

TRAILS COMMITTEE – Parks and Commons report – April 18, 2019

YIPS! (3-16-2019) – We are encouraged by the number of volunteers who participate and by the frequent new faces at our work events. Pulling weeds may not be a particularly glamorous activity but, without our regular forays, the Commons Wetland and the adjacent spruce forest would soon be overrun by invasive weeds. The turnout for the monthly YIPS! session was 21 people, most of whom worked in the Commons Wetland Park. We pulled ivy along the boardwalk leading to 4th St. and dug out blackberry along the edge of the wetland itself. The project to expand the Amanda Gathering area was completed with pulling weeds, laying down garden fabric and hauling chips to cover it.

Trails (4/6/2019) – The scheduled trails work session was canceled due to rain and high winds.

Suspension Bridge Project – VtF did not receive the Spirit Mountain Grant and is waiting to hear about the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund grant. Joanne still intends to submit an application to Travel Oregon when that opens in mid-May. Jesse Dolan, Central Coast Destination Coordinator with the Oregon Coast Visitor's Association, is very supportive and has offered to help with the grant application.

Siuslaw National Forest is donating \$3500 to VtF for the suspension bridge. These funds are from the Trails Box at the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center that is designated for trail development and maintenance at Cape Perpetua. We are very grateful for that generous contribution. To date, VtF has raised approximately \$62,000 of its \$75,000 goal for the suspension bridge.

GPS points have been created and flagged for the new south end of the bridge which is now located off of Forest Service property. Angell Job Corps, OPRD, Michael Hempen representing the P & C Commission, and Joanne attended an onsite planning meeting to discuss taking down and packing out (if feasible) trees in preparation for the bridge construction. It is estimated that 30+ trees will be taken out and more trimmed up or back. The Urban Forestry Program will be starting this month and the Amanda Trail will be closed during the tree removal.

As of the date of this report, Joanne has not heard whether or not plans have been sent out to suspension bridge contractors for estimates. There is still no word yet from FEMA regarding an increase in reimbursement.

National Trails Day (NTD) -- There will be two NTD events this year. At the first one, on the designated NTD, June 1, the Trails crew, SNF staff, and additional volunteers will be working on the Restless Waters Trail at Cape Perpetua to prep it for repaving. At the second, on June 15th, the Trails crew, OPRD staff, additional volunteers, and, perhaps, SNF staff will work on cleaning up and further preparing the Amanda Bridge site for construction. There will be a potluck picnic afterwards at the Commons picnic shelter. A planning meeting for the NTD events took place on Friday, April 12th.

Urban Forest Path – We are ready to install a trails post and a short length of split rail fence at the west end of the path as soon as archeological surveys are completed.