

TRAILS COMMITTEE – Parks and Commons report – May 17, 2019

YIPS! (-3-16-2019) – Twenty four dedicated volunteers participated and each one worked for 2 hours. The main focus was once more on removing ivy from the Commons wetland park. We are making steady progress there, though much ivy remains. A slightly smaller contingent worked at Whale Tail Park, pulling weeds and doing some pruning.

Trails (5/4/2019) – Another great turnout of 20 dedicated volunteers allowed us to work at multiple locations, maximizing the improvement to Yachats' trails and Commons areas. Tasks included work on pathways in the Commons, removal of invasives in the Commons area, repairs to the Gerdemann Public Trail, weeding along the Prospect Garden trail, and trimming at several trail locations including the King St. - Horizon Hill connection, Amanda and Aqua Vista Loop /bluff connection trail.

Wetlands – Near the end of the work session on 5/4, a gentleman engaged some of the volunteers, asking if any were on the Parks and Commons Commission. He wants to have goldfish and perch swimming in the wetland. Apparently he has put some of these piscine critters in the ponds, but doesn't see any sign of them. He thinks that their presence would create a more natural ecosystem. One of our more outspoken workers pointed out that goldfish were actually an invasive species, not natural at all! The gentleman continued on to say that he would like a deep hole to be dug in the pond somewhere, so that the fish would have deeper water to hide in and a thus stand a better chance of avoiding predators.

Budget adjustment – After some recent inquiries about certain items in our recently-submitted budget for next year, Trails leaders proposed that we trim the amount requested for conferences from \$4650 to \$3000 and for food and non-alcoholic refreshments from \$1500 to \$1000 reducing our proposed budget for 2019-20 to \$14,350.

We know the City values the approximately 2000 volunteer hours annually our crew spends on trails, invasive weed removal, replanting, planning, signage, and collaboration with View the Future on grant writing. Equally, we understand that every little bit of budget not spent helps the City save. We want to support the City's efforts to develop its reserve fund, in part, with the City's future water needs in mind

Suspension Bridge Project – The Amanda Trail will be closed from the Kittel driveway S on May 14, 15, and 16th as Job Corps, with the assistance of OPRD, SNF and trail volunteers, takes down trees near the Amanda Gathering Area in preparation for the suspension bridge building. Although the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund did not award VtF a grant, VtF was invited to reapply and may do so. VtF will be applying for a Travel Oregon Grant. As of the date of writing this report, there is still no word from FEMA as to its approving the increase of funds. OPRD staff has been in communication with FEMA and estimate a decision in a month

National Trails Day (NTD) -- Planning and publicity are underway for NTD events on June 1 at Cape Perpetua and June 15 at the Amanda gathering area.