

Opportunity Areas	Ona Beach	Beaver Creek Natural Area	Ona Hills
<b>Natural Resource Opportunity Emphasis</b>			
<b>1. Beach &amp; Dune</b>	- At-risk dunal plant community management - Invasive plant control	None	None
<b>2. Estuary &amp; Floodplain</b>	- Priority habitat protection - Invasive plant control	- Priority habitat protection - Invasive plant control - Priority hydrologic improvements - North-south trail connection - Paddler launch improvements - Wildlife viewing blinds - Boardwalk trail	None
<b>3. Forest</b>	- Forest health maintenance - Invasive plant control - Beach access trail	- Priority habitat protection - Mixed forest management - Trail density reduction - South trailhead	- Priority habitat protection - Mixed forest management - Trails & viewpoints
<b>4. Young Plantation Forest</b>	None	None	- Forest succession & diversity management - Park facility access roads - Trails & viewpoints
<b>5. Managed Grassland</b>	None	- Priority open grassland management	None
<b>Visitor Experience Opportunity Emphasis</b>			
<b>6. Development Opportunity Areas</b>	None	- Home site future use - Pole barn site future use	- Priority developable sites for new visitor facilities: campgrounds & amenities, trail parking, visitor program facilities
<b>7. Existing Development</b>	- Beach access & picnic area enhancement	- Boating access enhancement - Learning facility improvements	- Administrative facility conversion for park use

## 1. BEACH & DUNE -

Natural Resource Opportunity Emphasis  
(Ona Beach area only)

In the beach and dune environment, natural resource management will focus on actions designed to prevent reductions in, or increase populations of two at-risk plant species found on site, yellow sandverbena and big-headed sedge, and control invasive weeds. Effective management of at-risk plants may require measures to prevent impacts from visitor activities.

Existing support facilities for beach visitors are part of the adjacent beach access and picnic area discussed below under “Existing Facilities.” Proposed trail access to the beach, crossing the highway from Ona Hills, reaches the beach through the Ona Beach area forest, and is discussed below under “Forest.”

## 2. ESTUARY & FLOODPLAIN –

Natural Resource Opportunity Emphasis  
(Ona Beach and Beaver Creek Natural Area)

The estuary and its floodplain reach from Ona Beach to Beaver Creek Natural Area. The natural resources present here are paramount among the park’s ecological values as well as visitor experience opportunities, which include birding and other wildlife viewing and nature study, fishing, canoeing and kayaking. Natural sensitivities and values of the estuarine and floodplain environment allow only very limited development of carefully located and designed structures that support hiking, interpretive, environmental education and water trail uses. In locating and designing visitor uses and facilities near the estuary and floodplain, great care must be taken to avoid negative impacts on these valuable habitats.

Most of the OPRD-owned portion of the estuary and floodplain, as well as the adjacent Wetlands Conservancy ownership, is a registered State Natural Area Reserve under the Natural Heritage Act. Similar protective designation is recommended for the entire OPRD-owned portion. Management actions are needed to control the spread of priority invasive plants, mainly yellow flag iris, reed canary grass and colonial bentgrass. Past actions that have altered the marsh hydrology, including diking, ditching, and placement of culverts for road construction, are being considered for their impacts and possible restoration.

Visitor support facilities suggested for the marsh and floodplain environment include two or three wildlife viewing blinds in strategic locations, a kayak and canoe launch replacing the existing temporary launch near the Beaver Creek Welcome Center, and a north-south trail connection between the Welcome Center site and the south Beaver Creek uplands. This trail is the most substantial of these proposals. Boardwalk trails will be required where trails cross valuable wetlands. From a visitor experience perspective alone, a boardwalk trail accessible from the Welcome Center is regarded as a high priority. The locations and designs of all of these facilities will require careful attention to potential impacts on the estuarine and floodplain resources.

### **3. FOREST –**

Natural Resource Opportunity Emphasis  
(Ona Beach, Beaver Creek NA & Ona Hills)

The upland forest environment is described as two types of opportunity areas. The first, described here as the “Forest” area, requires less intervention for management purposes as compared to the second area, described below as the “Young Plantation Forest.” The “Forest” also contains certain areas particularly valued for their botanical and habitat features. While the largest portion of the park’s hillside forests are in early stages of succession and

currently not of high botanical conservation value, certain areas warrant protection either for botanical conservation values or for their contributions to wildlife habitat diversity and connectivity. Most of the park’s upland forests will be managed with an emphasis on preserving and improving natural resource values over time, and a much smaller portion will be allocated to recreation facility development. Within areas intended primarily for natural resource management, several upland forest areas have been identified among the highest priorities for preservation. (See Figure 9.2 in Chapter 9.) Two patches of late seral forest, one in the Ona Hills area and the other in Beaver Creek NA, are particularly uncommon in their age and condition and provide habitat suitable for sensitive species such as at-risk marbled murrelet and red tree vole. A comparatively remote, mixed forest with adjacent former pasture in Beaver Creek NA is proposed for preservation with minimal human disturbance as refuge for elk. Similarly, a comparatively remote area identified in Ona Hills is suited for preservation as habitat with low human disturbance for bear, elk, deer and other wildlife. Hillside area directly adjacent to the Beaver Creek floodplain is recommended for preservation as upland extension of habitat important to species such as adult red-legged frogs, and for elk that find shelter from winter storms along the toe slope. The longest tributary stream valley in the park has been recommended for preservation as a corridor for wildlife movement between the estuary and high priority upland habitats, and potentially supporting wildlife movement between Ona Hills and the Beaver Creek NA uplands.

Through natural processes, forest areas currently in various stages of succession will eventually mature to old growth forest. However, management actions to accelerate succession are proposed in certain young, mixed conifer and deciduous forests that are otherwise in good condition, where such management is feasible. In certain other areas,

younger mixed forest communities will continue contributing to botanical and habitat diversity as succession occurs naturally over time. (See Figure 9.3, Chapter 9.)

Although most of the proposed trail development in the Ona Hills forests is in young plantation forest areas, some trails will cross the conifer or mixed conifer and deciduous forests that are in better condition, described here. With limited exceptions, only hiking trails will cross the highest value habitats. A proposed beach access trail will cross through the Ona Hills forest to a highway underpass before crossing the Ona Beach forest to the beach. This trail from the highway underpass to the beach must be carefully placed and designed to minimize impacts on wetlands that occur in the floodplain forest. In the Beaver Creek NA forest, some of the existing network of trails will be decommissioned to reduce trail density.

#### **4. YOUNG PLANTATION FOREST –**

Natural Resource Opportunity Emphasis  
(Ona Hills area only)

The young plantation forest covers the largest share of Ona Hills. Some of this area has been identified as the most suited area for new recreational development and is described below as “Development Opportunity.” Most of the young plantation is proposed for active forest management to promote forest health and habitat diversity through actions that will accelerate succession and promote development of multi-layered canopy and understory growth. Much of the area needs thinning of overstocked young conifers, and in some locations thinning will be accompanied by under planting of desired species. Some areas are infected with Swiss needle cast, a disease that attacks Douglas fir, which need removal. One area is over grown with dense shore pine that cannot be saved and must be removed and replaced with desired species.

Outside of the “development opportunity” areas discussed below, visitor support facilities

proposed in the plantation forest include improvement of the existing main primitive road for use as a park road, and trail development to serve a range of non-motorized uses.

#### **5. MANAGED GRASSLANDS –**

Natural Resource Opportunity Emphasis  
(Beaver Creek Natural Area only)

A number of former pastures exist in Beaver Creek NA. Most of these are targeted for forest restoration. Some are particularly desirable as open grassland because they enhance visitor hiking experience with the scenic views they provide along the trail system. Some are frequented by elk and other species that use open meadows. Two of the former pastures are proposed for management as open grasslands for their scenic values and their contributions to habitat diversity. One former pasture in a location less disturbed by human use is proposed to be managed as grassland and early successional habitat desirable to elk for foraging, resting and calving.

Visitor support facilities in managed grasslands are limited to existing hiking trails that cross into the open areas from adjacent forest, and a couple of picnic tables in the grassland called Snaggy Point. No new facilities are being proposed for these areas.

#### **6. DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY AREAS –**

Visitor Experience Opportunity Emphasis  
(Beaver Creek Natural Area & Ona Hills)

Most of the opportunities for new development in the park are in the Ona Hills Area, discussed below. Within Beaver Creek NA, there are two small, previously developed sites identified as “development opportunity” areas for future park uses not yet defined. One is a home site currently occupied under life estate provisions established by property purchase agreement, located across the county road from the Welcome Center. Because of its proximity to the Welcome Center, the home site is likely to become a learning extension of the Welcome

Center. The other site, located in the southern part of Beaver Creek NA, is currently occupied by a pole barn. This site, and the barn itself, may also become a learning extension of the Welcome Center. Currently the pole barn site as well as the larger south Beaver Creek upland area has no useable vehicular access for visitors.

In the Ona Hills area, sites identified for new recreational development are currently undeveloped, except one small site near the ODOT maintenance area currently occupied by a shooting range. The shooting range will be relocated by its user group, and this site will become available for future park use currently undefined. Most likely, future use of this site will be associated with park administration to be centered at the office and maintenance facilities currently owned and operated by ODOT. Clean up of lead at the shooting range will be needed.

The currently undeveloped sites in the Ona Hills area chosen as priority sites for new recreation facilities were selected from a larger group of possible sites initially identified based on their relatively low quality or common natural resources, level to gently sloping topography, and size of contiguous developable area. Final selection of sites also took into account the comparative costs of infrastructure development and maintenance and visitor management, considering relative distances from existing infrastructure. Selected sites keep new development reasonably confined and closer to existing development than would be the case using more remote and otherwise suitable areas, while continuing to avoid steep slopes, stream drainages and other important natural resources. Most of the development opportunity area is for campground facilities potentially serving a range of camping preferences and related camper amenities. A lesser portion is for trailhead parking areas serving a range of non-motorized trail uses, and the smallest portion is for facilities that support park administration.

Natural resource management in development opportunity areas will involve forest thinning, removal of diseased and hazard trees and planting understory vegetation as needed, emphasizing enhancement of the recreation settings together with enhancement of forest health.

## **7. EXISTING FACILITIES –**

Visitor Experience Opportunity Emphasis  
Ona Beach, Beaver Creek Natural Area &  
Ona Hills

Infrastructure supporting current or planned recreational uses exists in all three areas of the park. Existing infrastructure in the Ona Beach area serves the picnicking and beach related activities that have been in place for many years. The boating access facilities across the highway from the picnic area were originally part of Ona Beach, but are now considered part of Beaver Creek NA and are described in this Plan as the water trail entrance facilities. The larger part of Beaver Creek NA has been open for only three years with infrastructure centered around the Welcome Center. In the Ona Hills area, the existing infrastructure was established by ODOT for their uses, and includes the office and maintenance facilities that will become the administrative center for the park.

In the Ona Beach area, opportunities for the existing facilities include improvements to the parking that serves the picnic area and beach access, and improvements to the picnic grounds and its trail system. The parking lot is in poor condition and needs major rehab with improved drainage. Reconfiguration of the parking is needed to improve vehicular circulation and parking efficiency. The restroom building needs replacement. Addition of a picnic shelter is being considered. Flooding on the picnic grounds and some of the trails occurs frequently, and plans are underway to remove some frequently flooded trails and restore these sites to wetland habitat.

In Beaver Creek NA at the water trail entrance, the boat ramp and parking may need minor reconfiguration to address conflicts between motorized and non-motorized launching, landing and staging that can sometimes occur during high use periods. This problem can be exacerbated by parking overflow from the Ona Beach parking across the highway. The addition of a kayak launch structure alongside the boat ramp is under consideration to help separate boating uses and prevent conflicts. The Beaver Creek Welcome Center is proposed in this Plan to be renamed the “Beaver Creek Nature Center.” Facility development opportunities here mainly involve interior remodeling of the existing building. The existing garage space now used for storage, and other small rooms currently unused or under used, offer opportunities to expand program uses. A small, separate storage building could easily be constructed on the site. Parking at the Welcome (Nature) Center could use more definition with wheel stops or pavement with striping. Currently only a portion of the parking lot has spaces designated by wheel stops. As discussed above under “Development Opportunity” areas, there are two other locations in Beaver Creek NA, the pole barn site and nearby home site, which may also be used for learning extensions of the Nature Center in the future.

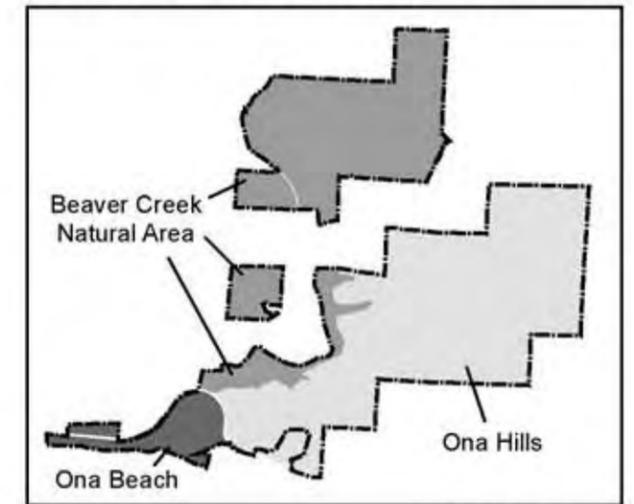
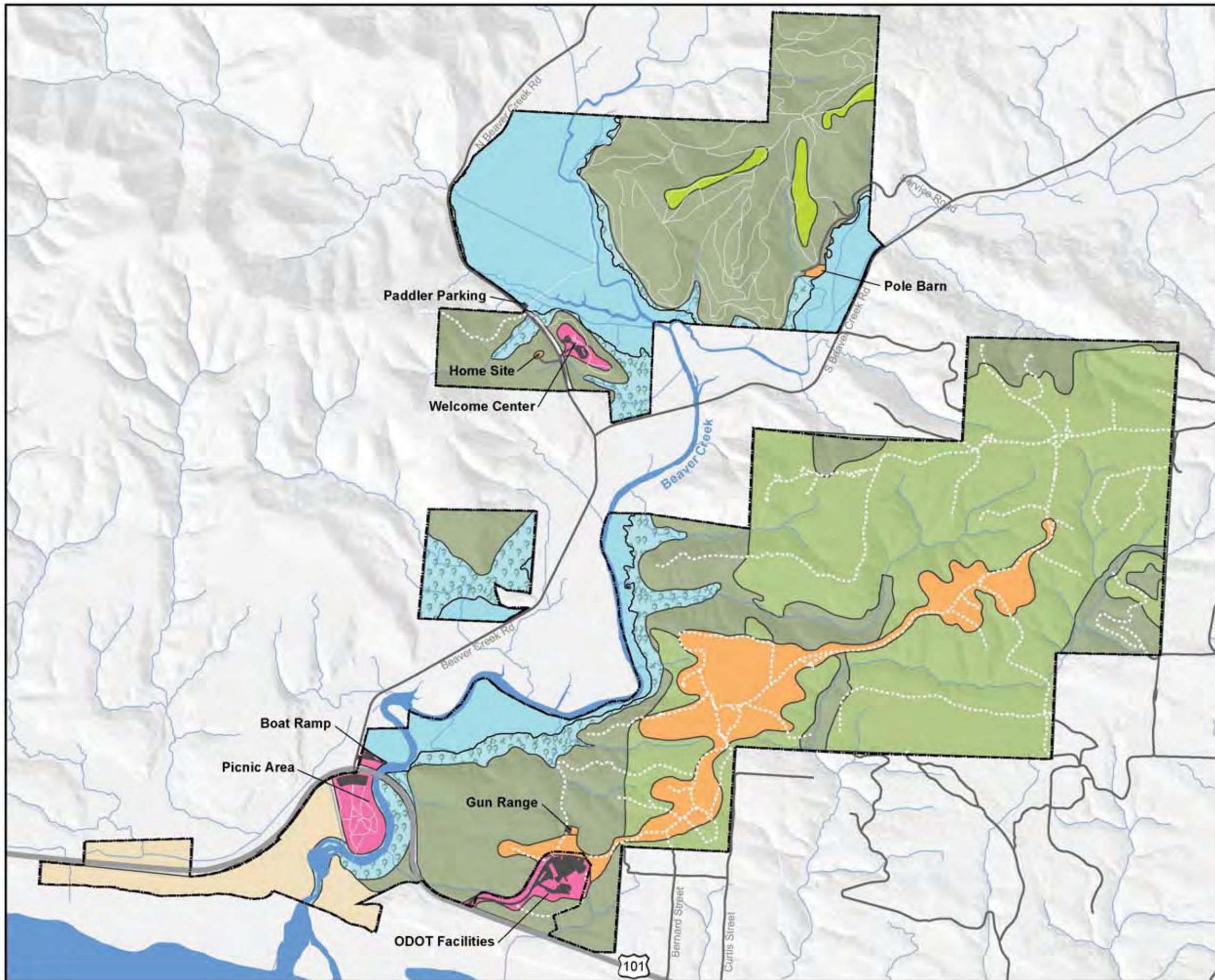
The lower parking lot near the Welcome (Nature) Center currently serves the water trail launch. There is no bathroom near this parking lot, and according to neighbors, sanitation problems have occurred as a result. A self-contained toilet facility is needed here.

The lower parking lot has only six parking spaces, and opportunities for expansion are limited by the proximity to the marsh. In the future this parking site is expected to serve additional visitor use associated with an improved water trail launch, a planned wildlife viewing blind, and a planned north-south trail connection. The upper parking lot

by the Welcome (Nature) Center will provide supplemental parking, which will require improved trail connections from the upper lot to these facilities. The most direct connections will involve boardwalk construction where trails cross wetlands. If a universally accessible trail from the upper lot is needed, the existing trail where it connects to the Welcome (Nature) Center grounds will need improvement to meet the required grade for accessibility. Optimally, well developed trails should connect both the upper and lower parking to the launch site, north-south trail and wildlife viewing blind.

In the Ona Hills area, OPRD has a unique opportunity to eventually acquire ODOT’s existing office and maintenance complex. This complex and its entrance from Highway 101 are situated in the only area where vehicular access to the Ona Hills portion of the park is currently feasible. The existing ODOT entrance is suitable as the future park entrance, and the office and maintenance facilities provide more than ample space to serve the administrative needs of Brian Booth State Park, including visitor registration, and to serve as a new central office for OPRD’s Coastal Region. Some remodeling of the office building’s interior space will be needed. Reconfiguration of the parking will also be needed, along with development of road access through the site and into the park interior where campground and trail access facilities are planned. Substantial landscaping will be needed to enhance the grounds and visually buffer the large maintenance buildings from view along the park visitor access corridor. The maintenance yard is oversized for OPRD’s needs, so downsizing the yard and restoring some paved area to vegetation is also proposed. OPRD and ODOT have established an agreement for OPRD to eventually acquire the complex, and to share the facilities during an interim period.

**Figure 7.1**  
**Opportunity Areas**  
**Brian Booth State Park**



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**Legend**

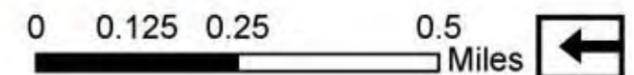
- Park Boundary
- Streams
- Existing Trails
- Logging Roads

**Natural Resource Opportunity Emphasis**

- 1 - Beach and Dune
- 2 - Estuary and Floodplain
- 3 - Forest
- 4 - Young Plantation Forest
- 5 - Managed Grassland

**Visitor Experience Opportunity Emphasis**

- 6 - Development Opportunity
- 7 - Existing Facilities







# CHAPTER 8: VALUES, GOALS AND STRATEGIES

This chapter outlines the basic Goals and Strategies for the future use and management of the park. Using the “Values Based Approach” to planning discussed in Chapter 5, the Goals and Strategies are formatted around the basic Values associated with the park’s natural and cultural resources, visitor experiences and community connections.

## Natural Resources

**Value 1: We value the park as a unique and predominantly natural place.**

A top priority for park planning and management is to understand, respect and preserve the integrity of important natural resources, and to improve natural resource functions and values where appropriate.

**Goal 1: Preserve and improve natural resource conditions in the park to benefit ecological health, recreation settings and visitor experience.**

**1.1 Assessments:** Use professional assessments of natural resources, supplemented by citizen science assessments, as a basis for decisions on resource management.

- > Use natural resource assessments completed for this Plan as a basis for locating and designing park uses and managing natural resources. Key guiding documents include the “Vegetation Inventory and Botanical Resource Assessment” and the “Wildlife Assessment” for the park.
- > Use the resource assessments and expertise of other natural resource agencies and interest groups to supplement OPRD’s assessments in developing more detailed management plans and prescriptions consistent with OPRD’s objectives for the park. Partner agencies and groups will include the Mid-Coast Watershed Council, Wetlands Conservancy, Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District, ODFW, groups such as Yaquina Birders and Naturalists, and potentially others.

- > Conduct more detailed follow-up assessments where needed to refine development and management plans for particular sites.
- > Continue to study the park's natural resources over time to increase understanding of resource conditions and management needs with support from expert agencies and volunteer citizen science groups.

**1.2 Management emphasis:** Apply natural resource management practices that support the desired conditions and intended use and management emphasis of each area or site.

- > Where the emphasis of management is on ecological conditions, management practices will focus on measures needed to preserve or improve ecological health.
- > Where the emphasis of management is on recreational development or a balance of natural resource conditions and recreation, management practices to support ecological health will be balanced with objectives for creating desirable recreation settings and managing hazards.

**1.3 Priority habitat preservation:** Preserve the highest quality and most important ecological resource areas in the park through special designation.

- > Special protection will be applied to areas and sites with high quality and rare native botanical communities and habitats of particular importance to the life cycles of at-risk species and focal species.

**1.4 Habitat connectivity:** Designate corridors where suitable contiguous habitat conditions facilitate terrestrial and aquatic wildlife movement through the park.

- > Identified wildlife movement corridors will connect areas identified as the highest priority habitat preservation areas.

**1.5 Habitat management projects:** Implement viable projects for restoring important natural resource areas and sites to optimal conditions.

- > Habitat management will be guided by desired future ecological conditions and the habitat needs of identified focal species.
- > Management for enhancement of three major habitat types will be emphasized: late seral coniferous forests, streams and emergent marshlands, and riparian shrublands and forests.
- > Habitat enhancement priorities will focus first on projects that support recovery of at-risk species, help prevent degradation of high quality or rare habitats, improve important wildlife movement corridors, or that are otherwise important to overall ecological health.
- > Feasible projects determined to have significant benefits to stream, estuary and freshwater wetland habitats will be implemented. Controlling invasive weeds in these areas will be a top priority. Projects to reverse former actions that altered stream and marsh hydrology will be evaluated for potential benefits and implemented accordingly.
- > Areas formerly managed as conifer plantations and other early seral forests in accessible locations will be managed to promote healthy succession by prescribed thinning, removal of diseased trees and under planting of native species as needed. In plantation forest areas set aside for recreational development, forest conditions will be improved for desired recreation settings in combination with improved habitat values.
- > Most of the former pastures will be restored to healthy native forests over time by planting native trees and shrubs and controlling invasive weeds. A few pastures will be retained as open meadows for their contributions to habitat diversity and scenic values.

- > Dunal habitat management will focus on protection and restoration of identified at-risk plant species and control of invasive non-native species.

**1.6 At-risk species:** Support the recovery of identified at-risk species through management actions that protect habitats critical to their survival and improve habitat conditions where needed.

- > Conduct site assessments for project areas to identify possible presence of at-risk species.
- > Follow applicable guidelines set out by responsible agencies to prevent impacts on at-risk species and their habitats.

**1.7 Invasive species:** Eradicate or control the spread of invasive species to the extent feasible using best management practices.

- > Weed control measures will focus first on managing the spread of weeds along avenues of dispersal and at the perimeters of infested areas.
- > Major weed eradication projects will prioritize areas of best ecological condition with highest conservation value.
- > Implement measures to prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic wildlife species at boating access facilities.

**1.8 Scenic resources:** Preserve and enhance the park's natural scenic character through appropriate management of natural resource settings and scenic views and careful placement and design of park development.

- > Create and enhance aesthetically pleasing recreation settings through appropriate management of the natural resources for ecological health.
- > Create and manage scenic views at key locations through strategic management of vegetation.

- > Locate and design park development to avoid unwanted visual impacts on scenic views and settings.

**1.9 Adaptive management:** Manage natural resources in an adaptive manner, adjusting management strategies to take advantage of professional research, expertise, innovations and practical experience to achieve desired outcomes.

## Cultural Resources

**Value 2: We value the cultural history of the park setting, forces that have shaped the landscape and its inhabitants, and features that represent these dynamics.**

In order to assist visitors in discovering the valuable resources at the parks, we must understand and respect the history of the place and its people. Understanding the relationships between the natural resources and cultural history is an essential part of instilling visitor understanding and appreciation of the park setting.

**Goal 2: Honor the cultural history and traditions of the park setting.**

**2.1 Archeological sites:** Preserve the integrity of any identified archeological sites that are significant in representing the cultural history of the park setting.

- > Follow protocols for investigating potential archeological sites and preserving the integrity of any identified sites prior to and during ground disturbing activities within the framework of OPRD's Cultural Resources Policy.

**2.2 Cultural landscape:** Continue working with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and interested historians to identify sites and settings that are important in promoting understanding and appreciation of the area's cultural history.

## Visitor Experience

**Value 3: We value the park landscape and the benefits it brings to those who experience it through recreational, interpretive and educational activities.**

Interaction with natural, scenic and cultural settings through involvement in the park's recreational, interpretive and educational activities promotes and revitalizes physical and mental well-being.

**Goal 3: Provide and support opportunities for quality visitor experiences in outdoor recreation and interpretive and educational activities that are compatible with, and showcase, the park resources and setting while maintaining a high level of natural resource quality and character.**

**3.1 Traditional Ona Beach activities:** Continue supporting the traditional beach activities and picnicking offered at Ona Beach.

- > Implement improvements to the beach access parking to improve vehicular circulation.
- > Reconfigure the picnic grounds as needed in conjunction with restoration of wetlands in areas subject to frequent flooding.
- > Consider the merits of adding a small shelter to enhance the use of the picnic grounds for groups.

**3.2 Camping opportunities:** Develop a new campground in the Ona Hills area offering a range of camping styles and amenities and multi-season camping opportunities.

- > Camping by vehicle access will emphasize traditional sites for tents or small RVs or trailers with no site utilities.
- > All-season camping opportunities will be provided in camper cabins or yurts. Explore the merits of adding simple 3-sided tent

shelters that support more off-season camping in some campsite clusters.

- > Provide group gathering shelters for campers.
- > Support equine use with development of a small equine campground. Prior to developing an equine camp, explore the availability of other possible locations in the vicinity that would better serve equine interests with more trail riding or better beach access opportunities.
- > Provide a small hiker biker camp with amenities that meet the needs of those traveling to or along the coast by bike or on foot.
- > Explore the merits and feasibility of providing a small remote Adirondack camp available by reservation. This camp could be useful for teaching outdoor skills among the programs offered at the park.

**3.3 Trail opportunities:** Expand the park's trail system to include a range of non-motorized trail uses.

- > Develop a highway underpass or overpass trail connecting Ona Beach to Ona Hills. An underpass is the preferred alternative. This trail will serve pedestrians and bicycles. Explore the merits and feasibility of the crossing also serving equestrians.
- > Trails from camping areas toward the highway corridor will only be developed with completion of the highway crossing trail.
- > At Ona Beach, decommission certain trails within and around the picnic grounds that are subject to frequent flooding, and restore these sites to wetland plant communities.
- > In the south Beaver Creek upland area, the density of the existing hiking trails will be reduced by decommissioning some trails.

- > Explore alternatives for construction of a trail connecting the Beaver Creek Nature Center site to the south Beaver Creek uplands, considering alternatives that are feasible and responsible from economic, environmental, engineering, and visitor experience perspectives.
- > Explore the merits of developing a nature trail through the mature forest in the north part of Beaver Creek NA across the county road from the Nature Center after the life estate on this property expires. Consideration will be given to potential effects on sensitive species and measures necessary to prevent unwanted impacts.
- > In the Ona Hills area, develop a trail system that serves a range of uses including pedestrians and hikers, bicycles and horses.
- > The spine of the Ona Hills trail system will be a multi-use trail that extends in a northwest-southeast direction along the higher elevations for the length of Ona Hills. Reaching outward from the spine, the multi-use trail loops will offer the most remote trail experiences in the park.
- > Hiking and bicycling trails will be developed within and around the edges of the central and upper campgrounds.
- > Trail access to the edge of the marsh from Ona Hills will be limited to two hiking trails that descend the hillside from the central campground trail system to the floodplain, each with a short spur trail that will terminate at the marsh edge. Elsewhere along the marsh abutting the Ona Hills slopes, the marsh and floodplain edges will be kept free of trail development.
- > Develop a short interpretive hiking trail loop that begins at the central campground program area designed for use by all age groups.
- > Explore the merits of offering a guided hike into the mature forest directly west of the Ona Hills entrance, considering potential effects on sensitive species and measures necessary to prevent unwanted impacts.
- > Explore the merits of developing a mountain biking single track trail loop near the southwest edge of Ona Hills, designed in conjunction with major forest restoration needed for this area. As an alternative use of this area, a disc golf course may also be considered.
- > Development of platforms or other structures that enhance viewing opportunities may be considered at key viewpoints along the trail system. A viewpoint lookout tower with trail access from the multi-use trail spine will be considered at the top of a hill near the upper campground. Small viewing blinds for marsh wildlife observation will be considered at a few key locations.

**3.4 Trailhead parking areas:** Develop trailhead parking at locations that best serve the different types of trail uses.

- > Develop a beach access trailhead parking area near the proposed highway crossing trail with connections to the multi-use trail system. This parking will only be developed with completion of the highway crossing trail.
- > Develop a small central trailhead parking area for hikers and bicyclists along the main park road. This parking will only be developed with completion of the highway crossing trail.
- > Develop a small trailhead parking area for mountain bikers near the proposed mountain bike single track trail loop; or use this trailhead parking to support the proposed alternative disc golf use.
- > Develop a small equine trailhead parking area near the proposed equine camp. This parking will only be developed with completion of the highway crossing trail.

- > Explore alternatives for providing a small trailhead parking area that serves the south Beaver Creek upland trail system.
- > Parking for the proposed trail connecting the Nature Center site with the south Beaver Creek uplands will be managed within existing parking lots at the Nature Center and its nearby lower parking area that serves the kayak launch.

**3.5 Trail connectivity:** Continue exploring alternatives for establishing an upland trail connection between Ona Hills and Beaver Creek NA, and continue cooperating with outside interests in establishing trail connections to community and regional trail systems.

- > Continue exploring potential land acquisitions or easements that would connect the park properties.
- > Work with Seal Rock Trails Group and other groups interested in trail connections from the park to community and regional trails.
- > Support the Corvallis-to-Sea Trail group in exploring alternatives for connecting this regional trail to the park and its amenities.

**3.6 Beaver Creek Water Trail:** Continue to support existing uses of the water trail from the existing boating access site by Highway 101 and from the kayak/canoe launch site near the Nature Center.

- > Replace the temporary floating kayak/canoe launch near the Nature Center with a permanent floating launch that is low impact visually and environmentally.
- > Improve trail connections from the Nature Center and lower parking lot to the floating launch site. No additional parking is proposed at the Nature Center or lower parking area.
- > Implement minor improvements at the boat ramp and its parking area to facilitate efficient use and minimize conflicts between users groups.

**3.7 Park visitor program support facilities:**

Provide facilities to support the park’s interpretive and educational programs.

- > Develop a camp talk amphitheater near the central campground.
- > Develop a junior ranger gathering shelter near the central campground and the camp talk amphitheater.
- > Change the name of the Beaver Creek Welcome Center to “The Beaver Creek Nature Center.” This facility will serve as the base for interpretive and educational programs. Remodel the interior of the Nature Center as needed to support expanded use for interpretive and educational programs and related staff.
- > Consider improving the pole barn site and home site near the Nature Center as extension facilities that support learning activities.
- > In designing group gathering shelters and all-season camping areas, consider the use of these facilities to support groups engaged in park program activities.

**3.8 Interpretive and educational programs:**

Continue to support and expand the visitor programs offered at the park.

- > Use information provided in the “Interpretive Assessment” completed for the planning process for reference in designing interpretive and educational programs.
- > Use visitor programs to promote understanding of the historic relationships between the natural resource setting and human interventions for subsistence, employment and recreation, and the importance of land stewardship in sustaining the natural resources and protecting important cultural resources.
- > Use visitor programs to teach about the park’s natural resources in the context of natural processes.

- > Use visitor programs to promote understanding and support of OPRD's management actions to protect and restore natural resources.
  - > Use visitor programs to promote understanding of the values of outdoor recreation and interaction with natural settings.
  - > Use visitor programs to promote and facilitate visitor safety in recreation activities.
  - > Use visitor programs to teach outdoor skills that add to visitor enjoyment of outdoor recreation settings.
  - > Offer Junior Ranger programs for youth conducted by OPRD staff or volunteers.
  - > Retain and build on the interpretive, environmental education and outdoor skills programs offered by park staff, volunteers and by outside partners, and pursue additional program partnership opportunities.
- 3.9 Self-guided interpretive opportunities:**  
Enhance visitor awareness and appreciation of the park's natural and cultural history, resources and settings with self-guided interpretive trails, displays and signage.
- > Add to the park's self-guided interpretive opportunities with signage and displays at key locations.
  - > Develop short interpretive trails designed to accommodate all ages that enhance environmental learning opportunities.
  - > Use the "Interpretive Assessment" completed for this Plan as a reference in choosing interpretive subject matter and formulating themes and prescriptions.
- 3.10 Vehicular circulation:** Provide for safe, efficient and understandable vehicular access and circulation.
- > Provide clear orientation to the park's multiple points of entry, access roads and facilities with appropriate signage and information provided in brochures and online.
  - > Implement improvements to the Ona Beach parking lot that provide for more efficient traffic circulation.
  - > Explore alternatives for improving circulation and preventing user conflicts at the boat ramp and its parking lot.
  - > At the Beaver Creek Nature Center, define parking spaces in currently undefined parking areas using wheel stops or striping (which may require paving).
  - > Explore alternatives for providing visitor parking for the south Beaver Creek NA upland trail system, considering alternatives that are feasible and responsible from economic, environmental, engineering, and visitor experience perspectives.
  - > Providing vehicular access to Ona Hills from Highway 101 will require implementation of improvements in the highway right-of-way described in the highway access design exception produced by KIA for this Plan and approved by ODOT.
  - > The entrance to Ona Hills will be the existing entrance to the ODOT administrative complex. With acquisition of the ODOT facilities or other agreement with ODOT, this access road will be reconfigured as needed to provide efficient and aesthetically pleasing visitor access to and through the park registration office and administrative complex and on to planned day use and overnight facilities. The parking and circulation within the complex will be reconfigured to accommodate express check-in and walk-in registration and visitor contact.
  - > The main road through Ona Hills will provide visitor vehicle access as far as the extent of drive-in campsites, where it

will be gated at a turnaround. This road beyond the campground to the southeast end of Ona Hills will be used for park maintenance access.

- > Where consistent with the park concept designs presented in this Plan, the Ona Hills access roads and parking will be developed using existing primitive road alignments. Where consistent with the planned trail system in this Plan, trails will be developed along existing primitive road alignments not used for road or parking development.
- > Park roads and parking will be developed only to minimum standards necessary for their planned level of use.

**3.11 Park administration:** Support safe and enjoyable visitor experiences and efficient park management through well-designed and appropriately located park administrative facilities, well-managed administrative programs, sufficient levels of staffing and volunteers and cooperation with the area's providers of necessary support services.

- > With property acquisition or other agreement with ODOT, the existing office and maintenance facilities in Ona Hills will become the park administrative area where park registration, pre-registration check-in and other visitor contact, and most other park operations and maintenance will be centered. This office will also serve as the central office for the OPRD Coast Region. The registration and visitor contact area of the complex will be staffed during normal walk-in registration hours.
- > The Beaver Creek Nature Center will serve as a base for the park's interpretive and educational programs. The visitor contact area in this facility will be staffed during normal business hours.

- > Year-round and seasonal staffing levels for the park, including volunteer hosts, will be established consistent with the needs of the park in its phased development of facilities and programs and visitation levels.
- > Park administration will be assisted by volunteer hosts living on site in sufficient numbers and optimally located to provide the level of assistance needed for the park visitors and facilities.
- > Establish and maintain preparedness for emergencies. In cooperation with the area's emergency response planners and service providers, develop and regularly update an emergency management plan, staff and volunteer training, related facilities and equipment, and media for conveying safety messages to park visitors.
- > Designate a refuge area for emergencies requiring evacuation from vulnerable areas.
- > Develop and maintain a landing pad for helicopters.
- > Maintain close coordination with state and local law enforcement agencies.

## Community

**Value 4: We value how the park helps strengthen the local community through its contributions to public health, livability and the local economy, and how community relations also benefit the park and its visitors.**

Relations with the community are mutually beneficial. The park is a valuable resource to the community, providing benefits to happy and healthy lifestyles, the local economy and community identity. The park and its visitors benefit from local services and various visitor programs provided or supported by partner organizations and the local business community.

**Goal 4: Create opportunities for community involvement with park programs.**

- > Build on existing partnerships and establish new partnerships for providing natural and cultural resource interpretive, educational and outdoor learning programs at the park.
  - > Expand programs that involve volunteer citizen science groups in studies of the park's natural resources and related community outreach.
- > Continue and enhance community outreach efforts to encourage volunteer assistance in park stewardship projects and events.
  - > Continue supporting programs that use the park as an environmental learning laboratory for schools.







# CHAPTER 9: PARKWIDE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

This chapter provides an overview of key strategies for managing the park resources and providing for visitor experiences consistent with the Values and Goals outlined in the previous chapter. While strategies for meeting the park Goals are presented in abbreviated form in the previous chapter, this chapter expands on key strategies that need more explanation describing intent. In the chapter that follows (Chapter 10), more details are provided on specific visitor support facilities and resource management actions that further describe how the park will be managed.

## **Park Identity**

In 2013 the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission combined Ona Beach State Park and Beaver Creek State Natural Area, together with additional property acquisitions, into a single state park that honors the memory of Brian Booth, the late first Chair of the Commission. (Read about Brian Booth and his contributions to the state park system at the front of this Plan.)

In naming the new park, the OPRD Commission and Director recognized a public interest, especially among local citizens, in retaining

the former identities of the two original parks. The place known as Ona Beach is not only long standing in the state parks system, it is also an important part of the local community's identity, and the name "Ona" itself has meaning in the local history. (See discussion in Chapter 3 under "Cultural Resources.") Beaver Creek Natural Area, although part of the state park system only since 2010, is also part of the local identity by its reference to Beaver Creek, the geographic feature that ties the park properties together. This name also has long standing in the local history. The beach and estuary are two outstanding features that make the park what it is. More recently, the park property has doubled in size with the addition of property that had no meaningful identity. There are now three distinct areas of the park defined by natural and cultural geographic features and separate points of vehicular access. Although these geographic boundaries do not correspond perfectly with original property boundaries, the two traditional names "Ona Beach" and "Beaver Creek" continue to be the best fit for the two areas of the park they represent. The third area, also well defined by the geography, will be known as "Ona Hills."

- *Ona Beach* is the area of the park west of Highway 101, plus a small unused property at the far north end of the park that borders the east side of the highway.
- *Beaver Creek Natural Area* is the park area north of Beaver Creek Road and northeast of South Beaver Creek Road, and area within the Beaver Creek marshland and floodplain east of Highway 101. (The boat ramp is now part of Beaver Creek Natural Area and is recognized as the entrance to the Beaver Creek Water Trail.)
- *Ona Hills* is the area southwest of the Beaver Creek marsh and floodplain and east of Highway 101.

### Chester Armstrong Campground

The adoption of this Plan for Brian Booth State Park will also honor the memory of a second renowned figure from OPRD’s history. The campground planned for the Ona Hills area will be named after Chester Armstrong, the late superintendent of state parks who

first introduced camping into the state park system. (Read about Chester Armstrong and his contributions to state parks at the front of this Plan.)

### Opportunities to Grow

OPRD continues to explore opportunities to expand the park boundaries by acquiring neighboring properties from willing sellers. These interests include both uplands and bottomland marsh and floodplain. There are multiple objectives for acquiring additional land. One is to expand and connect more of the upland and wetland habitats under park ownership. Another is to connect the currently noncontiguous park properties for more efficient and effective land management. A third objective is to connect the park properties with an uninterrupted trail system. And fourth, OPRD is exploring alternatives for providing better visitor access to the Beaver Creek NA upland trail system in a location where development of a small trailhead parking area is feasible.

### Brian Booth State Park



## Respecting the Neighbors

In locating, designing and managing park uses and facilities, OPRD strives to be aware of potential affects from the park on neighboring land uses and seeks ways to prevent significant impacts on these properties, and also to prevent impacts from the neighboring uses on the park. In a coastal setting such as this park, naturally vegetated or topographic buffers along the park boundaries most often serve this purpose. It is not always feasible to provide buffers as wide as might be desired by neighbors or OPRD. Where potential problems exist, OPRD makes every effort to work with the neighbors to identify and implement workable solutions. In addition to providing physical barriers where needed, potential problems are also addressed in the way the park uses are managed, which includes visitor management under defined park rules.

## Management Emphasis - Fitting the Park to the Setting

A first step in formulating strategies for managing the park is to define, geographically, the primary management emphasis for different areas of the park. Fundamentally this means geographically defining those areas where the management emphasis will be on the protection and enhancement of natural resource values, and defining those areas where a management emphasis on recreation support facilities fits within the larger natural resource context.

The process of defining management emphasis begins with the resource assessments summarized in Chapter 3, which lead to a geographic depiction of natural resource values based on botanical, wetland and wildlife resources and their conditions and relative conservation importance. (See the Composite Natural Resource Values map, Figure 3.4 in

Chapter 3.) Following this, the natural resource values, together with other factors such as topographic constraints, existing infrastructure and management considerations, are factored into the identification of “opportunity areas” for natural resource management and recreation support facilities. (See the Opportunity Areas map, Figure 7.1 in Chapter 7.)

## Management Zones – Further Defining Management Intent

The identification of “management zones” based on opportunity areas takes the park planning process to the next level. Management zones provide a framework for further definition of the intended uses and management of opportunity areas. Management zones with natural resource management emphasis are defined by the boundaries of four types of landscape features present in the park: *the beach and dune, estuary and floodplain, forested hills, and managed grasslands*. Management zones with recreation emphasis are based on three basic types of recreation support facilities: *campground facilities, day use facilities, and park administration facilities*.

The Management Zones framework has limits in its ability to categorize management actions. While this framework is useful for illustrating management emphasis – natural resource emphasis versus recreational development emphasis – by landscape type and recreation facility type, it cannot cleanly categorize by zone all proposed management actions for either natural resource or recreation management. Some management actions and projects for both natural resources and recreational uses cross management zone boundaries, between different zones with the same emphasis and between natural resource and recreation emphasis zones.

The table below summarizes management intentions for each Management Zone by park area. The Management Zones map that follows in the next chapter (Figure 10.1) illustrates how Management Zones overlay the General Plan for the park.

## Brian Booth State Park Management Zones



Management Zones	Park Areas		
	Ona Beach - 83 acres	Beaver Creek NA - 483 acres	Ona Hills - 730 acres
<b>Natural Resource Management Emphasis</b>			
<b>Beach &amp; Dune</b> Total Acreage: 54	- At-risk dunal plant community management - Invasive plant control	NA	NA
<b>Estuary &amp; Floodplain</b> Total Acreage: 231 Ona Beach: 10 acres Beaver Creek NA: 221 acres	- Priority habitat protection - Invasive plant control	- Priority habitat protection - Invasive plant control - Priority hydrologic improvements - North-south trail connection - Paddler launch improvements - Wildlife viewing blinds - Boardwalk trail	NA
<b>Forested Hills</b> Total Acreage: 874 Ona Beach: 3 acres Beaver Creek NA: 232 acres Ona Hills: 639 acres	- Priority habitat protection - Beach access trail	- Priority habitat protection - Forest succession & diversity management - Trail density reduction - South trailhead	- Priority habitat protection - Forest succession & diversity management - Park facility access roads - Trails & viewpoints
<b>Grassland</b> Total Acreage: 11	NA	- Priority habitat protection - Priority open grassland management	
<b>Recreation Management Emphasis</b>			
<b>Park Administration</b> Total Acreage: 16	NA	NA	- Conversion of ODOT administrative area to park administrative area
<b>Day Use Access</b> Total Acreage: 23 Ona Beach: 11 acres Beaver Creek NA: 6 acres Ona Hills: 6 acres	- Beach entrance & picnic area enhancement	- Boating access enhancement - Learning facility improvements	- Trailheads for a range of non-motorized trail uses
<b>Campground</b> Total Acreage: 69	NA	NA	- Campground facilities for a range of camping preferences

## Natural Resource Management

This Plan describes natural resource management mostly in general terms and categories for purposes of describing intent and providing guidance at a general planning level. Designing management actions at a project level, such as detailing project prescriptions, is not a purpose of this Plan. However, management actions will be consistent with the management intentions and general project descriptions expressed in this Plan, which are based on recommendations from the botanical and wildlife resource assessments prepared for the Plan. Management actions include actions to preserve natural resources and actions to enhance them through intervention.

### Watershed Management Context

Brian Booth State Park is mostly within the Beaver Creek Watershed, in its lower reach. The entire watershed has a total area of roughly 32,500 acres. Reportedly between 35 and 40 percent of the Beaver Creek Watershed is currently managed for natural resource conservation under the management direction of public and non-profit land ownerships and programs, which includes about 11,000 acres of late successional forest managed by the Siuslaw National Forest in the upper watershed.

The park is part of a multi-partner management project known as the Beaver Creek Partnership, the area of which includes the lower watershed to the upstream extent of tidal influence and the uplands that drain to this reach. The Partnership Area is characterized by a series of estuarine, tidal and non-tidal wetlands and adjacent upland forest habitats. Most of the Partnership Area is privately owned. Partners in this project include OPRD, the Wetlands Conservancy, the Mid-Coast Watershed Council and the Lincoln County

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The SWCD works with the private owners on projects that support conservation objectives, work which includes the mid-section of the watershed. Through the coordinated efforts, ecological linkages are being strengthened from the upper to lower reach. The Partnership Area also provides ecological connections that support a three-watershed biodiversity and conservation plan linking the Yaquina River estuary and watershed to the north and the Alsea River estuary and watershed to the south. These areas have been identified as priority areas in the Coast Range Eco-region in Oregon's Conservation Strategy (2006).

### Natural Resource Management in the Park

Of the park's total 1278 acres, about 990 acres, or 77%, drain to Beaver Creek while most of the remaining park acreage drains to the ocean by Deer Creek. About 108 acres or 8% of the total park acreage is planned for park facility development and the remainder is planned for ecosystem health maintenance or enhancement. Likewise, in the Beaver Creek Watershed portion of the park, about 75 acres or 8% are intended for park facilities versus 92% intended for management of ecosystem health. All of the park's largely intact marshland and adjacent floodplain, and 90% of the upland forest environment (grasslands included), as well as all of the open beach and dune area, will be managed for ecological values.

Within most of the visitor support facility development areas, natural resource management will play a key role in the protection and enhancement of recreation settings. Outside of development areas, the types and levels of natural resource management will reflect the results of three types of analyses used in formulating this Plan:

- *Composite Natural Resource Values*: Figure 3.4 in Chapter 3 illustrates areas of the

park with existing high value natural resources based on botanical, wetland and wildlife values, and areas currently protected under special management designation. These are represented as Composite Values 1 and 2. These values represent the first step in deciding areas to be managed with a natural resource emphasis.

- *Opportunity Areas and Management Zones:* Figures 7.1 and 10.1 illustrate the progressive analysis leading to selection of areas to be managed with natural resource versus recreation emphasis. Areas selected for management with natural resource emphasis include most of the lower quality natural resource areas, identified as Composite Natural Resource Value 3, in addition to the higher value areas, Values 1 and 2. (See Figure 3.4 in Chapter 3.) The Composite Value 3 areas are among the proposed natural resource enhancement project areas discussed below and illustrated by Figure 9.3.
- *Priority Habitat Preservation Areas:* The wildlife assessment prepared for this Plan and summarized in Chapter 3 included identification of areas of highest value to wildlife, and recommended that these areas be recognized in this Plan as the highest priorities for preservation. These are discussed in the next section.

### **Priority Habitat Preservation Areas**

Five types of priority habitats emerged from the wildlife assessment prepared for this Plan, which are recommended for special protection beyond other management protections represented by Composite Natural Resource Values (Figure 3.4) and management emphasis associated with Management Zones (Figure 10.1). These priority habitats are illustrated by Figure 9.2. Each identified priority habitat and its conditions are important to a range of wildlife species as summarized in the legend

of Figure 9.2 in this chapter, and in Chapter 3. For simple identification, they are called Deer Valley, Elk Meadow, Rana Range, Late Seral Forest and Beaver Creek Marsh. The latter of these is already protected by special designation covering most of its area in the park. In addition, as illustrated by Figure 9.2, the wildlife assessment also identified priority wildlife movement corridors, terrestrial and aquatic corridors, connecting high priority habitats. Methods used in identifying these resource areas included consideration of types of species and habitat conditions, extent of trail development and anticipated levels of human disturbance based on proximity to recreational activity.

### **Habitat Enhancement Projects**

The habitat enhancement projects proposed by this Plan are wide ranging. They include forest management projects that will thin overstocked areas and remove disease and invasive weeds, promote botanical and habitat diversity and accelerate forest succession, and improve settings desired by wildlife and



humans. Projects for stream and wetland habitats are focused on invasive weed control and enhancing wetland botanical communities, improving habitat structure, restoring natural hydrology where beneficial, and continuing to study the use of the stream system by aquatic species. Weed control projects are proposed in identified problem areas within all of the habitat types. A few former pastures in the Beaver Creek NA uplands are proposed for continued management as open grassland and early successional habitat for their contributions to habitat diversity and the scenic views they offer. Management of two at-risk plant species is proposed in isolated areas. Some of these proposed management actions cross boundaries between natural resource emphasis areas and recreation emphasis areas. The project areas are illustrated below by Figure 9.3 in this chapter.

### **Riparian Areas and Streams**

In addition to the stream and wetland enhancement projects identified on Figure 9.3, riparian and stream habitats in general will be managed using professionally accepted management practices to protect habitat, water quality and floodwater detention functions. Removal of mature native trees, snags, and shrubs from viable riparian habitats will occur only as prescribed for purposes related to visitor safety or forest health. Snags and fallen trees will be left in place to benefit riparian and aquatic habitat, except as may be needed to remove obstructions or address safety concerns. New upland trails will be located outside of riparian areas except at crossings, the design of which will not impede passage of any aquatic or other species that may use these habitats. If visitors stray from designated trails causing stream bank erosion or degradation of habitat, measures to restrict access will be implemented. Redesigning and replacing culverts that impede fish passage will be a priority.

### **Development Proximity to Beaver Creek Marsh**

The General Plan (Figure 9.5) illustrates the locations of planned visitor support facilities. Except for certain trails and trail structures identified in this Plan, sites where new visitor support facilities will be developed are buffered from the marsh by substantial distance, topography and dense forest vegetation. Planned facilities that are nearest to the marsh are at the north edge of the central campground. At its narrowest point, the forested buffer between the campground and marsh is about 340 horizontal feet and 130 vertical feet.

Figure 9.4 illustrates distance and elevation profiles for three sites near the marsh, two of which are at the north edge of the central campground, at the cabin area and walk-in tent site area. The third site is one of the two Ona Hills locations where a hiking trail will reach to the marsh.

### **Scenic Resources**

The park has a wealth of scenic resources. Multiple scenic landscapes - the beach with its ocean views, the open expanses of marsh along the Beaver Creek channel, the steep hills covered with mixed forests, and the open meadows – all provide opportunities for viewpoints, view corridors and scenic settings highly valued by park visitors. The “Scenic Assessment” illustration (Figure 3.3) in Chapter 3 illustrates scenic corridors and opportunities for scenic viewpoints and screened views. Figure 3.3 also illustrates landscape settings associated with current conditions, including the various stages of forest succession.

View corridors: The most prominent view corridors at the park are the beach, Beaver Creek and the county road.

- Ona Beach: In addition to views of the ocean and the coastline to the north and south, the trail from the picnic area to the beach opens up to views of Beaver Creek flowing to the ocean where visitors approach and cross the pedestrian bridge over the creek channel.
- Beaver Creek Water Trail: A boat trip on the Water Trail gives visitors the close-up scenic experience of the marshland environment.
- Beaver Creek Road: Travelers along the county road enjoy views of the marshlands and forested hills along most of the distance where the road corridor passes by and through the park.

Key viewpoints: Seven key viewpoints are identified on the “General Plan” (Figure 9.5).

- Beaver Creek Nature Center: From the Nature Center visitors see the most accessible view looking over the marsh and the forested hills of Beaver Creek Natural Area.
- Two viewpoints at the marsh edge in Beaver Creek NA are being considered for wildlife viewing structures. A site near the floating water trail launch, accessible from the lower parking area, would offer an overview of the marsh habitat from an elevated structure where visitors may see flocks of migratory birds. At the other site across the marsh and next to the Beaver Creek channel, a viewing blind would offer closer viewing of many bird species that frequent this part of the marsh.
- Snaggy Point: Those who hike the trails of the south Beaver Creek hills can see a view of the Ona Hills, Beaver Creek marshlands and the ocean from an open meadow at the highest point in the park.
- Cougar Ridge: Also at a high point in the south Beaver Creek hills, this viewpoint gives

hikers screened views of the surrounding landscape looking north, south and west.

- At the north end of Ona Hills, the multi-use trail will lead to an eastward view overlooking Beaver Creek from the hill across the creek from the boat ramp.
- Also in the Ona Hills, a proposed viewpoint lookout tower with multi-use trail access is being considered at the top of a hill near the Upper Campground that could provide a 360 degree view depending of the height of the tower. OPRD may consider adding one or two similar viewpoint structures at other, currently unidentified locations along the trail system.

Meadow views: Trails through the forested south Beaver Creek hills open up to meadow views where the trails follow the edges of the former pastures. Three of the former pastures along the trail system will be retained for their scenic values and for their contributions to habitat diversity. These are represented as “managed grasslands” on the “Management Zones” map (Figure 10-1). Snaggy Point, one of the key viewpoints discussed above, is located in one of these meadows.

Screened view opportunities: At a number of locations in Ona Hills and Beaver Creek NA, there may be opportunities to create and maintain narrow views of the marshlands and distant hills through the forest or shrub cover by careful pruning of trees and shrubs. The Scenic Assessment map (Figure 3.3) in Chapter 3 illustrates areas where screened view opportunities most likely occur along existing or planned trail corridors.

Scenic settings: While the ocean beach and marshlands are generally regarded as the most highly valued settings associated with the park, the forest settings are currently more variable in scenic qualities. The older forests with well-developed understories, the mixed mid-age forests with multi-layered canopies