



Linn County Parks



NEWSLETTER

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

We want your input about Lewis Creek Park

SWEET HOME — Linn County Parks & Recreation wants to hear from people who use Lewis Creek County Park on Foster Reservoir.

For the first time since it opened decades ago, a new master plan is being developed and your input is vital.

Planner Kelsey Zlevor of the firm Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture & Planning said that Lewis Creek Park has not been updated since it was originally built.

“The development of the new Lewis Creek Park Master Plan is a unique opportunity for park visitors to tell the county what site amenities and upgrades would make their experiences at Lewis Creek Park even more fun, accessible and safe,” Zlevor said. “Our current concepts include elements we heard from our first round of outreach, including terraced seating along the waterfront, a food truck plaza, and a universally-accessible

play-ground. Park visitors can directly shape the final concept and master plan by voting on the proposed options in the survey.”

In the winter of 2020 and spring of



Lewis Creek County Park Master Plan Option 1.

Take the Lewis Creek Park survey at linnparks.com/ or visit https://qaz1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2uCkSZIDMZ63iiW

2021, Linn County Parks and Recreation conducted the first round of public out-

Lewis Creek ... See P. 2

View larger Lewis Creek Park drawings on Pages 7 & 8



Lewis Creek County Park Master Plan Option II.

Lewis Creek Park survey ... From P. 1

reach to gather community perspectives about Lewis Creek Park to help inform the creation of two draft concept plans.

Outreach included conversations with the Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce, Linn County Parks staff, the Linn County Parks and Recreation Commission, Sweet Home Youth Advisory Council, and interviews with members of the Lewis Creek Park community representing the Best in the West Triathlon, Wake the World, Willamette Valley Water-polo, Central Oregon Masters Aquatics and Camp Attitude. Linn County Parks and Recreation also conducted an online survey in the winter

that received more than 500 responses.

The key points heard across the outreach process that informed the development of the following two concepts:

The top priorities for improvements are infrastructure (restrooms, drinking water, power), universal access to water recreation and water safety and active recreation (open lawn areas, children’s play areas).

Popular potential park features include new restrooms, an improved swimming area and vehicle parking. Other high priorities are park amenities (tables, benches, etc.), and walking trails.

In lieu of a formal community open house

due to the current public health concerns, the county encourages interested community members to review the proposed park concepts and participate in a short community survey to provide feedback on the proposed designs. Tabling events for review of the concepts will also be avail-



Brian Carroll
Parks Director

Lewis Creek ... See P. 4

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

Meet Wes Pike

By Scott Swanson

The New Era

WATERLOO — Wes Pike stands in the center of Waterloo Park and inspects the brand new playground structure that was erected last winter and dedicated recently.

About a dozen children are whooping and chattering, running around and climbing all over the equipment, which replaces a structure that had to be closed and torn down due to vandalism. The new one, which stands on a child-friendly surface, was all installed by Linn County Parks employees.

That's one of the things Pike says he really likes about his job as park ranger at Waterloo: "When we put our minds to it, we'll put together, build and finish anything."

Pike loves this and he enjoys managing the wide range of activities Waterloo has to offer, he said.

"I like the different opportunities here, as far as, like we're the only county park that has disc golf.

"That's huge here."

Vehicles will literally fill the parking areas during summer tournaments, he said.

"The course is really challenging. It's a lot of fun."

He noted that a group called "The Eggheads" had stopped in at the park the previous week "with really tiny little trailers.

"You'll meet really cool groups of people who come through here."

Then there's the water.

"People that go river rafting through here, they love it," Pike said. "It's cold — it's super cold, but it's also kind of an



Wes Pike has worked for the Linn County Parks & Recreation Department since 2017, all of that time at Waterloo County Park. Photo: Scott Swanson

interesting dynamic of Waterloo: We have two boat ramps, an upper and lower, and a swim beach."

The park also has flush toilets, showers, playgrounds, picnic shelters — in short, it's full-service.

This wasn't necessarily what Pike originally planned to do when he left Bear Lake, Idaho, to pursue a degree in environmental science and biology at Arizona State University.

He came to Oregon some 16 years ago after completing college. He got his start with Linn County Parks just over five years ago, after his wife heard about a job opportunity with the department while at the Waterloo Store. He started in 2017 as a seasonal ranger.

"I came in and applied and I guess they liked what they saw; I just ended up staying on," Pike said, noting with a chuckle that his permanent position with the Parks Department started on a "Friday, the 13th."

Pike has worked at Waterloo since then, taking over as park ranger the following year, with responsibilities that include the south part of the county — McDowell Creek Park, McKercher Park, McClun County Wayside, McCartney County Park and other county facilities extending to the Willamette River. Later he took over North County operations as well — John Neal and Roaring River parks and various boat ramp facilities north of Lebanon and Sweet Home.

He's responsible for making sure operations are running smoothly, "making sure everyone's doing their jobs, making sure about everything from the bathrooms are clean to there's not a tree that's going to drop on your head, making sure that there's not somebody coming in the middle of the night, stealing stuff from your campsite, making sure you stay safe and that you enjoy your time here.

"If you need firewood or whatever, you

Wes Pike ... See P. 4

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Lewis Creek Park ... *From P. 2*

able in the park select Saturdays in late June and early July, 2021.

Those who take the survey will have an opportunity to enter a raffle to win an overnight stay at one of the county's camping facilities or a Lewis Creek County Park season pass of the winner's choice.

The plan will be successful to the degree that it reflects the visions and values of Lewis Creek Park visitors.

The survey is available online until July 19, 2021, and can be found on the Linn County Parks & Recreation website at <https://linnparks.com>.

There are two draft concepts for Lewis Creek Park.

Concept 1 features an expanded parking lot with 75 parking spaces and one turnaround in the center, with multiple drop-off points along the drive for gear and materials.

The site features paths with right-angles, a sand volleyball court, new concessions stand/bathroom building, food cart area and universally-accessible playground west of the open lawn.

The lawn may be used for various sports and events but is left undeveloped to provide for emergency helicopter access on-site. The site also features an expanded beach, terrace with direct ADA water access, a paddle board/kayak launch and rental building along the beach to the east, and a new restroom building on the east side of the site.

The designated swimming area is proposed on the west end of the site with a walkable dock enclosing a swim space and all boating docks are proposed on the east end of the site to separate uses and improve swimming safety.

Tables, benches, brush-clearing and grills will be improved throughout the wooded areas.

Concept 2 features an expanded parking

lot with 110 spaces and two turnarounds in the center, with multiple drop-off points along the drive for gear and materials.

The site features paths with curved organic angles, a new concessions stand/bathroom building, food cart area, universally-accessible playground west of the open lawn and a sand volleyball court to the north of the lawn.

The lawn may be used for various sports and events, but is left undeveloped to provide for emergency helicopter access on-site.

The site also features an expanded beach, terrace with direct ADA water access, a SUP/kayak rental building and launch along the river to the east, and a

Waterloo Ranger Wes Pike ... *From P. 3*

know we're here for whatever you need us to do."

It's never boring.

"You find yourself responding to all sorts of things. We never know what we're gonna do; it's the least monotonous job I've ever been in. You can wake up and think you're going to do one thing and 10 minutes later it's changed four times."

Pike said he loves the job, though it's definitely not what he had in mind when he was in college.

"I was almost going more for something like entomology or something like bugs, things like that."

He said a big part of what he likes about County Parks is the staff.

"The people I work with, I think, are the best I've ever met," Pike said. "I mean, you can have a horrible job and as long as your coworkers are, you know, amazing, it can be an amazing experience. Or, you can have the greatest job in the world and if you work with people you can't stand, it's horrible. Thankfully, I've

new restroom building on the east side of the site. The designated swimming area is proposed on the west end of the site with a walkable dock enclosing a swim space, and all boating docks are proposed on the east end of the site to separate uses and improve swimming safety.

Tables, benches, brush-clearing and grills will be improved throughout the wooded areas.

To learn more about this project, contact:

Kelsey Zlevor, planner, Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture & Planning, 160 E. Broadway, Eugene OR 97401.

Call 541-485-7385 or visit kelsey@cameronmccarthy.com or contact Brian Carroll, Parks Director, 3010 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 97322. Call 541-967-3917.

got the best of both worlds."

He said parks employees are equally dedicated "so that, when we all come together, we can get anything done. They're always there, inside and outside of work. We're kind of like a little family."

It's taken some effort by the staff to get Waterloo into its current state, he said.

"We had some problems," Pike said. "We had a lot of drug use, you know, needles, things like that right and everything. And we cracked down really hard for the first couple of years.

"That made me extremely unpopular with a lot of people, but in the end, it had to be done. I think Waterloo is better off for it.

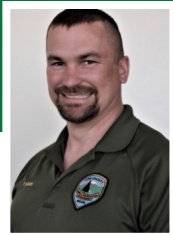
"We're trying to basically just keep the park clean, keep the crime out keep people safe."

So what have been the biggest surprises of this unplanned career choice?

"That nothing really surprises me anymore," Pike said. "You think you've seen everything in public, I'll show you something."

Tristan Davis

**Operations
Supervisor**



**Welcome to
Linn County**

Now that summer is in full swing, the Linn County Parks staff are focused on park operations. The parks are very busy this year and we anticipate that they will be even busier in July and August. Some things that we continue to work on include:

Sunnyside County Park C-Loop

Shower Restroom Grant

Linn County Parks has applied to the Oregon State Parks & Recreation Department for a grant to replace the 50-year-old year shower/restroom building in the campgrounds C-loop.

The funding for the project would come from the State's County Opportunity Grant program. The program is funded with RV licensing fees and will pay for 50% of the project estimated to be approximately \$300,000.

The grant process is competitive. All 36 Oregon counties can apply. I am pleased to say the Sunnyside project had the highest score of all the projects and we anticipate the project being fully funded later this year.

We hope to have the new shower/restroom building completed by May 2022, if funding is approved as anticipated.

Upper Whitcomb

Boat-in Camping Area

We plan to open five campsites at the Upper Whitcomb camping area the beginning of July 2021.

The campsites on Green Peter Reservoir will only be accessible by boat. The Upper Whitcomb area is located on the Quartzville arm of Green Peter Reservoir and will be primitive this year.

The boat-in area will have a chemical

toilet available for sanitation, several trash cans and five campsites with picnic tables and metal fire rings.

Boaters who want to camp at Upper Whitcomb will need to park at the main Whitcomb Creek County Park overflow parking lot and pay a \$7 fee at the Whitcomb Creek Campground.

Linn County Parks has received permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin construction of a more developed Upper Whitcomb boat-in campground this fall. The county will construct two vault restrooms, seven campsites and six yurts at the site.

Fire Season

We are at the time of year when the risk of wildfire becomes greater and greater.

Linn County Parks is currently allowing campfires in designated metal fire-rings. No other fires or fireworks are permitted.

We will continue to allow campfires until local fire officials from the Oregon Department of Forestry ban campfires for the season. We ask that you keep your campfires safe and under control.

We also ask that you take reasonable precautions to keep our forests, parks and surrounding lands safe. Never leave a fire unattended, put your campfire out when you go to bed and keep a bucket of water and shovel close at hand in case sparks or embers land outside the fire ring.

We hope you have a fun, enjoyable and safe camping season.



Campfire Cookin'



Marinated chicken kabobs

Ingredients

1 tbsp. olive oil
6 small sweet Italian sausage links (about 1 1/2 pounds total)
2 Pink Lady apples, halved
1/2 red onion, sliced
1/2 head red cabbage, cut into 1/2-inch-thick slices
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1 c. fresh apple cider
2 tbsp. fresh cider vinegar

Cooking directions

1. Heat oil in a large cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Add sausage and cook, turning occasionally, until golden brown, 6 to 8 minutes; transfer to a plate.
2. Reduce heat to medium and add apples, cut-sides down. Scatter onion and cabbage around apples. Season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally until apples are golden brown, 3 to 4 minutes.
3. Flip apples. Return sausage to skillet, nestling among vegetables. Add cider and vinegar. Simmer, rotating and turning sausages occasionally until sausages are cooked through and apples are tender, 18 to 20 minutes.

— Courtesy Country Living magazine

Story ideas? Do you have a story idea for the Linn County Parks Newsletter?

Please call editor Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, at 541-967-3825.

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

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



The always popular Stand By Me Day in Brownsville July 23 will include self-guided tours.

Stand By Me Day returns to Brownsville July 23

BROWNSVILLE — After last year's pandemic hiatus, "Stand By Me Day" will return to Brownsville on July 23.

"It will be a smaller scale event due continuing restrictions and uncertainties, but some fun can still be had for the myriad fans of this well-loved movie," said volunteer Barbara Andersen.

The main event will be an enhanced, self-guided walking tour of the film locations. Bring your smart phone and you will be able to access additional stories, videos, and fun facts as you tour the sites."

Check in at the Linn County Historical Museum, 101 Park Ave., and pick up a map with QR codes and some additional links to fun videos.

While there you can also shop a variety of fun souvenirs and get your tickets to watch the movie in the 29-seat Box Car Theatre. Don't miss the museum's brand new Stand By Me exhibit in progress.

The museum and souvenir sales will be open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., but tours can take place at any time.

Maps will also be available at local merchants and the Brownsville Art Center.

Visitors may find a few picture cars sprinkled around and possibly come across some wandering minstrels singing movie tunes.

This is the 36th anniversary of the release of the movie that has dedicated fans all from over the world.

For more information contact: Linn County Historical Museum, lchm@co.linn.or.us, the.linnmuseum.com or call 541-466-3390.

Linn County Parks & Recreation Commission

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.)



Remember: No fireworks are allowed in any Linn County campground or any state or federal campground managed by Linn County Parks.

Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

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LEGEND

- A** ACCESSIBLE WATER ENTRY
Entrada de agua accesible
- B** BIKE PARKING
Estacionamiento de Bicicletas
- C** BOAT SLIPS
Resbalones del Barco
- D** CONCESSIONS
Concesiones
- E** DOCK
Muelle
- F** DROP-OFF AREA
Area de Entrega
- G** FOOD TRUCK PLAZA
Plaza de Loncheras
- H** VEHICLE PARKING - 275 STALLS
Estacionamiento de Vehiculos
275 Sitios
- I** RV PARKING - 8 STALLS
Estacionamiento de RV
8 Sitios
- J** ACCESSIBLE PARKING - 10 STALLS
Estacionamiento Accesible
10 Sitios
- K** PAVILION
Pabellon
- L** PICNIC TABLES / BENCHES
Mesas de Picnic / Banquillos
- M** UNIVERSALLY-ACCESSIBLE
PLAYGROUND
El campo de Juegos
Accesible Universalmente
- N** RENTAL BUILDING
Edificio de Alquiler
- O** RESTROOMS
Baños
- P** ROUNDABOUT
Rotonda
- Q** SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS
Canchas de Voleibol
- R** SUP / KAYAK LAUNCH
Lanzamiento de SUP y Kayak
- S** SHADE STRUCTURE / UMBRELLA
Estructura de Sombra / Paraguas
- T** SWIM AREA
Zona de Natacion
- U** TERRACED SEATING
Asientos en Terrazas
- V** TICKET BOOTH
taquilla
- W** TRAIL
Sendero
- X** SWIM AREA BUOYS & SAFETY ROPE
Boyas y Cuerda de Seguridad



OPTION 1 | NATURALISTIC CONCEPT
OPCIÓN 1 | CONCEPTO NATURALISTA

CAMERON MCCARTHY



LEGEND

- A** ACCESSIBLE WATER ENTRY
Entrada de agua accesible
- B** BIKE PARKING
Estacionamiento de Bicicletas
- C** BOAT SLIPS
Resbalones del Barco
- D** CONCESSIONS
Concesiones
- E** DOCK
Muelle
- F** DROP-OFF AREA
Área de Entrega
- G** FOOD TRUCK PLAZA
Plaza de Loncheras
- H** VEHICLE PARKING - 310 STALLS
Estacionamiento de Vehículos
310 Sitios
- I** RV PARKING - 8 STALLS
Estacionamiento de RV
8 Sitios
- J** ACCESSIBLE PARKING - 10 STALLS
Estacionamiento Accesible
10 Sitios
- K** PAVILION
Pabellón
- L** PICNIC TABLES / BENCHES
Mesas de picnic / Banquillos
- M** UNIVERSALLY-ACCESSIBLE
PLAYGROUND
El campo de Juegos
Accesible Universalmente
- N** RENTAL BUILDING
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Zona de Natación
- U** TERRACED SEATING
Asientos en Terrazas
- V** TICKET BOOTH
Taquilla
- W** TRAIL
Sendero
- X** SWIM AREA BUOYS & SAFETY ROPE
Boyas y Cuerda de Seguridad

Recuentos de Estacionamiento Aproximados

Sitios Existentes	
Estacionamiento de Vehículos	295
Estacionamiento de RV	10
Estacionamiento Accesible	5
Total	310
Sitios Propuestos	
Estacionamiento de Vehículos	310
Estacionamiento de RV	10
Estacionamiento Accesible	10
Total	330
Diferencia Aproximada	110

APPROXIMATE PARKING COUNTS

EXISTING STALLS	295
VEHICULAR	10
ACCESSIBLE	5
TOTAL	310
PROPOSED STALLS	310
VEHICULAR	10
ACCESSIBLE	10
TOTAL	330
APPROX. NET DIFFERENCE	110



OPTION 2 | CURVILINEAR CONCEPT
OPCIÓN 2 | CONCEPTO CURVILÍNEO

CAMERON MCCARTHY