



City of Prineville
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
STAFF REPORT

Date: August 1, 2008
To: Prineville City Council
From: Ricky Sites, Community Development Director
Issue: Property Request for Parks Skate Park

The City staff has met with Maureen Crawford, Director of Crook County Parks and Recreation District and members of the "Operation Skate Park" citizens Committee regarding a request to lease or be gifted a piece of property located adjacent to Ochoco Creek Park and NE Juniper Street.

Discussion:

Public Works, Engineering and Planning met with representatives for the Skate Park and explained that the site they have identified as meeting their needs, has also been designated as a potential site for the City's storm water retention. This will not be confirmed as an ideal solution until such time as the Master Storm Water Plan is done and adopted which could be up to 2 years in the future. Unfortunately, the improvements needed to create the Skate Park would not be compatible with storm water drainage. The City is not able to manage storm water with our current limited drainage systems and the mandates and requirements from the state in protecting rivers, streams and fish put an added burden on the City's mitigation efforts. Staff has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a new map showing the commonly flooded areas in the City to assist us in meeting Goals 5 and 7 of the Comprehensive Plan – and to better define areas of town that are truly "buildable". With the occasional "flooding" that is increasing in area as more of the City develops, we are having to turn down applicants for small subdivisions and partitioning as we cannot provide services (sewer, water, roads) that can be maintained. There are places now in the City where manholes are several feet under water when the OID lets 1120 CFS flow from the dam.

A trade of property does not appear feasible, as location of parcels for storm water within the City need to be at natural drainage areas. City staff is very supportive of providing recreation areas and has tried to identify other parcels of property that might be considered. At this time, we have not been able to suggest a potential alternative that will meet the needs of the Skate Park. One suggestion that remains to be investigated is an area on one of the School grounds central to the users of this recreation facility.

Timing is an issue for the Skate Park in order to take advantage of the grant available. Unfortunately, we cannot provide the study for City-wide Storm water drainage within this time constraint.

Staff Recommendation:

It is staff's suggestion that, for this particular project, the Skate Park identify other properties that may be suitable at the School District or County owned land. We have offered some City parcels that are not going to work for Parks, it appears. Until we have completed the City Properties Inventory and identified surplus property or trade properties, we request that the Council retain the parcels in question for the City's future use for storm drainage.