

TRAILS COMMITTEE – Parks and Commons report – February 22, 2019

YIPSI (1-19-2019) – 15 volunteers turned out. We continued our work on controlling blackberry, ivy and holly growing in and near the Commons Wetland Park. The ivy is a particular problem as much of it is virtually inaccessible owing to standing water, mud and dense shrubbery.

Trails (1/5/2019) – 20 hearty volunteers showed up during cloudy and cool weather. The large number of volunteers allowed splitting the group to allow work at four locations, therefore maximizing efficiency to keep the trails system in tip top shape. One group undertook improvements at the Amanda Grotto, further clearing the gathering area. Another tackled construction of a new step on the Ya'Xaik Trail and built and placed a boardwalk over the drainage ditch on the urban forest trail near Ocean View Drive. A third tackled much needed maintenance to the Gerdemann Public Trail, further clearing debris from the earlier fallen hemlock. The fourth group undertook removal of ivy from boardwalk trails and forested areas to the west of the Commons and cleaned the boardwalk. After the work session, most of the volunteers gathered at the Drift Inn for a snack and nice discussion. Later in the day, a small group of volunteers cleared a downed alder across the Ya'Xaik Trail near the Diversity trailhead.

YIPSI (2-16-2019) – Canceled due to rain.

Suspension Bridge Project – View the Future submitted grant applications to Spirit Mountain and to the Siletz Charitable Fund. Another grant will be written in April or May.

Urban Forest Trail – We are still waiting for the completion of archeological surveys before installing a trail post on Ocean View Drive to mark the W entrance to the trail. A short length or split rain fence is also planned to direct walkers into the forest.

Ya'Xaik Trail – Layne Morrill, owner of the Fistera development and a supporter of trails, has generously agreed to reserve four spaces at the top of Diversity Drive for trail head parking and has had a sign made for each space. We will procure lumber for posts and will work with Public Works to get them installed.

804 S – Trail Leaders have provided input to the City regarding trail surface as well as the design and placement of navigational and interpretive signage. We prepared, and submitted to the City Manager, a comprehensive set of recommendations and suggestions. We have also participated in several meetings with City and County staff and continue to do so.

Gerdemann Botanical Preserve – Andreea Ghetie, who owns GBP, asked the trails committee to consider providing funds from the trails budget for the purchase of plants to replace those destroyed when a large hemlock tree recently fell across the trail. Since much of the area to be planted appears to be outside of the easement provided for the trail, her request was declined with the suggestion that she contact this Commission about potential funding.