Good Morning. I am Ellen Otani from Eugene. I have concerns about Lane County Parks department’s determination to remove the North Bottomlands from the Howard Buford Recreation Area, end its “nature park” classification, and reclassify it in the newly written Park and Open Space Master Plan as an urban “regional park” similar to Alton Baker. I already provided a copy of the web page in which Lane Parks lists the Bottomlands as a 45th county park separate from HBRA. The name Emerald Meadows was never discussed or adopted by the Parks Advisory Committee. The names Meadow and Emerald are already taken.

The definitions for park classifications from the 2013 A Guide to Community Park and Recreation Planning are clear. Nature parks may be managed for passive recreation and may contain trails and interpretive displays. It does not rule out having buildings to serve those purposes. Regional parks, like Alton Baker, would be the place for large groups, facilities, and revenue generating events “to enhance the City’s economic vitality.” Lane County Parks has declared that the North Bottomland and the Arboretum, by their decree, must be reclassified as regional or Parks will end the Arboretum’s educational program and take out the native plant nursery. You can listen to the tape of the May 12 PAC meeting for confirmation. I already presented a rebuttal at the June 1 PAC meeting explaining the use of the definitions which you will find in the full document. They are management tools. Any analysis of the need for various types of park must include all park property no matter who owns it. There is no need to duplicate Alton Baker.

I have also provided my tabulation of the 167 essays submitted as public input in relation to the June 3, 2015 Large Event Task Force open house. All the task force draft report has said so far is that the opinions ranged from supporting large events to not. June 3 was the first time the public was allowed to distinguish between the Arboretum and the North Bottomlands in a survey, and they did so, overwhelmingly.

Where are the HBRA Master Plan and Habitat Plan in all of this? Lane Parks seems to be operating in a parallel universe in which governing documents don’t exist and the Parks department rules by decree. We need your help in bringing them back to reality and for you to acknowledge the public’s right to expect them to follow the rule of law.
### Tabulation of June 3, 2015 Public Comments, Lane County Large Events Task Force

compiled by Ellen Otani, August 3, 2015

**Should Lane County Parks have large events?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category Name</th>
<th>Unqualified</th>
<th>Limited &amp; Restricted</th>
<th>Unqualified No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Parks in general¹</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buford in general</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arboretum²</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Bottomlands³</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armitage</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Mountain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hendricks Bridge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinney</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peaceful Valley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zumwalt (CF camp OK)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Responses⁴</strong></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Issues Mentioned Most**

- Environmental concerns: 51
- Noise concerns: 61

**Other possible locations mentioned for large events:** Other Fern Ridge, Alton Baker, work camp outside Alma, totally new vacant property, fairgrounds, Hult, Matthew Knight Arena

1. This row does not include respondents who mentioned one or more separate parks.
2. The Arboretum has a non-profit leasehold. Their events are not LCP contracted or managed.
   - LCP can not hold events it contracts in the Arboretum.
3. This is the only time respondents have been allowed to distinguish between the Arboretum and the North Bottomlands in an LETF survey.
4. Responses total more than 167 since some respondents mentioned more than one site.
A GUIDE TO

COMMUNITY PARK AND
RECREATION PLANNING

FOR OREGON COMMUNITIES

April 2013

November 12, 1992

The Howard Buford Recreation Area is a 2363 acre regional park located within minutes of the Eugene/Springfield Metro area. The area is an outstanding natural and recreational resource for our county. With park attendance now exceeding 40,000 visitors annually it is evident that many of our Lane County residents have discovered the park. Many of the visitors either visit the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, hike the summit trail to the top of Mt. Pisgah, or horseback ride throughout the park. As attendance has grown, so has the challenge of protecting the park from over use. To ensure that future generations can enjoy the serenity and beauty of the park, the Lane County Parks Division commissioned the preparation of this Conceptual Master Plan for Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA). When the final Master Plan is completed and adopted it will be the first official master plan for the park since its acquisition in 1973.

Prior to authorizing the development of the Conceptual Master Plan, the Parks Division completed a Management Plan for the site with the assistance of the HBRA Task Force. The Lane County Parks Advisory Committee has reviewed and approved the Management Plan and will be reviewing this plan in the coming weeks. The guiding principle for the Management Plan is the Management Statement for the HBRA which was developed by the Task Force and Parks Division staff. The Management Statement is as follows:

"The purpose of the Howard Buford Recreation Area is to provide varied opportunities for primarily low intensity outdoor recreation and education activities while protecting, conserving, enhancing, and maintaining the natural, scenic, historic, rural and recreational qualities of this large, strategically located regional park."

The Conceptual Master Plan will be further refined and revised. The HBRA is located within the Metro Planning area and consequently, the Master Plan for the site will be a refinement to the Metro Plan. In addition to the public review required in the metro plan refinement process, the Parks Advisory Committee and Parks Division staff will be conducting public review sessions and will receive written comments on the Conceptual Master Plan during February and March of 1993.

As the Parks Manager for Lane County, I sincerely wish to thank the members of the HBRA Task Force, and the Lane County Parks Advisory Committee for their dedication to this project. In addition, I express my gratitude to Brian McCarthy and Jane Henderson of Cameron and McCarthy, Landscape Architects, for their genuine concern for the park and the special effort they placed on insuring that the Plan was in compliance with the management statement. And finally, I wish to thank the Parks Division staff, Jake Risley, Alisa Cobb, Susan McDonald, and University of Oregon intern Emily Carroll, for their support and assistance with the project.

I look forward to completing the Master Plan for the Howard Buford Recreation Area and to working with staff and volunteers in implementing the Plan.

http://web.mail.comcast.net/service/home/~/HBRA%20Master%20Plan%20.jpg?auth=co&loc=en... 8/27/201
Howard Buford Recreation Area is a regional park of almost four square miles at the southern end of the Willamette Valley in Oregon and is located on and around Mount Pisgah. The park land is bounded on the west and southwest by the Coast Fork of the Willamette River and on the north and east by privately owned lands. It is the only regional park within the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Plan boundaries.

Figure 1: Vicinity Map

Regional parks differ from neighborhood, community or metropolitan parks in their size, character and facilities. They are defined by the National Recreation and Park Association as areas of natural quality for nature oriented outdoor recreation. According to the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, regional parks should provide low density outdoor recreation opportunities in a natural setting; facilities and activities should be compatible with the park environment.

This regional park is used extensively by residents of Eugene and Springfield and to a lesser degree by people from other places in Lane County. They come to hike, to visit the Arboretum, to observe plants and wildlife, to exercise, fish, swim and to ride their horses. In recent years, the Park has become increasingly popular and conflicts have arisen over how the land should be used.

In 1991, in response to citizen concern about overuse of the Park, a decision was made to develop a new master plan for the Howard Buford Recreation Area. A Task Force was formed to develop a Management Plan for the Recreation Area and to monitor and assist in the development of the Master Plan.
KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That the STATE OF OREGON, by and through its DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, Parks and Recreation Division, Grantor, hereby conveys unto LANE COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Oregon, Grantee, the following described property, only so long as used for scenic, public park or public forest and recreation purposes, to wit:

A parcel of land lying in Sections 7, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21, Township 18 South, Range 2 West and in Section 12, Township 18 South, Range 3 West, W.M., Lane County; Oregon and being that property acquired by the State of Oregon, by and through its State Highway Commission in that certain judgment dated May 30, 1973, entered as Circuit Court Case No. 73-0044, Lane County, Oregon. Also that property described in those deeds to the State of Oregon, by and through its State Highway Commission, recorded on Reel 592R, Instrument No. 6092; Reel 665R, Instrument No. 7352020; Reel 643R, Instrument No. 7327546; Reel 642R, Instrument No. 7326218; Reel 693R, Instrument No. 7423417 and Reel 612R, Instrument No. 28800 of Lane County Official Records.

EXCEPT therefrom that portion of said State of Oregon property described in that deed recorded on Reel 665R, Instrument No. 7352020 lying within Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 3 West, W.M., Lane County, Oregon.

The parcel of land to which this description applies contains 2,244 acres, more or less, as shown on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

It is understood that this conveyance is made and delivered upon the following express conditions, reservations and restrictions:

1. That there is reserved unto the State of Oregon, its successors, and assigns, all minerals, as defined in ORS 273.775(1), and all geothermal resources, as defined in ORS 273.775(2), together with the right to make such use of the surface as may be reasonably necessary for prospecting for, exploring for, mining, extracting, reinjecting, storing, drilling for, and removing such minerals and geothermal resources; provided, however, that right hereby reserved to use the surface for any of the above activities shall be subordinate to that actual use of the surface of the premises deeded herein, or any part thereof, being made by the surface rights owner at the time that the State's lessee conducts any of the above activities. In the event such use of the premises by a surface rights owner would be damaged by one or more of the activities described above, then such owner shall be entitled to compensation from State's lessee to the extent of the diminution in value of the real property, based on the actual use by the surface rights owner at the time the State's lessee conducts any of the above activities.