

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Planning should precede any mill site development

The City of Vernonia is talking about developing the old mill site for various purposes. The only development certain at this time, is that the Vernonia Senior Center will be built near the lake parking lot.

Aside from that, projects under discussion include a skills park, irrigation areas for Level 4 (safe) wastewater, RV park, interpretive center, and occasional other ideas. While there is nothing wrong with considering how the area may be utilized, something important is being bypassed.

There is no Master Plan for the site.

The lake and the primitive camping area are well used, but there is no consideration of how those uses will mesh with future projects. Nor has any consideration been given to the wildlife that use the area – deer, rabbits, river otters, water fowl, raptors, song birds and more. Perhaps some “wild space” should be included in planning.

One thing is certain: It is vital that all projects be carefully considered, not just what they are, but how they fit together, whether they are appropriate for the area, whether they have community support, and how they can be accomplished.

The INDEPENDENT has often asked the city council to include maintenance of current assets in planning. Without a master plan for the mill site, it will be very easy to ruin what we now have, while calling it “progress.”

Help, ideas needed for activities

Putting on a community event such as the Salmon Festival, Jamboree or River Fest involves a lot of planning and organizing, work that is done behind the scenes, rarely recognized by people at the event. The same is true for projects sponsored by Vernonia Pride, Vernonia Cares and others.

If you have ideas about any of these community events, whether you think there was too little of something or too much of something, or something that was missing, etc., you could be a valuable asset to that effort. When enough people are involved in putting together an event, less time is required of just a few volunteers. If you're not already involved, why not give it a try?

REMEMBER NOW



... THE NATIONAL TEACHERS BOARD
SAYS THAT A GOOD RECIPE FOR
GOOD GRADES IS)
DO YOUR HOMEWORK
GET PLENTY OF SLEEP
and EAT BREAKFAST!

Rebecca McGaugh
The INDEPENDENT

Where to Find Them

Here is a handy list you can use to contact the elected officials for your district.

US Sen. Ron Wyden (Dem-OR)
700 NE Multnomah St, Suite 450 Portland OR 97232
Phone: 503-326-7525
516 Hart Senate Ofc. Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5244
Website: <http://wyden.senate.gov>

US Sen. Gordon Smith (Rep-OR)
One World Trade Center
121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1250
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: 503-326-3386
Fax: 503-326-2900
404 Russell Senate Ofc. Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-3753
Website: <http://gsmith.senate.gov>

US Rep. David Wu (Dem-01)
620 SW Main, Suite 606
Portland OR 97205
Phone: 503-326-2901
Fax: 503-326-5066
1023 Longworth Building Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-0855
Fax: 202-225-9497
Website: <http://house.gov/wu>

Sen. Betsy Johnson (Dem-16)
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Scappoose, OR 97056
Phone: 503-543-4046
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900 Court St. NE, S-314
Salem, OR 97301
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Rep. Brad Witt (Dem-31)
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Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/witt>

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