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Clark County Parks – doing them smarter:

Clark County has a dedicated team of citizens diligently working to improve our parks in our unincorporated areas. I had the pleasure of joining one of their Parks Advisory Board (PAB) meetings on Friday.

They related that in years past, Clark County Commissioners made parks a low priority. That changed two years ago when Clark County citizens elected a new majority that made our parks a quality of life priority.

We eliminated the fees that deterred many citizens from enjoying their beautiful parks. We started building new parks as previously promised and saved huge sums by taking over the management of our own county parks.

We restored top notch lifeguards at Klinline and transformed our fee collectors into park ambassadors who engage with and help our guests.

Our message to our PAB members is to be encouraged to make our parks even better. Here are some ideas:

Make much better use of our county website by listing our parks action items as we enthusiastically work to get 'er done. Show the schedule of parks and trails to build and new plans being formulated.

Empower organizations to adopt, improve, and maintain our parks and trails. Provide the necessary liability insurance.

Adopt Oregon's fabulously successful Park Host program that welcomes senior citizens and others to park their trailer / camper in a visible area and engage with guests. In addition, convert our park caretakers living onsite to park hosts.

<http://www.oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm...>

Welcome donated professional services and waive their permit costs.

When we have money to build, but not to maintain new parks, build and improve trails instead since they are more easily built and maintained by volunteers and cost much less.

C-Tran does not provide any help for senior citizens to visit our parks. Many huge expensive gas guzzling nearly empty buses are going through the motions presuming that nearly all riders want to go to Portland or downtown Vancouver. For less money, empower each small city to control their own free circulating C-Tran shuttles to serve our senior citizens and include parks, stores, and senior centers along the routes.

Build new dog parks and bike / skate parks.

Champion partnerships with schools to better utilize auditoriums, gymnasiums, pools, playgrounds and other amenities already plentiful throughout our community.

Rather than "water jails" and disconnected storm water facilities, conservation and habitat land, and other single purpose assets, better integrate these environments with trails that open them up to be enjoyed.

These are some of the ideas being considered by our PAB members. Got more?

Thank God! Yea Clark County

