

PARKS AND COMMONS COMMISSION REPORT - APRIL, 2017

Trails Crew - Despite inclement weather on March 4, 10 hardy crew members worked on cutting and filling sections of the Amanda Trail, completing a project which was started in December.

YIPS! - The YIPS! work session for March was cancelled on account of the weather. In April, YIPS! intends to continue working on removal of invasives from the Commons Wetland Park with primary targets being blackberry, ivy, and holly. Progress is being made with the enhancement of the Prospect Garden; we have secured the cooperation of the neighboring property owner who has agreed to attempt to maintain a weed free buffer zone on his side of the park's western boundary. If he cannot afford to do this, he has given permission for YIPS! volunteers to remove invasives in that zone. A problem tree will soon be removed and a low cedar fence will be constructed on that boundary. We will provide the materials and have arranged for a crew from Angell Job Corps to do the construction.

Interpretive Sign Project - The frames, backing, and posts have arrived at Public Works and the actual installation of the signs will be put on their schedule. Joanne will be informed as to when installation will occur on the Ya'Xaik Trail; View the Future 501(c)(3) will pay for the concrete as it did for the signs.

Possible purchase of the Evans-Benz Property - At our last meeting, YTC invited VTF members to speak with us and with Lauralee Svendsgaard, then on the P & C Commission, about the possible acquisition of acreage in the City bordering both sides of the Yachats River. If VTF is successful in acquiring the property and if the City takes ownership of it, the P&C Commission would be involved as a river trail is contemplated on the south side of the river along with a park and kayak launch on the north side.

National Trails Day, June 3 - On May 15, Joanne, along with representatives from OPRD and SNF, will be on radio station KNTP to talk about trail appreciation, NTD, and other City trails and parks events that will occur this summer.

Ridge Trail - Several years ago, the City hired a trail planner to explore the area between the Ya'Xaik Trail on the northern end and the Creekside and Blackstone developments on the southern end; flags were placed at that time to indicate possible routes for a future trail. Recently, several of us walked that route for the first time. Even though such a route seems feasible, planning for a ridge trail is very preliminary at this point in time. Also, in partnership with the Fire Department, we are in the early stage of exploring an evacuation route from King Street to the Ya'Xaik Trail which will connect to the new fire station.

First aid training - On April 26 and 27, YTC leaders and several other volunteers will each receive 4 hours of first aid training from the Yachats Fire Department as part of our ongoing commitment to the safety of our volunteers.

Volunteer hours in April = 75

Volunteer hours in 2017 = 390