

Other features of the vista include or will include an archway, gazebo, fountain and trails wandering out through the woods to a neighboring shelter and a footbridge connecting the park to Tussing Park on the other side of the Rogue.

Reinhart Park is still mostly about sports — softball, soccer, basketball, tennis, volleyball — but also has wetlands and wildlife areas.

Riverside Park is the city's most visible park by far, traversed by historic Caveman Bridge on Sixth Street and host every May to the Boatnik celebration, and to summer concerts.

Plans are under way to install a playground this spring in the city's newest site, Redwood Park, and to build new restrooms and expand parking at Tussing.

Still to come at Redwood are tennis and basketball courts, and a dog park. Another dog park is scheduled for construction this spring at Gilbert Creek Park.

A community survey found dog parks among the most desired additions. "They're definitely gaining a lot of momentum in the park community," noted Stephen Pylant, parks specialist for Grants Pass. "We are looking at doing a couple just as trials and then extending from there."

To start, the dog parks will simply be fenced areas where Fido can run free, with different hours for big and small dogs. "We're assuming that eventually they'll do some training events or some dog shows," Pylant said.

The city may develop some of the so-called River Road Reserve into a park, but it's hung up for now on issues about pollution and state laws that may require the former farm to stay agricultural.

For more details on specific parks and their locations, see the accompanying map. More information also is available by phone at 541-471-6438 and online at www.grantspassoregon.gov.

Cave Junction and Rogue River also have their parks.

■ **CAVE JUNCTION.** Jubilee Park, near Junction Avenue and Watkins Street, is the only city park. Many events are held there, including an annual Labor Day festival and summer concerts. Regular features include tennis courts, a gazebo, a bandstand, a playground, a small skate area and a ball field.

Call 541-592-4529 for more information about Jubilee.

■ **ROGUE RIVER.** The visitor plaza at Main and Depot has a water feature, a rock sign welcoming visitors, and the Tree of Hope to honor Hope Warren, a city official and tireless community volunteer who died from cancer in 2007.

Palmerton Park, on West Evans Creek Road, is best known for its exotic arboretum, with self-guided tours. The park also has a playground, footpaths and a bridge to tennis, basketball and handball courts in adjacent Anna Classick Park.

John F. Fleming Memorial Park and Coyote Evans Park, on the south bank of the Rogue River at the Depot Street Bridge, recently underwent complete overhauls. They feature picnicking, fishing, a boat ramp and more.

Fleming was among the first Jackson County men to die in the Vietnam War. His family gave the land for Fleming Park to Jackson County many years ago, but only recently did the county fulfill a commitment to call it John F. Fleming Memorial Park.

The next step, to be completed this spring, will be replacing an aging war memorial in the park.

Ponderosa Memorial Tree Park, off Third Street and Willow Lane, has walking paths.

For more information about Rogue River parks, call 541-582-4401.

"A lot of people can't afford to pay, and we want them to enjoy the parks," Ferguson said. "We charge fees because we have to."

People who can't afford to pay may volunteer for eight hours in exchange for an annual pass. Jobs include raking leaves, painting picnic tables and other chores.

Camping and other fees make up about half the annual budget of just under \$1 million, mostly camping fees from Indian Mary, Schroeder and Lake Selmac. Another 25 percent comes from state recreational vehicle taxes, and small amounts from grants, lottery funds, the State Marine Board and land sales, Ferguson said. The parks get no general fund money from county government.

Nightly camping fees are \$22 for full hookup, \$20 for partial hookups and \$19 for tents, and winter rates no longer apply. Ennis Riffle primitive camping area is just \$7.

Campsite reservations can be made through a Web site and toll-free number. To make the camping reservations, call toll-free (800) 452-5687, or visit www.reserveamerica.com.

Picnic shelter reservations are handled through the park's office. Call 541-474-5285.

Number of projects will keep county parks manager on the go

By Jim Moore
of the Daily Courier

It's going to be a busy year for Doreen Ferguson, the parks program manager for Josephine County.

In addition to working on improvements to some parks and striving toward creating an outdoor curriculum for local schools, the dedicated former park ranger and former 911 center manager is president of the Oregon Parks Association.

It's a position that could benefit local taxpayers,

"We're working on legislation issues that will bring more money to county parks," Ferguson said.

For instance, for years state parks received 70 percent of the portion of Oregon Lottery funds that went to parks while county parks got just 30 percent.

The association worked to change that ratio to 65-35 and intends to continue its efforts to get an even bigger share for counties.

Ferguson was also instrumental in obtaining a grant with the Northwest Youth Corp to hire youths as local seasonal workers.

"This is stimulus money being put to good use to benefit everybody in our community," she said.

Locally, Ferguson will continue working with the Job Council to initiate a strong outdoor education program, particularly for elementary

schools.

"We have amazingly beautiful resources here and they're not being used," she said.

For years state parks received 70 percent of the portion of Oregon Lottery funds that went to parks while county parks got just 30 percent. The association worked to change that ratio to 65-35 and intends to continue its efforts to get an even bigger share for counties.

"We want to teach kids a love for the environment."

And, of course, Ferguson will be addressing county park improvements.

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