



*Indian Creek and
Westside Community
trails gaining ground*

By JULIE RAEFIELD-GOBBO
News staff writer

Imagine a sculpted, looping series of trails that wind through city neighborhoods, along creek sides, through parks, schools and open lands — allowing any trail user beautiful and easy access to experience Hood River on a personal, down-to-earth level.

Hood River Parks and Recreation District has not only imagined it, it has been in great part responsible for making the imagined dream a reality.

Under the long-term guidance of Director Lori Stirn, the dedicated assistance of parks board member Art Carroll, the many volunteers, board members and organizations who have helped, Hood River is getting closer to the finish line for a continuous loop trail system within the city that joins into county trails.

“Our big vision is to connect



Photos by Adam Lapierre

INDIAN CREEK TRAIL (above) now stretches from Barrett Park on the west side of town to the east side of downtown Hood River. Pictured above is the newest section of the trail running along the north side of the park property at the corner of Barrett and Alameda roads. Below are sections of the new Westside Community Trail, which runs from Westside Elementary School to the Hood River skate park. Both trails are projects of Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation Dist. Please turn to page B12 for a comprehensive map of all parks in the greater Hood River area.



‘We believe these trails provide much needed recreational escapes whether walking or biking – and they add very healthy lifestyle opportunities.’

LORI STIRN

neighborhoods and schools in the Urban Growth Boundary and to provide connections to lands, trails and neighborhoods in the county,” said Stirn.

“We believe these trails provide much needed recreational escapes whether walking or biking – and they add very healthy lifestyle opportunities.”

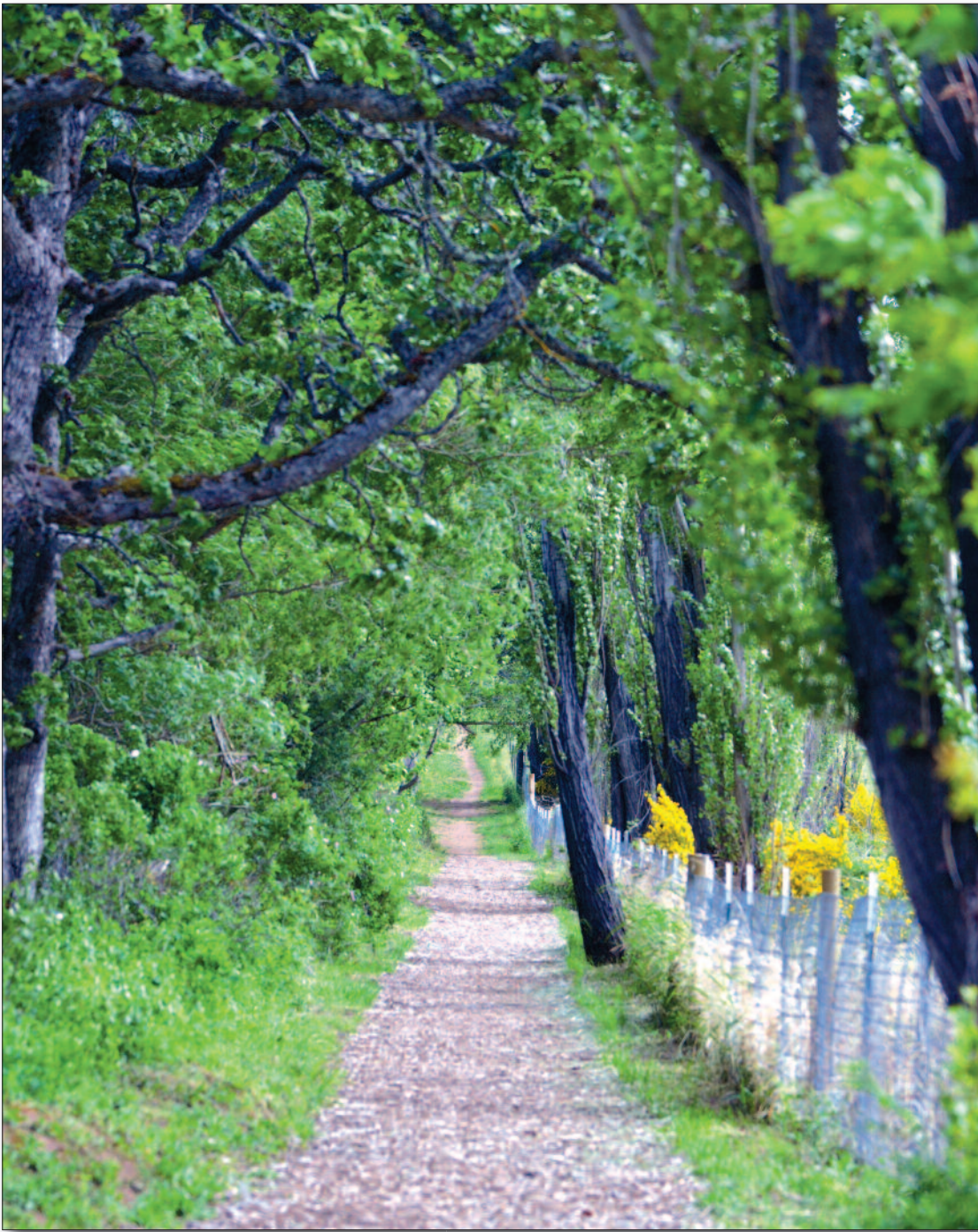
Stirn and the park district are charged first and foremost with operating the aquatic center; the special district was formed when the city opted out of the pool management business.

“The city was closing the pool and some local big vision-folks, like Mike Schend and others, thought that the special district would allow it to keep going,” said Stirn. Qualifying the district for a permanent tax rate of .34 cents per thousand has guaranteed the operating budget for the well-used facility.

The district also has responsibilities for maintenance of five recreational parks: Culbertson and Hazelview Neighborhood parks; Morrison Disc Golf park and the Rotary Skate park – both off of Wasco Street – and the latest addition, Barrett Park.

And, while Stirn would love to create some sort of efficient way of coordinating park maintenance across city, county, port and parks properties, right now, no formal agreement is in place to share maintenance tasks.

“It would be great if we could figure that out,” said Stirn. “Realistically parks are not a revenue generating activity. There has to be some way to fund the maintenance costs.” City and county budgets are also struggling with that same dilemma as tax



Trail details and updates

Indian Creek:

Segment 1 – Is 1.1 mile in length. Access is off third and east Hazel and meanders along the high banks of the Hood River and Indian Creek. Ends at the Heights Shell Station on 12th Street.

Segment 2 – Is .7 mile in length. Access is across 12th Street, through ODOT, and private properties, as well as CGCC and Providence properties with formal easements. Dead ends at private property owned by the Campbells. Trail starts again at the end of Arrowhead Dr. with side-walks and then crosses Indian Creek Dr. to connect with Broken Tee Dr.

Segment 3 – Is 1.2 mile in length. Begins off Broken Tee Dr. through Indian Creek Golf Course, heads all the way to the high school. There is also a trailhead/parking area in the high school baseball field parking, adjacent to Golden Eagle Park.

Segment 4 – Is 1+ mile in length connecting the high school to Barrett Park. This is the newest section crossing two private properties.

In completing Segment 4 the District had to reroute a drainage ditch on the Barrett Park property. DeHart Construction was hired to do the excavation and relocation.

Crossing Alameda Dr. involved a comprehensive transportation study. The County Public Works department partnered with the Park District in the installation of the signage required by the study.

Westside Community Trail:

The WCT takes you from Westside Elementary School to Sherman St. This trail crosses two pieces of private property where the district purchased easements for the trail. The district received a Local Government Grant from State Lottery dollars to assist in purchase of the easements and the development of the trail.

This east-west section involved building boardwalks and a short bridge to get over wet areas. The trail emerges at Rocky Rd. and walking is allowed on the city right of way.

The trail crosses May St. and continues on an easement through the Hood River County School District property. The trail continues on Sherman and dead ends.

The district is pursuing an easement with two property owners, the Clifton and Beardsley families.

The district needs to acquire an easement of 50 feet to connect to the Jensen property that would connect to Rand Road. The remaining trail segments are planned to connect to the Rotary Skate Park and the Disc Golf Course.

BUILDING PERMITS: APRIL

City

Mark Emmerson, 1210 Lincoln St., residential/deck
McDonalds, 2101 Cascade Ave., commercial/renovation
McDonalds, 2101 Cascade Ave., commercial/mechanical
McDonalds, 2101 Cascade Ave., commercial/retaining wall
Double Mountain, 8 Fourth St., commercial/Brewery tanks
Dethman Manor, 1205 Montello Ave., commercial/fire sprinkler
Mike Kitts, 3123 Young Ln., residential/single-family dwelling
MJH2, 201 Selkirk Ln., residential/single-family dwelling
Richard Smith, 307 Oak St., commercial/sign attach-

ment
Hood River Tacqueria,
1210 13th St., commercial/fire suppression
Mike Kitts, 3123 Young Ln.,
residential/mechanical
Hood River County Museum, 300 E. Port Marina Dr.,
Com/sign footing
KDC, 501 Portway Ave.,
commercial/mechanical
McDonalds, 2101 Cascade
Ave., commercial/fire suppression
Hood River Cornerstone,
1308 12th St., commercial/alteration
North Cheatham, 315 Oak
St., commercial/re-roof
Gary Jones, 716 Montello
Ave., residential/mechanical
Bill Barnett, 1405 Nix Rd.,
residential/mechanical

County

Meadows North, LCC,
10755 Cooper Spur Rd., com-

mercial remodel
Bradley Lorang, 360
WaNaPa St., Cascade Locks,
change of occupancy
Norpack Limited Partne-
ship, 24 N.E. Clark, Building
C, Cascade Locks, commer-
cial reroof
Lindsay and Tyler Miller,
1585 Nunamaker Rd., me-
chanical for replacement
dwelling
Deborah D. Fletcher, 998
Windsong, Cascade Locks,
furnace
Cameron Curtis, 940 Mak-
ena Ln., single-family
dwelling
James Edwards, 3066
Thomsen Rd., mechani-
cal/single-family dwelling
Ken and Sharon Ingram,
1145 Tucker Rd., space 3, me-
chanical
Denis Buschauer, 3055
Gilhouley Rd., woodstove in-
sert

Bruce and Robin
Stoltenberg, 6460 Sperry Rd.,
mechanical for replacement
dwelling
Edwin and Opal DeBoard,
2960 Thomsen, single family
dwelling
Gordon Cook, 1515
Jeanette Rd., mechanical
Terry M. Ryan, 1000 Wind-
song, Cascade Locks, fur-
nace
Allan and Kae Henderson,
3805 Fairview Dr., single
wide manufactured home
Jody Wilson, 3344 AGA Rd.
#119, deck
Daniel Jacobs, 6245 Miller
Rd., deck
Linda Snyder, 1401 Coun-
try Club Rd., accessory
building (garage/shop)
Cody and Amy Kellogg,
4920 Highway 35, shop re-
placement
Miles Tennant, 3255 Lin-
gren Rd., accessory steel

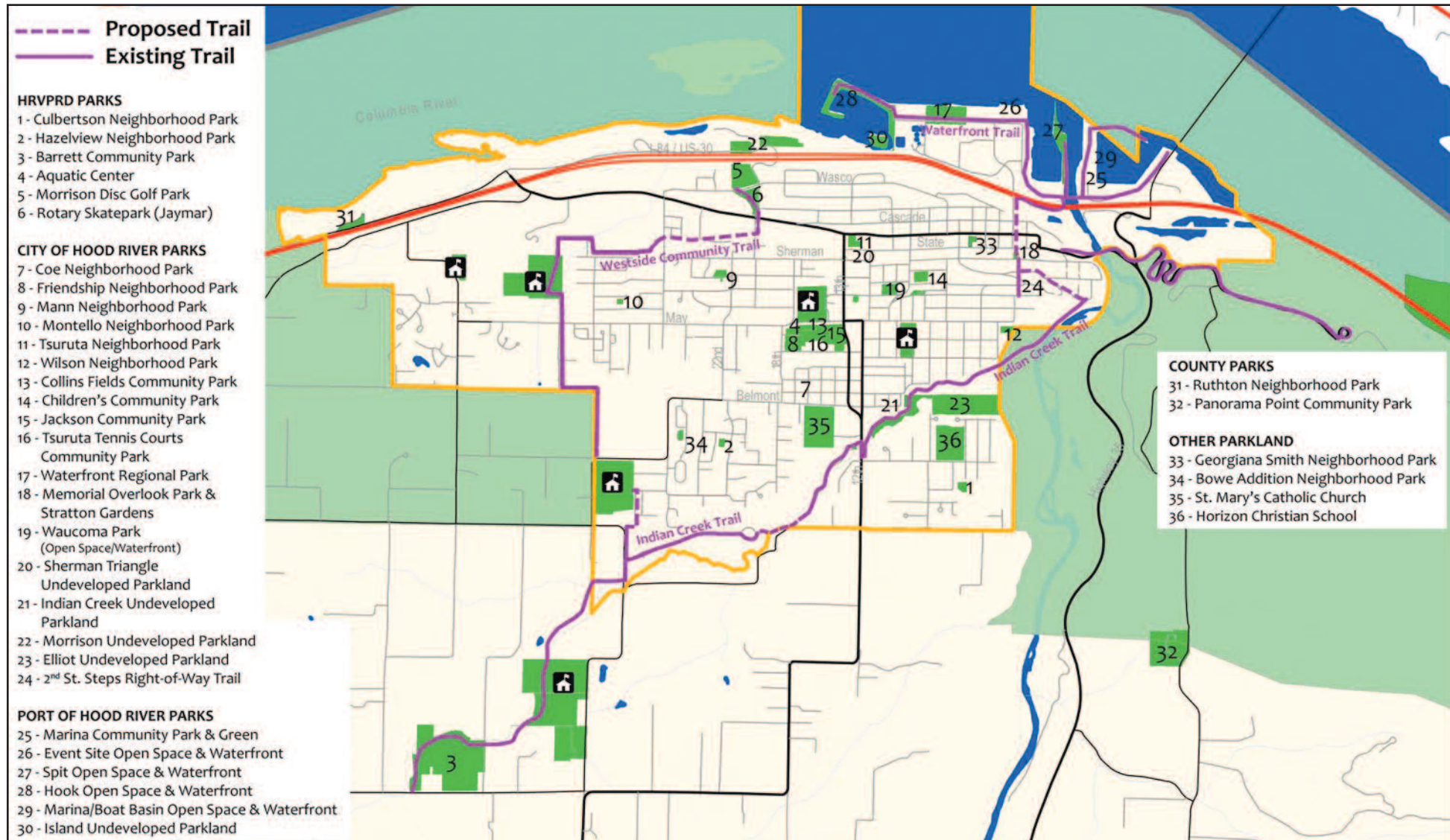
garage
Hood River Electric Co-op,
3521 Davis Dr., addition/remodel
Bruce and Robin
Stoltenberg, 6460 Sperry Rd.,
replacement dwelling
Edwin and Opal DeBoard,
2960 Thomsen, replacement
dwelling
Lindsay and Tyler Miller,
1585 Nunamaker Rd., re-
placement dwelling
James Edwards, 3066
Thomsen Rd., single-family
dwelling
Cameron Curtis, 940 Mak-
ena Ln., new single-family
dwelling
Deborah D. Fletcher, 998
Windsong, Cascade Locks,
single family dwelling
Terry M. Ryan, 1000 Wind-
song, Cascade Locks, me-
chanical
Lynda Dallman, 11922
County Club Rd., roof mount

PV system
Mark Thomas, 3282 Rachel
Way, roof mount PV system

Open call for singers

Cascade Singers extends an open call to choral singers. Remaining spring 2013 concerts include favorite show tunes on May 31 and June 1.

The choir meets under the leadership of Lloyd Walworth Mondays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 10th and Union streets in The Dalles. Rehearsals are open to all interested singers.



LINKING A COMMUNITY together through recreation, scenic enjoyment and accessibility, the Hood River Parks and Recreation regional trail system provides a big picture overview of a connected town. Purple lines help identify the Indian Creek and Westside Community trails still in development. Submitted graphic is provided by Hood River Parks and Recreation and was produced last year. Please note: changes in easement status have taken place on certain segments. The map legend may contain text errors.

TRAILS

Continued from Page B1

What is working well over time within the district however, is the slow but steady process of sharing the big vision of a continuous trail system with the community and then obtaining the necessary easements with private and commercial property owners to make that a re-

"We are very optimistic," said Stirn, as she points out the almost-complete lines for the Indian Creek Trail and the newly developing West-side Community Trail. Only a few "dotted" segments remain - indicating the last few hundreds of feet in easements that are necessary for the initial goals.

About a dozen property owners including private families, Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, ODOT, Columbia Gorge Community College and the school district have already

signed-up to bring the trail to life.

On the Indian Creek Trail, the Campbell property remains a key link toward completion and on the Westside Trail, properties owned by the Clifton and Beardsley families off of Sherman Avenue remain in negotiation.

Two other segments are on Stirn's working docket, including a piece behind Westside Elementary School and a segment between Rand Road and 20th St. Both are tied to commercial property owners.

Recently acquired park land bordering Barrett and Alameda drives is already available for passive use, now incorporated into the Indian Creek Trail system. Although not much is visible in terms of signage, Barrett Park does exist. Its development remains minimal to date while the district awaits a ruling from the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals on the project, tied to the alleged conflict with current zoning as high-value farmland in an Exclusive Farm Use zone.

Again, Stirn remains hopeful. And her slow and steady philosophy has proven effective in the past.

A June 14, 2003 article in the Hood River News provides some evidence of that.

Stirn and Carroll are seen above left, in their younger days, standing atop a bluff that would soon become part of the trail system Hood River enjoys today. The actual concept for the Indian Creek Trail was introduced in 1998.

According to Stirn, it has been the commitment of local volunteers, donors and community partners that underlies the success of the system.

"And we are always looking for more donors," said Stirn, who acknowledges that without those private funds and cooperative grant applications, existing funding would not have been adequate.

For those wishing to become involved in the trail system development through donations of time or funding, contact Stirn at 541-386-5720 or 541-490-6264.



VOLUNTEER Art Carroll has been a driving force behind the parks district trail system, shown here in 2003 with Lori Stirn, top; at a recent work party, middle, with Carl Warren, Gina Mares and Larry Elliott; and working on trail grading near the Rockford area.





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