



Linn County Parks



NEWSLETTER

What's happening at Linn County (Oregon) Parks May 2021

Welcome to Linn County Parks 2021!

Welcome back to another great recreation season in Linn County!

On behalf of the Linn County Parks Commission and all of the Parks Department staff, I would like to thank you for visiting and we hope that you enjoy your stay. While you are here, we hope you take advantage of the many events, activities and beautiful places that Linn County has to offer.

This past year has been a remarkable mix of highs and lows for Linn County Parks. The start of the COVID-19 pandemic led to a complete shutdown of all overnight camping facilities in the County, which was certainly one of the lows.

However, when we were able to reopen

Brian Carroll

*Parks
Director*



overnight recreation facilities in May of 2021, visitation immediately skyrocketed, as people could not wait to get outside. It was exciting to see so many Oregonians flocking to Linn County's parks to take advantage of all the beautiful outdoor recreation opportunities we have.

While we saw record numbers of visitors all summer long, it all came to an end on Labor Day weekend. We were devastated by the tragedy of the September wildfires, which once again closed our recreation facilities. Linn County Parks was fortunate that through all of the wildfires they did not damage any of our parks or developed recreation facilities.

As we worked through the winter clean-up, Linn County Parks Staff planned for and made many improvements to the county parks, which we hope you will all enjoy in 2021.

Brian Carroll — See Page 5

New playground ready for fun at Waterloo

WATERLOO — Children have a new playground to enjoy at Waterloo County Park, thanks to a caring mother and the Linn County Parks Department work crew.

Rachel Maynard of Crawfordsville took her two young sons to the park a couple years ago and she was dismayed seeing how someone had vandalized the equipment.

Maynard contacted the parks department and the news wasn't new to Parks Director Brian Carroll.

Playground — See Page 4

Linn County Parks employees put finishing touches on the new playground at Waterloo County Park.



To make campsite reservations, visit www.linnparks.com/ or call 541-967-3917

Tristan Davis

**Operations
Supervisor**



May is a month of transition for our department.

We are shifting our focus from capital projects and maintenance to gearing up for our summer operations with our high guest visitation. With what we have been seeing so far this spring we are anticipating being really busy as we move into summer.

This month we have a lot of smaller projects that we have been working on over the winter months that we are trying to button up before summer.

The staff has been working hard on building a stair case down to Thomas Creek at our newest park, Bilyeu Den (pronounced blue den).

Bilyeu Den is in the Scio area along Thomas Creek off of Hwy 226.

The hope is to have that work completed by early May and ready for the public to enjoy the water access there.

We have completed the new playground at Waterloo. We also completed a covered area next to the playground where parents can sit in the shade and watch their children play. We are just finishing the installation of security cameras for the playground and they are live.

We have been focusing some effort on a couple of areas around Green Peter. We have started some prep work at Moose Creek on Quartzville Road. We are developing that area into a group camping area. We are targeting having that area ready by Memorial Day weekend.

We are also working on a plan to reopen the boat-in camping at Upper Whitcomb Creek on Green Peter. Sanitation is our biggest challenge when it comes to the boat-in camping there. We are pursuing a couple of ideas to resolve the issues surrounding that. We are hoping to have something in place for this summer.

We are also doing some work to the Sunny Side B-loop.

We are anticipating having that done by memorial day. We are converting the "B" loop into two, 11-site group areas.

The staff has been busy preparing parks to open for the season. John Neal and Whitcomb Creek opened on April 16th. Cascadia and the USFS campgrounds will open on May 7.



Rocky Top group camping site coming to Green Peter-Quartzville

The Linn County Park Department has received permission from the US Army Corps of Engineers to operate a new group campsite along Quartzville Road.

The overnight site will be named the Rocky Top Bridge Group Camp. The Parks Department is taking reservations for the new group campsite which is on the Quartzville arm of Green Peter Reservoir, adjacent to Moose Creek.

The site will accommodate 8 to 10 RV units depending on the size of the RVs and will have a capacity of approximately 80 people. The Rocky Top Bridge Group Camp will have limited development this summer, but the county plans to make improvements in late 2021 and early 2022.

The group camp cost is \$150 per night and will have the following site amenities: eight picnic tables, a large group fire ring and a vault toilet. No potable water is currently available on the site.

To make a reservation contact the Linn County Parks Department at 541-967-3917.



To make campsite reservations, visit www.linnparks.com/ or call 541-967-3917

Meet River Bend Park Ranger Kade Pulliam

Kansas native loves his job and Oregon's beauty

FOSTER — It took River Bend County Park Ranger Kade Pulliam a while to figure out what his college major at Kansas State was going to be.

He started off in computer engineering, then switched to biology and ended up graduating with a degree in parks management.

And Pulliam, who grew up on a farm/ranch near Anthony, Kansas — about an hour southwest of Wichita — could not be happier.

“I love my job,” Pulliam said. “I enjoy working with all of the people who use the park and helping them as a public service.”

Pulliam grew up working on his family farm, where they grow wheat, and raise a couple hundred head of crossbred Simmental-Angus cows.

Pulliam graduated from Chapparral High School in 2006 and it took him a decade to finish his college degree because he worked and paid his way a little at a time.

He moved to the Lyons area in 2016, staying with extended family, and responded to a help wanted ad by Linn County Parks.

“I was hired as a seasonal ranger at Waterloo County Park in 2016,” Pulliam said. “I needed to finish my degree, so after the season, I went back to Kansas and finished up.”

He came back to Oregon in 2017 and has



Kade Pulliam has been the ranger at River Bend County Park since 2017.

worked for Linn County Parks at River Bend ever since.

“I really love this park,” Pulliam said. “It is so beautiful. The trees provide seclusion for the campsites. It’s a family-oriented campground and there is so much to do in the area, from the river to the area trailheads.”

Pulliam said the campground has a

“very natural” feel, yet it is only a few miles from Sweet Home, so people can easily run into local grocery stores or gas stations.

Pulliam said he and his staff are gearing up for a busier-than-usual camping season.

“Our reserved camping sites are booked from March through October,” Pulliam said. “We have 13 first-come, first-served sites.”

Pulliam said yurts have proven very popular. There are three now and he thinks the long-term plan is to convert the five remaining tent sites into yurts.

“We’re not a tent-camping campground,” Pulliam said. “Most folks bring RVs here.”

Kade Pulliam — See Page 6

Name: Kade Pulliam
Age: 33
Occupation: River Bend County Park Ranger
Family: son, Brantley Kase Pulliam, 4 months
Education: Chaparral High School, Kansas, 2006; Kansas State University, 2017
Hobbies: disc golf, landscaping, gardening, gaming

Campfire Cookin'



**Cast iron
beans and
hot dogs**

Ingredients

Canola oil for grill grate

1 tbsp. olive oil

1 small onion, diced

1 (15 oz.) can small white beans, rinsed

4 plum tomatoes, chopped

2 cloves garlic, chopped

2 tsp. molasses

Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper

2 tsp. red wine vinegar

2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

6 hot dogs

6 hot dog buns

Ketchup, mustard, relish

Cooking directions

Set up grill for direct and indirect cooking and heat to medium. Once hot, clean and lightly oil grates with canola oil. Heat olive oil in a 9-inch cast-iron skillet over direct heat. Add onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, 2 to 4 minutes. Add beans, tomatoes, garlic, and molasses. Season with salt and pepper. Transfer skillet to indirect heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tomatoes break down, 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in vinegar and Worcestershire. Grill hot dogs over direct heat, turning occasionally, until warmed through, 5 to 6 minutes. Grill buns, if desired. Serve hot dogs in buns with beans, ketchup, mustard, and relish alongside.



Photo courtesy Scott Swanson

Linn County Parks and Recreation Commission member Rachel Maynard was instrumental in development of the new playground at Waterloo County Park.

Waterloo Park playground ... From P. 1

Repairs were extensive and expensive, Carroll said. The vandals had broken several panels on the equipment and punched holes in the slides.

Maynard linked up with other concerned parents and Carroll said the county's 3% transient lodging tax could be used to purchase new equipment.

Maynard began researching equipment and working with others to develop a playground design.

"I did a questionnaire with a bunch of people in the community to see what was important to them in a playground," Maynard said. "Slides? Things to climb on?"

She also organized some fundraisers, including a hot dog feed sponsored by her Heritage Northwest real estate office.

Armed with the results of that survey, she started "hammering down," shopping for the right set-up, she said.

"My oldest son Zach was 6, my youngest was 4, but I knew it was important for older kids to enjoy as well as young-

er. The one we picked out is designed for kids ages 2 through 12, with different bridges, several different slides," Maynard said.

Maynard did such a good job, she was asked to serve on the Linn County Parks and Recreation Commission. She accepted the challenge.

The Parks Department had hoped to have the new playground up and running by last summer, but it was delayed several

months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$100,000-plus project came to fruition in November. It also features "security measures" to guard against future vandalism.

"The people doing the destruction, what they don't realize is that it's the kids that are losing," Carroll said. "Once it's unsafe, we can't allow it to be used. Hopefully, people will take care of it and know it's important to the community."

Maynard said the finished product exceeded her expectations.

"It's huge. It's great. It's going to be so much fun for the kids," Maynard said.

What: Waterloo County Park playground ribbon cutting

When: 1 p.m., May 6

To make campsite reservations, visit www.linnparks.com/ or call 541-967-3917

Brian Carroll ... From Page 1

If you are planning on camping or having a group function at any of Linn County's parks during this busy time, we strongly suggest that you make your reservations as soon as possible because dates are filling up quickly.

Linn County offers visitors a full spectrum of camping recreation experiences from the active water sports on Foster Reservoir all the way to quiet, beauty of Clear Lake Resort, high in the Cascades on the Willamette National Forest.

All Linn County Parks provide visitors with a wonderful opportunity to access and camp close to some of the most beautiful backcountry areas in the Oregon Cascades. You can make reservations for the following U.S. Forest Service Campgrounds: Trout Creek, House Rock, Longbow, Fernview and Lost Prairie campground by calling 877-444-6777 or by visiting www.recreation.gov.

This year we have also made, or are making, some additions and improvements to several of our parks that you might like to be aware of. The biggest changes are occurring in the Quartzville area, around Green Peter Reservoir, where we are working to follow through with projects outlined in our Green Peter-Quartzville Corridor Recreation master plan, prepared with the Corps of Engineers.

Upper Whitcomb Creek Boat-in Camp Area: We are currently working to reopen one of the older areas of Whitcomb Creek County Park, which is only accessible to the public by watercraft. We are planning to allow boat-in-camping at the Upper Whitcomb site for the summer of 2021 and then redevelop the site making improvements that will include yurts, restrooms and formal campsites over the winter of 2021-22.

Quartzville Creek Group Camp: This group area is located on the Quartzville arm of Green Peter Reservoir above the Rocky Top Bridge, near Trout Creek. Over the course of the last few years, Linn County Parks has allowed overnight



group camping at this site by making reservations at www.LinnParks.com or calling our office at 541-967-3917. The site has limited facilities now, but our plan is to develop two formal group campsites, as well as, a dedicated day-use area in 2022. Please see attached Quartzville site plans.

Rocky Top Bridge Group Camp (also known as Moose Creek): Linn County Parks has begun taking reservations

for a new group campsite in the Quartzville Recreation Corridor. Please see related article for details.

Clear Lake: Remodeling and improvements at the resort. Cabins 6, 11 and 12 have been remodeled and include new amenities, furniture and flooring. Clear Lake continues to be one of our most popular destinations. In addition, we continue to add additional boats and kayaks to our rental fleet at Clear Lake.



Restoration work at Longbow Organization Camp

A group of preservation experts and students have come together for conservation and maintenance work at the Longbow Organization Camp in the Willamette National Forest. The students hail from the USDA Forest Service Angell and Wolf Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers. While on-site, the students learned about and applied preservation skills under the guidance of staff from HistoriCorps, a non-profit preservation organization. The Longbow Organization Camp east of Sweet Home was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps and consists of sleeping and cooking facilities, and an outdoor amphitheater.



River Bend County Park Ranger Kade Pulliam enjoys the great variety of his job, from working with campers to parks maintenance.

Kade Pulliam ... From P. 3

We also have four cabins that are popular.”

Overall, River Bend County Campground has 83 camping slips, three yurts and four cabins.

Pulliam said he enjoys the great variety of his job duties, including collecting fees, enforcing rules and grounds maintenance.

He also is highly focused on keeping invasive species like Himalayan blackberries and Scotch Broom at bay.

“I also like the fact that we have many families that return year after year and we get to know each other,” Pulliam said. “Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we also have had several newcomers over the past year.”

While he enjoys his work, Pulliam said his long-term goal is to become a National Park Ranger.

River Bend County Park encompasses 90 acres and is four miles east of the Quartzville Drive intersection on Highway 20.

How to speed up Linn County Parks reservation process

Did You Know:

The fastest way to make a reservation is by using our website:

www.linnparks.com, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



If you need to call our office regarding reservations, the fastest way to get a return call is to leave a single message. We return calls in the order they were received. Multiple messages slow down the system.

You can email (parks@co.linn.or.us) to request reservations, changes or cancel a reservations. We will either email or call you back to confirm your request.

Do you have ideas for our parks newsletter?

Please contact editor Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, by calling 541-967-3825 or email: apaul@co.linn.or.us.

The newsletter is published electronically in May, June, July, August and September.

Linn County Parks and Recreation Commission members

Members of the Linn County Parks Commission Advisory Board meet on the second Thursday of the month in January, March, May, September and November.

Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. and are held at various locations throughout the county.

Parks Commission members are Milt Moran, Michael Hurd, Ken Bronson,

Gerritt Schaffer, Darryl Dukes, Rich Kellum, Rachel Maynard, Mellissa Barnard and Paul Timm.

(There are two open positions. Call 541-967-3917.)

Please take our survey at <https://linnparks.com/survey/>