

# Request for Information

## Project Intent

- Transform the existing grass field into a truly inviting park environment aligned to the natural world.
- Demonstrate how native plants can be used in landscaping.
- Better utilize the centralized park by attracting visitors and residents.

## Overview

The City of Yachats, Parks and Commons Commission (PCC) is seeking a landscape design firm to expand on the attached conceptual design. The open space adjacent to the Yachats City Hall and Commons building has been underutilized. The PCC would like to see the area actively used by citizens and the many visitors to Yachats.

The open space is approximately 180' x 200'. To the north is a road, church parking and the city sewage plant, the west is bounded by a restored wetland, the south is a path, greenspace, an enclosed outdoor pavilion and a small open space, the east will abut a newly refurbished access road and parking (La De Dah Lane). Across that road is a skate park abutting the city hall and the Commons Community Center.

The PCC has reviewed the attached conceptual presentation. Our interest is to prioritize items, reach agreement on a final design, and then move to implementation. Designers are welcome to modify the design approach or present a different approach that follows the guidelines and points below.

## Overall Design Approach:

- Plants and landscaping features (berms, paths, etc.) define spaces. Current hardscape features must be integrated into the plan (not removed). Additional hardscaping is allowed but only to further a purpose like signage, seating, etc.
- Native plants must be featured with native allies allowed but only as necessary.
- The current zone concept is fungible – size and position can morph and even merge, as necessary. PCC would be open to alternative approaches, but the concept of multiple congruent uses is key to the acceptance to date and decision to move forward.
- The design should provide visitor and structural security while discourage camping or loitering.
- Staged implementation is critical as it is unlikely the entire design can be done at one time.
- The attached conceptual design Incorporates input from the 2010 Park Master Plan. For this revised open space use there is a need gather public comment 1) for buy-in and 2) priorities and 3) answer specific questions like dog park and/or children' play area sizes.
- An expectation is that the new park will naturally pull in visitors from the new parking spaces.
- A major issue needing to be addressed is maintenance, both initial and long-term, including control of invasive species.

## Specific Design Elements

The 2010 Park Master specified several items that were not implemented. An analysis of these unfulfilled items drove the existing conceptual design which groups them in the conceptual design versus being distributed in the original approach. This grouping has been dubbed the zoned approach. Design approaches specific to the zones follow.

### Education Zone

Yachats has a complicated relationship with the Indigenous people of the area as it was the site of an internment camp. Over the last twenty-five years, Yachadians have worked diligently and humbly to try to build relationships by acknowledging the genocide committed in the area. Relationships have improved through the establishment of the Amanda trail, the annual Peace Hike, and other initiatives. Key to developing this trust is a willingness to listen, learn, support, and work collaboratively.

Given that, the first item below *will only proceed with Tribal agreement and input*. (Both the Siletz Band and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw). It is the PCC's hope that we can align our desire to honor and promote their mission through our initiative.

#### Timber House Native Interpretive Center

- Needs a collaborative process with Siletz Band, Confederated Tribes from start to finish.
- Tie historical injustices to current accomplishments: not a memorial but rather a celebration of our neighbors, their traditional roots, and their current successes.
- Describe Tribal government and accomplishments without minimizing challenges.
- Opportunity to feature local native visual, written and spoken word artists.
- Do tribes want to encourage visitors to Siletz, Casinos, etc.?
- Serve as the official, permanent northern starting point of the Amanda Trail.
- Note: A knowledgeable person reports that the water table is too high to create the typical below grade portion of the structure. This needs to be confirmed and may limit the structure to only the above grade portion.
- The original design shows a small area behind the pavilion dedicated to a similar purpose. Some community members feel that this is too "tucked away" and poorly suited for plantings.

#### Native Plant Garden

- Native plant garden including identification, contemporary and traditional uses, and suggestions for integrating native plants into gardens and landscaping.
- Focus on Coastal rainforest plants but can incorporate non-coastal Oregon plants.
- Information on identifying and how and when to best remove locally invasive plants.
- (Note: incorporate native plants throughout. E.G. *Myrica californica* to cover sewer plant fencing.

#### Wetland

- Describe, via signage or other means, the value of wetlands. Consider noting how filling wetlands in Yachats and surrounding areas impacts the environment.
- Description of plants and wildlife found in the wetlands.
- Include information on the need to maintain a wetland.
- Historical description of the wetlands with acknowledgement of those involved in its creation.

## Reflection Zone:

- Create a suitable atmosphere free of sewage plant odors, traffic, pedestrian and play noises.
- Include an expandable memorial zone for those who have contributed to preserving the natural environment of Yachats. (Or, should it include anyone who contributed to Yachats life?)
- The area should be usable in Winter with some semi sheltered space.
- Incorporate local sculptural art – segue art from the Native Interpretive center?
- Include contemplative / meditative elements like mandala, bells, etc.

## Play Zone

- Currently there are two competing visions for these areas.
- An open space for the Yachats Youth and Family Program (YYFAP). Primarily children 7-14
- A Dog Park and if so, how big? If a dog park is included, who/how is the dog park maintained, is it only for small dogs, and other questions.

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