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ONE DOLLAR

PARKS IN ASTORIA THRIVE IN NEW YEAR



Jessica Schleif, left, works with native plants at Tidal Rock last spring.

Katie Frankowicz/The Daily Astorian

Residents have adopted several parks

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

A sunken park in Astoria across the street from the Blue Scorchers Bakery underwent a dramatic transformation last year.

Tidal Rock, home to a historic marker used by mariners, was one of a handful of underused or neglected parks adopted by residents who were concerned the city would sell the land. They decided to take on the care and maintenance of the parks themselves.

Now, a year later, the parks appear to be thriving, said Jonah Dart-McLean, the parks maintenance supervisor.

At the time the adoption agreements were formalized, city councilors hoped they would alleviate some of the burden of caring for acres and acres of parkland.

It's too early to say for sure if all the park adoptions will be a success, or if this is the solution to long-term maintenance at the parks. But, overall, Dart-McLean

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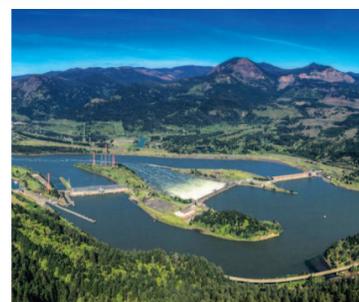


Students evaluate and make repairs at the replica of the historic Custom House in Astoria in 2018.

Clatsop Community College

'I FEEL THERE'S THAT COMMUNITY INTEREST THERE AND I FEEL LIKE IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR TO INTENTIONALLY DEVELOP THE LAND, SHOWING WHAT HAND-TOOL GARDENING CAN OFFER.'

Jessica Schleif, a gardener, artist and Parks Advisory Board member



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

A new bill would ease the requirements for counting hydropower sources like the Bonneville Dam toward the state's renewable energy goal.

Johnson backs new hydropower legislation

More power would count as renewable

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

State Sen. Betsy Johnson has introduced a bill that would ease the requirements for counting hydroelectric power toward the state's renewable energy goals — a move some say would weaken an effort to promote new clean power sources.

The state's renewable portfolio standard, created in 2007 and enhanced in 2016, calls for half of all energy consumed in Oregon to come from renewable sources by 2040.

Utilities that provide at least 3 percent of the state's retail electricity sales — PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric and the Eugene Water and Electric Board — have to meet the renewable portfolio standard.

Cooperatives can purchase renewable energy credits, a lower-cost option for meeting the standard.

The goal is intended to build upon hydropower, which provides more than 40 percent of energy consumed in Oregon, and promote the development of other renewables.

For that reason, only hydroelectric sources outside protected areas that became operational in 1995 or later, were upgraded after 1995 or were certified as low-impact can be counted toward the standard. The requirements leave out much of the hydroelectric energy produced by such sources as Bonneville Power Administration dams.

Senate Bill 508, filed by Johnson on behalf of retired state Rep. Deborah Boone, would delete many of the requirements related to counting hydroelectric power, enabling more hydroelectric energy to go toward the renewable portfolio standard.

Johnson, D-Scappoose, said she is supportive of the bill but deferred questions about it to Boone.

Johnson's bill is identical to legislation introduced by state Sen. Dennis Linthicum, R-Klamath Falls, and state Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner.

Boone, a Democrat who represented the North Coast in the House for 14 years, claims Oregon is technologically behind many other states and countries

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State approves land sale for college

Property was leased at South Tongue Point

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The State Land Board has approved the sale of nearly 22 acres at South Tongue Point to Clatsop Community College for its Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station campus.

The college will pay the state \$826,500 for land on the north side of Liberty Lane it has leased since the 1990s for welding, automotive, maritime science and other career-technical programs. The purchase is funded through the college's plant fund meant

for construction, renovation and acquisition of property.

Ali Hansen, a spokeswoman for the Department of State Lands, said the sale will likely close in the next few months.

The purchase was a requirement for the college to pursue up to \$8 million in state lottery-backed bonds, matched to whatever the college can raise by 2021.

A fundraising consultant recently told the college it could only realistically hope to raise about \$4 million in a capital campaign by the deadline. The college had hoped to raise \$14 million to match with the state bonds and build a new maritime sciences building for its flagship program at an estimated cost of \$22 million.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The land where the Marine and Environmental Research and Training Center Station campus sits will soon be owned by Clatsop Community College.

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