

(This is from a response email to a Carol Paddock in April, 2001...)

On the parks issue...I can tell you that for me, personally, having public access in the watershed is definitely something that I do support as a long-term agenda...along with creating more park areas along the creeks and river in and around Lafayette. Even the parks we have are really under developed...it can be as simple as clearing the brush and briars along the riverbank at the lower park by the bridge/sewer plant, and putting in a trail, with park benches...it is really an amazing place. In fact, on my website, I wrote a piece (I think it's title is August something or other)...and I wrote it on my laptop, while sitting on a log, above the river there...plus I think I wrote a poem or two there...I love that river and can't wait for summer/fall to go down there again. I just wish that the towns didn't put their sewage into it...I used to let the kids and dog splash in the water, until I realized what made all the green stuff grow so much in the water.

Anyway...my long term plans include hiking/biking paths along the river...I'd love to connect McMinnville to Lafayette with a river trail, and also a paved bike trail next to the highway...then connect Lafayette to Dayton to Newberg along the rivers with trails...also connect to park across from Champoeg.

The Lafayette watershed could even be connected somehow to the abbey forest with a trail, if the right access could be found with current property owners.

I go down to the river during the summer, and yeah, there are little

campfires down there, and some trash from whoever is using it (and I really suspect it is local farmworkers, based on who I see, and the kind of trash I find...which is too bad)...I personally think that the access to the river comes from the closeness of the housing...the watershed is too far for anyone to walk to and carry in trash to dump. Also, the locks park, which you can drive to, i have never really seen too much of a trash problem there.

Perhaps the city could work out an arrangement with the county parks dept to help manage the watershed area...maybe this is something you'd look into? Because they seem to have the funding and staff and the volume of parks they have is extensive, and their parks are heavily used, but well managed and care for at the same time. Yeah--this might work--a co-op shared park...

Anyway...you can see that i have passion for some of this, but not enough right now to move ahead to push things.

Ok.... I will revise my position on the watershed park...in the final plan, I would like to see at least part of address that the park idea needs to be included as a future issue to be expanded upon.

Travis Johnson