

2019 Gearhart Master Parks & Recreation Plan - Pending Grant
Project Summary

September 4, 2019
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Grant amount: \$15,000
City match \$4,000

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD) is recommending approval to the ORPD Commission on September 18, 2019

Purpose: To develop a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Gearhart Urban Growth Boundary, as directed by City Resolution #942 and a 1994 Comprehensive Plan policy stating, "the City will create a master parks and trails plan so that development and maintenance may proceed in an orderly way as funds become available.

Tasks:

- 1). Study the use, facilities, conditions and maintenance needs of existing public park facilities;
- 2). Assess the park needs of underserved neighborhoods, underserved disabled, children and elderly populations; tourists, and the undeveloped areas in the UGB;
- 3). Obtain public involvement to determine the type of public parks facilities desired by Gearhart resident, homeowners, and visitors;
- 4). Coordinate recreational trail planning with trails identified by the Gearhart Transportation System Plan (2015) and the evacuation route planning in the Tsunami Resiliency Plan (2019);
- 5). Review bicycle route plans in the TSP and consider additional routes;
- 6). Assess possible trail connections north of the Ridge Path to Del Rey Road, on Tressel Drive, and to protected public land on the estuary owned by the North Coast Land Conservancy and the City of Seaside.
- 7). Assess methods and develop policy to balance conflicts between the preservation of vegetation and the preservation of scenic views in the oceanfront and estuary dune areas on the west and south sides of the city;
- 8). Identify future sources of funding to implement the plan;
- 9). Develop Comprehensive Plan policies and Zoning development standards to implement the plan, including amending those existing documents accordingly;
- 10). Adopt the Gearhart Parks and Recreation Master Plan as an element of the Comprehensive Plan to assure its effectiveness.

Timeline and steps:

The City estimates 12 – 18 months to develop the plan. The City will receive a Notice to proceed letter within an estimated 60 days of the grant award. The city will work with a park plan consultant or partner to develop a reasonable timeline based on the following process:

- Identify and review existing city documents related to park and recreation planning including the Gearhart Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code, the TSP, the Tsunami Resiliency Plan;
- Develop a citizen involvement plan for the project;
- Complete an inventory and map of existing park and recreation facilities;
- Develop a level of service and needs assessment;

- Develop implementing plan policies, strategies, actions and development standards;
- Develop a Capital Improvement list and identify funding sources;
- Establish public hearing dates, publish legal notices and prepare documents for two to four hearings and adoption.

Public process:

The Gearhart Planning Commission will serve as the base citizen involvement committee because the plan is a top priority goal and they have the skills, interest, continuity and time to do the work. The committee will be expanded to include key constituents such as parents, elderly and disabled representatives. The project will be coordinated with state and local agencies and non-profits including ODOT, Department of Fish and Wildlife, DEQ, the City of Seaside, the Seaside School District, Clatsop County, and the North Coast Land Conservancy.

The City will schedule public informational meetings, city blog, and public notices and correspondence and regular updates to the City Council during the development of the plan. The process will be completed by public hearings on the draft plan, a city staff report and DLCD notice, concluding with the adoption of the plan and implementing policies and standards.