



Yamhill County Parks

Unique natural, cultural, and historic places where people can enjoy outdoor recreation and education activities.

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Date: May 22, 2019
To: Board of Commissioners
CC: Ken Huffer, County Administrator; Justin Hogue, Deputy County Administrator; Jessica Beach, Department of Community Justice Director; Jim Culbert, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair
From: Jarod Logsdon, Parks and Work Crew Division Manager
Subject: Renaming Deer Creek Nature Park

On behalf of Chairman Jim Culbert and the Parks Board members, I would like to pass along the following recommendation to rename Deer Creek Nature Park. The proposed new name would be Deer Creek Prairie Park. The Parks Board and I feel this name change would highlight the unique characteristics of the Deer Creek property more so than the current name and may attract a new group of park goers, nature enthusiasts, and interested parties to the area.

Deer Creek is a unique property in that it contains two very fragile and rare ecosystems; upland prairie and wet prairie. According to Oregon State University, Willamette Valley upland prairies develop in dry areas that consist of well-draining soils. In contrast, wet prairies are found on soils with clay layers which prevent drainage and flood for prolonged periods. Each type of prairie supports different flora and fauna and are a vanishing aspect of the Willamette Valley. Endangered inhabitants of these ecosystems include Fenders blue butterfly, Kincaid Lupine, and Nelson's Checkermallow.

It is an appropriate time to have this conversation as the Yamhill County Parks Department is in the initial stages of an exciting signage project at Deer Creek. This interpretive signage project will accompany the boardwalk project currently in development to provide patrons with a guided journey through the prairie. Signage will describe the rich ecological and cultural history of the Deer Creek property.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jarod Logsdon
Parks and Work Crew Division Manager

Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on
5/30/19 by Board Order
19-165