

Punchbowl Park Visioning Project - January 13, 2015

Facilitator: Josh Kling

A. List the individuals in your group. What activities do they do at Punch Bowl property currently? What times of year, how often and with whom?

- 1) Tim Rayle—waterfall viewing, brings kids and dogs, hikes irrigation canal that runs along West Fork
- 2) Chuck Gehling – fishing, watch wildlife, mushrooming, walks
- 3) Jason Wells—kayaking, hikes, professional trail builder
- 4) Jess Gleas-- rafter
- 5) Abby Capovilla—year round visitor, especially in summer, swimmer, walker,
- 6) Josh Huffman--kayaker
- 7) Lia Wagner—rafting, is a commercial guide
- 8) Tom Dalbey—picnics, swimming, nature viewing, spring thru fall, year round hiking

B. What do they like best thing about the property? How is the property special or useful or unusual?

Tim- natural beauty, the waterfalls and that it is undeveloped

Chuck—represents Hood River Watershed Group, he likes natural beauty, wildflowers, notes that within 200 feet of falls it is a deeded fishery for exclusive tribal use

Jason—likes years round hiking

Abby—multiple activities and attractions, room for all, that it is for non-motorized uses only

Josh—confluence is key! Provides multiple river trip possibilities and access fall through spring

Lia—river access and natural beauty

Tom—pristine quality, no development, access to nature

C. Do they think the property should be become a public park or remain private property? If it becomes a county park, what kind of park should it be? What should be the character, amenities and programming of the park? What should be added? What should be left unchanged?

This group did think it should be a county park. They considered recreational access and maintaining an undeveloped site most important—adding new facilities was less important. They used phrases like “less is more” and said that the site should be kept as natural and undeveloped as possible. Minimal facilities development: parking, restrooms, existing trails, trash receptacles.

Real restrooms, not port-a-potties!

No overnight camping, no fires

Don't encourage more use, keep it low-impact. Possibly limit number of daily users.

ADA viewing platform is not appropriate for Punch Bowl overlook.

Trails should be improved, especially river access trails.

Terrain is not conducive to extensive development of recreational facilities.

River access for recreation!

Limit river access during fish spawning season.

Accessible for dogs under owner's control. Consider proactively managing off-leash dogs.

Interpretive signs informing public of history and ecology of site, site info, rules, fish/wildlife info

Manage parking

Manage the dangerous areas

Plan facilities so that they blend into the environment

D. What would worry them about developing the Punchbowl Falls site into a County Park?

Overuse and over development!

Camping, especially if Dee Mill becomes a concert venue

Control of dogs if allowed

Disturbing spawning fish

Too many trail users

Cliff jumping by young people

Adequate park patrols to keep it clean and rule-abiding

Conflict between user groups i.e. anglers vs. boaters

Consider limiting advertising of park to greater public

Punchbowl Park Visioning Project - January 13, 2015

Facilitator: Kristyn Fix

A. List the individuals in your group. What activities do they do at Punch Bowl property currently? What times of year, how often and with whom?

- 1) Andrew McWilliams - hiking, swimming, family time around 6 time/year
- 2) Guy Tauscher - hike, swim, fish around 5-6 times/year - mostly summer
- 3) Ann Dow - hike, natural experience - summer
- 4) David Winans - adjacent landowner East of HR
- 5) Peg Wooten - I live on Punchbowl right above the falls at fish hatchery for 34 years
- 6) & 7) Ron & Dawn Reynier - avid kayakers - mainly winter and spring
- 8) & 9) Graham Lavery & Lana Young - avid kayakers -fall through spring
- 10) Rob W. Cochran - adjacent landowner near Iowa Drive - concerned of landslide

Most of the users in this group used the site fall, winter and spring, not in the summer months.

B. What do they like best thing about the property? How is the property special or useful or unusual?

- An adjacent landowner on the North Side loves using the trails and is curious how they will be used if it is made into a park
- From Iowa Drive, several kayakers and rafters put in, but state it has become more difficult in recent years. Fishers put in at this side too.
- The more difficult access remains, the less recreational users will be there, which poses both positives and negatives
- The area is beautiful and dynamic
- A local landowner, who states that he is of honorary Native American decent, states that this is "truly one of the wonders of the world. It's the heart of a volcano."
- In Hood River's history, there would be up to 1500 people using this space for swimming and family time on hot, sunny days. Huge historical value.
- Several in the group agreed that it should be cared for like Tucker Park with a host and cleanliness, but not made into a campground

C. Do they think the property should be become a public park or remain private property? If it becomes a county park, what kind of park should it be? What should be the character, amenities and programming of the park? What should be added? What should be left unchanged?

Parking at Iowa Drive will be needed, but how many spots? How big? Will it even fit?

The group agrees to minimally develop, including pit toilets/compostable sanitation, trash receptacles, developing trails with signage and parking only. By starting minimally, the parks department could then wait to see what is needed.

The park should "remain as untouched as humanly possible"

Creating more parking near Punchbowl should be easier.

Currently there are other access points that cannot be disclosed

No picnic tables

Non-motorized access only

Suggestion that bike racks would not be necessary

Reasonable access at the confluence

Beaches, but those appear to already be eroding

Habitat protection, including otters, eagles and coyotes

Educational events to inform the public of its use

Limit populations who would use the space without respecting nature (for example, limit access for underage drinkers/partiers who dump garbage)

Maintain security gate in order to limit access

No camping or campfires

Interpretive and guiding signage; designated trail system

Some people suggested no entrance fees; others asked how we will afford to upkeep the area without charging fees

D. What would worry them about developing the Punchbowl Falls site into a County Park?

Parking at Iowa Drive will be very difficult; property close by will be extremely affected by parking; PARKING was a major discussion

Developing park minimally

The residences near Iowa and Linnaeus - how will they be affected?

Liabilities and legalities were major discussions as well - injuries from cliff jumpers, how to keep people from jumping, 911 calls

Concerns over funding - short vs. long-term goals

Waters are not always calm enough for swimming

Who is responsible for cleaning? Managing the roads? Making certain people follow the rules?

"The easier the access, the more trash there will be" - balance this with not being overly secure and limiting access points

Possibility of using a mushroom farm that is for sale up the road as an additional parking and access point if parks department could purchase this space as well

What would the safety measures be?

Strong encouragement from kayakers to keep the area about 15 yards before Punchbowl Falls entirely unchanged as it provides the only safe space (eddy) for kayakers to take out boats

Who is speaking with the Native American populations about their opinions? Recommendation to speak to the Intertribal Fisheries Commission or looking up federal tribes on the Watershed Council website

Motorized vehicles not having access

Punchbowl Park Visioning Project - January 13, 2015

Facilitator: Polly Wood

A. List the individuals in your group. What activities do they do at Punch Bowl property currently? What times of year, how often and with whom?

- 1) Mike Babcock – Boating, rafting (large in size), goes winter, spring and several times a month. Usually with 2 – 3 people
- 2) Stephen Datnoff – didn't say
- 3) Cabe Grant – Kayak, swim x a year with wife and young son.
- 4) and 5) James Byrd and Reagan (Byrd?) couple are kayakers, swimmers and haven't been there yet but are very enthusiastic about going.
- 6) Louis Geltman – kayaker, swimmer goes 6x a year.
- 7) Kate Mills – long history of knowing the place, founder, and visited it with Phil when WRC was contemplating the purchase.
- 8) and 9) Mike McCafferty Parkdale Fire Chief and fire fighter colleague (didn't catch his name) – they go to Punch Bowl a lot to rescue people!
- 10) Catherine Locke – paddler, likes the low impact trail and wildness of Punch Bowl.

B. What do they like best thing about the property? How is the property special or useful or unusual?

One of the few places where the Hood River is accessible to the public, exceptional property, beautiful spot. - James Geltman

Difficult to walk up the hill but pretty.

Steep take out but accessible to boating.

Wonderful area for outdoor education of all ages, especially school children - Kate Mills

C. Do they think the property should become a public park or remain private property? If it becomes a county park, what kind of park should it be? What should be the character, amenities and programming of the park? What should be added? What should be left unchanged?

This group felt that the property should become a public park but felt it should stay rustic and wild with certain low impact improvements. But overall minimal development.

Parking – Big concerns about parking on Iowa Drive. It borders a neighborhood. How does the County plan on dealing with that? As far as parking on the Punch Bowl Rd is concerned people feel it should not be too developed (making medians and such could actually take up valuable parking spaces. There should be enough room for trailers to turn around.

Bike Parking – This wasn't a big priority for the group but Kate Mills did bring up the fact that bikes take up a lot less room than cars so why not have a bit. People do bike up to Dee.

ADA accessible – Wasn't strongly voted for either way but Mike McCafferty said if it was designed right it would be great for viewing and visiting the dynamic confluence spot.

River access for swimming and fishing – modest trail should remain with light improvements, but don't change trails too much.

River access for kayaking, rafting, SUP. - Mike Babcock suggested put in and take ramps or amenities above and below the actual falls. See sketch on topographic map.

Interpretive signs and maps – Group supported this for a number of reasons. More emphasis on risks of jumping off high cliffs and reference to rustic type trails, but also signage about stewardship and keeping the area place clean - packing out what is brought in,. Since this is such a rich ecological area and historic, there could be signage about that too.

Restrooms – Modest restrooms, pit toilet.

Screened area for changing cloths – not a priority

Picnic tables – not a priority for this group – some one mention maybe six, but no more.

Drinking water – park users should just bring in their own as they always have.

Areas for hike in camping – Group agrees that there should be no overnight camping.

Habitat Conservation and wild areas – Very important to preserve this and a big reason why development should be minimal. The right kind and amount of signage would help.

Safe Overlook of Falls – Big concern for Fire/EMS and more on that in D. Group felt a big fence would ruin the pristine quality of the place but redesigning the trail and creating some planting that deters visitors from getting too close but enjoying the view would be a good solution. There will always those “jumpers” but creating as many deterrents as possible is recommended.

Trash Cans – Some in the group recommended trash cans but it was also recognized that trash cans and dumpsters can also invite even more trash. Signage posted should include language that asks people to “pack it out”. Also a “Friends of Punch Bowl” could form for periodic clean up...

D. What would worry them about developing the Punchbowl Falls site into a County Park?

Creating a park will certainly bring more users so accommodating a greater level of use will need to be well thought out. Parking could be an issue on Iowa drive near an established neighborhood as mentioned before.

Mike McCafferty – very concerned about the Overlook and all the people that the Fire/ EMS dept has to rescue from jumps, especially in the warmer months. The more of a park it is the more “rescuing they will need to do. Redirecting the trail away from the jump spot could help, as well as more signage, but it not going to get rid of the problem. Catherine Lock suggested part of the improvement could be to set up anchor points in the cliff rock to aid rescues. Fire and Rescue will also need access and adequate parking for these emergencies at both park entrances.

Punchbowl Park Visioning Project - January 13, 2015

Facilitator: Nick Kraemer

A. List the individuals in your group. What activities do they do at Punch Bowl property currently? What times of year, how often and with whom?

- 1) and 2) Isaac (Ike) and Nikki - live on Iowa Drive. Concerned about parking area on that side. Their driveway is currently used as a turn around.
- 3) Linda Maddox - uses area for walking and most concerned with protecting public access to the river
- 4) Kristen Godkin - recently visited the area for the first time. concerned with protecting conservation of the area more than public access. worried about over-use
- 5) Billy Sheely - lives on Iowa Drive. concerned with private property trespassing. feels there is no space for parking on the Iowa Drive side. feels the park would be encroaching on his property - and cliff edge is right there.
- 6) Erin Willis - kayaker. wants to maintain boater access points
- 7) Peter Seuchert - new to hood river. very interested in public parks and maintaining public access
- 8) John - kayak shed owner. uses the park for fish/kayak/hikes

B. What do they like best thing about the property? How is the property special or useful or unusual?

It is a beautiful spot in the river with the confluence and swimming hole.

C. Do they think the property should become a public park or remain private property? If it becomes a county park, what kind of park should it be? What should be the character, amenities and programming of the park? What should be added? What should be left unchanged?

most folks in the group agreed that they want primitive improvements on the punchbowl side (trash bins, signage, existing trails)

parking should be leveled out, some signage on pb side. not sure how to address the iowa side

public access to water should remain about the same on pb side. john the kayak shed guy said there is a popular take out upriver from falls that would be nice to improve. the cliff side ropes as access should be eliminated from iowa side. fishermen generally take the path down to the confluence on iowa side.

they feel there is limited capacity at each nature viewing spot. "there are 2 small access points for 100 acres of land and only 2 acres of that are really usable for visitors"

The potential impacts of dee tour and more activity at dee on the site was brought up. It was felt that Punch Bowl may get "discovered" and more people will be visiting the site after deetour is going.

amenities list:

parking lot - size is fine, level it out, put signs

bike parking - no

trails - no paved, no new aside from kayak take out mentioned above

ada trails - no paved

river access - no new aside from kayak take out mentioned above

screened areas - no this is oregon get naked haha

interpretive signs - nothing fancy

restrooms - pit toilets maybe

picnic tables - maybe one or two

drinking water - no

camping - no

conservation - yes

overlook - like this idea - not sure it is feasible

pay station?

major goals agreed upon:

-maintain public ownership

-reduce negative impacts on adjacent private property owners

-keep amenities basically the same

-avoid over-use of the park

-conservation

D. What would worry them about developing the Punchbowl Falls site into a County Park?

Iowa Street Folks voiced many concerns about the proposed map and parking located on the Iowa Side

-worried about over-use, camping, fires etc.

-don't see feasible access with the small amount of space between private land and the cliff

-feel the punchbowl side is better for park - but worried too many park amenities will lead to over-use

-concerned that the county doesn't have the resources to maintain well

-concerned with garbage pickup and dumping

Punchbowl Park Visioning Project - January 13, 2015

Facilitator: Heather Staten

A. List the individuals in your group. What activities do they do at Punch Bowl property currently? What times of year, how often and with whom?

- 1) Dave and Stella Waag. School field trips/environmental education, visit as family for swimming/hiking in all seasons
- 2) Ben Bromham. Hiking trails, visiting confluence
- 3) Megan Saunders. Hiking, conducts Salmon spawning studies for the Warm Springs tribe in Sept/Oct
- 4) Emie Eikorn. Lives near PDX but uses area for river access for rafting
- 5) Scott Harvey. Lives near PDX. Familiar with spot since mid 1980s. Boater who uses it as take out from West Fort and as put in for mainstem of Hood River.
- 6) Maria Eby. Lives in Dee. Goes there a lot, up to once a week in spring, summer and fall. Uses it to take kids and dogs hiking and swimming.
- 7) Zach Collier. Uses site in every way possible, probably once a week. Very familiar with site. He rafts and kayaks in the area as part of his commercial rafting business. Also swims there.
- 8) John Roberts. Confluence is a great place to take the family.

B. What do they like best thing about the property? How is the property special or useful or unusual?

Access to the river.

The spot where the rivers meet is beautiful.

There are nice areas for picnicking.

The property is fairly undisturbed, not much built by humans, it still has a pristine feel.

You can feel like you are in the wild, although you are close to town

The area is noted for the falls but for a hiker, the confluence is more important

Punch Bowl is the famous waterfall but Dead Point Creek is very cool—it is huge and impressive during spring run off

There are pretty and varied wildflowers

There is a view of Mt. Hood if you look up the west fork from a cliff near the confluence

C. Do they think the property should become a public park or remain private property?

If it becomes a county park, what kind of park should it be? What should be the character, amenities and programming of the park? What should be added? What should be left unchanged? They can draw on the maps!

Group thought it should be a public park but noted that there are few places that you can go that are undeveloped, they like the primitive, rustic feel that exists now. It is gorgeous because it is wild.

Because this group wanted to preserve the wild/primitive/rustic feel of the site they were not in favor of including these improvements: drinking water (would lead to prolonged camping), picnic tables, screened changing areas or hike-in camping.

They did want:

For kayakers, access is most important thing and existing access is adequate for them. Rafters felt like they could use improved access. Suggestions were made for log slides or metal rails or to widen/modify the path to the confluence to make it easier to use. Zach felt that improvements at confluence were more important than improvements to the take out above Punch Bowl Falls. The mainstem Hood River north of the confluence is very good for intermediate paddlers, it should be made more accessible through put-in improvements at confluence.

Trash cans are needed, a lot of litter is left.

Half the group felt that restrooms would be a good addition, the other half felt they were optional. If restrooms were installed they should be near the Punch Bowl Road parking lot.

The cliff and viewing area for punchbowl should be made safer for families and pets.

Signage is recommended to welcome people to the park and let them know the rules.

Suggestion was made to create more trails and possibly a trail leading from the Punch Bowl to the Iowa drive property by putting a footbridge over the East Fork.

It was noted that the site is on a popular bike route to Lost Lake and Watham and that cyclists will stop at Punch Bowl for a break. Even so, this group did not see the need to add bike parking, said cyclists could just lean their bikes against trees.

D. What would they worry about developing the Punchbowl Falls site into a County Park?

Punch Bowl Road makes a sharp turn before the parking lot, there is a steep cliff drop-off from the road. Guard rails or some signage could make the road more safe.

Concern that neighbors impacted by park should be notified and consulted about project.

Some concern about fire danger, another reason not to encourage camping.

Punchbowl Park Visioning Project - January 13, 2015

Facilitator: Terri Veatch

A. List the individuals in your group. What activities do they do at Punch Bowl property currently? What times of year, how often and with whom?

- 1) Jim- kayaker
- 2) Trevor Sheehan- kayaker
- 3) Rachel Crowder- kayaker
- 4) Mike F. -kayaker
- 5) Brian Z- Kayaker
- 6) Joe S- kayaker
- 7) Dan Pierce—fishing winter
- 8) Adam—kayaker, rafting
- 9) Trevor Tostad--kayaker

Most of the users in this group used the site fall, winter and spring, not in the summer months.

B. What do they like best thing about the property? How is the property special or useful or unusual?

Access for kayaking

C. Do they think the property should be become a public park or remain private property? If it becomes a county park, what kind of park should it be? What should be the character, amenities and programming of the park? What should be added? What should be left unchanged?

The overriding theme with this group is they really don't want things to change much. They like the raw and undeveloped aspect of the place. They just want to make sure they will have access and be able to use the park as they have been doing.

Access to recreation is the most important thing. Would like better access to water as opposed to adding more facilities.

No RV hookup

Should have interpretive trail

Wild nature of site should be maintained. Day use only.

Confluence may be better place for ADA and pedestrian access than Punch Bowl cliff face.

Restroom—pit toilet ok.

Should remove dilapidated staircase above fish ladder.

Improved parking lot and trash cans ok.

Signage for trails and streams keep people on designated trails. With a large number of users, erosion becomes an issue.

D. What would worry them about developing the Punchbowl Falls site into a County Park?

Worry that increased use will lead to liability or access issues.

Would people have to pay to park? Perhaps paying is necessary to pay for maintenance.

More people would lead to more vandalism and trash.