



FACILITIES REPORT

**Identifying gaps in countywide
facilities for the future benefit of
residents and visitors**



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Introduction

This report was compiled in a variety of ways, including one-on-one conversations with Tillamook county and local city officials, non-profit organizations, land managers, and business owners. Residents throughout the county were also engaged through a series of listening sessions, press releases, social media posts, and newsletters. As expected, the call for expanded and improved parking, garbage disposal, and access to public restrooms was a universal theme throughout.

There were a number of other suggestions, including the need to improve beach access for those with disabilities, safety improvements to trail heads and beach access points and expanded bike and pedestrian paths.

Because this report was created with a diverse selection of voices, there were also a number of requests for things that may not be traditionally identified as facilities. I have included them for the sake of future conversations. I have not included the many requests for affordable housing and law enforcement.

For simplicity, this report is represents six categories: restrooms, garbage, parking, safety/accessibility, signage, recreation. When not identifiable in one of these categories, it is listed under 'General.'

The findings here are presented geographically from north to south. Priority recommendations are **highlighted in red** and are based upon the frequency with which they were requested. At the end of each section, there will be a brief summary.

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Manzanita

Restrooms

- New restroom at junction of Ocean Rd, Nehalem Rd and Reed Rd
- Seasonal port-a-pottie at NKN mountain trail head parking lot
- Seasonal port-a-pottie at Visitors Center
- Refurbish 4th Street restroom

Garbage

- Garbage receptacles at junction of Ocean Rd, Nehalem Rd and Reed Rd
- Curbside recycling program
- Garbage receptacles along Ocean Road next to dog waste stations
- Garbage receptacle at south NKN mountain trail head
- Dog waste station at south NKN mountain trail head
- Dog waste stations at trail heads in neighborhoods

Parking

- Parking for new section of OCT (NKN mountain)
- Shuttle from Nehalem Bay SP to town
- Shuttle from Manzanita to Oswald West SP

Safety/Accessibility

- Pedestrian crossing and flashing light at south NKN trail crossing to Old Nehalem Road
- Improved handicapped beach access at Laneda beach ramp (Mobi-Mats)
- Radar sign on 101 near NKN crossing (old Nehalem Rd)
- Surf /sneaker wave signage/flag at Laneda beach ramp (King Tides alerts)
- Informational board about tides, beach debris, riptides
- Beach fire safety signage
- Safety signage, improvements at Devil's Cauldron
- Pedestrian/bike lane along Necarney Rd.

Signage

- OCT directional/interpretive signage
- Beach fire educational signage
- Tidepool information/etiquette signage
- Neighborhood signs at the public beach access points, reminding visitors that they are in a residential neighborhood (quiet times, parking restrictions, etc.)
- Dog leash etiquette signage
- Fine notice signage for car camping along beach

Recreation

- Foot rinse station/beach shower at Laneda beach ramp
- Implement city's master trail plan
- Connect Manzanita-Nehalem-Wheeler trail
- Bike racks along Laneda, along beach
- Hiker/biker amenities (lockers, bike pods)
- E-car charging station

General

- Support and expand Trail/Beach Ambassador program
- Support TKO efforts
- Disperse trail traffic at Oswald West SP
- Storage for TKO/Trail Ambassadors
- Re-route Devil's Cauldron switchback
- Support/incentivize volunteer programs
- Promote/create eco-tourism programs
- Enforcement of plastic bag ban

Summary

Garbage receptacles are in high demand along Manzanita's beach. There is also a need for a public restroom at the opposite end of the beach where many people congregate. Manzanita is the access point for the new section of Oregon Coast Trail that comes down off Neahkahnie Mountain. As the trail grows in popularity, so does the need to make it safe for hikers and drivers at the crossing point on Highway 101 at Old Nehalem Road.

Trailkeepers of Oregon has a presence in Tillamook County and perform a number of quality services to trails, including brushing, tree maintenance and general trail upkeep. Some investment to support that mission, whether capital or material, would go a long way in helping them keep up with countless projects and expand their ability to undertake new ones.

Accessibility to beaches around the county are an issue for those with disabilities. Beach mats to ease wheelchair use on beaches are a good option, and Manzanita has one of better access points at the end of Laneda Ave.

Nehalem

Restrooms

- Restroom on Nehalem Spit trails
- Waterfront public restroom

Parking/Traffic

- More parking near downtown
- Roundabout at Highway 101 intersection
- Shuttle from Nehalem Bay SP to town
- Shuttle to Oswald West SP
- Water taxi between Nehalem and Wheeler

Safety/Accessibility

- ADA accessible kayak launchers
- Refurbish dock
- Tide/river safety signs (temperature, tide tables, etc.)

Signage

- Cultural heritage/arts signage
- OCT directional signage

Recreation

- Storage lockers for kayakers
- Drop off spot for loading/unloading kayak gear
- E-car charging station
- Hiker/biker amenities
- Bike racks
- Walking path/boardwalk along river
- Improve Elk Run trail connection to town via Bayside Gardens
- Finish connection from Tohl Avenue to Elk Run Trail
- Develop trail to city park from Sammy's Place
- Support/incentivize volunteer programs
- Coal Creek Trail improvements
- Salmonberry Trail camping plan
- Promote/create eco-tourism programs
- Create dog-friendly spaces, parks

Summary

The Nehalem River is a big part of life in Nehalem for residents and visitors, making riverfront improvements a big priority. This includes work to improve and restore the dock, educational and safety information for boaters and kayakers, and an ADA accessible kayak launcher.

Wheeler

Restrooms

- New restroom at boat launch (model after Manzanita VC)
- Seasonal restroom at Railriders location

Garbage

- Garbage receptacle at boat launch/lower park
- New dog waste station at lower park
- New trash receptacles along retail sidewalk

Parking/Traffic

- New paving in lower park parking lot
- Shuttle from Nehalem Bay SP to town
- Shuttle to Oswald West SP
- Water taxi between Nehalem

Safety/Accessibility

- New dock
- Repair railroad
- Bike lane from Nehalem to Wheeler

Signage

- Interpretive signage along bay
- Native history signage

Recreation

- Interpretive walking path along bay
- Salmonberry Trail amenities plan
- E-car charging station
- Bike racks
- Hiker/biker amenities

General

- Improvements to upper park (planting, etc.)
- Improvements to lower park (planting, etc.)

Summary

The Wheeler waterfront has been in need of updating for a number of years and has fallen into disrepair. The restroom, parking lot and garbage facilities cannot keep up with the increased capacity of recreational boaters.

Rockaway

Restrooms

- New restroom at Rockaway Beach wayside

Garbage

- Garbage receptacles at Lake Lytle launch and dock
- Trash receptacles at Nedonna Beach Wayside
- Trash and dog waste receptacles at beach access points near larger hotels
- Garbage cans at bus stops

Parking/Traffic

- Improve parking at Lake Lytle
- Seasonal trolley
- Fix parking lot at Nedonna Beach Wayside
- Parking at Washington Street for Cedar Trail
- Improvements to community center parking
- Downtown parking (Anchor St. lot project, 2023)

Safety/Accessibility

- New docks and ADA kayak launchers to Lake Lytle
- Safety light and crossing at NKN HS
- Improve beach access points
- Improved handicapped beach access (Mobi-Mats)
- Wayside improvements, rip-rap, and beach access

Safety/Accessibility (cont.)

- More sidewalks
- Connect Salmonberry section to NKN high school
- OCSR loading/unloading platform at culvert next to wayside
- Repair drop-off at Ed Hart Park access point
- Repairs to trail off 24th Street (overgrown)
- Improved north-south bike routes
- ADA crossing over railroad tracks to Wayside

Signage

- Beach fire signage at Nedonna Beach Wayside
- Illegal camping signage at Nedonna Beach Wayside
- Surf safety signage at State Park wayside
- Surf warning/alert signage (King Tides alerts)
- Boat flushing signage at Lake Lytle

Recreation

- Trail connecting Cedar Boardwalk to downtown
- Foot rinse, beach shower at Wayside
- Refurbish community center
- Boardwalk and water trail around Lake Lytle
- Life jacket kiosk at Lake Lytle boat launch
- Benches at Ed Hart Park
- Community center for kids/families

Recreation (cont.)

- Event tent
- Connect 6th Street to sewer treatment, Cedar Trail
- E-car charging station
- Hiker/biker amenities
- Chip trail at Phyllis Baker Park
- Amenities plan for Salmonberry section (Washington St. to Wayside)
- Green space/boardwalk at end of 3rd Street
- Bike racks

Summary

Rockaway suffers from a lack of parking, especially in the downtown and at the popular Cedar Trail. Investment in a seasonal trolley like the one in Pacific City would be an ideal addition to help alleviate the glut of cars downtown. There is also a need to replace the heavily used public restroom at the wayside. Lake Lytle and Nedonna Beach are also seeing increased visitation as people spread out more and each could use parking upgrades and safety/informational signage. OCSR is seeing a steady increase in riders and investment in facilities in Rockaway, particularly at the boarding site, would assist in the comfort and safety of staff and visitors.

Garibaldi

Restrooms

- Central public restroom

Garbage

- More trash receptacles for OCSR riders

Safety/Accessibility

- Repair Harbor View trail
- Downtown ADA improvements
- 3rd to 7th Street path

Signage

- Salmonberry/OCT intersection signs

Recreation

- Create green space along Harbor View trail
- Expand OCSR routes, add countywide whistle stops
- New Tillamook Estuaries Partnership interpretive center and lab at Port
- Hiker/biker amenities
- Bike racks
- Re-launch Tillamook Bay Discovery Trail
- Create park on Holly St. property

Recreation (cont.)

- Create circular path around big 'G'
- Purchase property at south end of town, develop hiking/biking paths and park
- Adopt Port master plan
- Water shuttle to Bayocean spit
- E-car charging station

Summary

While there are public restrooms at the port, a centrally located restroom downtown would be an asset. The Harbor View Trail is slowly eroding and in need of serious refurbishment. It is the focal point of recreation as it will serve as a connector for the Salmonberry Trail. It also connects people to the history and culture of Tillamook Bay.

While there is a plan and personnel in place to do the work, the trail continues to fall into disrepair due to lack of funds. If completed, it would provide a link to the bay's recreation opportunities, the town's and port's businesses, and natural area perfect for exploring on foot.

Most importantly, repairing the trail would also provide safer and faster access for emergency personnel to the bay from land.

Bayocean Spit

Restrooms

- Extra port-a-pottie

Garbage

- Dumpster at Bay Ocean

Signage

- No Camping signage

Recreation

- Water filling station

Summary

Bayocean Spit is increasing in popularity as more residents and visitors look for secluded places to hike. More garbage receptacles and another restroom are needed. Of note, there were many comments from around the county in opposition to the pay station.

Bay City

Parking/Traffic

- Mapes Creek boat launch parking lot update
- Improve entrance/exit from/to Highway 101

Garbage

- Curbside recycling program

Recreation

- Mapes Creek boat launch update
- Create green space across 101 near RR tracks
- Support Al Griffin Park updates
- Hiker/biker amenities
- Bike racks
- E-car charging station
- Trail connection from Kilchis Point to town
- Develop "linear park" plan

Summary

Bay City is on the leading edge of establishing a destination for hikers and bikers, something that will be a welcome addition for OCT and Salmonberry users. The main concern is the safety issues for drivers and pedestrians attempting to cross traffic on Highway 101, particularly in the summer months.

Tillamook

Restrooms

- Central downtown public restrooms
- Restroom at Sollie Smith boat ramp
- Public restroom at north end of town

Garbage

- Garbage receptacle at Burton Fraser launch
- Curbside recycling program

Parking/Traffic

- RV parking
- Seasonal parking at fairgrounds
- Expand parking at Wilson River

Signage

- Three Capes signage – mark, celebrate scenic route
- Pedestrian and vehicular wayfinding

Safety/Accessibility

- Improve bike lane to Netarts/Oceanside
- Countywide ADA survey
- Sidewalks
- Update 5th street kayak launcher

Recreation

- Add multi-modal walking paths
- Fully develop city parks playground equipment
- Small conference facility close to a hotel
- Bike-ped path tying dog park to Hoquarton through southern flow corridor
- Bike-ped path to creamery
- Develop old Safeway property into sporting fields
- Scooter/bicycle program
- Create city parks programming department
- Look at parts of Salmonberry plan, trade sewage lands for wetlands
- Hiker/biker amenities
- Further develop fairgrounds

Summary

Parking for RVs stands out. A central downtown public restroom was also a popular suggestion. Developing the old Safeway property into a sporting facility and tying the town to Hoquarton and the creamery via bike and pedestrian trails was a regular request.

The presence of the old Safeway property is ideal for new sporting fields with attached facilities. The need for a small, centrally located conference facility with the ability to cater would fill a big need for a county meeting space.

Hebo

Recreation

- Promote Mt. Hebo trails to disperse Sitka Sedge traffic

Cloverdale

Restrooms

- Central public restroom in town
- Port-a-pottie at public boat launch

Garbage

- Garbage receptacle at public boat launch

Parking

- Widen, gravel public boat launch parking

Signage

- Directional signage on highway to public boat launch

Recreation

- Picnic tables at public boat launch

Summary

Because the trails at Mt. Hebo still get relatively little attention, many outdoor enthusiasts around the county see an opportunity to disperse foot traffic from heavily used Sitka Sedge to Mt. Hebo. In Cloverdale, there is an effort among businesses to promote the city as a destination for boaters and fishermen. With that in mind, improvements to the boat launch and the addition of a downtown restroom would be welcome.

Pacific City

Restrooms

- New restroom at wayside
- Year round port-a-pottie at Tierra Del Mar
- Restroom at Whalen Island trail head
- Port-a-pottie at skate park

Parking/Traffic

- More dedicated parking at Tierra Del Mar
- More dedicated parking at Pacific Avenue turnaround
- Expand public parking at Camp Winema
- Dedicated parking structure at wayside with surrounding green space

Garbage

- More trash receptacles at wayside parking lot

Signage

- Surf warning/alert signage (King Tides alerts)

Safety/Accessibility

- Pathway from parking lot to Chester's grocery store
- Reduce speed limit on Cape Kiwanda drive
- Evacuation center
- Improved handicapped beach access (Mobi-Mats)

Recreation

- Hiker/biker amenities
- E-car charging station
- Bike racks
- Official trail from Sitka Sedge to PC

Summary

Pacific City needs largely center around the need more parking at all points. Also, garbage disposal, both in and around Pacific City, is among the most requested items, along with a recycling program.

Residents who offered facilities feedback expressed interest in finding more ways to move around safely without a car. Creation of a foot/bike path from Chester's Market to the wayside was a frequent suggestion.

Finally, Pacific City is hopeful that the creation of an emergency/evacuation center will provide the means for the community to plan for the safety and well-being of residents and visitors in the event of a disaster.

Netarts

Restrooms

- Port-a-pottie(s) at wayside

Garbage

- Garbage receptacle at wayside
- Recycling program

Signage

- Kayak safety signage/education
- Enhanced signage for safe recreation
- Low tide informational signage
- Clamming access points info
- Beach fire safety signage/education

Safety/Accessibility

- ADA kayak launcher
- Boat basin improvement
- Dock improvement
- Beach wheelchair, insurance and storage
- Address safety concerns at Schooner Beach launch
- Terimore beach access improvement

Recreation

- Develop first contact stewardship education
- Add Trail Ambassador at Cape Lookout State Park

Summary

There are some real safety concerns among residents of Netarts. Because the small boat launch and dock area is so crowded, there is often friction between different sets of recreational users. There is also the concern that many new visitors are not aware of the many water hazards that could potentially affect them. Add to that a growing number of boaters and kayakers with a limited amount of facilities that need either repair or replacement. The hope is that by expanding available boating and kayaking facilities, it will ease some of the tension among users on high usage days.

Oceanside

Restrooms

- Seasonal port-a-potties

Parking/Traffic

- Improve parking at Simmons parkway
- Painting parking spots on highway 131
- Improve parking by Oceanside water pump
- Improve parking at short beach at lighthouse

Garbage

- Year-round dumpster at public restroom
- Trail information, signage for hikers

Safety/Accessibility

- Create pathways from hills to beach
- Beach wheelchair, insurance and storage

Summary

Parking is a major issue in Oceanside, with residents regularly feeling squeezed by busy seasonal and weekend traffic. This goes hand-in-hand with the need for more regular restroom and garbage facilities.

Cape Meares

Parking/Traffic

- Expand parking (fee at Bay Ocean pushes people to park in Cape Meares)

Safety/Accessibility

- Improve bike lane along Cape Meares loop
- ADA kayak launcher
- Aquatic study for lake (silt accumulation increasing)
- Improve OCT trail access from beach

Signage

- Signage at Cape Meares trail head

Summary

Parking is becoming a larger issue for the community, particularly when more hikers need a place to park. An interesting development is the increase of silt and invasive plant life in the lake, a by-product of increased boat usage.

Neskowin

Restrooms

- Year-round port-a-potties at wayside (need a third)

Parking/Traffic

- Host for public wayside

Garbage

- Year-round dumpster at wayside
- Garbage cans at beach access points, on the beach
- Pet waste stations at beach access points, on the beach
- Recycling program

Safety/Accessibility

- Pedestrian crosswalk and flashing light across 101 to Farmers Market
- Radar sign on highway near farmers market
- Improve beach access points
- Beach safety signage at access points
- Double line for no passing before intersection of Slab Creek Rd. and Hwy. 101

- **Signage**

- Slow Down signage in residential area (kids)
- Beach fire educational signage
- No parking in driveways signage
- No Parking on Breakers Boulevard
- 45 MPH before intersection of Slab Creek Rd. and Hwy.

Recreation

- Life preserver kiosk
- E-car charging station

Summary

As more people stop visit Neskowin, the need to supplement their wayside restroom with port-a-potties and extra garbage containers has increased to a year-round need.

Safety is also a big concern, particularly when it comes to the increasingly popular farmers market, where pedestrians have to cross the highway to shop. While the market is in a great spot, the prospect of a pedestrian being struck while crossing looms large. A dedicated crosswalk, flashing traffic light and radar sign would all be welcome.

Neighborhood traffic is also a concern and the hope for more signage on residential streets is a common request.

Facilities Request Totals

Recreation - 78

Safety/Accessibility - 53

Parking - 34

Signage - 31

Garbage - 29

Restrooms - 23

General - 10

Conclusion

The need for facilities enhancement across Tillamook County is evident. It is a perfect storm of not enough to meet the growing pressures of increased visitation and outdoor recreation, and those that are in service in need of serious updating or repair. This is encapsulated by repeated requests for The Big Three: more public restrooms, expanded trash and recycling services, and ways to alleviate parking (either through adding parking spaces or the creation of multi-modal trails and investing in public transportation).

There were also a large amount of input regarding recreational opportunities, from connecting and improving trails, to additional bike racks, to creating plans for hiker/biker amenities in order to encourage more visitors to leave their cars behind and travel by foot, bus, or bike.

Because our county is a destination for beach-goers, boaters and fishers, the repair and refurbishment of docks, additional water temperature warnings, tide information, and King Tide safety Safety enhancements for hikers and pedestrians should include crosswalks and highway lights at key points. The county should consider ways to improve access to beaches, trails and waterways for those with disabilities, with suggestions ranging from beach mats for wheelchairs to repairing beach access points and docks.

There are three potential facilities related projects that address recreational, safety and transportation concerns.

First, repairing the Harbor View trail in Garibaldi. When fixed, the trail would provide safe recreational access, link the Salmonberry Trail to the Port and downtown businesses, and allow easier access to the bay for emergency personnel. It is a shovel-ready project. If the trail continues to degrade, it will become a safety hazard and leave a hole in future hopes to link with the Salmonberry.

Second, working with OSCR to establish a countywide train route that would allow users to park in one location and travel by train to a majority of the county without driving. This would be a major step in embracing alternative modes of transportation in an era of rising energy prices. It would also serve as a major stepping stone to getting excess vehicles off of Highway 101.

Finally, investment or partnership with our local Trailkeepers of Oregon presence. They hold dozens of local trail work parties each year at all points of the county and have assisted our state parks and local parks in immeasurable ways. Increasing their capacity would allow them to tackle more trail upkeep projects and keep our trails well maintained and open.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dan Haag