed the Gorman motels' permits. The overused and most popular view walk allows us to experience many things among which are native seaside prairie grasses and plants.

This has become a nation of people hoping to find places to visit and live where there are undeveloped and natural areas often linked by bicycle and walking paths. Johnson Creek Greenway is a vital piece in the growth of a town, providing the necessary balance to development of the man made kind.

Please honor the citizen surveys, Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan.

Martha Lane resident of Bandon for 34 years

Darcy Grahek 53701 Beach Loop Rd Bandon, Oregon

June 27, 2024

Dear Mayor Schamerhorn and City Councilors,

Being that you are making decisions about the Johnson Creek sub-basin drainage, I am writing this letter to appeal to your sense of stewardship. As the city of Bandon grows and absorbs natural spaces, it is critical to set aside areas that can provide habitat for wildlife and greenspace for people to enjoy.

This 37.5 acres is essentially a rare habitat known as wet prairie that once provided this wildlife habitat. As a Lakota (Standing Rock Sioux) person with an indigenous viewpoint, I am very aware that this these wetlands were considered rich in their provision of food to the local native populations. Camas would have covered the meadow, along with Cow clover and other edible plants. Waterfowl and game would have all benefitted from the fresh water provided. Native people would have managed this land to keep the spaces open for the greatest benefit to the people as well as the wildlife.

The drainage has been modified over the years as this open space was first converted to a farm and then for 98 years, a golf course. The creek has become deeply channelized, disassociated from its banks, improvement is needed to rectify this situation as the increase in stormwater will worsen this condition. This sub-basin drains the stormwater for most of the neighborhood south of Seabird Drive. Johnson Creek sub-basin offers the environmental benefit of draining and cleaning the stormwater before it reaches the ocean.

There are more than 80 people of whom I am aware of that are interested in preserving Johnson Creek as a greenway with simple walking trails for human use in the appropriate dry seasons. Many of these people have participated in restoration efforts of a hedgerow being created to benefit birds and pollinators. The local motels have many people interested in bird watching or wildflower walks that would be fascinated by a local greenway.

Good stewardship of natural spaces is critical to the development of a healthy city. Just as the indigenous people managed this property for the greatest good for centuries, I hope that our elected leaders will consider this place to be a valuable asset, preserved as a greenway. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Darcy Grahek

July 7, 2024
Bandon City Council
Friend of Bandon Parks and Recreation

Dear Community Caretakers and Leaders of Bandon:

I am writing this letter in support of the preservation and continued restoration of Johnson Creek Greenway, the 37-acre area along Johnson Creek within the city of Bandon, Oregon.

As president of the South Coast Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, I lead a group of enthusiastic citizens who enjoy nature, work to conserve habitat, study, and protect the native flora of Oregon.

The South Coast Chapter was reestablished in 2022. Since then, members have been actively involved in education and promotion of native plant restoration. Our members have participated in restoration work parties planting trees and shrubs within the Johnson Creek corridor and planting trees and native plants in Bandon City Park. Restoration plantings were featured in our Bandon Native Plant Garden Tour in 2023. We partner with Friends of Bandon Parks and Recreation as we hold the same commitment and dedication to the enjoyment and conservation of Oregon's native vegetation.

Over decades the natural splendor of the South Coast of Oregon has been damaged and diminished by human activity. Deforestation, improper road construction, introduction of non-native plants, and mining have marred the land and waters (South Coast Basin Report. 1963). We know the impacts of industrial trends can be reversed (Coastal Rivers Restoration). As members of the local communities we strive to conserve and restore natural areas for the enjoyment of people and for the beauty and protection of the land for all inhabitants, plants and animals.

We hope that local City Councils along the South Coast will join us in conserving and restoring natural areas like the Johnson Creek Greenway. Future generations will reap the benefits of your dedicated support to this natural area within the lovely city of Bandon, Oregon.

On behalf of the South Coast Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, I encourage the City of Bandon to continue to restore and keep

Johnson Creek Greenway as the natural coastal marine prairie it once was.

Thank you,

Gail Perrotti
President
South Coast Chapter, Native Plant Society of Oregon

July 7, 2024

Dear Mayor Schamehorn and City Council Members:

This letter is being sent in support of maintaining Johnson Creek Greenway as a natural area. A few of the many benefits in doing so insures:

Filtering runoff from nearby housing developments (currently 200 homes and growing) thus protecting and improving water quality.

Capacity to store floodwaters and maintain surface water flow during dry periods.

Protection and enhancement of habitat for plants, pollinators, wildlife, birds, fish, and aquatic life.

Providing the citizens of and visitors to Bandon a quiet natural oasis within walking distance.

Protection of endangered coastal, wetland prairie environment.

Maintaining much needed public public park land in Bandon.

My home borders on this property and I enjoy it every day. The last few years I have witnessed the return of the indiginess wildlife to their home. My family and I have seen countless deer and turkeys, fox, porcupine, skunks, possum, cougars, egrets, blue herons, hawks, golden eagles, osprey, countless other birds and a nesting pair of bald eagles.

We feel that maintaining Johnson Creek Greenway as it is currently. Both the City of Bandon's Park Master Plan and the Comprehensive Plan show it as a greenway park to be managed as a natural area. It's existence as an accesable natural area contributes significantly to the health and well being of our South Coast envirioment and its residents. As Bandon continues to grow and evolve, Johnson Creek Greenway's contribution will grow remarkably in importance.

Thank You,

Steven Miller

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