

What will parks, trails look like?

Cannon Beach to draft the master plan

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

An improved dory boat launching in Tolovana, a restroom near Haystack Rock and safer transit options for walkers and bikers are among the proposed projects that could be part of Cannon Beach's first parks and trails master plan. After gathering input from residents, a citizens advisory group and the Public Works Department, park planners will draft the master plan by the end of December. After review by the advisory group, the draft could come to the City Council in February.

At an open house last week, residents carefully looked at maps displaying potential plans for future parks and trails. They spoke to park planners and city employees, marked ideas on the maps and placed stickers by proposed projects they considered important.

"We've narrowed things down," said Kirk Anderson,



LYRA FONTAINE/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Options were presented at the city's parks and trails master plan open house.

a city public works employee who is involved in the planning process. "Prioritizing is one more big step."

Otak planner Mandy Flett said identifying priorities early on could help the city meet deadlines and receive funding for projects. There are no cost estimates yet.

Trail projects marked as high priority included a bike and pedestrian route west of Hemlock Street along Pacific, a path under the bridge at Ecola Creek Park and a trail from Elk Run Park to Hemlock Street.

Possible park projects are canoe and kayak launches at Les Shirley Park, Ecola Creek Park and Oxbow and Second Street. Other ideas included NeCus' Park improvements that respect the site's Native American heritage, a bridge below the water-treatment plant to complete the loop, and a better boat ramp for dory launching at Tolovana State Park, with accompanying wheelchair access to wet sand.

Many of the projects can be completed in one to five

years, while others could take up to 10 years.

City parks provide opportunities for interpretive signs on ecology, history, water treatment, archaeology and tsunami preparation, according to the master plan information.

Though not considered a No. 1 priority, a potential plan for a multiuse path parallel to U.S. Highway 101 could connect Tolovana to midtown. The trail would provide a safer and less hilly route for pedestrians and cyclists, separate from traffic on the S-curves.

Another possible project could be converting Tolovana State Park to city ownership, moving its aging restrooms by the beach and making further enhancements.

Tolovana State Park "could be a gem for the city," Otak senior planner Glen Bolen said. "The journey to the beach could be a journey, not just a parking lot."

A small bathroom near the bottom of the stairs leading to Haystack Rock is another possible project that could benefit Haystack Rock Awareness Program volunteers and visitors, Bolen said.

City unanimously adopts housing plan

Housing from Page 1A

The homes would be available for those who make about 70 to 100 percent of the area's median income.

Before purchasing the manufactured homes, the city would have to amend the budget or wait until the new fiscal year in July, Barnes said. Other decisions — management, rent costs, the process of screening applicants, the homes' location within the RV Resort and more — have yet to be made.

Another potential development could take place at the former children's center site in Tolovana.

"If City Council agrees to move forward with the development proposals described, additional analysis, discussion and planning will be needed to move forward thoughtfully with an implementation plan," the report stated.

"I think we're fortunate to have city-owned property that gives us the opportunity to develop projects like this," Councilor Mike Benefield said. "Most cities don't, and they're struggling."

Code amendment recommendations include ensuring that city fees, accessory dwelling units and multifamily housing encourage the development of affordable, long-term rentals. Another option the city could pursue, the report stated, is limiting the growth of short-term rentals through a combination of capping permits, neighborhood-specific regulations and enforcement.

Location concerns

Some who reside by the RV Resort on Elk Land Road and Haskell Lane have concerns about the plan to add park model homes.

"Protecting property values will be directly related to the increased amount of people, traffic flow and types of

buildings erected," Rick Hudson and Laurie Hudson wrote in a letter to the city. "We purchased our home because of its location, its seclusion and its quiet corner of Cannon Beach."

Resident Jan Siebert-Wahrmund said although she has concerns about the potential locations for housing recommended by the report, she will "try to keep an open mind."

Councilor George Vetter expressed concerns about "diminishing" the RV park's value. Barnes said he would provide an analysis on the financial impact the park models could have on the RV Resort.

"We live in a beautiful place," Vetter said. "People are willing to pay a lot of money for property. If we build something or put something up within the area of where these people want to be, the pressure is always there."

He said if affordable housing were placed on the edge or outside the city, "the pressure" would not be there.

The task force is not looking to place affordable housing in "an area set aside that's less than equal to anyplace else in our city limits," Councilor Melissa Cadwallader said. "As a fellow councilor, I find your comments about 'we should be looking at less favorable property to be used,' to not be a good starting point for developing what this task force hoped to develop."

The appointed task force included Duane Johnson of Duane Johnson Real Estate; Todd Johnston, Northwest Oregon Housing Authority executive director; Ken McQuhae, retired engineer and resident; Dave Norstedt, Martin Hospitality vice president of operations; Brandon Ogilvie, a local contractor; Sheri Russell, Columbia Bank branch manager; City Manager Brant Kucera; and council liaison Cadwallader.

Council also approves repeal of moratorium on medical marijuana

Pot from Page 1A

Marijuana retailers will need to meet the city's zoning requirements and have Oregon Liquor Control Commission approval before the city signs the business license, according to City Planner Mark Barnes. Review by the Design Review Board will be required if the applicant's building needs any exterior alterations or if the retailer constructs a new building. Sign permits will also be needed.

In November, slightly more than half of Cannon Beach voters chose not to prohibit recreational marijuana producers, processors, wholesalers and retailers in Cannon Beach. The difference between those who voted "yes" and "no" was nine votes.

The question was put out to voters as a result of a citizen initiative. Resident Jeremy Randolph was head of the

committee that brought the opt-out initiative to the city.

The council also approved a repeal of the city's moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries at its December meeting. The moratorium served as a placeholder for local jurisdictions to pass local time, place and manner restrictions on medical marijuana dispensaries. The moratorium expired in 2014 and staff recommended its repeal

In November, voters shot down a ban on recreational marijuana by only nine votes.

to clean up city code.

The City Council adopted an ordinance in July with time, place and manner restrictions for medical and recreational marijuana busi-

nesses. Cannabis shops will be allowed in three commercial zones: downtown from Ecola Creek south to Washington Street, midtown from Harrison Street south to Elliot Way, and Tolovana Park from Delta Street south to the northern boundary of Sand Castle Condominiums.



FILE PHOTO

Starting Jan. 6, a medical or recreational marijuana facility can be licensed to operate only within the limited commercial zones in downtown, midtown and Tolovana Park.

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