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Subject: Worrell Wayside in 2023 and beyond
Date: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 5:14:21 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Wishing you Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year!

And to extend a thank you for revisiting the parking situation on the downtown County Campus. It should be no surprise that we are thrilled with the BoCC support of the recommendation from the parking analysis that our little Worrell Wayside County Park will not be needed for additional parking in the mid term.

Over most of 2022, a community effort swelled to save Worrell Wayside from being redeveloped into parking. We know the work is just beginning; to weed, plant more native plants, work on the trails, level and repair picnic tables and benches; the list goes on.

We would like to officially adopt the park and work with the BoCC and County Staff to develop a Master Plan and annual operating plan. We have many ideas and many volunteers who want to stay engaged and some who want to “get their hands dirty” by helping.

There is also an opportunity during January of each “odd numbered” calendar year to apply to the City for a new Area of Special Interest designation to be added to the Bend Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Maps. Bend Development Code 2.7.700 outlines the process in more detail and its purpose is intended to protect valuable natural resources within the City of Bend’s Urban Growth Boundary while ensuring reasonable use of the property.

We would like to file an application with the City of Bend to create an Area of Special Interest (ASI) for Worrell Wayside Park. Any individual or organization may apply for this designation and of course we need to coordinate with Deschutes County, the landowner. It seems this would be a valuable designation and it provides an opportunity for the County to acknowledge ...”Bend is a community that values its natural features of trees and rocks...”

Time is critical for the ASI process and we realize this is likely not a high priority for the County. We are committed to stepping up to volunteer to file the application with your support; additionally, to work with your staff to develop a Worrell Wayside operating plan for 2023 assuming you will welcome our offer to adopt Worrell Wayside.

Thank you for considering items in this request and please advise if a different format is required and the best way to follow up.

Happy New Year and Best Regards,

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