

# CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Study Session Worksheet

**Presentation Date:** May 5, 2015 **Approx. Start Time:** 11:00am **Approx. Length:** 30min.

**Presentation Title:** CREEW Our River Action Plan Update

**Department:** Business and Community Services (BCS), Dept. of Transportation and Development (DTD); Health, Housing and Human Services (H3S), Clackamas County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), County Counsel, Public and Government Affairs (PGA).

**Presenters:** Rick Gruen, Parks Manager; Lt. Rob Wurpes, CCSO, Sgt. Steve Thoroughman, CCSO/Marine Patrol

**Other Invitees:** Laura Zentner, Deputy Director, BCS; Laurel Butman, County Administration; Joe Marek, DTD/Safe Communities; Tiffany Hicks, H3S/Children, Youth & Families; Tracy Moreland, PGA; Ed Nieto, PGA/BCS; Eben Polk, Office of Sustainability; Cheryl McGinnis, Clackamas River Basin Council

### WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Continued support and direction from the Board to utilize staff time and departmental/division resources as available to implement the Clackamas River Enforcement and Ecology Workgroup (CREEW) Our River Action Plan objectives.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

#### **Background:**

The 2014 CREEW "Our River" Action Plan, approved by the BCC at its April 15, 2014 study session, was rolled out in June, 2014. With support of the BCC, CREEW Team members were instrumental in implementing a number of health and safety related tasks and activities designed to create a more inviting and family-friendly culture for park and river users along the Clackamas River from Barton Park to the Carver Boat Ramp. This effort aligns with Performance Clackamas goals and BCS/Parks Managing for Results performance measure outcomes related to park cleanliness and safety.

CREEW is a collaborative effort of CCSO, BCS/County Parks, H3S/Children, Youth and Family Services, DTD/ Traffic Engineering, Safe Communities and Sustainability, Public and Government Affairs (PGA), Clackamas River Basin Council, Pacific Jet Boaters Association among other volunteers, landowners and organizations.

Heavy park and river usage during the summer months have resulted in Barton Park and Carver Boat Ramp operating at, or near maximum capacity. The issues presented by the popularity of the Clackamas River are too numerous for Parks and CCSO to handle alone. The problems of traffic, parking, alcohol use, river safety, littering, and disorderly conduct required a collaborative approach, leading to the formation of CREEW and the 2014 Our River Action Plan as a way to find solutions for implementing changes in County parks that will also transform more positive attitudes toward river safety and river health. The BCC has recognized that the parks and river issues are a County-wide concern and that additional resources for law enforcement are required to maintain the positive impact resulting from the 2013 alcohol policy amendment over the next number of seasons. In 2014, the BCC allocated \$40,000 to County Parks, requested through a policy level proposal during the budget process, for additional deputies above what County Parks allocates in its annual operating budget for reserve deputy support.

**Current Progress:**

With higher than normal temperatures throughout the summer of 2014, and the number of days over 90 degrees, Barton Park and Carver Boat Ramp saw park usage increase by nearly 50 percent over 2013. Through the collaborative CREEW efforts, there were zero drownings in the Clackamas River during 2014 and the CCSO reported that alcohol related citations increased 39 percent in Barton Park from 92 to 128 and 387 percent at Carver Boat Ramp from 8 to 31. It should be noted that the increased presence of the deputies in and around the parks also allowed opportunities for more officer initiated investigations and a reduction in dispatched related service calls, resulting in a savings in taxpayer dollars. (See Attachment 1).

County Park staff report that the River Health and Safety kiosk has generated public support and involvement with off-season donation and placement of life jackets by unknown contributors. County Parks had established the life jacket loaner program as an in-season activity but will likely look to expand it year-round on a voluntary basis.

Other 2014 program observations include positive response from the media as reported in several articles appearing in the Oregonian and community newspapers as well as local television news coverage.

**Highlights of the 2014 *Our River* CREEW Action Plan Accomplishments:**

1. Life Jacket and River Safety Kiosk constructed at Barton Park boat ramp. Volunteers from the community "manned" the kiosk and provided education to park users on river safety and river health along with passing out "Stash the Trash" bags and making loaner life jackets and whistles available.
2. Baseline monitoring matrix established to track/record: park users at Barton/Carver parks, temperature, citations/exclusions, weight/volume of river litter/garbage collected.
3. Pacific Jet Boat Association and Clackamas River Basin Council provided trash barrel stations between Barton and Carver and a trash receiving site at Carver Boat Ramp: 2.9 tons collected from Down By the River annual cleanup event; additional 2.0 tons of garbage collected during the season and deposited at Carver Boat Ramp.
4. Parking Marshal hired at Carver Boat Ramp to greet park customers and improve the customer parking experience. The Parking Marshal helped facilitate people/vehicle movement and improve compliance with collecting park fees which were up 50 percent from 2013.
5. Public outreach campaign led by PGA included:
  - a. Video production – promotion of "A Cleaner Clackamas River" and BCC public service announcements
  - b. County website updates
  - c. Citizen News articles (2) reaching 175,000 Clackamas County mailboxes
  - d. Social media – Facebook, Twitter, YouTube (more than 350 views of the "A Cleaner Clackamas River").
  - e. Local/Regional press releases
6. Created and installed River Safety and River Health positive messaging signage program at Barton Park and Carver Boat Ramp.
7. Coordinated with local, commercial shuttle service providers, establishing designated shuttle drop off/pick up zones.

8. Authority established for Park Rangers to write citations for nonpayment of park entrance fees; BCC recently approved an ordinance change creating a violation for failure to properly display parking receipt or parking permit.

**Upcoming 2015 Opportunitites:**

In addition to maintaining the resources necessary to support enhanced law enforcement and inspection activities in the 2015 park season, the CREEW Team has leveraged their budgets to include the following in-kind activities consistent with the adopted CREEW Our River Action Plan:

- Rescue donut installed at Barton and Carver boat ramps
- Personal Flotation Device (PFD) diversion program (See Attachment 4)
- County Parks FY2015-16 budget request to fund the Barton Park Complex Master Plan including ~~siting~~ siting and logistics for a Barton/Carver shuttle system
- Install lighting at Barton Park boat ramp parking area
- Barton Park Road traffic calming improvements
- Installation of Bakers Ferry Bridge fencing (west end) to limit river access along embankment
- Installation of a Carver Bridge river monitoring camera

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):**

Partners are contributing cash and in-kind services and activities consistent with departmental budget objectives or specific grant deliverables to support implementation of the CREEW Our River Action Plan. BCS has submitted a one-time 2015/16 policy level budget proposal in the amount of \$40,000 for consideration on May 27, 2015 by the Budget Committee.

**LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:**

Compliance with current County Parks Ordinance that provides specific authority for the CCSO to perform visual inspections of coolers that was adopted in August, 2013. The ordinance requires citizens refusing inspection to be directed to leave the park premises.

**PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:**

CREEW is a collaborative, interdepartmental task force along with external river service providers.

- Clackamas County Parks
- Clackamas County Office of Children, Youth and Families
- Clackamas Safe Communities
- Clackamas County Traffic Engineering
- Clackamas County Sheriff's Office / Marine Patrol Unit
- Clackamas County Counsel
- Clackamas County Office of Sustainability
- Clackamas County Community Corrections
- Clackamas County Public and Government Affairs
- Pacific Jet Boat Association
- Clackamas River Basin Council

**OPTIONS:** N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**

No recommendations at this time. The CREEW Team and external partners greatly appreciate the ongoing support and direction provided by the BCC for continued implementation of the CREEW Our River Action Plan.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Attachment 1 – CCSO Barton-Carver Incident Report
- Attachment 2 – River Cleanup Report
- Attachment 3 – Our River Signage
- Attachment 4 - Marine Citation Diversion Program

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Division Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Department Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_

County Administrator Approval \_\_\_\_\_

*Michelle [Signature]*  
*Laura Zentgraf, BCS Deputy Director*

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact: Rick Gruen @ 503-742-4345

**Fiscal Impact Form – Instructions**

**RESOURCES:**

Is this item in your current work plan and budget?

YES

NO

**START-UP EXPENSES AND STAFFING (if applicable):**

**ONGOING OPERATING EXPENSES/SAVINGS AND STAFFING (if applicable):**

County Parks has budgeted \$48,000 for law enforcement services and hired 28 summer seasonals as part of its normal summer operation requirements. In addition, County Parks has budgeted an additional \$10,000 to support anticipated event staffing and Parking Marshals to assist Parks Rangers and CCSO with traffic control and people movement on hot summer days. Partner contributions for implementing the CREEW Action Plan are provided as in-kind services through staffing and supplies/materials. Some direct expenditures are available through different partner grants. It is expected that ongoing operating budgets will remain at this level through 2018.

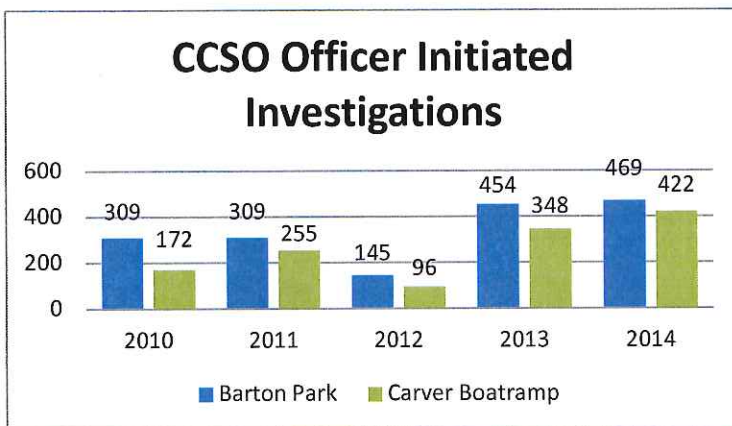
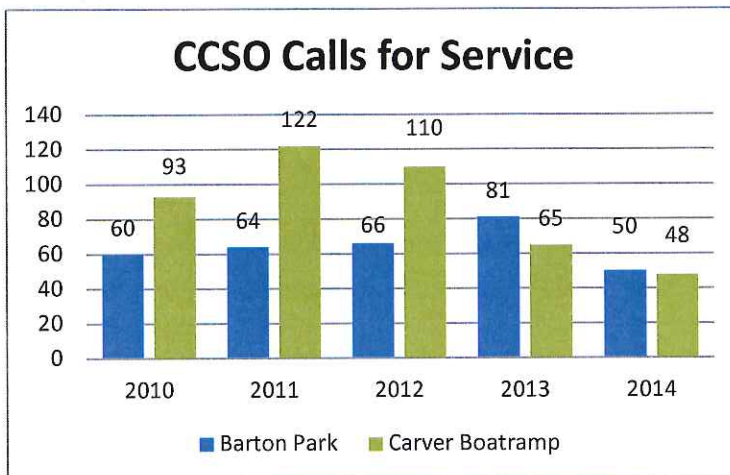
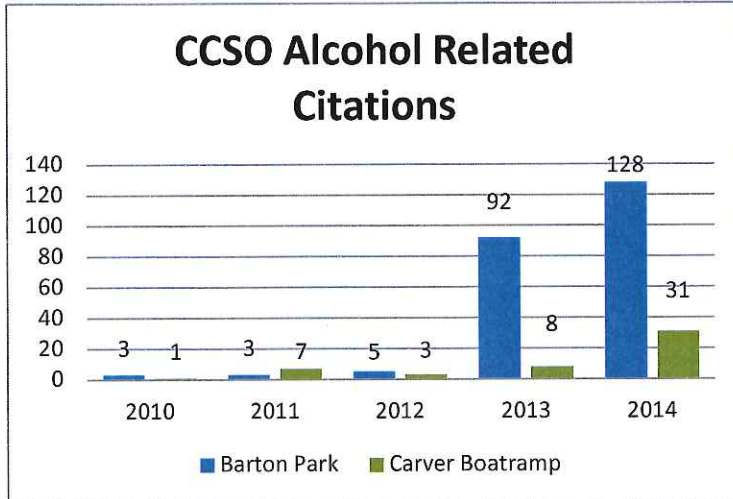
**ANTICIPATED RESULTS:**

It is anticipated that if the CREEW Action Plan is successful over the next few years through positive outreach and education efforts to augment the current enhanced enforcement activity, we could begin to see a reduced need for the additional deputies as compliance is achieved and both on-river and in-park attitudes are positively influenced and changed.

**COSTS & BENEFITS:** N/A

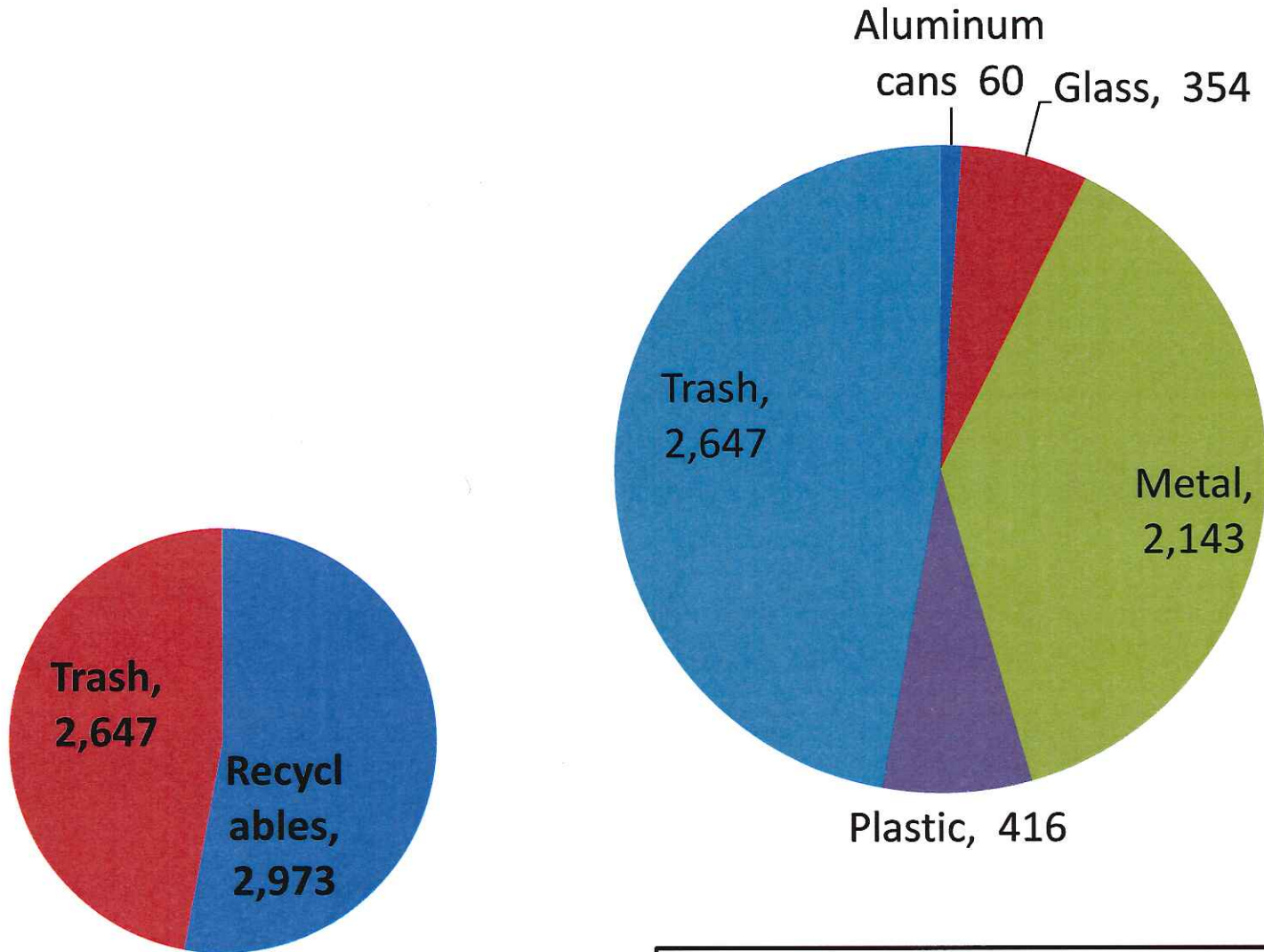
**Attachment 1:**

**CCSO Barton – Carver Incident Report**



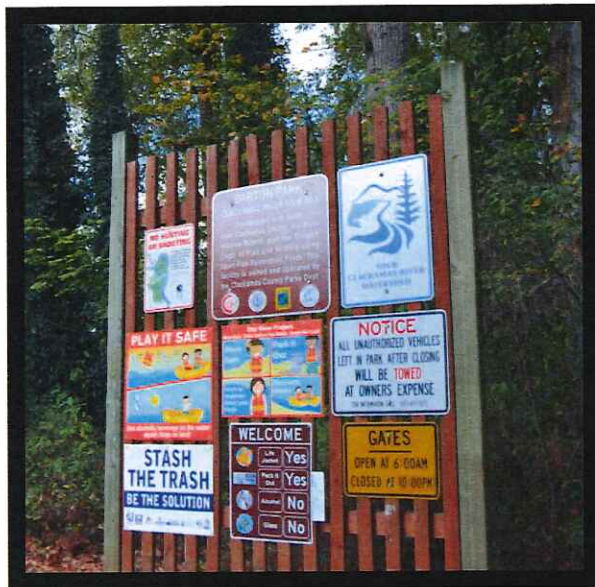
Attachment 2:

# 2014 Pounds of Material Collected\*



**\* Down By the River Cleanup = 2.9 T  
Carver Summer Collection = 2 T**

# Attachment 3 – Signage Program





# Clackamas County Sheriff's Office

CRAIG ROBERTS, Sheriff

## ATTACHMENT 4

To: Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

From: Sgt. Steve Thoroughman / CCSO Marine Unit

Re: Marine Citation Diversion Program

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit is contracted by the marine board to provide boating safety enforcement, guide enforcement, water patrol & water safety education to persons who use Clackamas County waters. Additionally we are tasked with water rescue and water search and rescue responsibilities in Clackamas County. The Marine Board currently funds about 60% of the marine unit budget and supplies boats and other materials in addition to that funding.

This past year we contacted almost 5500 boaters, responded to 34 water rescue calls, 26 marine assistance calls and 109 other marine related dispatched calls. The marine unit is staffed by 1 full time sergeant and 2 full time deputies. During the summer months, Memorial Day to Labor Day, the marine unit increases staffing with 2 seasonal deputies and 4 Marine Service Officers (MSO). The two seasonal deputies and one MSO are contracted to PGE to provide enforcement on the Clackamas River above Riverside Dam to Timothy Lake, one PGE seasonal is full time, the other ½ time.

Each season of the year brings a very different focus for the marine unit. During the Fall we focus on steelhead fishing traffic, boat maintenance and improvements and water rescue training. During the Winter the steelhead fishery continues and salmon fishing begins. During the Spring salmon fishing begins followed by the shad. During Summer the recreational boating gets very busy along with the "floaters" who use the Clackamas River.

The issue we would like to address is for the most part, the more "amateur" boaters and "floaters" during the Summer. Many of these boaters are unaware of carriage requirements and other boating laws, rarely boat or are first timers on the water. Our current remedy for violations is to issue them a \$260.00 life jacket ticket or a \$110 ticket for no whistle. We feel that in some cases their lack of compliance is due to ignorance or indifference to the law, and that a \$260 ticket is pretty harsh to a person who can only afford a \$50 raft for an afternoon of fun. The result is, in many instances, we do not cite violators because we feel the fine is exorbitant. We also feel giving someone a no lifejacket ticket and then sending them down the river again with no life jacket is not a very good idea. Our only other option is to kick them off the river through private property, which forces them to walk sometimes several miles back to where their car is, many times barefoot.

Previously, we had a diversion program through the court but that is no longer an option. The courts are now, by law limited by law on the amount they can reduce the ticket.

*"Working Together to Make a Difference"*

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