

TRAILS COMMITTEE – Parks and Commons report – December 20, 2018

YIPS! (11-17-2018) – Craig Berdie and Sharon Christensen have been instrumental in recovering and maintaining the Prospect Park. About 10 volunteers assisted them in weeding in the lower portion of the park and in trimming vines along the steps above 3rd and King Streets. Another group of 5 removed a considerable amount of ivy from the area N of 4th Street.

Trails (12/1/2018) – On a cold, windy, and rainy day, 12 volunteers met to make improvements to the Gathering Area adjacent to the Amanda statue and to trim encroaching vegetation along the Trail from Yachats Ocean Road to the Gathering Area. With some time left over, we did some preliminary work on the Urban Forest Trail from the boardwalk to Ocean View Drive.

Suspension Bridge Project – The projected cost of this project is \$300,000. OPRD is requesting from FEMA the full 75% that is federally authorized; the City is still committed to provide \$5,000; View the Future (VTF) has raised over \$28,000; and the Cape Perpetua Foundation is providing \$500. At the time of this report, VTF is still waiting to hear if the County will commit \$15,000 from its Lincoln Land Legacy Program Title III funds. VTF will be submitting a grant application this month to Three Rivers Foundation for \$10,000 and plans to submit additional applications to the Oregon Parks Foundation Fund and the Siletz Tribal Charitable Fund.

Members of both the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians are very supportive of this project. A site visit was made by Miller Engineering which is designing and engineering the bridge. It was determined that about 20 feet of the southern portion needs to extend into Forest Service property. Michele Jones, Waldport Ranger for the SNF, is supportive and, while it will be nice to have SNF as a partner, this will create many more hoops that will likely delay construction.

Urban Forest Trail – We are still waiting for direction from the City about what does or does not need to be done before holes can be dug for fence posts and potential vegetation planting on the City-owned property adjacent to Ocean View Drive.

Gerdemann Botanical Preserve public footpath – Recent high winds caused two large trees to fall across the trail. As of 12/13, they were cleared and the trail is reopened.

The Trails Committee would like to thank outgoing Commission members, Ruth and John. We have enjoyed building a good working relationship with you as Commission members and have appreciated your support. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with John as he assumes the role of Mayor as well as with John Purcell and whoever fills the currently open position on the Commission.

Many thanks to Linda Hetzler and the Drift Inn for ongoing support! After each Trails and YIPS! session, Linda hosts everyone who participated and provides a drink for each of us as well as hors d'oeuvres for all. The conversation and sharing that occur at these get togethers provide a unique opportunity for Trails and YIPS! volunteers to interact in a different setting and help to build a stronger group of volunteers. This kind of support is unique in our experience and is very much appreciated.