

River Plan / South Reach Stakeholder Meeting

Oaks Amusement Park (OAP)

5/15/18

Attendees: Brandon Roben, CEO, Mike Soto, Guest Relations/Security, Emily MacKay, Promotion and Events Manager, Becky Silcox, Controller/Human Resources, George Kolibaba, Sallie Edmunds, Jeff Caudill and Debbie Bischoff

Park Characteristics

- 44 acres; established in 1905 at the end of a trolley line
- The original owner sold the park to Oregon Water and Power who sold it to Robert Bollinger. Before his passing (in 1980s), Robert established Oaks Amusement Park as a non-profit; and gifted assets for future preservation/enjoyment of the facilities.
- There used to be a dock on the river and a bathhouse/swimming area. It existed until the 1960s and was removed when in poor condition (also at a time with poor river quality). The dock was used by people who travelled to OAP by jet boats and other watercraft.
- Includes a skating rink (opened in 1906), dance pavilion, midway with rides, picnic tables and concessions. There are 350-75 parking spaces.
- Oaks Amusement Park employs 280 during summer months and 90 employees the rest of the year with 27 full-time/full-year employees.

Uses

- There is no entrance fee at OAP. Only charge entry 4 times per year, e.g., Octoberfest and 4th of July.
- The facility is rented out and used for the Multnomah County Fair on Memorial Day weekend, unions on Labor Day, businesses like Intel, and family reunions. It is also used for benefit events that use OAP as the staging place, such as walks along the Springwater Corridor Trail. The busiest days are 4th of July and Memorial Day.
- OAP leases a boathouse and boat launch to kayak and rowing clubs (incl. Lewis and Clark).
- Roller derby is active – for practices and events – in the skating rink throughout the year.
- OAP shares its parking lot with Summer Concerts in the Park at Sellwood Park.

Future Development

- OAP has no new plans for its development. Board is discussing park's future.
- At this point, expect only typical switching out of rides, etc. over time.

Beach Access

- The beach area that is part of the property is fenced along the edge of the amusement park with 2 access gates, one by the dance pavilion, operated by OAP...The beach area is in use from July-September.

- The public can access beach from the river's edge to the south and OAP is okay with day use of the beach area. They are not okay with overnight camping or making fires on the beach.

OAP staff identified issues

1. Limited motor vehicle access to property.
2. Need ways to safely get patrons in and out of OAP during big events. Sellwood Park, Springwater Corridor Trail and railroad line present problems: a lot of stop signs, people cognizant of cyclists and pedestrians, etc. Two-lane road becomes a bottleneck.
3. Inadequate transit service, closest stop is one-mile away and available lines are infrequent, especially on weekends.
4. Traffic signal off Sellwood Bridge on Tacoma not timed well for side traffic.
5. Houseless campers along trail, beach and in Metro owned property to the south. OAP posts areas. Campers have moved picnic tables from OAP to Metro property. OAP staff must retrieve tables. Staff must clean up after houseless campers.
6. Need more parking, lot is full on weekends and some weekdays.
7. Want a new dock so that patrons can come to OAP by boat: Portland Spirit, a future river taxi or other boats

OAP ideas:

1. Change the lot by the underpass near Oaks Bottom to a parking area with one-way in and out of lot under trussle.
 2. New dock (mentioned previously)
 3. On 4th of July this summer, use Springwater Corridor Trail (since section closed) for motor vehicles exiting the festivities in the evening – to relieve congestion.
- BPS staff follow-up with SamTrack and PPR on idea #3 above.