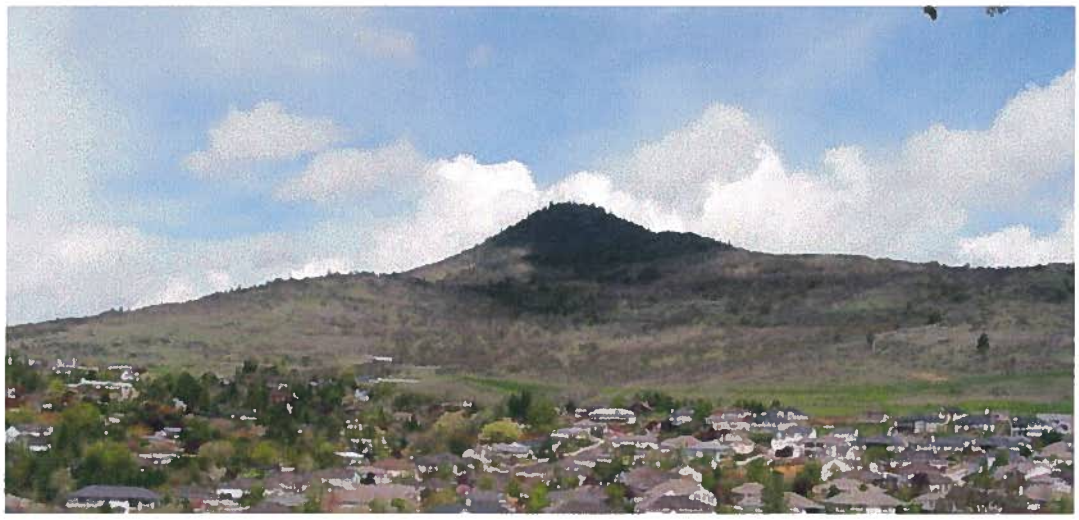
2008 PRESCOTT PARK MASTER PLAN



MASTER PLAN ADOPTED
April 15, 2008
By City of Medford Parks Commission

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Prescott Park is a very unique park when compared to any municipal park in the Pacific Northwest, and more particularly, the City of Medford park system. While it is a city owned park, it is not within the city limits or the Urban Growth Boundary. Eventually this will change, and is currently considered a future growth area. Its total acreage, 1,740 acres, is two and one half times more than the combined acreage of all other city parks, including linear parks, special use areas, greenways, beautification areas and other undeveloped park land. The next biggest parks in the system are Chrissy Park with 166 acres, the US Cellular Community Park with 133 Acres, and the Bear Creek Park with 101.23 acres. Most of Medford's park land is down on the valley floor. Prescott Park land covers the top of Roxy Ann Peak and spreads out along shelves of land below the peak in all directions. While most of Medford's parks have both an active and passive side to their character, they are decidedly urban; the paths are paved and the lawns or open areas are mowed. Prescott Park's character is rustic and wild. It is in recognition of the special qualities and management challenges of Prescott Park that the 1999 and the 1984 Prescott Park Management Plans were written, and are now being updated in 2008. Revisiting the earlier master plans and management plans are in response to survey questions brought forward in the 2006 Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Plan relating to the use of Prescott Park. Many citizens were unaware of the park or desired greater accessibility than currently afforded. A recommendation was made to revisit the park's role within the Medford park system.

Overall, much of the 1999 and 1984 Prescott Park Management Plans remain in tact. A limited number of new items have been included, which are found to be complimentary to the older management plans. Several more restrictive concepts are being advanced, modifying the prior Management Plans.

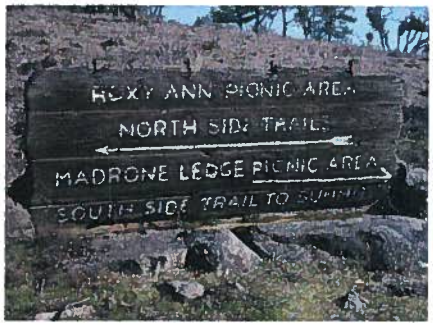

ROXY ANN PICNIC AREA
NORTH SIDE TRAIL
MADRONE LEDGE PICNIC AREA

Figure 1:

PRESCOTT PARK
Vicinity Map

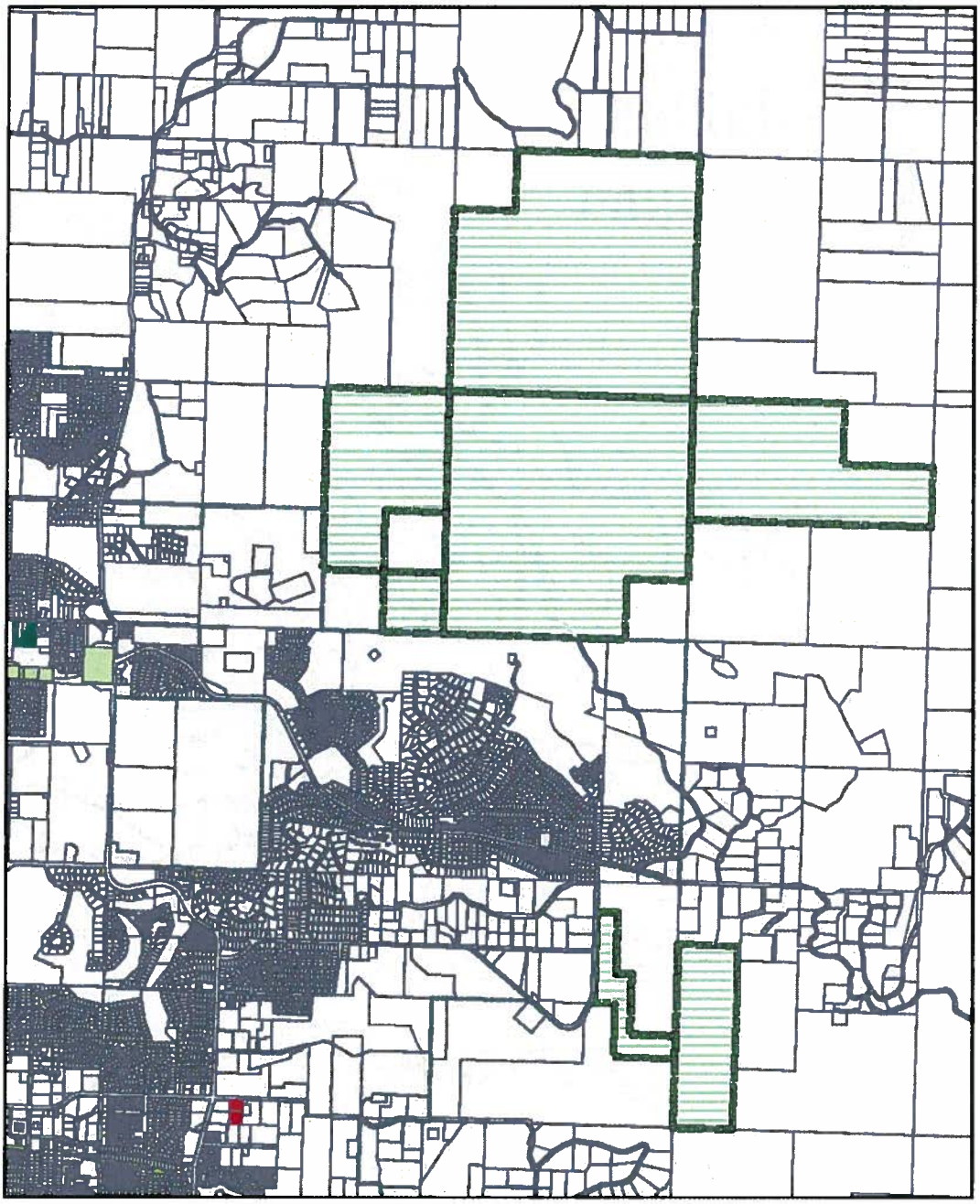
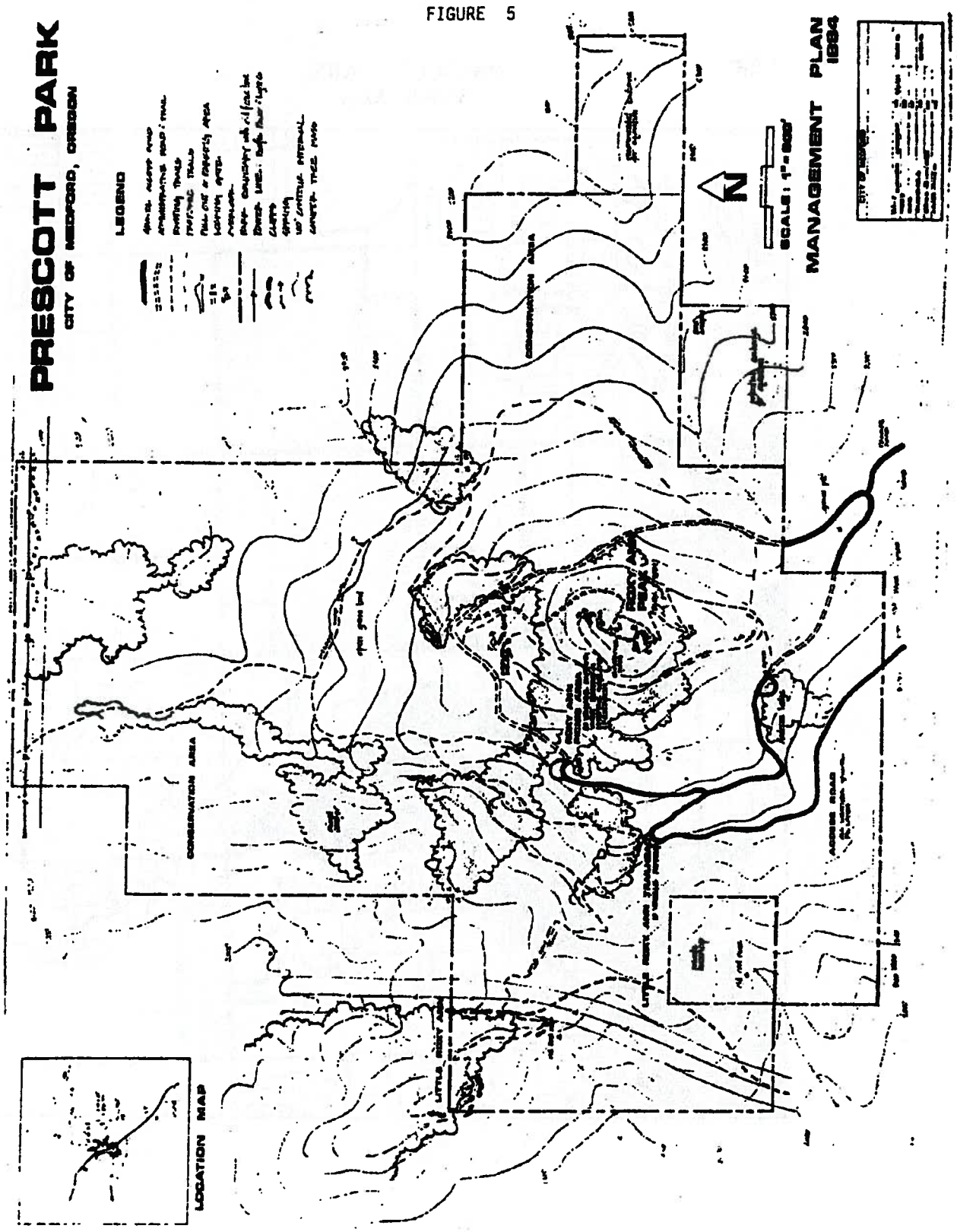


Figure 2: 1940 National Park Service Map



I INTRODUCTION

THE SITE AND CURRENT SITUATION

Prescott Park is located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the City of Medford on Roxy Ann Peak (see Figure 1). The peak, with an elevation of 3,571 feet, is a dominating geographic feature that stands well over 2000 feet above the valley floor and the City of Medford. A panoramic view of the Rogue River Valley and surrounding countryside can be enjoyed from its heights. The Medford Lion's Club began the acquisition of park land in 1929 with purchase of 200 acres, which was donated to the City of Medford in 1930. The City acquired the rest of the 1,740 acres from the U.S. Government by 1933 with the stipulation that it be used for recreational purposes only.

The name Prescott was soon added in memory of George J. Prescott, Medford Police Officer and Jackson County Constable who was killed March 16, 1933 in performance of his duty and who had been an enthusiastic supporter of the Park. Early developmental work in the park was completed as part of various federal work programs during the late 1930s, primarily by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). These efforts were guided by a master plan developed by the National Park Service which envisioned a series of scenic overlooks, picnic areas, hiking trails, and related day-use facilities (see Figure 2). The overall concept was, in the style of the period, rustic and pastoral.

In marked contrast to these early developments, the summit of the peak now supports electronic transmission towers. When the 1984 Prescott Park Management Plan was written, the park had deteriorated to a scattering of dilapidated picnic and day use facilities. The main loop road and the utility road hadn't been developed past the dirt and gravel stage. A number of ORV (off road vehicle) trails and roads appeared here and there on various portions of the peak and received year-round use despite seasonally locked gates on the access roads. New hiking trails have been built and CCC trails have been restored, creating a hiking loop approximately four miles in length, circling the peak. Other uses of the park have included hunting and off leash dog walking (illegal any time), bird watching and nature study, and 'Saturday night parking.' These uses are identified in the planning process as part of the Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities section that follows. More detailed information on these items is in the body of this report.

ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

1) Management Concerns -
   - Fire load management
   - Erosion from natural causes as well as introduced activities and over use
   - Protection of natural resources
   - Infractions, trespass, and illegal activities
   - Illegal off road access resulting from adjacent housing development
   - User conflicts
   - Vandalism

2) Environmental Degradation
   - Soil erosion
   - Deterioration of existing structures
   - Invasion of noxious weeds
   - Damage to vegetation from off trail park uses

3) Public Safety
- Wildfire potential
- Limited police protection
- No potable water (until water system installed)
- Hazardous structures

4) Poor or Limited Park Image
- Generally unknown
- Poor parking access for elderly or less physically fit individuals

5) Opportunities

Neighborhood Park	Challenge Course
Nature Study	Transmission Towers
Views	Cultural Resources
Mountain Biking	Archery
Hiking, Horseback Riding	Native plant demonstration garden
Day Use, Picnic	Nature Preserve

This updated Management Plan will allow for the continuation of the following:
1) Establish the management level and necessary policies.
2) Establish appropriate park uses.
3) Provide for public safety.
4) Increase public awareness of the park.
5) Resolve user conflicts.
6) Provide direction for development and rehabilitation of park resources.
7) Protect park resources.
8) Enhance opportunities for recreation.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

A subcommittee was formed to assist the Parks & Recreation Commission in adopting a Prescott Park Master Plan reflecting the concerns and input of the Medford Citizens. The committee reviewed staff recommendations and met at the Prescott Park with citizens for a site visit prior to adopting this 2008 Prescott Park Master Plan, April 15, 2008.

Facilities new to the park plan
Challenge course,
Equestrian parking lot,
Fenced off-leash dog park,
Lodge for classes/meetings,
New park trailheads

New Facilities contemplated in prior park plans
Archery range,
Resident caretakers facility,
Equestrian/pedestrian/bike multi-use path system,
Restrooms,

Covered pavilions w/BBQ,
Clearly identified park trailheads east, west and north of park

Elements of the 1998 Management Plan being modified

This proposal limits public vehicular access to a portion of the loop road, consolidating vehicular traffic to a central area between the Madrone picnic area and the Little Roxyanne trailhead, and preserving the remaining portion of the park for non-motorized vehicles.

Restoration of the historical facilities is contingent on a thorough study by engineers, determining the feasibility of restoration of each facility.

II AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

The 1740 acre Prescott Park area includes the top of Roxy Ann Peak and its upper slopes. This peak, with a summit elevation of 3,571 feet above sea level, stands 2,200 feet above the floor of the Bear Creek Valley. The peak is part of the Klamath-Siskiyou Forest, an eco-region considered by the World Wildlife Fund to be especially rich in biodiversity, with more than 1,800 plants and animals that can be found within the region.

PRE-HISTORY

Archaeologists estimate that human beings have inhabited the upper Rogue River drainage for about the past 8,000 to 10,000 years, i.e., since shortly after the end of the last Ice Age. The earliest prehistoric group in what is now called Rogue River Valley probably lived a semi nomadic existence, gathering edible plants and hunting large mammals such as mastodon and giant bison. Towards the end of prehistoric times (i.e., ca. A.D. 1500-1825), the vicinity surrounding the lower Bear Creek Valley-Agate Desert area served as home to the Upland Takelma, or Latgawa Indians. According to Jeff LaLande's A Historical Overview of Roxy Ann Peak and Prescott Park, 1983, this group lived along the lower elevation streams (where quantities of salmon were taken) during winters, and would ascend the surrounding mountain slopes during warm seasons to gather acorns and camas bulbs, as well as to hunt game. The oak groves of Roxy Ann Peak would have provided them with acorns, a major food source.

Very little physical evidence of the prehistoric inhabitants remains on Roxy Ann Peak; the Latgawas' presence was seasonal and their impact was light. A small scatter of jasper and agate waste flakes (left from the making of various stone tools) is located near at least one of the springs on the upper slopes of Roxy Ann Peak. Following the Rogue River Indian wars of 1851-56, the surviving Latgawa were resettled on a reservation in the north central Coast Range of Oregon.

EARLY HISTORY OF ROXY ANN: NINETEENTH CENTURY SETTLERS

The earliest whites to see Roxy Ann Peak most likely would have been Peter Skene Ogden and his party of Hudson Bay Company trappers, who passed it while traveling north along Bear Creek on Saint Valentines Day, 1827. This route (today closely paralleled by Interstate 5) continued to be used by groups traveling between the Willamette Valley and California. Initial settlement of the Bear Creek Valley area by American farmers began soon after 1850. According to McArthur's (1974) Oregon Geographic Names, Roxy Ann Peak was known during the early 1850's as Skinner Butte. Not to be confused with the ridge of the same name in the City of Eugene (which was named for pioneer Eugene Skinner), it was almost certainly called this after Judge A.A. Skinner, the Rogue Valley Indian Agent in 1851-53, who lived along lower Bear Creek in the vicinity of present day Central Point.

To the Editor of the N.Y. Tribune.

Often as I have looked upon these people, dwelling in small communities in the shady grove or along the lipid stream, bountifully supplied with fish and roots and berries for subsistence, and apparently happy in the relationship of family and friends, the conviction was forced upon me that they were living as much in harmony with the beautiful surroundings as their more toiling and anxious brethren of another race. I could not perceive wherein they were not equally with us endowed by their Creator with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And after they were driven from their

pleasant homes, and their domains usurped by invaders, I never saw anything in their condition or conduct but what aroused my deepest sympathy and commiseration. To have submitted to robbery and outrage of the gravest kind without resentment would be more than Christian; to have remained passive and indifferent would be less than Men.

I do not see under the circumstances how they could have done different or better than they have done, for practically they have only exclaimed with our own noble sires, Give us liberty or give us death. And for this they have been denounced as not only savages, but as varmints and demons unfit to live, and the military force of two Territories has been drawn out to destroy them from the earth. JOHN BEESON New York, Sept. 30, 1856.

As with other agricultural centers of western Oregon, farmers laid claim to the most fertile portions of the Bear Creek Valley under terms of the Donation Land Act. Some of the first persons to take up Donation Land Claims between the valley floor and the slopes of Roxy Ann included Massachusetts-born immigrant Stephen Clark Taylor and his wife, Mary A. (Prescott) Taylor, in 1853. Another pioneer couple whose property included the lower slopes of the peak were John and Roxy Ann Bowen.

The name Skinner Butte did not last; by the late 1850's local settlers referred to the mountain as Roxy Ann Peak. The Bowen land claim stretched between the vicinity of the present day Rogue Valley Medical Center and Hillcrest Road, near the foot of Roxy Ann Peak. Roxy Ann Bowen was listed in the 1860 Jackson County census pointing to her namesake of this prominent natural landmark.

During the late nineteenth century, Roxy Ann Peak supported sizable numbers of cattle. Around the turn of the century, however, new and more intensive forms of land use began to occur on and around the peak. These land uses included agriculture, primarily in the form of pear orchards which remain to this day.

III PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

LANDFORM

Roxy Ann Peak is part of a system of peaks and connecting ridges (which also includes Green Springs Mountain, Grizzly Peak, Benson Ridge, and Mount Baldy), which form the east slope of the Bear Creek Valley. The peak is characterized by undulating flanks of very steep to moderately steep slopes, (generally less steep as elevation decreases) interrupted by gently sloping randomly placed benches to the west and southwest. Slopes to the northeast and east are generally steep and more uniform or smooth. The ridge crest generally parallels the contact between the older sedimentary rocks of the valley floor (and the adjacent foothills) and the younger volcanic deposits of the Western Cascades.

GEOLOGY

The lower elevation southwest aspect slopes of Roxy Ann consist of sandstone, shale, and conglomerate beds of the Payne Cliff's formation. These early Eocene Age (ca 50-35 million years old) sediments locally contain plant fossils and low-grade coal deposits. Early Oligocene Age (ca 35-30 million years old) volcanic rocks compose most of the remainder of Roxy Ann Peak. These antiseptic basalt flows, breccias, and agglomerates (which typify the Western Cascades in the Rogue River drainage) are collectively known to geologists as the Roxy formation, Roxy Ann Peak being the "type-locality" for this formation. A relatively small area on the west slope of the peak (near the summit and elsewhere) exposes dark colored cliffs and talus. These are formed from a much later intrusion of basalt. This Pliocene age (ca 5-2 million years old) intrusion of relatively resistant rock near the present summit of Roxy Ann undoubtedly contributed to the peaks differential erosion into the somewhat isolated, conical shape we see today.

SOILS

The soil types of Prescott Park vary from Heppsie Clay (high shrink-swell capability) on the northeast side of the peak to Tablerock-Rock Outcrop (low moderate-high moderate shrink-swell capability) on the west side of the peak to McMullin-Rock Outcrop (low shrink-swell capability) on the south side of the peak. The soils in the rest of the park which surround the peak also run the gamut of low to high shrink-swell capability.

The clay soil types with high shrink-swell characteristics dominate the park area. When moist, the clays have very low strength. Erosion is very prevalent in these clays where any disturbance of the surface occurs. A shallow rut left by a tire can soon be transformed into a gully. The low strength of the clays also means low bearing capacity for structures. This can be overcome by special design and/or reinforcement. The consistency of the clays makes them hard to handle with or without equipment when wet or dry. When wet, they are extremely sticky. When dry, they are very hard.

HYDROLOGY

There are a number of natural springs located within the park boundaries. Many of the springs are generally quite productive with few ever drying up in the late summer. Some of the more prominent springs have been developed in the past for watering domestic animals and recreational site development. Some of the spring sites have been recently damaged by extensive ORV use. Since 1990, one of the springs in the Roxy Ann picnic area has been piped to a secluded deer pond.

VEGETATION

The variety of soil and climatic conditions on Roxy Ann Peak create a natural diversity of vegetation. There are basically three broad habitats found on Roxy Ann.

The first vegetative category is the forbs-grassland. These open, grassy areas cover large areas of the park and give it much of its character. In this category are found such grasses as blue wildrye and June grass. Southern Oregon Buttercup (a unique Rogue Valley species), yarrow, and pussy ears are among the flowers that grow in this category. On the east side of the park, there is a camas wet prairie that covers several acres and blends into the oak/shrub communities which surrounds it. In the summer it becomes open grassland. The camas wet prairie on the west side is much smaller, but it too becomes a large meadow surrounded by the oak/shrub community in the summer.

The second category is the oak/shrub community. This is a very broad category with many diverse elements ranging from stands of Manzanita, Poison Oak, or Wedgeleaf Ceanothus, to Oregon White and California Black Oak areas, to stands where Madrone dominates. There is a small pocket of bitterbrush, an Eastern Oregon native.

The third category is the mixed coniferous forest found generally on north slopes at the higher elevations. It is dominated by ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, Incense Cedar and Madrone. While growth may be moderate, the trees are in old growth stands.

WILDLIFE

Roxy Ann Peak is characterized by a variety of habitats which support a wealth of wildlife species. Preservation of the natural diversity of the vegetation and minimization of unnecessary disturbances are the key to keeping this natural resource. Soil and climatic conditions have created unusual circumstances which allow some species of wildlife to be found here which would only normally be found somewhat farther to the south or east.

There are basically three broad habitats found on Roxy Ann which correspond to the vegetation types. These habitats display an excellent degree of interspersion, with a good mixture of different vegetative communities and plenty of valuable "edge" habitat. This results in conditions which favor maximum numbers of wildlife species and individuals. These habitats include forbs-grasslands, which are especially important in the winter and early spring when exposure to the sun allows grass and forbs to green up early. This is an important aspect of elk and black-tailed deer winter range, which has been labeled "Especially Critical" in the Prescott Park area by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The second category of habitat is the oak/shrub community. The combination of shrubs and trees provides a great deal of vertical structure so that bird life is rich in these areas. This is particularly important during the winter and spring when many migrants or winter residents find cover and foraging areas here.

The third category is the mixed coniferous forest. If all the habitat types could be qualitatively ranked, the mixed coniferous forest may be the most important due to the limited area and specialized cover and feeding areas it provides. This different structure supports an entirely different bird community than the hardwood stands. The more dense canopy is also effective in modifying the environment underneath by providing important thermal cover for deer and other wildlife during the winter and cool,

shaded conditions during the heat of the summer. It appears that wild turkey, in this area particularly, depend on the mixed coniferous forests. Any artificial management or manipulation of habitat is generally unnecessary if human intervention is minimized.

Typical and special wildlife species using the park area include: black-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk, raccoons, skunks, bobcats, coyotes, weasels, squirrels and other assorted mammals, reptiles and snakes. Raptors, that hunt small mammals, and song birds, both seed and insect-eating, abound in Prescott Park. Cougars have been known to use Prescott Park as part of their range. A cougar challenged a hiker in 1997.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Roxy Ann Peak dominates the Bear Creek Valley in the Medford area. At 3,571 feet, it is the highest point on the skyline to the east of the city. In addition to the landform of the peak, the vegetation patterns on the flanks of the peak contribute much scenic interest to the view from Medford.

Visual features within Prescott Park include the large mixed conifer forests, large rugged, open individual ponderosa pine and oak trees, the many meadows (profuse with wildflowers in early summer) the deep canyon, the cliffs of Little Roxy Ann, the Civilian Conservation Corps historic facilities, the many forms of special wildlife (such as pileated woodpecker) and especially the top of the peak itself. Dramatic views from the top can be had in all directions to observe such features as Crater Lake Rim, Mount McLaughlin, Mount Ashland, Mount Shasta, and of course the Bear Creek Valley below.

Elements presenting incongruous visual effects in the natural landscape include the off-road vehicle tracks wending their way straight up the open grassy hillside, the high voltage power lines, and the electronic transmitter facilities. The electronic facilities are primarily out of context when viewed at close range, since they are not discernable as viewed from most of Medford. Another facility not fitting into the natural patterns of the landscape is the rock pit on private land adjacent to the southeast corner of the park. This rock pit presents an obviously incongruous geometric landform that is visible on the skyline as viewed from Medford.

Some areas of the park are very sensitive from a visual standpoint and have a low ability to absorb visual change. These sensitive areas include open grassy steep slopes with south, southwest, and west aspect (easily viewed from Medford) ridge lines that stand out on the skylines and the peak itself. Fortunately, the top of the peak is clothed with a fairly dense stand of trees, which affords good screening.

ACCESS

Vehicular access to the site is currently by way of a Jackson County local access road, which comes off Hillcrest Road. At present, it is an 18-20 foot wide dirt and gravel road with a 16-foot road base. The road was 14-16 foot wide in 1984. The park drive currently includes a loop road around the peak with a single-lane spur road to the summit located on the east slope of the peak. The main road is subject to rutting during the wet season in areas of known springs. Operators of the rock quarry grade, add gravel, and control dust with the application of water and a dust suppressing treatment on the main portion of the road leading to the rock quarry. The upper portion of the road leading up to the towers is maintained at minimum service levels by funds collected from agencies and organizations that have

electronic facilities located on top of Roxy Ann Peak. A number of illegal off-road vehicle trails have also been established which enter the park at random points. This plan limits public access from the upper most portion of the road, concentrating vehicular traffic to the plateau immediately below Roxy Anne Peak.

FIRE

Of potential natural hazards, damage from wildfire is the most likely. Proximity to homes, industrial activities, illegal uses (campfires, ORVs, etc.), all contribute to a risk of human-caused fires. Lightning is also a significant threat.

Rates of spread on the open, grass slopes will be high even though they are generally less than 40% slope. The area contains additional heavier fuels in the form of large logs and limbs. The lack of fuel break, difficulty in driving, and these heavier fuels make fires in the area resistant to control. Although fires in this area may reach several hundred acres, the damage would usually be low; a grass fire in this area would re-seed quickly.

Fires in the oak/scrub community will probably spread slightly faster than in the grass lands, and with more intensity. These fires would also be resistant to control for the same reason as above. Damage would be greater here since the oaks and madrones would likely perish. Grass and brush species would quickly re-seed, creating good ground cover and potential grazing habitat for wildlife.

Mixed conifer forests have the potential for the highest loss due to a destructive fire. Fires in these areas will start slower and burn at lower rates of spread, but with much greater intensities. As a result, it could destroy the forest cover completely. Re-seeding in this area will take much longer, and the fire scar could be visible for decades.

Potential fire causes in the area in general order of likelihood:

- Lightning
- Off-road vehicle use
- Campfires
- Arson
- Industrial activities from the quarry or park maintenance.

In 1984, the condition of the access road and the lack of adequate access increased the risk of fires spreading. Since then, the Medford Fire Department has received the key to the gate to Gene Garner's road, which also has access on Hillcrest Road. The access road and the park loop road have been upgraded with shale sub-base and graded to accommodate the heavy quarry trucks.

It is felt that with current high fuel loading, any late season fire could have the potential to be of a stand replacement intensity (that is, none of the trees recover). These conditions can exist in Prescott Park for up to the entire summer season.

The Parks & Recreation Department completed fuel reduction on aprox. 45 acres from 2005 through 2007. The work was completed utilizing a mechanical "slashbuster" as well as manually with crews contracted through the Jackson County detention facility. In 2003 through 2004, approximately 15 acres were manually cleared using volunteer labor.

During the master planning process, members in attendance expressed an interest in getting the park's fuel load reduced to levels where on-going controlled burns could control future fuel load maintenance.

LAND OWNERSHIP, ENCUMBRANCES AND ZONING

The park site is located within portions of Sections 11, 13, 14, and 15 of Township 37 South, Range 1 West, Willamette Meridian. The entire 1740 acre park is owned by the City of Medford. Deed restrictions on that part of the park received from the Federal Government declares that the land shall be used solely for recreational purposes and cannot be used for such other activities as grazing of livestock, with the exception of goats. All adjacent property is entirely under private ownership.

There are eight power transmission lines within easements running through the park. There are two 230 kilovolt (KV) lines, one 115 KV line, and one 69 KV line within the existing 450 foot right-of-way, running north and south across the most western portion of the park. There are two 230 KV lines within the existing 360 foot right-of-way, running east-west across the northern edge of the park with a 500 KV line running for a short distance through the northeast corner. Each easement had one more 230 KV line added to it in the spring of 1999.

Jackson County zoning for the entire park area is OSR (Open Space Reserve). Typical park uses are compatible with this designation. The OSR zone also allows electronic transmitting facilities such as those existing atop Roxy Ann Peak. Adjacent private land is zoned EFU (Exclusive Farm Use), OSR (Open Space Reserve) and SFR-4 (Single Family Residential - 4 units per acre) where adjacent to the existing city limits. Minor patches of F-5 (Forestry - 5 acre minimum lot size) are located nearby. At some presently unknown date in the future, this property will be added to the Urban Growth area with School/Parkland Comprehensive Plan designation. The land will then be annexed and then will receive a City of Medford zoning classification. Staff recommends a new School/Parkland zone be created prior to the Prescott Park annexation occur. The new zone would clearly identify approved parkland facilities appropriate for Prescott Park.

ADJACENT LAND USES

The primary adjacent land uses include residential acreage and open space to the north, east, and west of the park boundary. Land to the south is within the City of Medford Urban Growth Boundary, and is rapidly being developed as single family residences. Pacific Power owns land along the northeast boundaries.

Also located adjacent to the southeastern park boundary is a small working gravel pit. In 1984, operation of the facility was intermittent and low key. Today, the facility operates all year. The operator has a written agreement with the City, placing responsibility on the operator for controlling the travel speeds of the large gravel trucks, maintaining limited hours of operation, regarding and maintaining a gravel road surface, controlling the dust in a timely fashion by either watering the road or putting down a dust retardant. There have been occasional conflicts between the residents in the area and quarry operators over truck speed and dust, but most recently, the operators have generally maintained the gravel road to a high level.

ELECTRONIC SITES

Roxy Ann Peak is an excellent site for electronic transmissions to the Rogue Valley. The peak is centrally located, has good height, and is easily accessible by road. Mt. Baldy, located several miles to the south, is the only other primary transmission site for the Rogue Valley. A joint venture in 2008 among private and public agencies and organizations has combined multiple towers into one tall tower, with a second shorter tower to remain.

PAST SOCIAL USE

In the late 1930s through the 1950s, the park area developed into a well used day use facility including organized picnic areas with springs supplying running water for drinking and restrooms. The development at that time, included scenic overlooks, picnic areas, hiking trails, and related day use facilities. The overall concept, in the style of the period, was rustic and pastoral. It was used by youth groups, such as the Scouts, and service organizations for picnics and day camps. A scattering of utilitarian concrete block structures and associated microwave relay towers were built on top of the peak beginning in the late 1950s. Since then, the park has declined and is considered undeveloped except for several gravel access roads and a dilapidated picnic area and general day use facilities which remain from the earlier development.

CURRENT USE

The park has a regular group of Medford residents that can be seen riding bikes, jogging, walking their dogs, horse back riding or hiking the road or trails. Adjacent property owners continue to enjoy the park as a sort of a big back yard. Other occasional uses of the park include bird watching and nature study.

In the early 1980s, the main access road had been closed, even during the summer months, as a result of the poor condition of the road. Lack of maintenance left the road rutted to the point where only four wheel drive vehicles could be sure of passing. In the summer of 1998, the east side of the loop road was re-graded, a shale road base and top layer of gravel was laid down. This brought the entire loop road up to police and fire accessible standards. . Berl Brim, the current operator of the rock quarry, as a part of their agreement with the city, has improved and is maintaining the road from Hillcrest Road, past the park property line, past the southern portion of the loop road, to the rock quarry.

However, then as now, one of the more frequent illegal uses of the park is by off road vehicles. A number of ORV trails and roads have appeared at various places on the peak. Rutting and erosion problems resulting from this use have caused serious damage to a number of sensitive places on the peak. Recent enforcement and signing of the area have managed to slow this use somewhat. As new roads are developed up to the park boundary and as new homes are built backing up to the park, new routes into the park are appearing. This is requires on-going and diligent monitoring on the part of the maintenance crews.

PAST SITE PLANS AND MAPS

Three previous site plans were developed for the park area. The original plan was drawn by the CCC in 1937 and revised in 1940 as an as-built (see Figure 2). In 1976, the site plan was redrawn by Norm Ziesmer, a City of Medford Parks and Recreation employee. The 1984 & 1998 Management Plan updates included site plans indicating updated information. All plans included picnicking and hiking or horseback riding as primary recreational uses with various other subordinate uses as a possibility. Both the Minimal Use Plan and the final 1984 Management Plan Site Plan continued the theme of Prescott Park as a picnic and hiking or equestrian park.

The original boundary map of the park was done in 1934. It included a forty acre parcel on the west slope of Little Roxy Ann Peak, donated by the Lion's Club. The above mentioned 40 acre parcel is not shown on subsequent maps. A title search of the parcel showed that there was no record of the property changing hands from the U.S. Government to the Lion's Club.

In 1998, a United States Geological Survey map and newly photographed aerials were used to update the National Park Service (NPS) map to reflect more accurately the current road alignment. It was discovered that the contours of the NPS map were off enough that a new map with current road alignment and new trails was drawn (see Figure 3).

Jackson County aerial photos & planimetric maps, fist developed in the late 1990's and since periodically updated, have greatly added to detailed topographic information for Prescott Park.

Figure 3: 2008 City of Medford Map

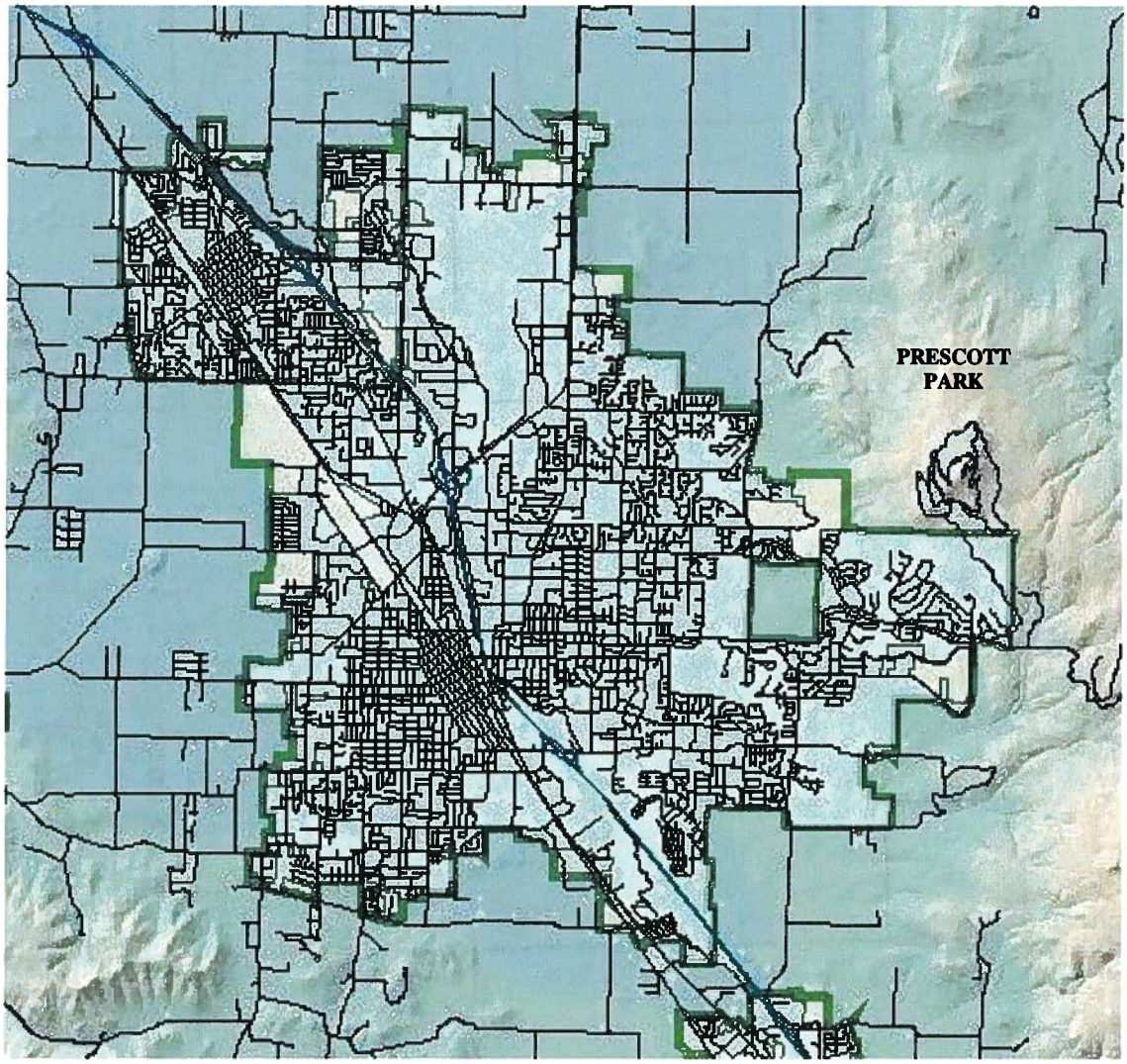
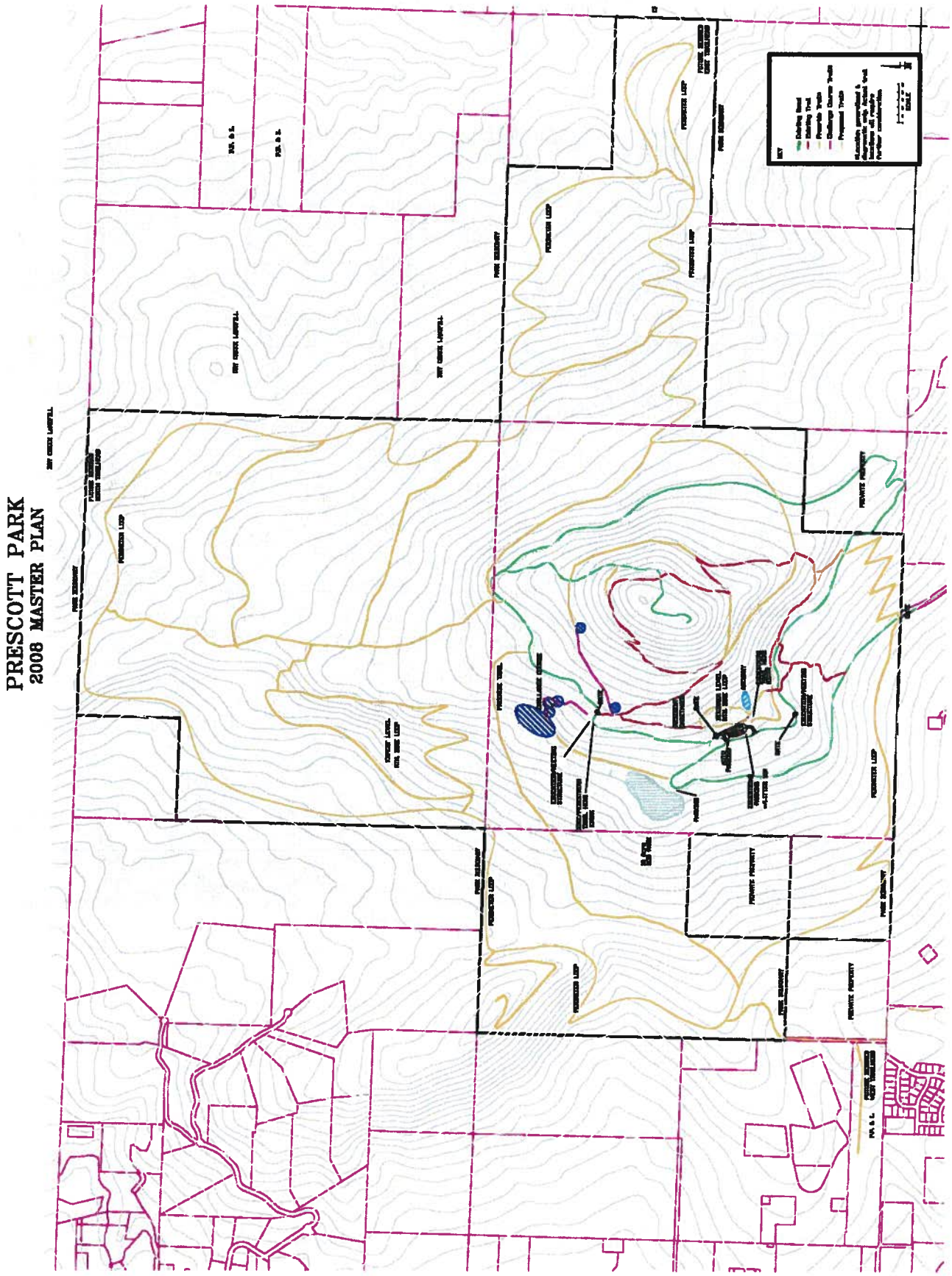


Figure 4:



IV 2008 MASTER PLAN

CONCEPT & DIRECTION

The park facilities and uses remain of a nature similar to a state or county rural park, more than a municipal park, including the use of a residential caretaker for safety and to check inappropriate uses of the site. High importance is afforded the preservation of the existing natural resources. Development of new facilities will match the historical architectural feel of the original signs, benches, BBQ, kiosk, restrooms. Historic facilities will be restored and/or protected when possible. The updated park design clusters activities away from road as much as is possible and reduces road crossings by park patrons in an attempt to minimize conflicts with gravel trucks using the entry road.. New trail head Kiosk stations will be installed describing trail etiquette, displaying maps, explaining park safety rules, providing historic and emergency information, accommodating community posts for activity notices. A full compliment of signage is planned, including Orientation, Information, Trailhead, Interpretive, Traffic Directional, and Safety signs. The Medford Parks and Recreation will seek additional trailheads as the opportunity arises. As funding and opportunities arise, the Medford Parks and Recreation will seek to develop multi-use trails built to IMBA standards. Utilization of volunteers will remain an integral part of development and management of this park.

ACTIVITIES

Scenic viewing
Hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, bicycling, archery, off-leash dog walking (in dog park)
Nature study and education- public schools, organized groups (to include astronomy & challenge course)
Resource protection and rehabilitation
Historic site restoration, enhancement, and interpretation
Electronic use expansion within existing buildings and towers only
Wildlife protection
Wildlife habitat management
Rehabilitate soil erosion locations(road and ORV related)
Wildfire suppression
Fuels management
Existing electronic uses (expansion within existing buildings and towers)

FACILITIES

General List

All-weather 11/2 lane (16') loop road
Residential Caretaker's facility& maintenance yard
Roxy Ann picnic area trailhead, kiosk, picnic shelter, & meeting room/restroom
Little Roxy Ann parking area for adjacent dog park and trailhead
Equestrian/auto parking facility
Archery facility
Challenge Course
North overlook historic site restoration

Madrone picnic area with meeting room/restroom
Demonstration garden for native plant species
Trails & amenities for hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding
Interpretive signs
Gates
Water, sewer, power infrastructures
Lodge for classes/meetings & covered pavilions w/BBQ
Fenced off leash area (dog park)
New overlooks along trails
Astronomy area (preserve darkness in this area)
Restrooms
Multiple trailheads
Picnic tables, shelters. benches (scattered)

Specific Descriptions

Resident Caretaker's dwelling: Many of the new facilities proposed in the 2008 Master Plan will require a resident caretaker be in place prior to construction of the facility. There has been vandalism in the past and is anticipated in the future. A caretaker is seen as an essential component in the effort to combat damage to new facilities and respond to the threat of fire. This would be funded by Park SDC funds, and would be one of the largest cost for the Master Plan.

Meeting room buildings: Staff is recommending that two meeting room buildings be included in this master plan to serve all uses in this park. They would be located at the Madrone Ledge and Roxy Anne Trailhead.

Multi-use trails: Staff is recommending that a multi use trail system, currently included in the approved management plan, be included in this Master Plan. Built to IMBA standards, the trail system would include connections to the existing trails to provide additional loops. New trails would include a park perimeter trail as well as trails within the park connecting to the perimeter trail. Trial etiquette, a critical component to the success of such a multi-use trail system, would be posted on kiosks at strategic locations. New trails would be spaced to average between 1,500 to 2000 feet apart from each other. As a point of reference, Fichtner-Mainwarring is approximately 1,500 feet in its diagonal distance from the north west corner to the south east corner. A long range goal to have multiple trail heads, one on each side of the park, is included in the Master Plan.

Parking: The current management plan calls for improving the existing parking areas. This proposal calls for largely abandoning one parking area at the Roxy Ann Picnic area, improving the Little Roxy Anne Trailhead and Madrone Ledge parking lots, and creating one new combined auto/equestrian parking area which will include a large auto/school busses parking area adjacent to a equestrian parking area with parking stalls large enough for six (6) horse trailers. Parking stalls for school busses will serve the groups that arrive for nature study, astronomy, and the challenge course activities. Improving the existing parking areas is currently in the adopted Management Plan. The parking areas are not presently required to be paved surfaces, and so will have a lower cost to construct. It is anticipated that this will be one of the largest expenses, along with the resident caretaker's facility.

Loop Road: The 1998 Management Plan calls for vehicular access throughout the existing loop road. This proposed Master Plan changes this by terminating vehicular traffic at the new park entry area, limiting public access to the loop road by vehicles. The majority of the road would be gated off,

leaving the current third gate and placing a new gate at the Madrone Ledge. This will allow what was a overwhelming request that the park remain natural and pedestrian/equestrian/bike friendly , reducing vehicular traffic where possible.

Relocate the Park Entry: Public response during the past Leisure Services Plan development showed that elderly and physically challenged individuals would very much like to use this park, but are not able to do so with the access configuration as it currently exists for the park; the distance from the parking area to the park area with the spectacular views is too great. This proposal would relocate the park entry to a more central location, up to the third gate area, concentrating human activity to a fairly small area with parking, dog park, picnicking, beginner's bike loop, restroom, caretaker's lodge, meeting rooms, trail heads, and archery.
Allowing vehicles further into the park will require that a resident caretaker first be in place, as a starting point. Otherwise, the potential for off-road activates, vandalism, fire, and such would be too great to be logical. Additionally, traffic barriers will be required along the side of the road between the current park entry and the new park entry to ensure vehicles are not able to leave the road for illegal off-road activities. A volunteer club has offered to rebuild the existing rock bollards, restoring the historical approach to this problem. SDC funds could also be allocated for this, at an estimated cost of $100,000.

Equestrian parking: Parking is designed specifically for horse trailers with adjacent trail head for horses with a ¼ mile trail connecting parking to main trial, manure bin, hitching posts & water. Horse trails built to last. Connect a new multi-use trail to Chrissy Park.

Challenge (ropes) Course: Built, leased, & facilitated by a professional team in partnership with Medford Parks & Recreation. We received a very rough estimate of $30,000 to build a moderate facility. It would be leased to an organization which would then pay a fee for each use, generating money for the maintenance of the facility. Discussions have occurred with such an organization, along with an informal site visit. They were excited by the prospect of bringing this to the City of Medford.

Natural Archery range: fully funded, built and overseen by Archery Club volunteers. An archery range is identified in the current adopted park management plan as an identified opportunity. When the archery range is not in use, the range will be packed up and put away into storage. The archery facility will include a small storage building and a covered shelter for gatherings. The total area of the buffer area around the facility would be about 1/3 acre, with an impacted archery field area approximately ¼ acre. Trails will be constructed to direct kids to and from the targets, protecting the native plant species within the range. The club will post permanent signs required by the State of Oregon for such facilities. In addition to archery instructions, this facility will provide supervised activities for teens, teaching them responsible choice making, an appreciation for the natural beauty found in this park, while creating minimal impacts to the park. The archery club requires community projects of each child, so impacts to the site will be mitigated seasonally by the volunteer efforts of the club.

Native Demonstration Gardens:
Prescott Park includes a number of distinct ecosystems. A demonstration garden will be developed within each ecosystem, developed and maintained by volunteers, demonstrating to the public the variety of plant species that grow within the park.

Dog park: The Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services plan calls for more dog parks, to be located throughout the community. Prescott Park provides a unique opportunity for a natural and unimproved off leash experience for dogs and their owners. Fencing, parking improvements and misc. amenities for a dog park would be paid for with park SDC funds, and would total around $20,000 to $40,000, depending on the size of the park.

Non-permitted uses:
Off-road vehicle use
Hunting
Discharge of firearms
Grazing of domestic livestock
Camping
Constructed freeride wood structures (ramps, boardwalks, jumps, etc.)

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of this management plan is to be through a variety of means including group and individual volunteer work, donations, other agency cooperation, as well as through the typical City of Medford Parks maintenance funds and Capital Improvement Program funds. A new 'Friends of Prescott Park' group could be formed to assist with implementation.

Although funds are available immediately for some of the proposed trail building work, and support for the challenge course and archery range (all donations) development, much of the funding will need to be reprioritized into the 6-year capital plan before becoming available. Rationale exists for this in the current Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Plan, the current System Development Methodology, as well as the current 25-year SDC Project Plan for said funding of this management plan.

- Determine which planning processes to apply to each proposed facility (County or City);
- The timing of projects will, in part, be driven by the above planning process;
- Some projects have immediate funding, and may commence after planning approval, as needed;
- Coordinate volunteers in developing trails in an on-going volunteer effort;
- Coordinate with the appropriate planning department, the development of the following:
    - Prior to the development of the Residential Caretaker facility
        - -Trail Development;
        - -Archery Range; and
        - -Challenge Course.
    - Develop Residential Caretaker facility
    - Following the development of the Residential Caretaker facility
        - -Parking lot for auto/equestrian users;
        - -Covered pavilions w/BBQ;
        - -Dog Park;
        - -Restrooms; and
        - -Lodges for classes/meetings.

PRESCOTT MASTER PLAN COST ESTIMATE

The following list of projects was developed for the 2008 Master Plan Update and adopted by the Park Commission. Much of the detail needed for an accurate and detailed cost estimate was lacking at the time of the adoption. As an example, development of the park may be under Jackson County regulations, or may not occur until the land falls under the City of Medford jurisdiction after addition to the Urban Growth Boundary area and annexation into the City. The recommendation of this management plan is to pursue the most feasible route in implementation of the recommendations of this plan, further developing a cost estimate as is feasible.

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF MAJOR FACILITY COSTS

Item	Quantity	Unit cost	Extended Cost
Buildings:			
- Resident Caretaker's dwelling	1	$150,000	$150,000
- Meeting room buildings	2	$100,000	$200,000
- Archery Storage	1	$0	$0
- Picnic shelters	3	$20,000	$60,000
- Restrooms	2	$150,000	$300,000
Infrastructure:			
- Power	1	$50,000	$50,000
- Water system	1	$50,000	$50,000
- Septic	3	$50,000	$150,000
- Parking & landscaping	3	$100,000	$300,000
- Roads	1	$50,000	$50,000
- Boundary fence			
Facilities:			
- Archery	1	$0	$0
- Challenge Course	1	$30,000	$30,000
- Multi-use trails	1	$50,000	$50,000
- Dog Park	1	$30,000	$30,000
- Native Demonstration Gardens	3	$2,000	$6,000
Signage:			
- Interpretive	10	$5,000	$500
- Directional	50	$5,000	$100
- Kiosk	2	$4,000	$2,000
Total:			$1,428,600

V IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation is to be through various means including group and individual volunteer work, donations, other agency cooperation and City of Medford funds. A new Friends of Prescott Park group could be formed to assist with implementation.

Phase One:

1. Apply for Type 1 review for Minor Alteration or Expansion of Public Parks not subject to a Jackson County Land Development Ordinance (JCLDO) 3.2.9 if allowed by the Jackson County Planning Director.

2. Application to include:
    - Archery Range
    - Archery storage shed
    - Challenge Course and group area with potable toilets
    - Multi-use trail system
    - Native Demonstration Gardens
    - Additional Picnic Shelters

Phase Two:

1. Apply for a Type 2 County Site Plan Review

2. Application to include:
    - Well drilling permit
    - County septic approval
    - Caretaker's resident permits
    - Restrooms
    - Road improvements
    - Parking lot improvements
    - Meeting buildings
    - Dog Park

Phase Three:

A third phase would be precipitated by the inclusion of the park into the City of Medford Urban Growth Boundary. Inclusion will allow the park to be developed under City of Medford planning process rather than under the County process.

- Annex property into the City
- Rezone to an appropriate municipal zoning district
- Site review for build-out of master plan

PRESCOTT PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN
2008 UPDATE

Revision of
City Council Resolution 5047, January 19, 1984
Prescott Park Management Plan

REVISIONS BY
Pete Young, Planner III
With review by
City of Medford Parks Commission Subcommittee
Paul Robinson
Sarah Koca

Adopted October 30, 2008

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Prescott Park is a very unique park when compared to any municipal park in the Pacific Northwest, and more particularly, the City of Medford park system. While it is a city owned park, it is not within the city limits or the Urban Growth Boundary. Eventually this will change, and is currently considered a future growth area. Its total acreage, 1,740 acres, is two and one half times more than the combined acreage of all other city parks, including linear parks, special use areas, greenways, beautification areas and other undeveloped park land. The next biggest parks in the system are Chrissy Park with 166 acres, the US Cellular Community Park with 133 Acres, and the Bear Creek Park with 101.23 acres. Most of Medford's park land is down on the valley floor. Prescott Park land covers the top of Roxy Ann Peak and spreads out along shelves of land below the peak in all directions. While most of Medford's parks have both an active and passive side to their character, they are decidedly urban; the paths are paved and the lawns or open areas are mowed. Prescott Park's character is rustic and wild. It is in recognition of the special qualities and management challenges of Prescott Park that the 1999 and the 1984 Prescott Park Management Plans were written, and are now being updated in 2008. Revisiting the earlier master plans and management plans are in response to survey questions brought forward in the 2006 Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Plan relating to the use of Prescott Park. Many citizens were unaware of the park or desired greater accessibility than currently afforded. A recommendation was made to revisit the park's role within the Medford park system.

Overall, much of the 1999 and 1984 Prescott Park Management Plans remain in tact. A limited number of new items have been included, which are found to be complimentary to the older management plans. Several more restrictive concepts are being advanced, modifying the prior Management Plans.

Goals for the 2008 Management Plan:

Goal 1: Encourage citywide public park use by providing low impact amenities.
Objective: Maintain and enhance existing picnic areas, and develop new picnic shelters
Objective: Preserve and enhance native plant species
Objective: Develop demonstration gardens of native plant species in each of the many ecosystems
Objective: Relocate the main park access to between Little Roxy Anne Trailhead and Madrone Picnic areas
Objective: Restore multi-use trail system for pedestrian, bike, and equestrian uses
Objective: Maintain the Prescott Park loop road for non-motorized public use
Objective: Maintain and enhance existing, and develop new parking areas.
Objective: Develop a Challenge Course
Objective: Reinstitute an Archer Course
Objective: Replace deteriorated infrastructures including water, power, and sewer
Objective: Develop new buildings to serve as meeting rooms
Objective: Develop a fenced off leash area for dogs

Goal 2: Provide for public safety.
Objective: Institute a residential caretaker's facility and program.
Objective: Maintain loop road at emergency vehicle standards.
Objective: Develop a pre-fire management plan to lessen wildfire impacts.

Goal 3: Protect natural and historic resources.
Objective: Rebuild and maintain boundary fencing in areas affected by off-road vehicle damage
Objective: Restore the CCC structures where feasible, possibly for a use other than the original use.
Objective: Rehabilitate areas damaged by off-road vehicle use
Objective: Rehabilitate areas damaged by fire.
Objective: Implement on-going strategies for fuel load reduction
Objective: Encourage and protect park wildlife
Objective: Follow International Mountain Bike Association multi-purpose trail design standards
Objective: Ensure the recreational capacity of the park facility is not exceeded

Goal 4: Identify and seek out funding sources
Objective: Seek out community funding sources in addition to Park SDC's including grants, donations, or in-kind sevices

ROXY ANN PICNIC AREA
NORTH SIDE TRAILS
MADRONE LEDGE PICNIC AREA

Figure 1:

PRESCOTT PARK
Vicinity Map

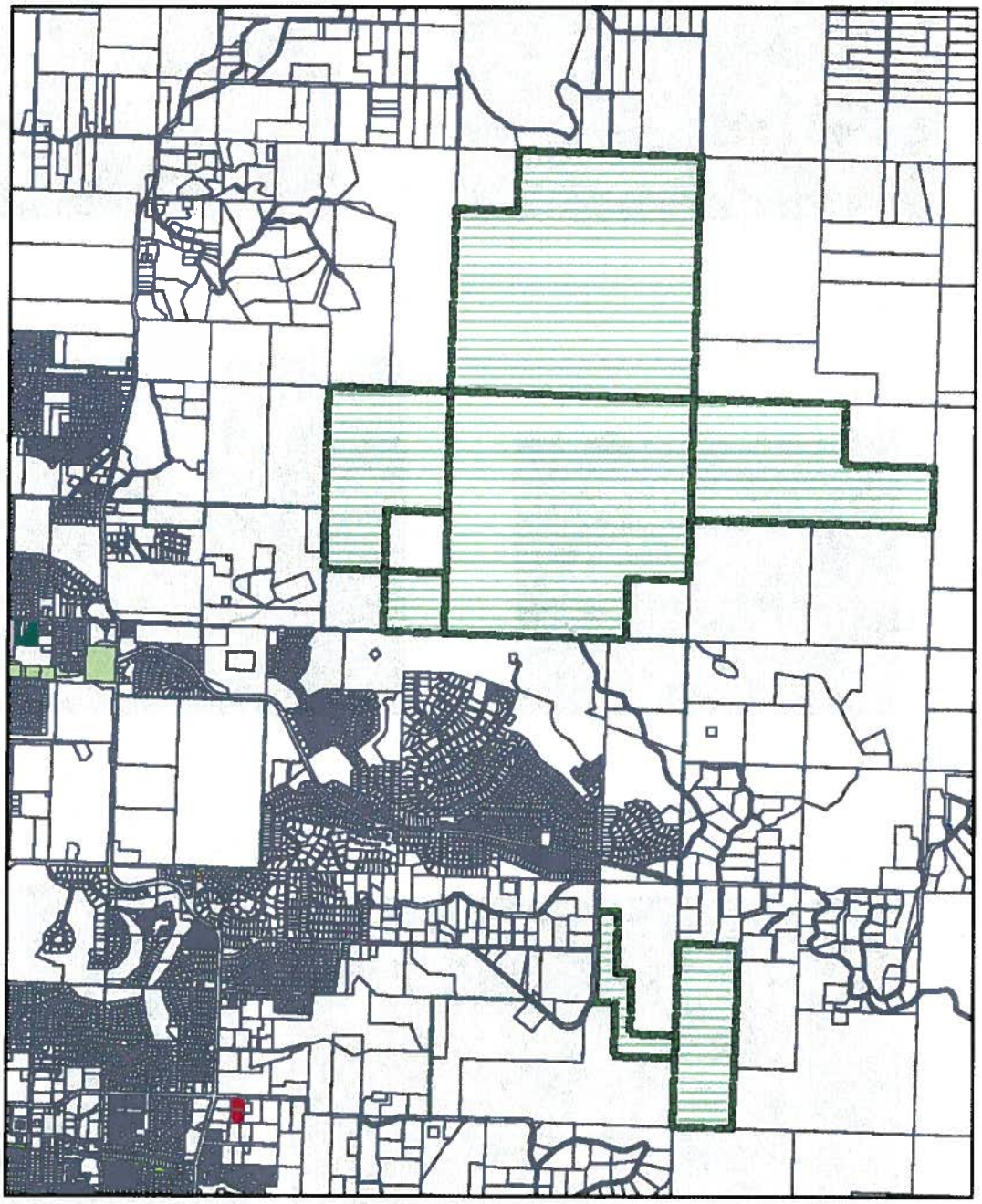
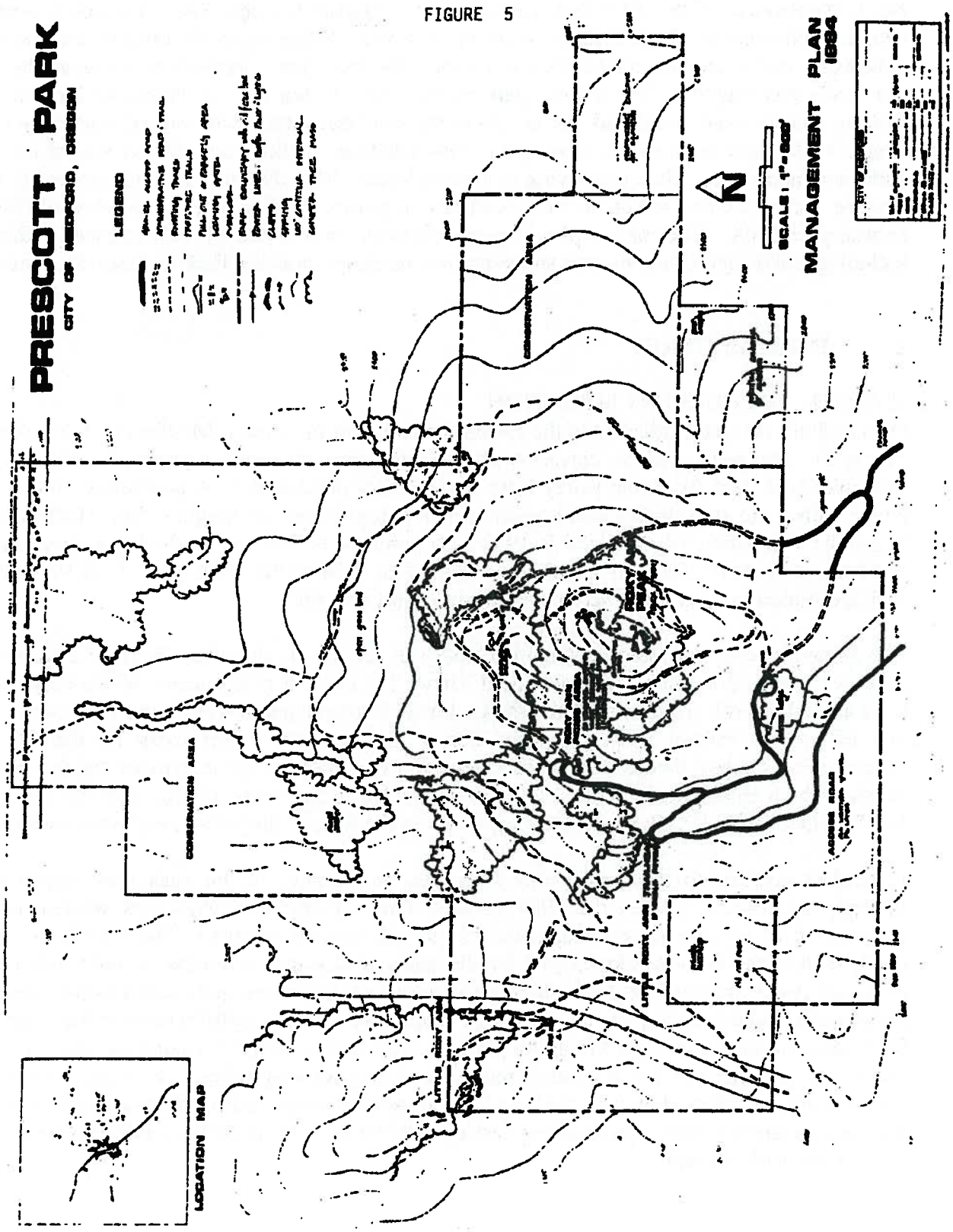


Figure 2: 1940 National Park Service Map



FORWARD

The need for this update of the 1999 Management Plan is highlighted in the Community Findings and Needs Assessment of the 2006 Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services Plan. Prescott is seen as valued natural open space by those familiar with the park site. However, many citizens are not aware of its existence, and/or are not aware that it is open for their use. Numerous citizens stated they are physically challenged by the current park access, and are not able to make the long hike from the parking area (located at the park boundary) to the level open areas with the extraordinary views of the Rogue Valley and surrounding mountains. Overwhelming public support was voiced for making the park more accessible, while preserving its natural beauty. This dilemma was highlighted in the adopted Leisure Services Plan, which in turn prompted a master plan update in October of 2007 through February of 2008. The master plan process consisted of a series of well attended public meetings including two design charettes, two subcommittee meetings, and one Park Commission meeting .

I INTRODUCTION

THE SITE AND CURRENT SITUATION

Prescott Park is located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the City of Medford on Roxy Ann Peak (see Figure 1). The peak, with an elevation of 3,571 feet, is a dominating geographic feature that stands well over 2000 feet above the valley floor and the City of Medford. A panoramic view of the Rogue River Valley and surrounding countryside can be enjoyed from its heights. The Medford Lion's Club began the acquisition of park land in 1929 with purchase of 200 acres, which was donated to the City of Medford in 1930. The City acquired the rest of the 1,740 acres from the U.S. Government by 1933 with the stipulation that it be used for recreational purposes only.

The name Prescott was soon added in memory of George J. Prescott, Medford Police Officer and Jackson County Constable who was killed March 16, 1933 in performance of his duty and who had been an enthusiastic supporter of the Park. Early developmental work in the park was completed as part of various federal work programs during the late 1930s, primarily by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). These efforts were guided by a master plan developed by the National Park Service which envisioned a series of scenic overlooks, picnic areas, hiking trails, and related day-use facilities (see Figure 2). The overall concept was, in the style of the period, rustic and pastoral.

In marked contrast to these early developments, the summit of the peak now supports electronic transmission towers. When the 1984 Prescott Park Management Plan was written, the park had deteriorated to a scattering of dilapidated picnic and day use facilities. The main loop road and the utility road hadn't been developed past the dirt and gravel stage. A number of ORV (off road vehicle) trails and roads appeared here and there on various portions of the peak and received year-round use despite seasonally locked gates on the access roads. New hiking trails have been built and CCC trails have been restored, creating a hiking loop approximately four miles in length, circling the peak. Other uses of the park have included hunting and off leash dog walking (illegal any time), bird watching and nature study, and 'Saturday night parking.' These uses are identified in the planning process as part of the Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities section that follows. More detailed information on these items is in the body of this report.

ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

1) Management Concerns -
   - Fire load management
   - Erosion from natural causes as well as introduced activities and over use
   - Protection of natural resources
   - Infractions, trespass, and illegal activities
   - Illegal off road access resulting from adjacent housing development
   - User conflicts
   - Vandalism

2) Environmental Degradation
   - Soil erosion
   - Deterioration of existing structures
   - Invasion of noxious weeds
   - Damage to vegetation from off trail park uses

3) Public Safety
   - Wildfire potential
   - Limited police protection
   - No potable water (until water system installed)
   - Hazardous structures

4) Poor or Limited Park Image
   - Generally unknown
   - Poor parking access for elderly or less physically fit individuals

5) Opportunities

Neighborhood Park	Challenge Course
Nature Study	Transmission Towers
Views	Cultural Resources
Mountain Biking	Archery
Hiking, Horseback Riding	Native plant demonstration garden
Day Use, Picnic	Nature Preserve

This updated Management Plan will allow for the continuation of the following:

1) Establish the management level and necessary policies.
2) Establish appropriate park uses.
3) Provide for public safety.
4) Increase public awareness of the park.
5) Resolve user conflicts.
6) Provide direction for development and rehabilitation of park resources.
7) Protect park resources.
8) Enhance opportunities for recreation.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

A subcommittee was formed to assist the Parks & Recreation Commission in adopting a Prescott Park Management Plan reflecting a newly adopted 2008 Master Plan. The committee reviewed the 1998 Management Plan and adopted revisions that make up this 2008 Prescott Management Plan. The issues identified by the committee fall into two categories: 1) those included as new elements in support of new facilities identified in the 2008 Master Plan Update, and 2) elements of the 1998 Management Plan that became irrelevant requiring modification or removal in an updated Management Plan.

Facilities new to the Management Plan

Challenge course,
Equestrian parking lot,
Fenced off-leash dog park,
Lodge for classes/meetings,
New park trailheads

New Facilities contemplated in 1998 Management Plan

Archery range,
Resident caretakers facility,
Equestrian/pedestrian/bike multi-use path system,
Restrooms,
Covered pavilions w/BBQ,
Clearly identified park trailheads east, west and north of park

Elements of the 1998 Management Plan being modified

This proposal limits public vehicular access to a portion of the loop road, consolidating vehicular traffic to a central area between the Madrone picnic area and the Little Roxyanne trailhead, and preserving the remaining portion of the park for non-motorized vehicles.

Restoration of the historical facilities is contingent on a thorough study by engineers, determining the feasibility of restoration of each facility.

II AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

The 1740 acre Prescott Park area includes the top of Roxy Ann Peak and its upper slopes. This peak, with a summit elevation of 3,571 feet above sea level, stands 2,200 feet above the floor of the Bear Creek Valley. The peak is part of the Klamath-Siskiyou Forest, an eco-region considered by the World Wildlife Fund to be especially rich in biodiversity, with more than 1,800 plants and animals that can be found within the region.

PRE-HISTORY

Archaeologists estimate that human beings have inhabited the upper Rogue River drainage for about the past 8,000 to 10,000 years, i.e., since shortly after the end of the last Ice Age. The earliest prehistoric group in what is now called Rogue River Valley probably lived a semi nomadic existence,

gathering edible plants and hunting large mammals such as mastodon and giant bison. Towards the end of prehistoric times (i.e., ca. A.D. 1500-1825), the vicinity surrounding the lower Bear Creek Valley-Agate Desert area served as home to the Upland Takelma, or Latgawa Indians. According to Jeff LaLande's A Historical Overview of Roxy Ann Peak and Prescott Park, 1983, this group lived along the lower elevation streams (where quantities of salmon were taken) during winters, and would ascend the surrounding mountain slopes during warm seasons to gather acorns and camas bulbs, as well as to hunt game. The oak groves of Roxy Ann Peak would have provided them with acorns, a major food source.

Very little physical evidence of the prehistoric inhabitants remains on Roxy Ann Peak; the Latgawas' presence was seasonal and their impact was light. A small scatter of jasper and agate waste flakes (left from the making of various stone tools) is located near at least one of the springs on the upper slopes of Roxy Ann Peak. Following the Rogue River Indian wars of 1851-56, the surviving Latgawa were resettled on a reservation in the north central Coast Range of Oregon.

EARLY HISTORY OF ROXY ANN: NINETEENTH CENTURY SETTLERS

The earliest whites to see Roxy Ann Peak most likely would have been Peter Skene Ogden and his party of Hudson Bay Company trappers, who passed it while traveling north along Bear Creek on Saint Valentines Day, 1827. This route (today closely paralleled by Interstate 5) continued to be used by groups traveling between the Willamette Valley and California. Initial settlement of the Bear Creek Valley area by American farmers began soon after 1850. According to McArthur's (1974) Oregon Geographic Names, Roxy Ann Peak was known during the early 1850's as Skinner Butte. Not to be confused with the ridge of the same name in the City of Eugene (which was named for pioneer Eugene Skinner), it was almost certainly called this after Judge A.A. Skinner, the Rogue Valley Indian Agent in 1851-53, who lived along lower Bear Creek in the vicinity of present day Central Point.

To the Editor of the N.Y. Tribune.

Often as I have looked upon these people, dwelling in small communities in the shady grove or along the lipid stream, bountifully supplied with fish and roots and berries for subsistence, and apparently happy in the relationship of family and friends, the conviction was forced upon me that they were living as much in harmony with the beautiful surroundings as their more toiling and anxious brethren of another race. I could not perceive wherein they were not equally with us endowed by their Creator with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And after they were driven from their pleasant homes, and their domains usurped by invaders, I never saw anything in their condition or conduct but what aroused my deepest sympathy and commiseration. To have submitted to robbery and outrage of the gravest kind without resentment would be more than Christian; to have remained passive and indifferent would be less than Men.

I do not see under the circumstances how they could have done different or better than they have done, for practically they have only exclaimed with our own noble sires, Give us liberty or give us death. And for this they have been denounced as not only savages, but as varmints and demons unfit to live, and the military force of two Territories has been drawn out to destroy them from the earth. JOHN BEESON New York, Sept. 30, 1856.

As with other agricultural centers of western Oregon, farmers laid claim to the most fertile portions of the Bear Creek Valley under terms of the Donation Land Act. Some of the first persons to take up Donation Land Claims between the valley floor and the slopes of Roxy Ann included Massachusetts-born immigrant Stephen Clark Taylor and his wife, Mary A. (Prescott) Taylor, in 1853. Another

pioneer couple whose property included the lower slopes of the peak were John and Roxy Ann Bowen.

The name Skinner Butte did not last; by the late 1850's local settlers referred to the mountain as Roxy Ann Peak. The Bowen land claim stretched between the vicinity of the present day Rogue Valley Medical Center and Hillcrest Road, near the foot of Roxy Ann Peak. Roxy Ann Bowen was listed in the 1860 Jackson County census pointing to her namesake of this prominent natural landmark.

During the late nineteenth century, Roxy Ann Peak supported sizable numbers of cattle. Around the turn of the century, however, new and more intensive forms of land use began to occur on and around the peak. These land uses included agriculture, primarily in the form of pear orchards which remain to this day.

III PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

LANDFORM

Roxy Ann Peak is part of a system of peaks and connecting ridges (which also includes Green Springs Mountain, Grizzly Peak, Benson Ridge, and Mount Baldy), which form the east slope of the Bear Creek Valley. The peak is characterized by undulating flanks of very steep to moderately steep slopes, (generally less steep as elevation decreases) interrupted by gently sloping randomly placed benches to the west and southwest. Slopes to the northeast and east are generally steep and more uniform or smooth. The ridge crest generally parallels the contact between the older sedimentary rocks of the valley floor (and the adjacent foothills) and the younger volcanic deposits of the Western Cascades.

GEOLOGY

The lower elevation southwest aspect slopes of Roxy Ann consist of sandstone, shale, and conglomerate beds of the Payne Cliff's formation. These early Eocene Age (ca 50-35 million years old) sediments locally contain plant fossils and low-grade coal deposits. Early Oligocene Age (ca 35-30 million years old) volcanic rocks compose most of the remainder of Roxy Ann Peak. These antiseptic basalt flows, breccias, and agglomerates (which typify the Western Cascades in the Rogue River drainage) are collectively known to geologists as the Roxy formation, Roxy Ann Peak being the "type-locality" for this formation. A relatively small area on the west slope of the peak (near the summit and elsewhere) exposes dark colored cliffs and talus. These are formed from a much later intrusion of basalt. This Pliocene age (ca 5-2 million years old) intrusion of relatively resistant rock near the present summit of Roxy Ann undoubtedly contributed to the peaks differential erosion into the somewhat isolated, conical shape we see today.

SOILS

The soil types of Prescott Park vary from Heppsie Clay (high shrink-swell capability) on the northeast side of the peak to Tablerock-Rock Outcrop (low moderate-high moderate shrink-swell capability) on the west side of the peak to McMullin-Rock Outcrop (low shrink-swell capability) on the south side of the peak. The soils in the rest of the park which surround the peak also run the gamut of low to high shrink-swell capability.

The clay soil types with high shrink-swell characteristics dominate the park area. When moist, the clays have very low strength. Erosion is very prevalent in these clays where any disturbance of the surface occurs. A shallow rut left by a tire can soon be transformed into a gully. The low strength of the clays also means low bearing capacity for structures. This can be overcome by special design and/or reinforcement. The consistency of the clays makes them hard to handle with or without equipment when wet or dry. When wet, they are extremely sticky. When dry, they are very hard.

HYDROLOGY

There are a number of natural springs located within the park boundaries. Many of the springs are generally quite productive with few ever drying up in the late summer. Some of the more prominent springs have been developed in the past for watering domestic animals and recreational site development. Some of the spring sites have been recently damaged by extensive ORV use. Since 1990, one of the springs in the Roxy Ann picnic area has been piped to a secluded deer pond.

VEGETATION

The variety of soil and climatic conditions on Roxy Ann Peak create a natural diversity of vegetation. There are basically three broad habitats found on Roxy Ann.

The first vegetative category is the forbs-grassland. These open, grassy areas cover large areas of the park and give it much of its character. In this category are found such grasses as blue wildrye and June grass. Southern Oregon Buttercup (a unique Rogue Valley species), yarrow, and pussy ears are among the flowers that grow in this category. On the east side of the park, there is a camas wet prairie that covers several acres and blends into the oak/shrub communities which surrounds it. In the summer it becomes open grassland. The camas wet prairie on the west side is much smaller, but it too becomes a large meadow surrounded by the oak/shrub community in the summer.

The second category is the oak/shrub community. This is a very broad category with many diverse elements ranging from stands of Manzanita, Poison Oak, or Wedgeleaf Ceanothus, to Oregon White and California Black Oak areas, to stands where Madrone dominates. There is a small pocket of bitterbrush, an Eastern Oregon native.

The third category is the mixed coniferous forest found generally on north slopes at the higher elevations. It is dominated by ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, Incense Cedar and Madrone. While growth may be moderate, the trees are in old growth stands.

WILDLIFE

Roxy Ann Peak is characterized by a variety of habitats which support a wealth of wildlife species. Preservation of the natural diversity of the vegetation and minimization of unnecessary disturbances are the key to keeping this natural resource. Soil and climatic conditions have created unusual circumstances which allow some species of wildlife to be found here which would only normally be found somewhat farther to the south or east.

There are basically three broad habitats found on Roxy Ann which correspond to the vegetation types. These habitats display an excellent degree of interspersion, with a good mixture of different vegetative communities and plenty of valuable "edge" habitat. This results in conditions which favor maximum

numbers of wildlife species and individuals. These habitats include forbs-grasslands, which are especially important in the winter and early spring when exposure to the sun allows grass and forbs to green up early. This is an important aspect of elk and black-tailed deer winter range, which has been labeled "Especially Critical" in the Prescott Park area by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The second category of habitat is the oak/shrub community. The combination of shrubs and trees provides a great deal of vertical structure so that bird life is rich in these areas. This is particularly important during the winter and spring when many migrants or winter residents find cover and foraging areas here.

The third category is the mixed coniferous forest. If all the habitat types could be qualitatively ranked, the mixed coniferous forest may be the most important due to the limited area and specialized cover and feeding areas it provides. This different structure supports an entirely different bird community than the hardwood stands. The more dense canopy is also effective in modifying the environment underneath by providing important thermal cover for deer and other wildlife during the winter and cool, shaded conditions during the heat of the summer. It appears that wild turkey, in this area particularly, depend on the mixed coniferous forests. Any artificial management or manipulation of habitat is generally unnecessary if human intervention is minimized.

Typical and special wildlife species using the park area include: black-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk, raccoons, skunks, bobcats, coyotes, weasels, squirrels and other assorted mammals, reptiles and snakes. Raptors, that hunt small mammals, and song birds, both seed and insect-eating, abound in Prescott Park. Cougars have been known to use Prescott Park as part of their range. A cougar challenged a hiker in 1997.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Roxy Ann Peak dominates the Bear Creek Valley in the Medford area. At 3,571 feet, it is the highest point on the skyline to the east of the city. In addition to the landform of the peak, the vegetation patterns on the flanks of the peak contribute much scenic interest to the view from Medford.

Visual features within Prescott Park include the large mixed conifer forests, large rugged, open individual ponderosa pine and oak trees, the many meadows (profuse with wildflowers in early summer) the deep canyon, the cliffs of Little Roxy Ann, the Civilian Conservation Corps historic facilities, the many forms of special wildlife (such as pileated woodpecker) and especially the top of the peak itself. Dramatic views from the top can be had in all directions to observe such features as Crater Lake Rim, Mount McLaughlin, Mount Ashland, Mount Shasta, and of course the Bear Creek Valley below.

Elements presenting incongruous visual effects in the natural landscape include the off-road vehicle tracks wending their way straight up the open grassy hillside, the high voltage power lines, and the electronic transmitter facilities. The electronic facilities are primarily out of context when viewed at close range, since they are not discernable as viewed from most of Medford. Another facility not fitting into the natural patterns of the landscape is the rock pit on private land adjacent to the southeast corner of the park. This rock pit presents an obviously incongruous geometric landform that is visible on the skyline as viewed from Medford.

Some areas of the park are very sensitive from a visual standpoint and have a low ability to absorb

visual change. These sensitive areas include open grassy steep slopes with south, southwest, and west aspect (easily viewed from Medford) ridge lines that stand out on the skylines and the peak itself. Fortunately, the top of the peak is clothed with a fairly dense stand of trees, which affords good screening.

ACCESS

Vehicular access to the site is currently by way of a Jackson County local access road, which comes off Hillcrest Road. At present, it is an 18-20 foot wide dirt and gravel road with a 16-foot road base. The road was 14-16 foot wide in 1984. The park drive currently includes a loop road around the peak with a single-lane spur road to the summit located on the east slope of the peak. The main road is subject to rutting during the wet season in areas of known springs. Operators of the rock quarry grade, add gravel, and control dust with the application of water and a dust suppressing treatment on the main portion of the road leading to the rock quarry. The upper portion of the road leading up to the towers is maintained at minimum service levels by funds collected from agencies and organizations that have electronic facilities located on top of Roxy Ann Peak. A number of illegal off-road vehicle trails have also been established which enter the park at random points. This plan limits public access from the upper most portion of the road, concentrating vehicular traffic to the plateau immediately below Roxy Anne Peak.

FIRE

Of potential natural hazards, damage from wildfire is the most likely. Proximity to homes, industrial activities, illegal uses (campfires, ORVs, etc.), all contribute to a risk of human-caused fires. Lightning is also a significant threat.

Rates of spread on the open, grass slopes will be high even though they are generally less than 40% slope. The area contains additional heavier fuels in the form of large logs and limbs. The lack of fuel break, difficulty in driving, and these heavier fuels make fires in the area resistant to control. Although fires in this area may reach several hundred acres, the damage would usually be low; a grass fire in this area would re-seed quickly.

Fires in the oak/scrub community will probably spread slightly faster than in the grass lands, and with more intensity. These fires would also be resistant to control for the same reason as above. Damage would be greater here since the oaks and madrones would likely perish. Grass and brush species would quickly re-seed, creating good ground cover and potential grazing habitat for wildlife.

Mixed conifer forests have the potential for the highest loss due to a destructive fire. Fires in these areas will start slower and burn at lower rates of spread, but with much greater intensities. As a result, it could destroy the forest cover completely. Re-seeding in this area will take much longer, and the fire scar could be visible for decades.

Potential fire causes in the area in general order of likelihood:

Lightning
Off-road vehicle use
Campfires
Arson
Industrial activities from the quarry or park maintenance.

In 1984, the condition of the access road and the lack of adequate access increased the risk of fires spreading. Since then, the Medford Fire Department has received the key to the gate to Gene Garner's road, which also has access on Hillcrest Road. The access road and the park loop road have been upgraded with shale sub-base and graded to accommodate the heavy quarry trucks.
It is felt that with current high fuel loading, any late season fire could have the potential to be of a stand replacement intensity (that is, none of the trees recover). These conditions can exist in Prescott Park for up to the entire summer season.

The Parks & Recreation Department completed fuel reduction on aprox. 45 acres from 2005 through 2007. The work was completed utilizing a mechanical "slashbuster" as well as manually with crews contracted through the Jackson County detention facility. In 2003 through 2004, approximately 15 acres were manually cleared using volunteer labor.

During the master planning process, members in attendance expressed an interest in getting the park's fuel load reduced to a level where on-going controlled burns could be utilized to control fuel loads.

LAND OWNERSHIP, ENCUMBRANCES AND ZONING

The park site is located within portions of Sections 11, 13, 14, and 15 of Township 37 South, Range 1 West, Willamette Meridian. The entire 1740 acre park is owned by the City of Medford. Deed restrictions on that part of the park received from the Federal Government declares that the land shall be used solely for recreational purposes and cannot be used for such other activities as grazing of livestock, with the exception of goats. All adjacent property is entirely under private ownership.

There are eight power transmission lines within easements running through the park. There are two 230 kilovolt (KV) lines, one 115 KV line, and one 69 KV line within the existing 450 foot right-of-way, running north and south across the most western portion of the park. There are two 230 KV lines within the existing 360 foot right-of-way, running east-west across the northern edge of the park with a 500 KV line running for a short distance through the northeast corner. Each easement had one more 230 KV line added to it in the spring of 1999.

Jackson County zoning for the entire park area is OSR (Open Space Reserve). Typical park uses are compatible with this designation. The OSR zone also allows electronic transmitting facilities such as those existing atop Roxy Ann Peak. Adjacent private land is zoned EFU (Exclusive Farm Use), OSR (Open Space Reserve) and SFR-4 (Single Family Residential - 4 units per acre) where adjacent to the existing city limits. Minor patches of F-5 (Forestry - 5 acre minimum lot size) are located nearby. At some presently unknown date in the future, this property will be added to the Urban Growth area with School/Parkland Comprehensive Plan designation. The land will then be annexed and then will receive a City of Medford zoning classification. Staff recommends a new School/Parkland zone be created prior to the Prescott Park annexation occur. The new zone would clearly identify approved parkland facilities appropriate for Prescott Park.

ADJACENT LAND USES

The primary adjacent land uses include residential acreage and open space to the north, east, and west of the park boundary. Land to the south is within the City of Medford Urban Growth Boundary, and is rapidly being developed as single family residences. Pacific Power owns land along the northeast boundaries.

Also located adjacent to the southeastern park boundary is a small working gravel pit. In 1984, operation of the facility was intermittent and low key. Today, the facility operates all year. The operator has a written agreement with the City, placing responsibility on the operator for controlling the travel speeds of the large gravel trucks, maintaining limited hours of operation, regarding and maintaining a gravel road surface, controlling the dust in a timely fashion by either watering the road or putting down a dust retardant. There have been occasional conflicts between the residents in the area and quarry operators over truck speed and dust, but most recently, the operators have generally maintained the gravel road to a high level.

ELECTRONIC SITES

Roxy Ann Peak is an excellent site for electronic transmissions to the Rogue Valley. The peak is centrally located, has good height, and is easily accessible by road. Mt. Baldy, located several miles to the south, is the only other primary transmission site for the Rogue Valley. A joint venture in 2008 among private and public agencies and organizations has combined multiple towers into one tall tower, with a second shorter tower to remain.

PAST SOCIAL USE

In the late 1930s through the 1950s, the park area developed into a well used day use facility including organized picnic areas with springs supplying running water for drinking and restrooms. The development at that time, included scenic overlooks, picnic areas, hiking trails, and related day use facilities. The overall concept, in the style of the period, was rustic and pastoral. It was used by youth groups, such as the Scouts, and service organizations for picnics and day camps. A scattering of utilitarian concrete block structures and associated microwave relay towers were built on top of the peak beginning in the late 1950s. Since then, the park has declined and is considered undeveloped except for several gravel access roads and a dilapidated picnic area and general day use facilities which remain from the earlier development.

CURRENT USE

The park has a regular group of Medford residents that can be seen riding bikes, jogging, walking their dogs, horse back riding or hiking the road or trails. Adjacent property owners continue to enjoy the park as a sort of a big back yard. Other occasional uses of the park include bird watching and nature study.

In the early 1980s, the main access road had been closed, even during the summer months, as a result of the poor condition of the road. Lack of maintenance left the road rutted to the point where only four wheel drive vehicles could be sure of passing. In the summer of 1998, the east side of the loop road was re-graded, a shale road base and top layer of gravel was laid down. This brought the entire loop road up to police and fire accessible standards. . Berl Brim, the current operator of the rock quarry, as a part of their agreement with the city, has improved and is maintaining the road from Hillcrest Road, past the park property line, past the southern portion of the loop road, to the rock quarry.

However, then as now, one of the more frequent illegal uses of the park is by off road vehicles. A number of ORV trails and roads have appeared at various places on the peak. Rutting and erosion problems resulting from this use have caused serious damage to a number of sensitive places on the peak. Recent enforcement and signing of the area have managed to slow this use somewhat. As new roads are developed up to the park boundary and as new homes are built backing up to the park, new routes into the park are appearing. This is requires on-going and diligent monitoring on the part of the maintenance crews.

PAST SITE PLANS AND MAPS

Three previous site plans were developed for the park area. The original plan was drawn by the CCC in 1937 and revised in 1940 as an as-built (see Figure 2). In 1976, the site plan was redrawn by Norm Ziesmer, a City of Medford Parks and Recreation employee. The 1984 & 1998 Management Plan updates included site plans indicating updated information. All plans included picnicking and hiking or horseback riding as primary recreational uses with various other subordinate uses as a possibility. Both the Minimal Use Plan and the final 1984 Management Plan Site Plan continued the theme of Prescott Park as a picnic and hiking or equestrian park.

The original boundary map of the park was done in 1934. It included a forty acre parcel on the west slope of Little Roxy Ann Peak, donated by the Lion's Club. The above mentioned 40 acre parcel is not shown on subsequent maps. A title search of the parcel showed that there was no record of the property changing hands from the U.S. Government to the Lion's Club.

In 1998, a United States Geological Survey map and newly photographed aerials were used to update the National Park Service (NPS) map to reflect more accurately the current road alignment. It was discovered that the contours of the NPS map were off enough that a new map with current road alignment and new trails was drawn (see Figure 3).

Jackson County aerial photos & planimetric maps, fist developed in the late 1990's and since periodically updated, have greatly added to detailed topographic information for Prescott Park.

Figure 3: 2008 City of Medford Map

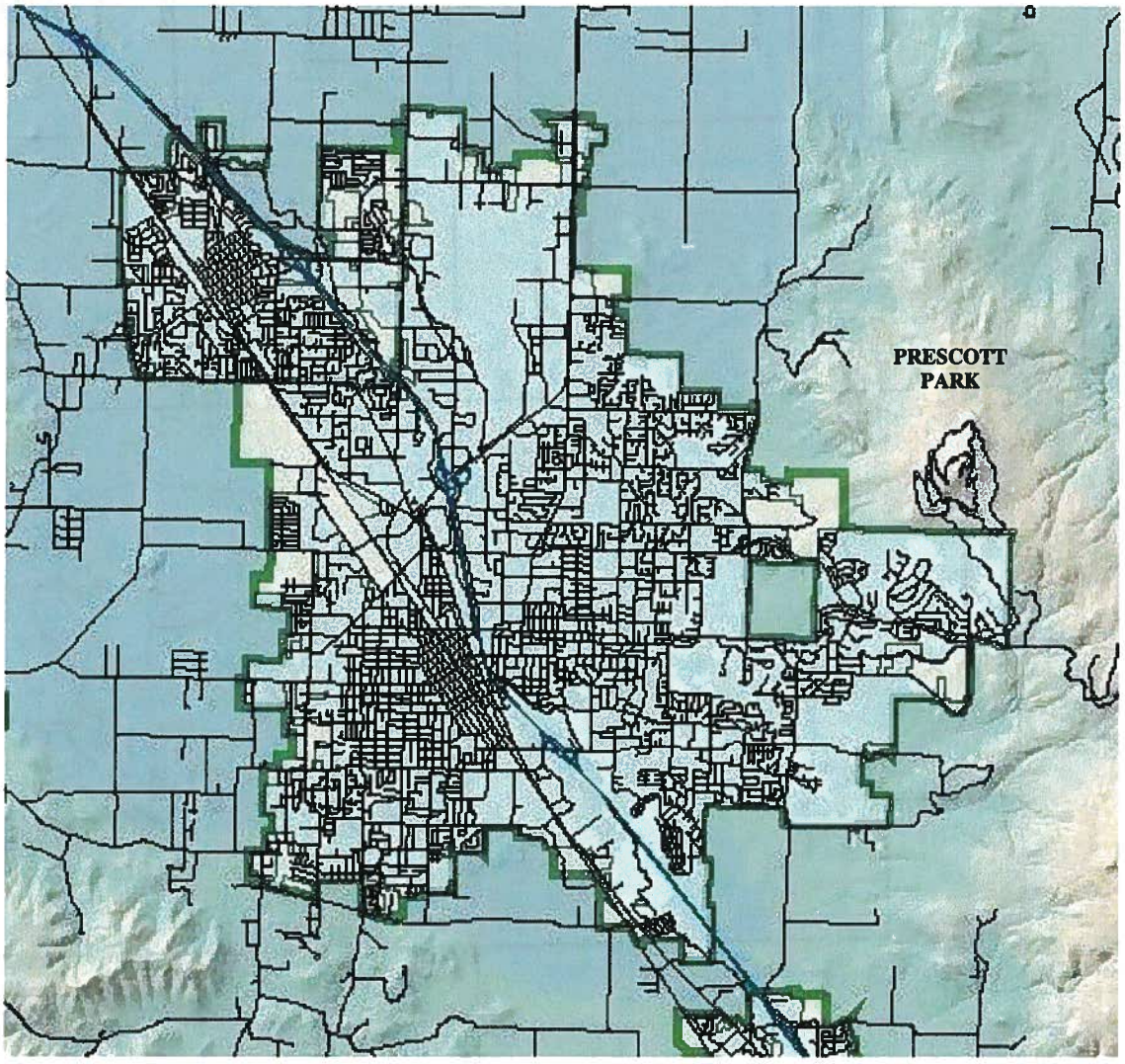
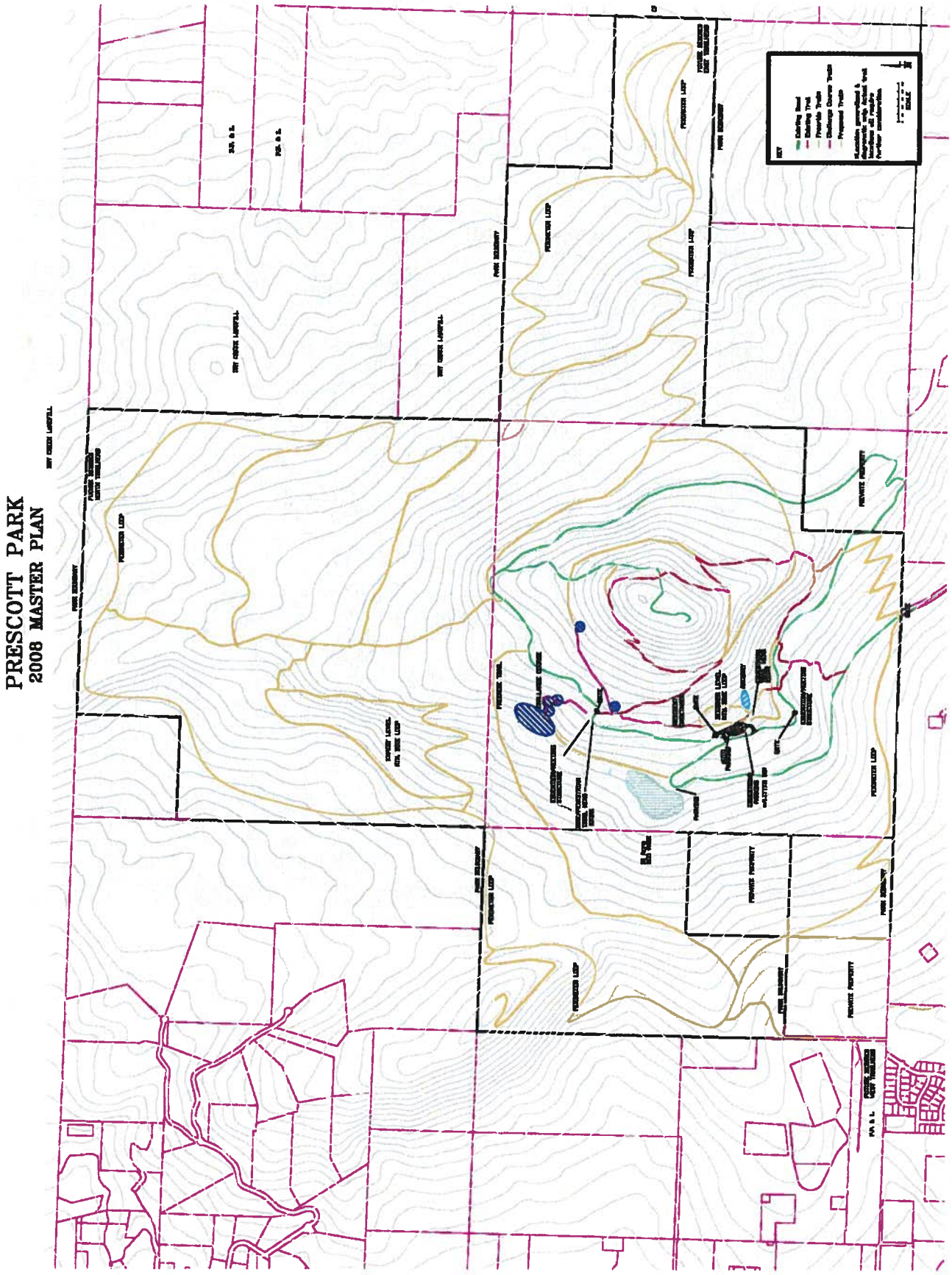


Figure 4:



IV 2008 MASTER PLAN

CONCEPT & DIRECTION

The park facilities and uses remain of a nature similar to a state or county rural park, more than a municipal park, including the use of a residential caretaker for safety and to check inappropriate uses of the site. High importance is afforded the preservation of the existing natural resources. Development of new facilities will match the historical architectural feel of the original signs, benches, BBQ, kiosk, restrooms. Historic facilities will be restored and/or protected when possible. The updated park design clusters activities away from road as much as is possible and reduces road crossings by park patrons in an attempt to minimize conflicts with gravel trucks using the entry road.. New trail head Kiosk stations will be installed describing trail etiquette, displaying maps, explaining park safety rules, providing historic and emergency information, accommodating community posts for activity notices. A full compliment of signage is planned, including Orientation, Information, Trailhead, Interpretive, Traffic Directional, and Safety signs. The Medford Parks and Recreation will seek additional trailheads as the opportunity arises. As funding and opportunities arise, the Medford Parks and Recreation will seek to develop multi-use trails built to IMBA standards. Utilization of volunteers will remain an integral part of development and management of this park.

ACTIVITIES

Scenic viewing
Hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, bicycling, archery, off-leash dog walking (in dog park)
Nature study and education- public schools, organized groups (to include astronomy & challenge course)
Resource protection and rehabilitation
Historic site restoration, enhancement, and interpretation
Electronic use expansion within existing buildings and towers only
Wildlife protection
Wildlife habitat management
Rehabilitate soil erosion locations(road and ORV related)
Wildfire suppression
Fuels management
Existing electronic uses (expansion within existing buildings and towers)

FACILITIES

General List

All-weather 11/2 lane (16') loop road
Residential Caretaker's facility& maintenance yard
Roxy Ann picnic area trailhead, kiosk, picnic shelter, & meeting room/restroom
Little Roxy Ann parking area for adjacent dog park and trailhead
Equestrian/auto parking facility
Archery facility
Challenge Course
North overlook historic site restoration

Madrone picnic area with meeting room/restroom
Demonstration garden for native plant species
Trails & amenities for hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding
Interpretive signs
Gates
Water, sewer, power infrastructures
Lodge for classes/meetings & covered pavilions w/BBQ
Fenced off leash area (dog park)
New overlooks along trails
Astronomy area (preserve darkness in this area)
Restrooms
Multiple trailheads
Picnic tables, shelters. benches (scattered)

Specific Descriptions

Resident Caretaker's dwelling: Many of the new facilities proposed in the 2008 Master Plan will require a resident caretaker be in place prior to construction of the facility. There has been vandalism in the past and is anticipated in the future. A caretaker is seen as an essential component in the effort to combat damage to new facilities and respond to the threat of fire. This would be funded by Park SDC funds, and would be one of the largest cost for the Master Plan.

Meeting room buildings: Staff is recommending that two meeting room buildings be included in this master plan to serve all uses in this park. They would be located at the Madrone Ledge and Roxy Anne Trailhead.

Multi-use trails: Staff is recommending that a multi use trail system, currently included in the approved management plan, be included in this Master Plan. Built to IMBA standards, the trail system would include connections to the existing trails to provide additional loops. New trails would include a park perimeter trail as well as trails within the park connecting to the perimeter trail. Trial etiquette, a critical component to the success of such a multi-use trail system, would be posted on kiosks at strategic locations. New trails would be spaced to average between 1,500 to 2000 feet apart from each other. As a point of reference, Fichtner-Mainwarring is approximately 1,500 feet in its diagonal distance from the north west corner to the south east corner. A long range goal to have multiple trail heads, one on each side of the park, is included in the Master Plan.

Parking: The current management plan calls for improving the existing parking areas. This proposal calls for largely abandoning one parking area at the Roxy Ann Picnic area, improving the Little Roxy Anne Trailhead and Madrone Ledge parking lots, and creating one new combined auto/equestrian parking area which will include a large auto/school busses parking area adjacent to a equestrian parking area with parking stalls large enough for six (6) horse trailers. Parking stalls for school busses will serve the groups that arrive for nature study, astronomy, and the challenge course activities. Improving the existing parking areas is currently in the adopted Management Plan. The parking areas are not presently required to be paved surfaces, and so will have a lower cost to construct. It is anticipated that this will be one of the largest expenses, along with the resident caretaker's facility.

Loop Road: The 1998 Management Plan calls for vehicular access throughout the existing loop road. This proposed Master Plan changes this by terminating vehicular traffic at the new park entry area, limiting public access to the loop road by vehicles. The majority of the road would be gated off,

leaving the current third gate and placing a new gate at the Madrone Ledge. This will allow what was a overwhelming request that the park remain natural and pedestrian/equestrian/bike friendly , reducing vehicular traffic where possible.

Relocate the Park Entry: Public response during the past Leisure Services Plan development showed that elderly and physically challenged individuals would very much like to use this park, but are not able to do so with the access configuration as it currently exists for the park; the distance from the parking area to the park area with the spectacular views is too great. This proposal would relocate the park entry to a more central location, up to the third gate area, concentrating human activity to a fairly small area with parking, dog park, picnicking, beginner's bike loop, restroom, caretaker's lodge, meeting rooms, trail heads, and archery.
Allowing vehicles further into the park will require that a resident caretaker first be in place, as a starting point. Otherwise, the potential for off-road activates, vandalism, fire, and such would be too great to be logical. Additionally, traffic barriers will be required along the side of the road between the current park entry and the new park entry to ensure vehicles are not able to leave the road for illegal off-road activities. A volunteer club has offered to rebuild the existing rock bollards, restoring the historical approach to this problem. SDC funds could also be allocated for this, at an estimated cost of $100,000.

Equestrian parking: Parking is designed specifically for horse trailers with adjacent trail head for horses with a ¼ mile trail connecting parking to main trial, manure bin, hitching posts & water. Horse trails built to last. Connect a new multi-use trail to Chrissy Park.

Challenge (ropes) Course: Built, leased, & facilitated by a professional team in partnership with Medford Parks & Recreation. We received a very rough estimate of $30,000 to build a moderate facility. It would be leased to an organization which would then pay a fee for each use, generating money for the maintenance of the facility. Discussions have occurred with such an organization, along with an informal site visit. They were excited by the prospect of bringing this to the City of Medford.

Natural Archery range: fully funded, built and overseen by Archery Club volunteers. An archery range is identified in the current adopted park management plan as an identified opportunity. When the archery range is not in use, the range will be packed up and put away into storage. The archery facility will include a small storage building and a covered shelter for gatherings. The total area of the buffer area around the facility would be about 1/3 acre, with an impacted archery field area approximately ¼ acre. Trails will be constructed to direct kids to and from the targets, protecting the native plant species within the range. The club will post permanent signs required by the State of Oregon for such facilities. In addition to archery instructions, this facility will provide supervised activities for teens, teaching them responsible choice making, an appreciation for the natural beauty found in this park, while creating minimal impacts to the park. The archery club requires community projects of each child, so impacts to the site will be mitigated seasonally by the volunteer efforts of the club.

Native Demonstration Gardens:
Prescott Park includes a number of distinct ecosystems. A demonstration garden will be developed within each ecosystem, developed and maintained by volunteers, demonstrating to the public the variety of plant species that grow within the park.

Dog park: The Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services plan calls for more dog parks, to be located throughout the community. Prescott Park provides a unique opportunity for a natural and unimproved off leash experience for dogs and their owners. Fencing, parking improvements and misc. amenities for a dog park would be paid for with park SDC funds, and would total around $20,000 to $40,000, depending on the size of the park.

Non-permitted uses:
Off-road vehicle use
Hunting
Discharge of firearms
Grazing of domestic livestock
Camping
Constructed freeride wood structures (ramps, boardwalks, jumps, etc.)

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of this management plan is to be through a variety of means including group and individual volunteer work, donations, other agency cooperation, as well as through the typical City of Medford Parks maintenance funds and Capital Improvement Program funds. A new 'Friends of Prescott Park' group could be formed to assist with implementation.

Although funds are available immediately for some of the proposed trail building work, and support for the challenge course and archery range (all donations) development, much of the funding will need to be reprioritized into the 6-year capital plan before becoming available. Rationale exists for this in the current Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Plan, the current System Development Methodology, as well as the current 25-year SDC Project Plan for said funding of this management plan.

- Determine which planning processes to apply to each proposed facility (County or City);
- The timing of projects will, in part, be driven by the above planning process;
- Some projects have immediate funding, and may commence after planning approval, as needed;
- Coordinate volunteers in developing trails in an on-going volunteer effort;
- Coordinate with the appropriate planning department, the development of the following:
    - Prior to the development of the Residential Caretaker facility
        - -Trail Development;
        - -Archery Range; and
        - -Challenge Course.
    - Develop Residential Caretaker facility
    - Following the development of the Residential Caretaker facility
        - -Parking lot for auto/equestrian users;
        - -Covered pavilions w/BBQ;
        - -Dog Park;
        - -Restrooms; and
        - -Lodges for classes/meetings.

PRESCOTT MASTER PLAN COST ESTIMATE

The following list of projects was developed for the 2008 Master Plan Update and adopted by the Park Commission. Much of the detail needed for an accurate and detailed cost estimate was lacking at the time of the adoption. As an example, development of the park may be under Jackson County regulations, or may not occur until the land falls under the City of Medford jurisdiction after addition to the Urban Growth Boundary area and annexation into the City. The recommendation of this management plan is to pursue the most feasible route in implementation of the recommendations of this plan, further developing a cost estimate as is feasible.

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF MAJOR FACILITY COSTS

Item	Quantity	Unit cost	Extended Cost
Buildings:			
- Resident Caretaker's dwelling	1	$150,000	$150,000
- Meeting room buildings	2	$100,000	$200,000
- Archery Storage	1	$0	$0
- Picnic shelters	3	$20,000	$60,000
- Restrooms	2	$150,000	$300,000
Infrastructure:			
- Power	1	$50,000	$50,000
- Water system	1	$50,000	$50,000
- Septic	3	$50,000	$150,000
- Parking & landscaping	3	$100,000	$300,000
- Roads	1	$50,000	$50,000
- Boundary fence			
Facilities:			
- Archery	1	$0	$0
- Challenge Course	1	$30,000	$30,000
- Multi-use trails	1	$50,000	$50,000
- Dog Park	1	$30,000	$30,000
- Native Demonstration Gardens	3	$2,000	$6,000
Signage:			
- Interpretive	10	$5,000	$500
- Directional	50	$5,000	$100
- Kiosk	2	$4,000	$2,000
Total:			$1,428,600

V THE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY SYNOPSIS

CONCEPT & DIRECTION

The area is to be managed to provide an emphasis for dispersed recreation activities and for the protection of natural resources. The loop road will be closed to public vehicles, but left open for public bike, equestrian and pedestrian access. Historic facilities will be restored where feasible, although the uses of the old buildings may change. Historic building materials and design features shall be utilized in all new construction. Natural feel of the various ecosystems shall be preserved or enhanced as a part of this park development. Native plant species shall be protected where feasible or mitigated when damaged. Utilization of volunteers will be an integral part of development and management. When conflicts develop, the conflict shall be resolved in favor of public recreation and/or natural resource protection.

ACTIVITIES

Scenic walking and riding the loop road
Hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, bicycling, archery, challenge course activities
Nature study and education
Resource protection
Historic site restoration and interpretation
Electronic use expansion within existing buildings and towers only

FACILITIES

All-weather 1 ½ lane (16') loop road
Residential Caretaker's facility& maintenance yard
Roxy Ann picnic area trailhead, kiosk, picnic shelter, & meeting room/restroom
Little Roxy Ann parking area for adjacent dog park and trailhead
Equestrian/auto parking facility
Archery facility
Challenge Course
North overlook historic site restoration
Madrone picnic area with meeting room/restroom
Demonstration garden for native plant species
Trails & amenities for hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding
Interpretive signs
Gates
Water, sewer, power infrastructures
Lodge for classes/meetings & covered pavilions w/BBQ
Fenced off leash area (dog park)
New overlooks along trails
Astronomy area (preserve darkness in this area)
Restrooms
Multiple trailheads
Picnic tables, shelters. benches (scattered)

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation is to be through various means including group and individual volunteer work, donations, other agency cooperation and City of Medford funds. A new Friends of Prescott Park group could be formed to assist with implementation.

VI FUNCTIONAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

The City of Medford shall be responsible for implementation of the Park Management Plan. The City of Medford Parks and Recreation Department shall be the coordinating body in development and maintenance of all park facilities. Volunteer groups and park supporters will be encouraged to participate in implementation of the park plan.

Goal 1: Encourage city-wide use by providing low impact amenities.

Recreation

The area is to be used for day use only and will be closed at night. A resident caretaker will be phased in as funds allow, prior to relocating the park entry to the plateau area as indicated on the 2008 Master Plan.

Roxy Ann Picnic Area will be restored using the CCC historical theme for the rehabilitation of facilities. Facilities will include restroom, information kiosk, bulletin board(s), meeting room structure, shelter and picnic tables.

Little Roxy Ann Trailhead may include a parking lot, information kiosk and bulletin board.

The North Overlook shall be rehabilitated using the CCC theme for the site and the structure.

Motorized vehicles are not permitted off public roads except for permitted administrative use. Perimeter fencing, gates and signs shall be used at necessary areas to control illegal off-road vehicle use.

Education

Prescott Park holds a unique opportunity for educating the City of Medford's youth in the appreciation of its natural resources by providing educational facilities and programming through the development of a Challenge (Ropes) Course, meeting rooms which can serve as class rooms, by developing outdoor programming, developing educational botanical trails and garden areas, and encouraging existing youth programs such as the Archery Club to invest in the use of the Prescott Park facility.

Trails

Trails are to be designed and maintained to be usable by hikers, bikers and horses using design standards adopted by the International Mountain Biking Association for erosion control of multi-use trails.

Trail use will be closely monitored to ensure the park users limit their experience to the trails, and do

not leave the trails, creating new unauthorized trails.

Levels of trail use will be monitored to ensure a sustainable trail system and limit impacts to the park. Damage due to over use will prompt a Parks and Recreation staff investigation and report with recommendations to the Medford Park Commissioners.

Motorized vehicles are not permitted on trails or off road. Bicycle use of trails will be monitored to evaluate potential conflicts. If conflicts result, pedestrians and horses will take precedence. Powered equipment for trail construction and maintenance is permitted.

Develop a trail connection to the south to Chrissy Park suitable for equestrian use.

Develop a trail connection to the northwest to loop back to the Bear Creek Greenway at the northerly limits of the City of Medford or Central Point.
Develop a trail from the southwest corner of Prescott Park, connecting to Oregon Hills Park.

Develop a minimum of three additional trail heads at north, east and west property lines. These are to be located at the park boundary, and are not intended to intrude into the park.

Roads
The standard for the loop access road from Hillcrest and around the peak shall include 1 ½ lanes, 16' in width with a gravel surface. After the road is brought up to standard, it will be maintained for year round public use within availability of funds. If funds do not permit adequate maintenance, the road shall be closed seasonally to prevent road damage. Commercial hauling on this road shall be allowed only by permission of the City. Speed restrictions and speed bumps may be utilized as deemed necessary.

Roxy Ann Rock is responsible for maintenance of the road from the rock pit through the main access gate to Hillcrest Road with a compacted and graded crushed rock surface and a dust retardant. They are also responsible for limiting truck traffic to within the hours specified by the five year license. As the use of the park increases or if Burl Brim Rock continues to not adhere to the contract, the Medford Parks Department may consider buying the 40 acre parcel of the gravel pit site to complete the control of the loop road.

Public vehicular access will be limited to the portion of the road from the property line to the plateau area as indicated on the 2008 Master Plan. The remaining loop road will receive maintenance to permit its function for fire access, utility and maintenance uses, and a public trail.

The access road from the loop road to the top of Roxy Ann Peak will be used as an administrative use road, fire access, utility and maintenance uses, and public trail. It will continue to be gated at all times.

Pacific Power is responsible for performing necessary maintenance on its access roads to protect soil resources. Pacific Power is also responsible for maintaining access control on its road through the use of gates.

Signs
Traffic control signs will meet Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Device standards. All other signs will be of a rustic nature, with use of good graphic design principles.

Goal 2: Provide for public safety.

Safety
A resident caretaker and caretaker's facility will be in place to ensure public safety, to combat vandalism and inappropriate uses of the park facility, and to protect the public investment.

Hunting and discharge of firearms is not permitted in the Park. Signs will be posted to that effect to notify the public.

The use of archery equipment shall be directly supervised at all times, and shall occur within the limits of the archery facility. All signage required by state and local regulations shall be installed and maintained.

Military training maneuvers or exercises, with the exception of rehabilitation of facilities, are not permitted within the Park.

Kiosks will be dispersed throughout the park in strategic locations such as trail heads describing park rules, emergency response procedures, and safety requirements.

Signage will be dispersed along trails to assist in identifying the park user's current location to assist an emergency response team in finding a caller's location. These would include mile markers, facility names, scenic lookout names, and such.

Law Enforcement
Law enforcement shall be a cooperative effort of the City of Medford, Jackson County, and the Oregon State Police.

The City of Medford is the primary law enforcement agency. The Oregon State Game Enforcement Officer patrols on occasion.

A Roving Rangers' group of concerned citizens with cell phones may be formed to call 9-1-1 to report vandalism in progress, without confrontation.

Fire
Use of camp fires is prohibited.

Fire protection is provided through a contract with the State Department of Forestry. The objective of fire protection is to protect resources of the park by quickly extinguishing any wildfires. Fire fighting activities shall be carried out so as to attempt to minimize damage to natural resources from the fire fighting activities. Fire line construction by hand will be favored over construction by heavy equipment, except where high intensity fire situations may exist. Use of heavy equipment could be allowed if it results in less total impact on the park resources. Off-road vehicle use by fire equipment is permitted. Use of fire retardant chemicals is permitted and encouraged as a fire fighting technique.

Fire patrolling and prevention signing shall be used in the park and at access points. Complete closure of the park shall be considered and permitted during extreme fire hazard periods.

A pre-fire management plan should be developed jointly between the City and the Oregon Department of Forestry to set priorities for potential projects. Opportunities for mitigating the fire hazard include the following:

Improving access to various locations in the park
Fuels management work to minimize the intensities of potential fires
Create fuel breaks in strategic locations in the park
Prescribed fires for fuel management to minimize the intensity of potential wildfires and restore eco-functions
Have a full time presence in the park (caretaker) with both firefighting capabilities and immediate ability to notify the local emergency response team.

Areas impacted by fires and fire fighting activities will be rehabilitated.

Goal 3: Protect natural and historic resource.

Soil

Protective measures such as signing and fencing shall be taken to prevent soil damage from occurring at likely areas.

Strictly follow the International Mountain Biking Standards for trail design

Strictly inforce the requirement that there be no off trail use of the park.

Rehabilitate adversely impacted areas such as jeep trail scars.

Electronic Sites

Expansion will only be permitted within the existing buildings and on the existing towers. No additional power supply lines to the electronic sites are permitted. Towers may not be extended above their present height.

Buildings and towers shall be painted earth tones to blend in with the natural environment.

Any plans to change either the existing buildings or towers shall be in keeping with the intent of the Prescott Park Management Plan. The plans shall be submitted to the City for review.

An annual on-site inventory of the electronic site should be held to insure that there are no unknown users attached to the buildings and towers.

The monies generated by the electronic sites shall be used for Prescott Park, with an annual accounting of how and where the monies were spent within the park. Fees shall be evaluated so as to be at market value.

Grazing
Grazing by domestic livestock is not permitted within the park. It is a use not in conformance with the ownership deed. Using goats as fuel reduction means is exempt from this restriction.

Perimeter fencing shall be installed or rehabilitated in necessary areas to prevent illegal grazing.

Owners of cattle illegally using Prescott Park lands shall be notified to remove their cattle.

Lands and Boundaries
Boundary adjustments on the east perimeter shall be pursued as delineated on the graphic master plan for Prescott Park. This involves a 60 acres parcel trade or lease. This boundary adjustment will gain the box canyon for the park and enhance private grazing use of adjacent lands. The Parks Department may consider acquiring the 40 acre parcel on which the gravel pit sits to complete control of the loop road. The Park Department will work with Planning and landowners to insure a buffer zone.

Power Lines
No further easements for power lines within the Park shall be granted.

Existing easements will be limited to the widths as currently granted. No additional lines shall be permitted to be constructed within the existing easements without public hearings.

Vegetation
Poison oak will be controlled to permit public usage at developed recreation sites and on trails.

With the exception of poison oak and hazardous trees at developed sites and on trails, vegetation will be essentially managed to provide for natural processes, e.g. succession and lightening strikes, to predominate. A noxious weed management plan may be developed by qualified personnel to control yellow star thistle, cheat grass, catchweed bedstraw, and other invasive, non-native plants with five and ten year goals.

Work with volunteers in developing native plant demonstration gardens in their associated micro-climates, including signage identifying plant species.

Limited use of irrigation may occur at developed sites for the establishment of native vegetation.

Any tree planting shall use only dominant tree species within the area of planting, i.e., Oregon White Oaks or California Black Oaks shall be planted in the oak/shrub areas, mixed conifer species native to Roxy Ann Peak shall be planted within the mixed coniferous forest area.

Wildlife
Hunting of wildlife is not permitted.

The City's Leash Law shall be enforced to protect the Park's wildlife.

Protect raptor habitat and nesting sites from activities and facilities that may adversely affect raptor use of the area. A wildlife biologist shall be consulted for input to activities that may affect raptor nesting areas.

Wildlife enhancements, such as drinking guzzlers and nesting platforms, could be built and maintained by youth and conservation groups with the guidance and approval of the Medford Parks and Recreation Department.

Protect cougar by educating the public via bulletin board information and possibly closing down the park if an aggressive cougar is frequenting the area.

The Parks Department may work with Southern Oregon University and other concerned agencies to augment a wildlife inventory for Prescott Park.

Minerals
Aggressive source developments (rock pits) are not permitted in the Park, except as legally permitted with the subsurface mineral rights to the Park lands.

Subsurface mineral development by others shall be coordinated with the Park Management Plan through the issuance of a permit by the City. Mineral operating plans will be developed to include mitigation measures and will be approved by the City of Medford prior to operation. Bonding for resource protection and mitigation measures will be required as a part of the issuance of the permit.

Goal 4: Identify and seek out funding sources.

Park and City Funding Sources
The monies from the electronic site leases and the rock quarry historically have been used for road maintenance from Hillcrest Road to the top of Roxy Ann Peak and the east side of the loop road. Further funding sources may be sought out for assistance in developing additional trail heads, multi-use trails, and to support all proposed facility development.

Volunteers and Support Groups
Many organizations have expressed interest in doing volunteer work of one kind or another to help develop, rehabilitate and maintain the planned Park facilities. A volunteer coordinator assists Parks and Recreation Department in coordinating volunteer work. A new 'Friends of Prescott Park' could be formed from the many interested organizations to help in developing public awareness of the Park and fund raising.

VI CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Management Plan for Prescott Park shall be reviewed and updated every five years.

A three phase approach appears to be the most appropriate "next steps" for the implementation of the new facilities found within this management plan, as described in the 2008 Prescott Master Plan adopted by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Phase One:

1. Apply for Type 1 review for Minor Alteration or Expansion of Public Parks not subject to a Jackson County Land Development Ordinance (JCLDO) 3.2.9 if allowed by the Jackson County Planning Director.

2. Application to include:
    - Archery Range
    - Archery storage shed
    - Challenge Course and group area with potable toilets
    - Multi-use trail system
    - Native Demonstration Gardens
    - Additional Picnic Shelters

Phase Two:

1. Apply for a Type 2 County Site Plan Review

2. Application to include:
    - Well drilling permit
    - County septic approval
    - Caretaker's resident permits
    - Restrooms
    - Road improvements
    - Parking lot improvements
    - Meeting buildings
    - Dog Park

Phase Three:

A third phase would be precipitated by the inclusion of the park into the City of Medford Urban Growth Boundary. Inclusion will allow the park to be developed under City of Medford planning process rather than under the County process.

- Annex property into the City
- Rezone to an appropriate municipal zoning district
- Site review for build-out of master plan