

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Members
Patricia Alvarez, Chair
Ronald Woodhead, Vice-Chair
Fran Cordeiro-Settell
Stephanie Hendrickson
Eden Foster
Connie Moczygemba
Deanna Casey



May 16, 2024

6:00 PM

Central Point City Hall, Council
Chambers

140 S 3rd St, Central Point, OR

www.centralpointoregon.gov

10. Meeting Called to Order

20. Roll Call

30. Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of February 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes

40. Changes to Agenda

50. Public Appearances

60. Business

- A. Central Point Cemetery - Signage and Flagpole
Dave Jacob, Park Planner
- B. Central Point - Bear Creek Greenway Master Plan Update
Dave Jacob, Park Planner

70. Updates

80. Upcoming Meeting Date

90. Adjournment

**Central Point Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2024**

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Patricia Alvarez called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Attending: Patricia Alvarez (Chair), Ron Woodhead (Vice-chair), Fran Cordeiro-Settell; Eden Foster, Deanna Casey, Connie Moczygemba
Excused absence: Steph Hendrickson

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Parks and Recreation Commission - Regular Meeting - Nov 2, 2023 6:00 PM

Ron Woodhead moved that the minutes for the November 2 Park and Recreation Commission meeting be approved as presented and Deanna Casey seconded the motion which was approved by all.

IV. CHANGES TO AGENDA: No changes.

V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES: No public appearances.

VI. BUSINESS

A. Central Point - Bear Creek Greenway Master Plan Final Plan Review and Approval (Jacob)

Dave provided an overview of the master plan project which resulted from the 2020 Central Point – Bear Creek Greenway fire. Following the fire, city council directed staff to develop a plan for the area that would limited future wildfire issues, provide for public safety, and restore the area’s natural habitat. Project elements that had been implemented since the wildfire included increased police patrols and an ordinance prohibiting camping on the Greenway. A fire hydrant, fire breaks, and emergency vehicle access point had been added as well.

Shelby Scharen, Scharen Design Studio, and Jane Alexanderr, Arkitek Design and Architecture, provided an overview of the draft master plan. The project site is approximately 50 acres divided into two sections by Bear Creek and would be the largest park in the city. Access is an issue since there is no parking available on site and there is limited access to utilities water and electricity. Parking areas could be placed on the east side near the new Amazon construction and on the west side in the private properties located just south of the Holiday Inn Express. A concern expressed by the public has been feeling safe on the site. Design takes this into consideration by allowing for increased visibility and adding organized activities in order to increase public use. Shelby provided an overview of the elements of the master plan. Jane

Alexanderr provided information on the potential bridge design, creek access area and other elements. An important piece of this project will be restoration of the area using primarily native plants. Shelby reviewed the phased construction which would initially focus on the west of Bear Creek.

Dave requested that the Park and Recreation Commission forward the Central Point – Bear Creek Master Plan to City Council with a recommendation to approve. We expect the City Council to review and approve the Master Plan Resolution at their March or April meeting. If approved, a second contract with Scharen Design Studio for construction and bid documents would be signed with the documents completed by May 2025. Construction and restoration would begin 2025-27 depending on availability of Urban Renewal Funds and grants.

Patricia opened the meeting to public comments:

Dan Van Dyke, ODFW: Mr. Van Dyke is the district fish biologist with ODFW and had toured the site with staff and consultants. This is a huge opportunity to setting the course for improved fish habitat for generations to come. Riparian stewardship and restoration need to be written into the master plan. A fifty-foot buffer needs to be established on Bear Creek and all tributaries. This needs to be done because the creeks provide salmon and steelhead habitat and spawning areas.. Hot temperatures are become more prevalent and we need restoration and increased shade to counter this condition. Restoration will also benefit the 130 bird species that reside on the creek. Trees will also provide food for the beaver population that reside in this reach of the creek. Dead trees are important for habitat and for creating stream habitat when they fall into the creek. Mr. Van Dyke also supported the idea of pollinator garden on the site. Salmon and steelhead populations are recovering on Bear Creek but we need to continue to restoration activities in order to maintain this momentum.

Frances Oyung, Rogue Riverkeepers Program Manager: The Rogue Riverkeepers are advocates for clean water. Ms. Oyung said that this will be an amazing park when complete but wants to reiterate the vital issues related to this project. Bear Creek is a threatened because of high water temperatures and degraded riparian habitat. Frances agreed that we need to write in a long-term stewardship commitment into the master plan and reminded the commission that this is a forever forest that the city is creating and it needs to be managed as such. One element that has the most negative impact in these areas is not leaving dead material such as trees, limbs, and twigs on the ground. The north pond is habitat for western pond turtles which are being proposed for listing as threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If we alter the habitat, it may negatively impact the turtle's ability to reproduce because they have very specific needs when it comes to types of soil and grasses needed for nesting and egg laying. There is also a lot of pavement throughout the park including new proposed parking areas. Runoff from these areas may contain the chemical 6PPD-quinone which is found in tires. This chemical is known to kill Coho salmon. By treating the runoff onsite before it reaches the creeks the chemical can be safely removed. Remember that a functioning flood plain is critical to the creeks and gravel is critical to spawning salmon.

Jim Andras, Andras Outfitters: Mr. Andras is a fishing guide on the Rogue River and said that he agreed with the statements of Dan and Frances. He approves of the idea connecting people with

nature but also agrees that adding the stewardship element to the plan is critical to improving habitat, water quality, and ultimately wild steelhead and salmon populations.

Dan Bish, Plant Oregon: Mr. Bish said that his firm had been contracted with by the Freshwater Trust to implement the restoration work on the city's section of Bear Creek. A lot of the work so far has been cleanup of old mechanical damage. 7000 native trees and shrubs will be planted and an irrigation system installed. Mr. Bish said that he would like to have input on project design as soon as possible.

Killian Yates, resident: Mr. Yates ask about the Safe Harbors that had recently been approved by city council and the 50-foot riparian planting zone used for the Freshwater Trust project. Matt said that the Safe Harbor program would provide a 50 foot riparian buffer for all streams within the city. Mr. Yates also asked about the impact of the proposed pump track. Matt said that since this would be located above the floodplain it would have no negative impact on the streams. Also the city's MS4 permit requires treatment of all runoff on site prior to reaching any creeks. The expectation is that only a small amount of new hardscape would be added to the park site. Matt said that that the Park Commission could certainly add a stewardship element as a part of forwarding the master plan to city council.

The following public comments were received via email as of February 14, 2024 and are unedited:

Hi Dave,

I looked at the Greenway Master Plan this morning (followed the link in the Rogue Valley Times) and have a couple of comments. But first, thank you for pulling this together. It must have been a lot of work. I am really looking forward to seeing the area restored and enhanced.

I think the success of features like the pump track and mountain bike skills track will depend quite a bit on whether there is access for children that is safe from traffic so they can ride their bikes there without always having to be taken by parents in the car.

We had an assessment from Fire District 3 recently about wildfire hazard on our property. They specifically mentioned conifers as being a poor choice for landscaping because they catch fire easily from vegetation underneath them and also from large flying embers.

Thanks again for your work
Katy Mallams

* * * * *

February 9, 2024

I will be attending the CP Bear Creek Greenway Master Plan Design Review Public Meeting on 2/15.

Some of us in the restoration/conservation realm have some concerns and want to make sure that issues related to the riparian area are prioritized.

- The importance of maintaining a multi-story, multi-species riparian area including a long-range plan to do so.
- Clear understanding on the part of the City of the riparian rules they will follow. Even if a known contractor is handling the planting, it is the responsibility of the city to provide oversight to ensure compliance to the riparian rules.
- The understanding that much of the area included in the master plan has the potential for a high ecological value for aquatic and riparian species and should be managed and maintained as such.
- We appreciate the intent to include riparian restoration for the sections of Elk Creek (and maybe Lone Pine Creek?) in the plan. Thank you for your engagement on Bear Creek issues. -

Frances Oyung (she/her)
Program Manager
Rogue Riverkeeper
office: 541-488-9831 ext. 1019

* * * * *

January 27, 2024

All this is going to end up being is a place for homeless people to pitch a tent!
Sent from my iPhone

Ed Bittle

* * * * *

January 23, 2024

Good morning,
I don't want to be a critic of the new park, I think it could potentially be a great thing. However, I envision millions of dollars going into creating this. The issue I have is that until the homeless and transient issues are solved, it will just be a waste of taxpayer dollars because families will not want to use it out of fear. Usually parks tend to attract the homeless so I would love to more about a plan to keep the park safe so that mom and dads, and just people in general, feel safe going there, especially with their children.

I'm sure this has all been talked about, and it's all in the beginning stages, but just my initial concerns reading about the park. I think it's wonderful the city is trying to be proactive about preventing future wildfire, but the transient and homeless issues are still very much a problem in this area and I don't want my tax dollars being wasted.

Thanks for your consideration,

Angela, Central Point Resident

* * * * *

Patricia asked if there were any other comments from the commission. Eden requested that the commission add a stewardship element so that long-term management of the area would be a part of the master plan. Dave said he could add this element to the draft resolution. ***Eden moved that the Park and Recreation forward the Central Point – Bear Creek Master Plan to Central Point City Council with the recommendation to approve with the inclusion of a long-term stewardship plan for the riparian area. Deanna seconded the motion. The commission approved the motion.***

B. Oregon Recreational Immunity Update: Dave reported that the Oregon Public Use of Lands Act of 1963 had written into law the concept of recreational immunity which provided limited liability for landowners who allow their property to be used for recreational purposes. For example, if a person using a Central Point Park was injured using that facility that was not related to negligence on the part of the city, the city would more than likely be protected from liability. A recent court case, Field v. City of Newport, had seriously impacted this concept. In this case, a woman walking on a city footbridge had slipped breaking her leg. She sued the city for damages. A summary judgement held in favor of the city stating that the city was protected by recreational immunity. The case was appealed to the Oregon Court of Appeals who held that walking was not a “recreational” use so recreational immunity would not apply in this case. The city appealed the ruling to the Oregon Supreme Court. The court declined to review. Therefore, the case was remanded back for a full jury trial.

The impact of this ruling was immediate in that recreation immunity for owners of improved trail effectively ended. Central Point has responded to this issue by documenting all park improvements and completing an inventory and prioritization of maintenance needs. The Oregon Senate Bill SB 1576-3 would expand recreational immunity to include walking, running and bicycling. This would provide a short-term fix for the issue. Dave suggested that he could draft a letter for the Commission supporting the legislation. ***Ron moved that staff draft a letter stating the Park and Recreation Commission’s support for Senate Bill SB 1576-3 and also supporting a long-term fix for this issue. Eden seconded the motion which was approved by all.***

VII. UPDATES

Central Point Little League Fields: Matt reported that costs for restoring the Little League Fields has increased beyond the funds that are currently available. In discussion with city council, the decision was made to phase the project so that three fields would be improved initially with other fields done at a later date. Adjustments would be made to size the fields as well. Bids would be sought for construction this spring. If the bids came in too high, park maintenance crews may take on some of the field construction work. A concession stand and restroom would be a part of this initial phase. If bids are acceptable work would begin after June 1 and be completed by February next year.

Community Center: Adroit Construction has been hired to build the facility but the county and city are still working on the revising the costs of the facility which needs to be in the \$50 million range with a \$5 million contingency. Once these estimates have been reviewed by two construction cost estimators and meet financial criteria, the project will move forward. If they don't meet estimated cost design changes may be required. Current expectation is that the facility would open by spring 2026. Rogue X has provided good information on what has worked and what hasn't in their facility. Matt invited commission members to attend an upcoming tour of the Rogue X facility.

Flanagan Park Tennis Court/Pollinator Garden: Dave reported that he had developed a rough design for the for the replacement tennis/basketball court and said that he would send it out for review prior to the next commission meeting. The site for the pollinator garden had changes since the original discussion took place. The new proposed site would be located near the entrance of the park. Shooting Star Nursery had created a design for the garden and provided a plant list. As with most projects, costs were higher than expected with total for site preparation, irrigation, and plants costing approximately \$20,000. The Parks and Recreation Foundation had committed \$5000 to the project and the rest would be raised through small grants. Goal would be to complete the project next fall. Volunteers would assist with planting and maintaining the garden.

Robert Pfaff Park: Matt said that the bid opening for replacing the electrical system will take place next week. Dave was working on a Oregon Parks and Recreation Local Government Grant proposal to fund replacement of the 2-5 year old playground. Total cost for the project was \$208,000. Grant would cover 60% of the cost and if approved the project would implemented in the fall of 2025.

Central Point Cemetery: The Central Point Cemetery Improvement Committee which is a standing committee of the Parks and Recreation Foundation has raised over \$50,000 for cemetery projects. Their first project was to fund long overdue tree maintenance work which cost nearly \$28,000. The next project would be installation of a flagpole onsite. A volunteer cemetery cleanup is schedule for Saturday, May 18 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Other volunteer projects include a husband and wife team who are ground truthing all the existing cemetery records to ensure that they are accurate. Another volunteer has completed a survey of headstones to prioritize repairs and restoration activities.

My Veteran/My Hero Tribute Tree Program: We have heard from five folks who are interested in donating trees for the program.

Special Events: Nikki reported that Community Christmas was very successful. The Eggstravaganza would be held on March 30th, Earth Day Celebration on April 22nd, and Made in Southern Oregon on May 11th.

Recreation Programs: Winter/Spring recreation guide is out and classes are going very well. The just finished delivering over 2000 Valentine cards.

VIII. UPCOMING MEETING DATE

Thursday, May 16, 2024

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Patricia adjourned the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.



DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

MEETING DATE: May 16, 2024

STAFF CONTACT: Dave Jacob, Park Planner

SUBJECT: Central Point Cemetery - Signage and Flagpole

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND:

The Central Point Cemetery Improvement Committee has raised over \$50,000 to support needed work on the cemetery. For their first project, the committee provided \$23,000 for needed tree maintenance. This project was completed in March of this year. For their next project, the committee would like to add a 40' flagpole to the cemetery. The cost for adding this element will be approximately \$15,000. Additionally, the parks department will install new signs for the cemetery. Staff is seeking input and approval for adding the flagpole and locations for the pole and new cemetery signs.

ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:

1. Cemetery Map with Proposed Sign and Flagpole Locations
2. Central Point Cemetery Sign Design

CENTRAL POINT CEMETERY

ESTABLISHED 1868

La Clinica del Valle
Health Care Center



Central Point Cemetery
New Signs & Flagpole Locations
May 16, 2024

Existing Block
with survey number

Block that could exist
but no surface
evidence

4900 Hamrick Road
Central Point, OR 97502

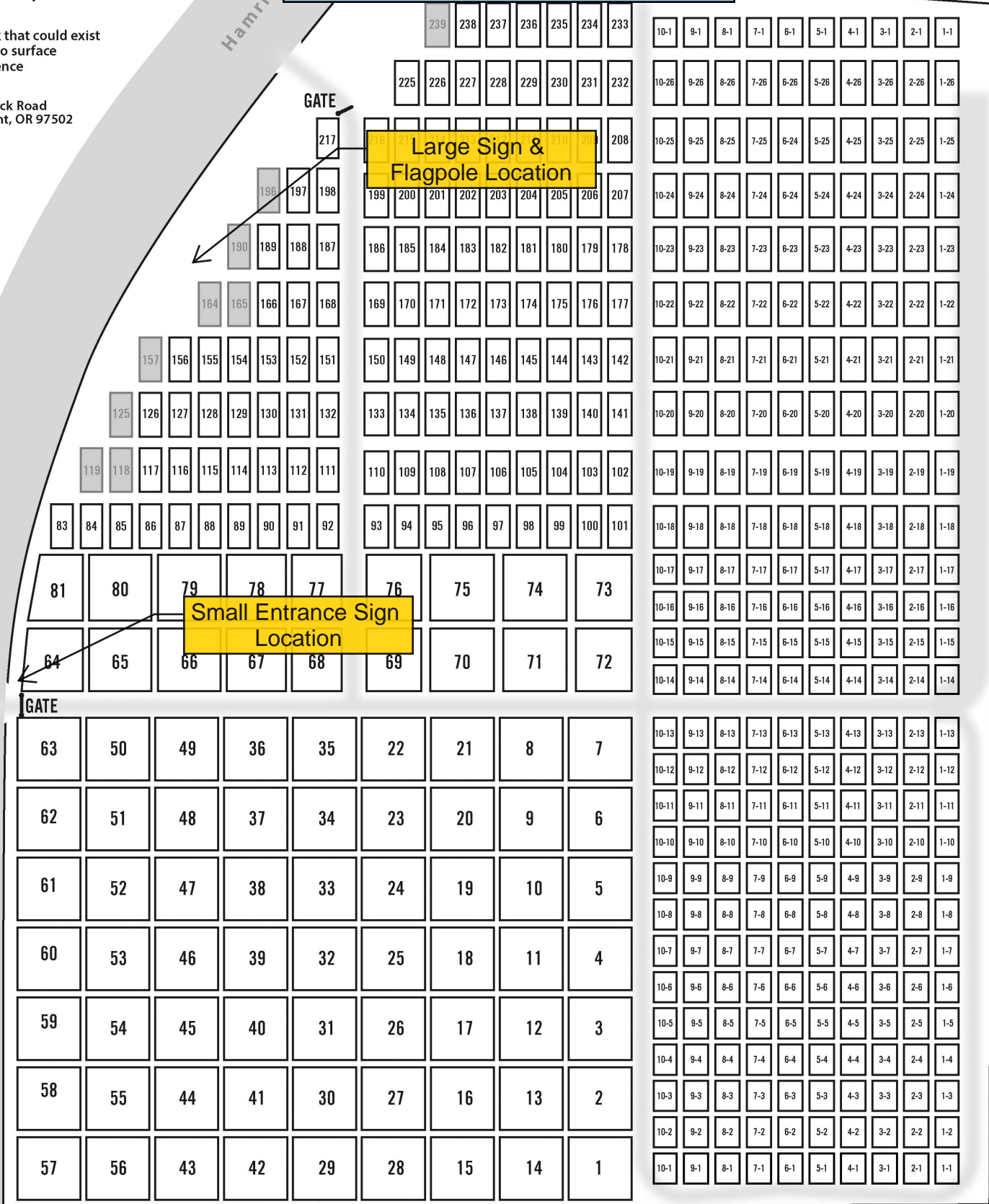
Hamrick

GATE

Large Sign &
Flagpole Location

Small Entrance Sign
Location

GATE

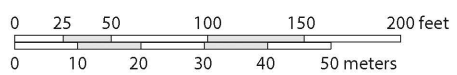


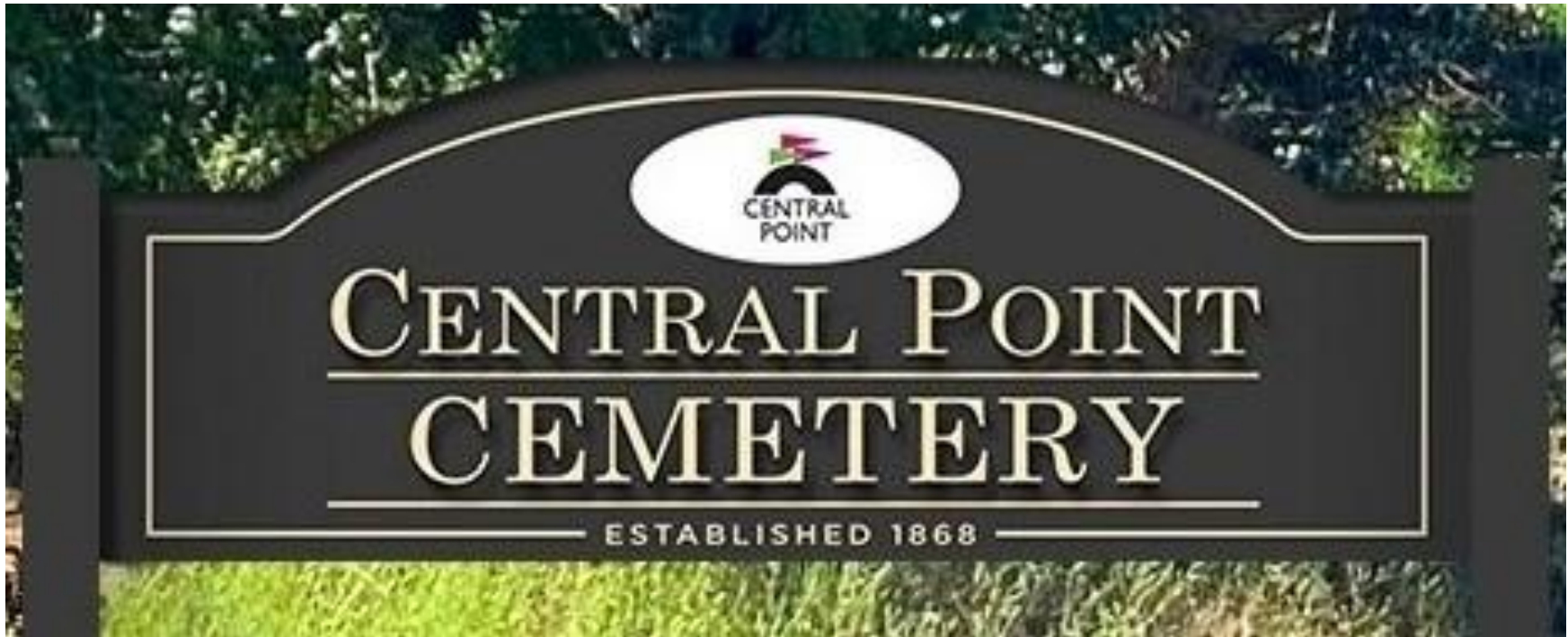
North Mountain Ave



Dave Jacob
140 S. Third St, Central Point, OR 97502
541-423-1012
dave.jacob@centralpointoregon.gov

Original (Pioneer) Cemetery is 1 to 72 (southwest section)
1st Addition is 73 to 251 (northwest section)
2nd Addition is 1-1 to 10-26 (east section)
3rd Addition is 1-1 to 1-10 (far northeast section)





Central Point Cemetery Sign Design



DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

MEETING DATE: May 16, 2024

STAFF CONTACT: Dave Jacob, Park Planner

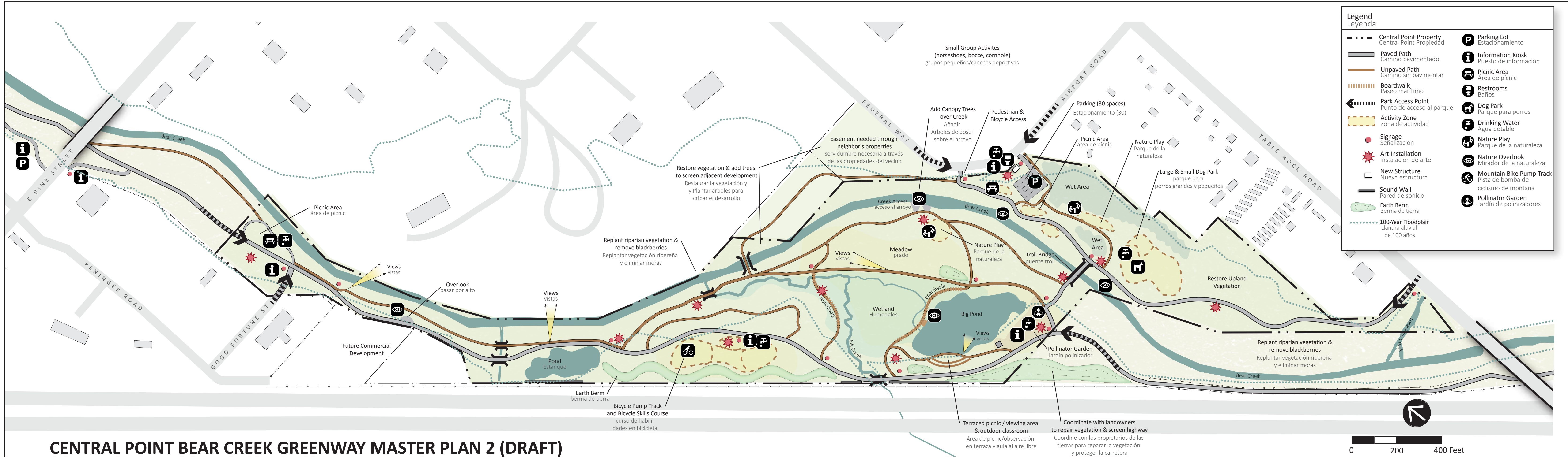
SUBJECT: Central Point - Bear Creek Greenway Master Plan Update

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND:

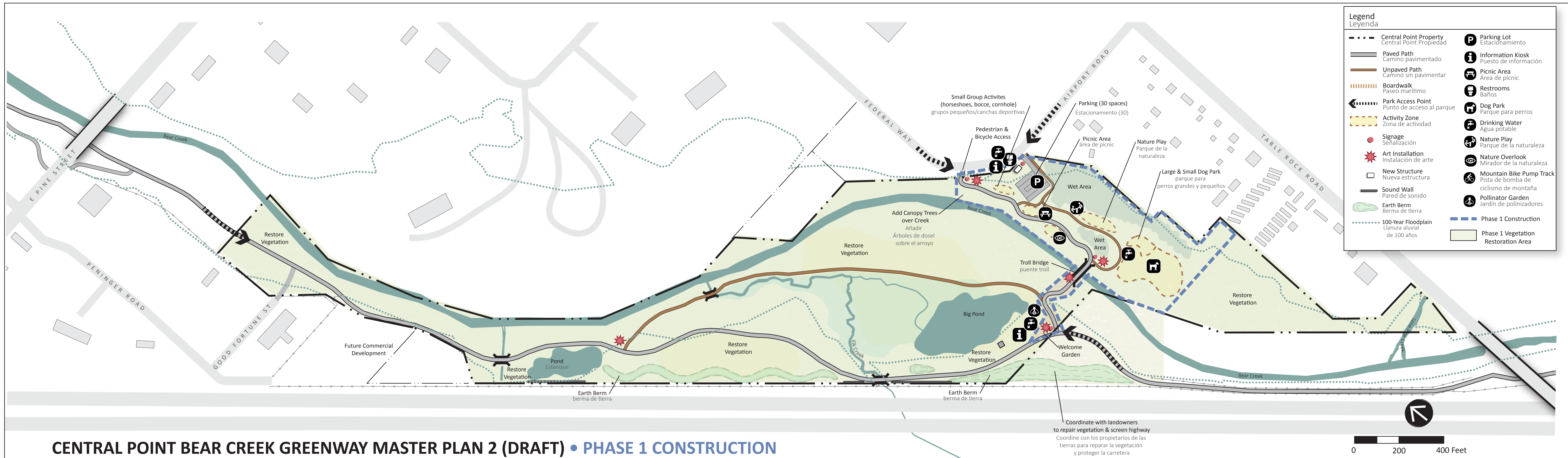
The Park and Recreation Commission was presented with a "final" version of the Central Point - Bear Creek Greenway Master Plan at the February 15 meeting. The commission forwarded the plan to the city council with a recommendation to approve. Since that meeting, staff and our consultant, Scharon Design Studio, have had to make revisions to the plan. This is primarily due to the unexpected high cost of purchasing private property for an onsite parking area. Since this is the case, the Master Plan will be revised and brought back to the commission at their August 15th meeting for final review and sent to city council in September or October for final approval. Staff will provide a draft updated plan and a revised resolution for discussion.

ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:

1. GREENWAY MASTER PLAN-2 4-12-24
2. Greenway- east side layout
3. RESOLUTION NO _____ Approving Central Point - Bear Creek Greenway Master Plan 2-5-24



CENTRAL POINT BEAR CREEK GREENWAY MASTER PLAN 2 (DRAFT)



CENTRAL POINT BEAR CREEK GREENWAY MASTER PLAN 2 (DRAFT) • PHASE 1 CONSTRUCTION



**CENTRAL POINT
BEAR CREEK GREENWAY**

**ACREAGE FOR PHASE 1 (URBAN RENEWAL AREA)
MARCH 22, 2024**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CENTRAL POINT – BEAR CREEK GREENWAY
MASTER PLAN AND THE CREATION OF A LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP PLAN FOR
THE NEW PARK SITE**

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the City of Central Point recognizes the importance of promoting sustainable and accessible recreational opportunities for its residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Central Point - Bear Creek Greenway Master Plan has been developed as a comprehensive strategy to restore the natural habitat of and develop recreational opportunities on the Central Point – Bear Creek Greenway with the goal of fostering public safety, environmental stewardship, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the Central Point - Bear Creek Greenway Master Plan and finds it aligns with the city's goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan has undergone a public review process, providing opportunities for community members and stakeholders to provide input, resulting in a plan that reflects the diverse needs and desires of the Central Point community; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Central Point - Bear Creek Greenway Master Plan will enable the City to seek funding opportunities, grants, and partnerships to implement the proposed restoration activities and recreational improvements outlined in the plan;

WHEREAS, it is essential to ensure the long-term ecological sustainability and maintenance of the Central Point - Bear Creek Greenway.

The City of Central Point resolves as follow:

Section 1: The City Council supports the Central Point – Bear Creek Master Plan (2024), including the development of a long-term stewardship plan to ensure the ongoing maintenance and ecological sustainability of the future park. The plan is adopted as guidance for future City planning, management and financing efforts related to the Bear Creek Greenway park.

Section 2: This resolution shall be effective following its adoption by the City of Central Point City Council.

Passed by the Council and sign by me in authentication of its passage this
_____ day of _____, 2024

Mayor Hank Williams

ATTEST:

City Recorder