

Benton County Outdoor Education & Recreation Program (5-Year Plan Development)

Partner Background and Park Capacity



Program Vision: “Develop partnerships to support implementation of a sustainable and adaptable outdoor education and recreation programs that provide annual opportunities within priority Benton County Natural Areas & Parks, with an emphasis on rural and underserved youth and their families”.

Background: The following provides the highest priority park properties (areas with currently allowed and consistent public access) with desired and suitable outdoor education & recreation programs. These are proposed for community partners that are currently implementing, and/or are interested in developing and implementing their programs within a priority park.

Goals:

- * Share information with regional partners on park amenities and capacity for major types of outdoor and indoor programs,
- * Identify opportunities for collaboration,
- * Help guide participation and joint project/program development activities,
- * Establish and balance scheduling demands as early as possible prior to peak season (spring-early fall)
- * Alleviate heavy seasonal use impacts through advance planning

Key: The following icons represent the proposed definitions for the Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Outdoor Education & Recreation Program. (see definitions tab)

Adventure Recreation		<p>Interested in Becoming a Partner in 2016 or beyond?</p> <p>Contact: Adam Stebbins, Benton County Natural Resources Coordinator</p> <p>office: 541-766-6085</p> <p>email: adam.stebbins@co.benton.or.us</p>
Experiential Education		
Indoor		
Outdoor Education		
Outdoor Recreation		

Park/Natural Area Property Name	Compatible & Desired Types of Outdoor Programs	Program Examples	Park Summary	Park Amenities
Adair County Park	  	Athletics and games, outdoor training, biking, indoor/outdoor combination	Adair Park has two group picnic areas which may be reserved by two different groups or combined for reservation by one large group. Each area shares one-half of the kitchen shelter with each area containing a sink, an electric cooktop stove, electrical outlets and separate BBQ's and service counter. Handicapped accessibility, year-round parking, two softball fields, two sand volleyball courts, a playground, and two horseshoe pits are available at this park. There is also a popular 18 basket disc golf course.	https://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/page/adair-county-park
Bezell Memorial Forest	   	Nature hikes, natural and cultural history, citizen science, K-12 focus, indoor/outdoor combination, working landscape/natural resources management	Located in Kings Valley, this is the largest of all the Parks at 586 acres and the most recent County acquisition, donated in July 2000. The Bezell Memorial Forest is managed for environmental education and research opportunities with a rich history. There are 4 main trails, 5 major prairies, Plunkett creek corridor, and a diverse forest of conifers and mixed hardwoods. The Education Center was built using historic timber from the Plunkett barn, and has a large central gathering area. Also the classroom has chairs, seating, and sinks with future storage for educational equipment.	https://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/page/bezell-memorial-forest-education-center

Park/Natural Area Property Name	Compatible & Desired Types of Outdoor Programs	Program Examples	Park Summary	Park Amenities
Bellfountain County Park	  	Nature hikes, natural and cultural history, citizen science, K-12 focus,	Bellfountain Park, located in southeast Benton County, 3.7 miles NW of Monroe and 17 miles south of Corvallis, is the oldest Benton County Park. People have been gathering here for over 100 years. There is covered seating for 120 picnickers at one of the longest picnic tables in the world!	https://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/page/bellfountain-county-park
Clemens Park	   	Fishing, boating, wilderness survival, salmon ecology, nature hikes, natural and cultural history, citizen science, K-12 focus, working landscape/natural resources management	Clemens Park, located 21 miles southwest of Corvallis on Highway 34, features approximately one-half mile of Alsea River frontage. In addition to its excellent fishing, the park has a self-guided interpretive trail, riverfront picnic sites, and areas for water play. Restroom facilities are available.	https://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/page/clemens-park
Fort Hoskins Historic Park	  	Nature hikes, natural and cultural history, citizen science, K-12 focus, working landscape/natural resources management, 2015 I-Book covering history and future of the historic park	The original Fort Hoskins was established in 1856 to protect and monitor the new coastal Indian reservation. Fort Hoskins was purchased by Benton County in 1991. Fort Hoskins Historic Park, a 130-acre site, opened for public day use in July, 2002. Fort Hoskins Historic Park offers accessible restrooms, picnicking, educational interpretive displays, and self-guided trails that will allow users to access the resource's varied history, vegetation, and views. The group picnic area shelter is available for reservation rental.	https://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/page/fort-hoskins-historical-park

Park/Natural Area Property Name	Compatible & Desired Types of Outdoor Programs	Program Examples	Park Summary	Park Amenities
Fitton Green Natural Area	   	Biking/horse riding (other adventure sports), nature hikes, natural and cultural history, citizen science, K-12 focus, working landscape/natural resources management	Fitton Green is located directly west of Bald Hill City Park in Corvallis and has a 5 mile trail connecting the two parks. There are large meadows and oak woodlands, along with stunning views of Marys Peak and the southern Willamette Valley. Extensive restoration and enhancement of rare and native plant populations along with the Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly has occurred on the site. The connectivity to Bald Hill via the Mulkey Ridge Trail along with the fire access road/trail to Cardwell Hill access road provides for many trail hiking and interpretive recreation.	https://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/page/fitton-green-natural-area
Irish Bend Park	   	Fishing, boating, wilderness survival, nature hikes, natural and cultural history, citizen science, K-12 focus, working landscape/natural resources management	Irish Bend, located in southeast Benton County, 3.2 miles NE of Monroe and 16 miles south of Corvallis on the Willamette River, provides boat launch access to the Willamette River for non-motorized boats. Picnicking and swimming are available. Any overnight use requires a special use permit which can be obtained by calling Benton County Parks Department at 541-766-6871.	https://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/page/irish-bend-park
Jackson-Frazier Wetland Appendix D continued Priority Parks and Capacity	  	Nature hikes, natural and cultural history, citizen science, K-12 focus,	This 144 acre wetland has a diverse forest, prairie, and pond/stream wetland habitat. A nearly mile long wooden boardwalk, was completed in 1998 with the assistance of youth crews from the Community Services Consortium and numerous volunteers. There are numerous interpretive signs and diverse wildlife using the site throughout every season. The close proximity to Corvallis provides for an attractive and easy use area. However, use is restricted to the boardwalk and limits recreational opportunities.	https://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/page/jackson-frazier-wetland

Park/Natural Area Property Name	Compatible & Desired Types of Outdoor Programs	Program Examples	Park Summary	Park Amenities
Mill Creek		Boating access and shuttle locations along Alsea River as part of larger river paddle trip	This park on the Alsea River features a boat ramp, good bank fishing and delightful picnicking in the Robinson Memorial Grove. Restroom facilities are available.	https://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/page/mill-creek-boat-landing
North Albany Park	  	Athletics and games, outdoor training, biking, urban forestry and natural spaces. indoor/outdoor combination	North Albany Park has a covered group picnicking shelter, seating for 160, handicapped accessible restrooms, overflow parking, a softball field, sand volleyball court, playground and horseshoe pits. The kitchen shelter has a sink, electric cook top stove and outlets, service counters and BBQs. Currently undergoing an expansion to include a wooded natural area and trail path	https://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/page/north-albany-park
Salmonberry Campground	   	Fishing, boating, wilderness survival, salmon ecology, nature hikes, natural and cultural history, citizen science, K-12 focus, working landscape/natural resources management, Overnight programs	Nestled along the Alsea River, this secluded campground has a family atmosphere, camp host, water, clean restrooms with flush toilets, coin operated showers and open field commons with lots of grass/play area. The park also features a boat ramp, picnic area and nature trail.	https://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/page/salmonberry-campground