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Fixing the disconnect along the Oregon Coast Trail

The Columbia Press

The state is working on a plan to improve connections along the Oregon Coast Trail.

The trail stretches the entire 362 miles of Oregon coastline, from border to border, offering hikers spectacular coastal vistas, lush forests and recreational opportunities.

Most of the trail is on sandy beaches, with sections of overland trail across headlands, forests, rivers, and through some of the coast's 28 cities.

Unfortunately, about 10 percent of the trail is disconnected, inconvenient, unsafe or inaccessible — mainly where the route requires hiking on the shoulder of Highway 101 or where it follows county roads and local streets.

In Clatsop County, disconnected areas are between Gearhart and Seaside, between Ecola Beach and the city of Cannon Beach, and a small area just north of the tunnel at Arch Cape.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is leading the effort to close the gaps in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, Association of Oregon Counties, and Oregon Solutions at Portland State University.

The plan will identify gaps in the hiking experience and determine actions and funding needed to improve and maintain the trail over time.

The idea is to improve safety, access and convenience.

The parks agency hosted online open houses

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Oregon Coast Trail Gap Analysis Existing Conditions Map North Coast Page 1 of 3

Above: A forested section along the Oregon Coast Trail. **Left:** Three sections that need improvement are in Clatsop County.

Oregon State Parks

Warrenton to sell two surplus properties

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Warrenton city commissioners approved the sale of two pieces of land deemed "better suited to private ownership."

The properties, a .41-acre lot on Galena Street and a 5,000-square-foot commercial parcel at Warrenton Marina, would be sold through the broker hired by the city earlier this year, former City Commissioner Pam Ackley.

The city received unsolicited offers on both properties, City Manager Linda Engbretson told commissioners Tuesday night.

The Galena Street property is vacant and the city will ask \$60,000.

The marina property, at 848 N.E. First Court, also is vacant. It formerly had been leased to a commercial fisherman who'd built a large metal storage building on the site. Upon his retirement in 2008, the fisherman rented it to another fishing operator in violation of the lease.

The metal storage building on the property was stuffed with fishing equipment when it caught fire and burned to the ground in November 2018.

Suggested market value of the marina property is \$45,000.

While the city had arranged a public hearing on the sales Tuesday night, no members of the public spoke on the plan.

Both sales fall below the threshold established in Chapter 11 of the city's charter, which requires a public vote on the sale of assets valued at \$100,000 or more in 2014 dollars

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Cemetery lore grows after discovery of old marker

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Interest in Clatsop County's first cemetery simply won't die after the discovery last month of what appears to be an original artifact — the entry sign carved more than a century ago.

"It has developed a life of its own," City Commissioner Rick Newton said at Tuesday night's commission meeting. Newton found the sign while walking through the abandoned site

near his home with historian Bob Ellsberg and his wife, Claudia.



A portion of the marker found last month at the old cemetery site.

There was speculation about who might have been involved in designing either the abandoned Clatsop County Cemetery or its 1898 replacement, Ocean View Cemetery, which lies directly to the south. Both parcels are within Warrenton's city limits, but owned by the city of Astoria.

While famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted designed Central Park in New York City — and thousands of parks and public areas throughout the country, including

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