



# Yamhill County Parks

*Unique natural, cultural, and historic places where people can enjoy outdoor activities and educational activities.*

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## Inter-Office Memorandum

Date: April 30, 2015  
To: Commissioner Stan Primozych, County Administrator Laura Tschabold  
From: Brett Henry, Parks Division Manager  
Subject: Authorization to Add Several Small Descriptors to the Names of Three County Parks  
Attachments (1): November 2014 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Yamhill County Parks is currently requesting permission to make several small changes to three County Park names in an effort to give them a more accurate identity and description of their role within the County Parks system. The proposed changes are as follows:

- (1) Deer Creek Park will now be known as Deer Creek Nature Park
- (2) Stuart Grenfell Park will now be known as Stuart Grenfell Wayside Park
- (3) Lafayette Locks Park will now be known as Lafayette Locks Historical Park

This topic was discussed at the November Parks Board Meeting after a series of field trips to the County Parks. Due to the relative remoteness of these parks each one represents a destination that draws patrons due to their individual character and features. Adding a descriptor to each name will help promote their features and begin our campaign of promoting the County Parks.

Deer Creek Park has a unique wet prairie habitat that the County is working to preserve. Within the park threatened wildlife and plants reside lending the possibility of enhanced nature interpretation. Adding the descriptor "Nature" promotes the park's qualities and gives it purpose as a destination park within the County Parks system.

Stuart Grenfell Park located at the western end of the County is a popular rest stop off Highway 18. During the summer months as beachgoers make their way back from the coast during day trips, it is often the first pit stop on the way back home. Adding the descriptor "Wayside" promotes the park's function and gives it purpose as a destination park within the County Parks system.

Lafayette Locks Park is a popular park for families who reserve the park for birthday parties and picnics but little is known of its historical value. The park is located along the Lower Yamhill River where a dam and locks structure was constructed between 1898-1900 to raise the water level and extend the navigable waterway to allow year-round transportation to McMinnville. Later, the dam structure and lock doors were removed to allow fish migration. Today, the two lock structures remain and represent a significant historical landmark within our County. Adding the descriptor "Historical" promotes the park's heritage and gives it purpose as a destination park within the County parks system.

Please let me know if more information is required or if there are any questions.

Accepted by Yamhill County  
Board of Commissioners on

5.7.15 by Board Order

# 15-128

**Yamhill County Park and Recreation Board**  
***Meeting Minutes***  
**Monday, November 17, 2014**  
**Community Corrections Annex**

Board Members Present: Anne Lane, Jim Culbert, Eric Watt, Ron Nyman, Roger Hall, Zach Geary, Debbra Buerkle

Board Members Absent: Bob Gang, Galen McBee

Guest: Jennifer Hooper from PSU - Intro to Urban Planning Class

Staff: Brett Henry, Kathe Bonfield

<b>NEXT MEETING</b> <b>Monday, December 15, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.</b> <b>Community Corrections Annex</b>
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Eric Watt brought the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the October 2014 minutes; motion carried.*

**Tanglebox awards**

- Tanglebox prizes were presented to the winners present and pictures taken.

**Rogers Landing Boarding Floats Project Update**

- Twenty boarding floats in sections are expected; eight of which have already been delivered. Twelve will be delivered the first week of December.
- The in-water work is scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> through end of January 2015.
- The news media will be advised of the improvement, The State Marine Board has been invited to witness the installation of the floats.

**Deer Creek Park Habitat Conservation Plan Tour**

- The group visited three areas; all on the southwest side of McMinnville.
- The consultant spoke with the staff at Public Works to discuss various ways to improve these habitats.
- They looked at the meadow where the Kincaid's Lupine is growing. It was suggested to remove some of the trees that are shading the far edge of the hill; do something to remove the encroaching blackberry; getting more seed and scattering it at the site to increase the Lupine population.
- The idea is to remove the invasives and cover to allow for more sunshine in that area.

### **Friends of Yamhelas Westsider Trail Annual Meeting**

- Park Board members were invited to attend the Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting at Jakes Deli in McMinnville. Jim and Anne agreed to attend.
- The agenda will be forthcoming which Brett will send out to the Park Board.

### **OPRD Statewide Trails Meeting Summary**

- There were two sessions, a daytime session for public agencies, which Brett and Jayne Mercer (grants writer) attended.
- OPRD is updating their statewide trails map. They are asking for input from local agencies.
- There was a presentation outlining some of the criteria being used to rank the statewide regional trails, water trails, and scenic waterways.
- A poll was sent to all local agencies within the state. Some of the results of the poll were shared with participants.
- Ranking criteria could involve: activities, natural environment, signage, trash receptacles, etc.
- There was a trails map which did not include the Yamhelas Westsider Trail; but has now been added.

### **Willamina Land Donations Update**

- City of Willamina has approached Yamhill County to look at three parcels of property to become county parks.
- Brett will be meeting with this group, along with Ted Smietana
- Maps will be provided at the meeting.
- The three locations are all around the City of Willamina. One location is the old mill which is a potential site for overnight camping.

### **County Transportation Planning Meeting**

- Meeting has been cancelled and rescheduled for sometime in December.

### **Re-Naming Parks**

- Suggested names include: Deer Creek Nature Park, Lafayette Locks Historical Park, Stuart Grenfell Wayside Park.
- The Board of Commissioners will need to formally approve any name changes.
- Signage and brochures will be changed as needed.
- *A motion was made and seconded to recommend the above name changes to the Board of Commissioners, motion carried unanimously.*

### Planning Subcommittee Meeting Report from 11/14/14

- This group has met with Casey Rich from Partners for Parks.
- Discussion included getting active stakeholders within Partners for Parks involved in the fundraising aspect.
- Casey has agreed to attend the December meeting. Casey will contact the other members of Partners for Parks to see if they wish to attend as well.
- Partner for Parks has 501c3 status.
- Debbra started an outline for an updated Master Plan, but questioned the validity of creating a plan without any specific tie-in to the Parks budget. Debbra is asking for guidance in this regard.  
Brett and the Board said they think it would be best to have funding for the Master Planning process and to involve Partners with Parks in that potential project.
- Debbra also suggested other possible stakeholders/partners, e.g. libraries, schools, and park and recreation departments to approach.

### Park Board Meeting Time

*A motion was made and seconded to change the Park Board meeting time to 5:30 – 7 pm.*

### Park Board Vacancies

- As of February 2015 there will be five vacancies on the Park Board.
- Members discussed various ways to address the issue.
- Anne Lane will email Brett a blurb to send to the News Register to recruit new members
- Brett will post on Parks Facebook page and the County website

Meeting adjourned.

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