

A large, moss-covered oak tree stands prominently in a grassy field. The tree's trunk and branches are thick and gnarled, with patches of green moss growing on them. The branches spread out in all directions, some reaching towards the sky. The background shows a line of trees and a clear blue sky. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Integrating Prairie and Oak Habitat Management Objectives Into an Actively Used Community Park

Ed Alverson
11 April 2018

Zumwalt Park on Fern Ridge Reservoir



Fern Ridge Dam Completed 1942

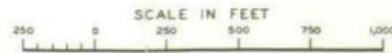
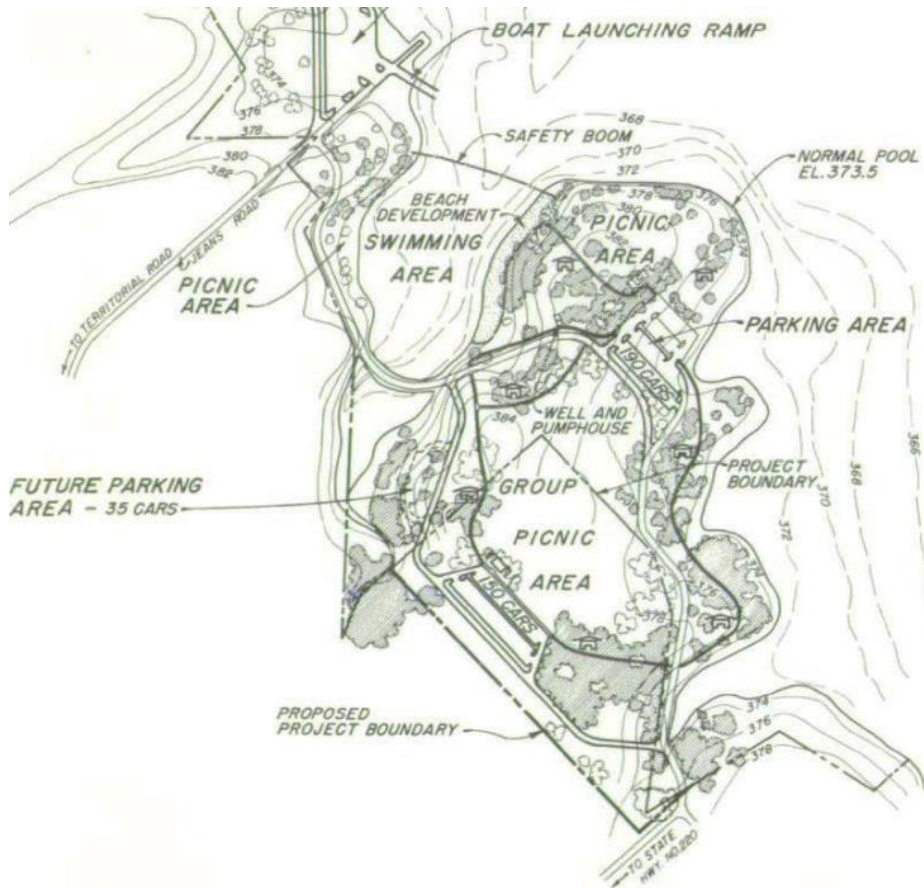


Photo Credit: Salem Public Library, Ben Maxwell Collection

Before and After Dam Construction



Plans for Park Development



FERN RIDGE RESERVOIR
LONG TOM RIVER, OREGON
THE MASTER PLAN
RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC USE DEVELOPMENT
ZUMWALT PARK
RECREATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, PORTLAND
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

PREPARED Quentin L. Davis
CHIEF, RESERVOIR PLANNING SECTION

SUBMITTED Paul C. Ingram
CHIEF, PROJECT PLANNING BRANCH

RECOMMENDED Bill Davis
CHIEF, ENGINEERING DIVISION

APPROVED Walter E. Banning
COL, CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
DISTRICT ENGINEER

DRAWN B.B.
TRACED D.R.
CHECKED L.C.M.

TRANSMITTED WITH REPORT
DATED APRIL 1964

FR-20-24/6

[illegible]

Weeds and vines entwine a picnic table at Zumwalt Park on Fern Ridge Reservoir, one of 10 parks Lane County wants to return to the Army Corps of Engineers.

County may return 10 overgrown parks

By JIM BOYD
Of the Register-Guard

The soon-to-expire Lane County parks division is recommending that the county return 10 parks to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers because there's no money locally to maintain them.

Blackberries grow around a picnic table and human excrement fills the abandoned toilets in the vandalized restrooms at Zumwalt Park on Fern Ridge Reservoir, one of the 10 parks on the turn-back list.

The other nine are Applegate Park near Veneta, North Shore Access boat ramp on Fall Creek Reservoir, Ivan Oakes and Landax Landings on Lookout Point Reservoir, and the Baker Stewart Recreation Area, Harms Recreation Area, Row Point Recreation Area, Teeters Creek property and Vaughn Recreation Area, all on Dorena Reservoir.

The parks are all on land leased from the Army engineers, which operates a series of Upper Willamette reservoirs, among them Fern Ridge and Fall Creek. The corps also operates two parks on Fern Ridge Reservoir, lakeshore parks at Cottage Grove Reservoir and a park at Fall Creek Reservoir.

Lane County's parks system has undergone a series of budget cuts in recent years, and in June, following voter rejections of a proposed tax-base increase, the county commissioners agreed to lay off the 15 remaining parks workers when money for them runs out in mid-October.

Park employees will begin "winterizing" the parks after Labor Day by nailing shut the restrooms, collecting the garbage cans and pulling some of the pumps for storage. There are no plans to restore the parks next spring.

Boat ramps will remain open to

fishermen, and the parklands themselves will be open to strollers, but no county employees will be available to pick up litter, cut the grass or prevent vandalism.

Craig Starr, the county's public services director and, since April, the man in charge of county parks, plans to ask the commissioners next week for permission to negotiate to return to Army engineers leases on the 10 parks.

Terry Armentrout, project manager for the Army engineer's reservoir, sees no obstacles to the plan. But for most the other 76 parks and boat ramps, there are no approved plans.

One possible exception is Alton Baker Park in Eugene, where volunteers may save the foliage and help manage the facility. Starr hopes to negotiate maintenance agreements for Alton Baker Park with adjacent park

Turn to PARKS, Page 4A



Toilet stalls have been ripped down; toilets are backed up and rubble covers restroom floors at Zumwalt Park on Fern Ridge.

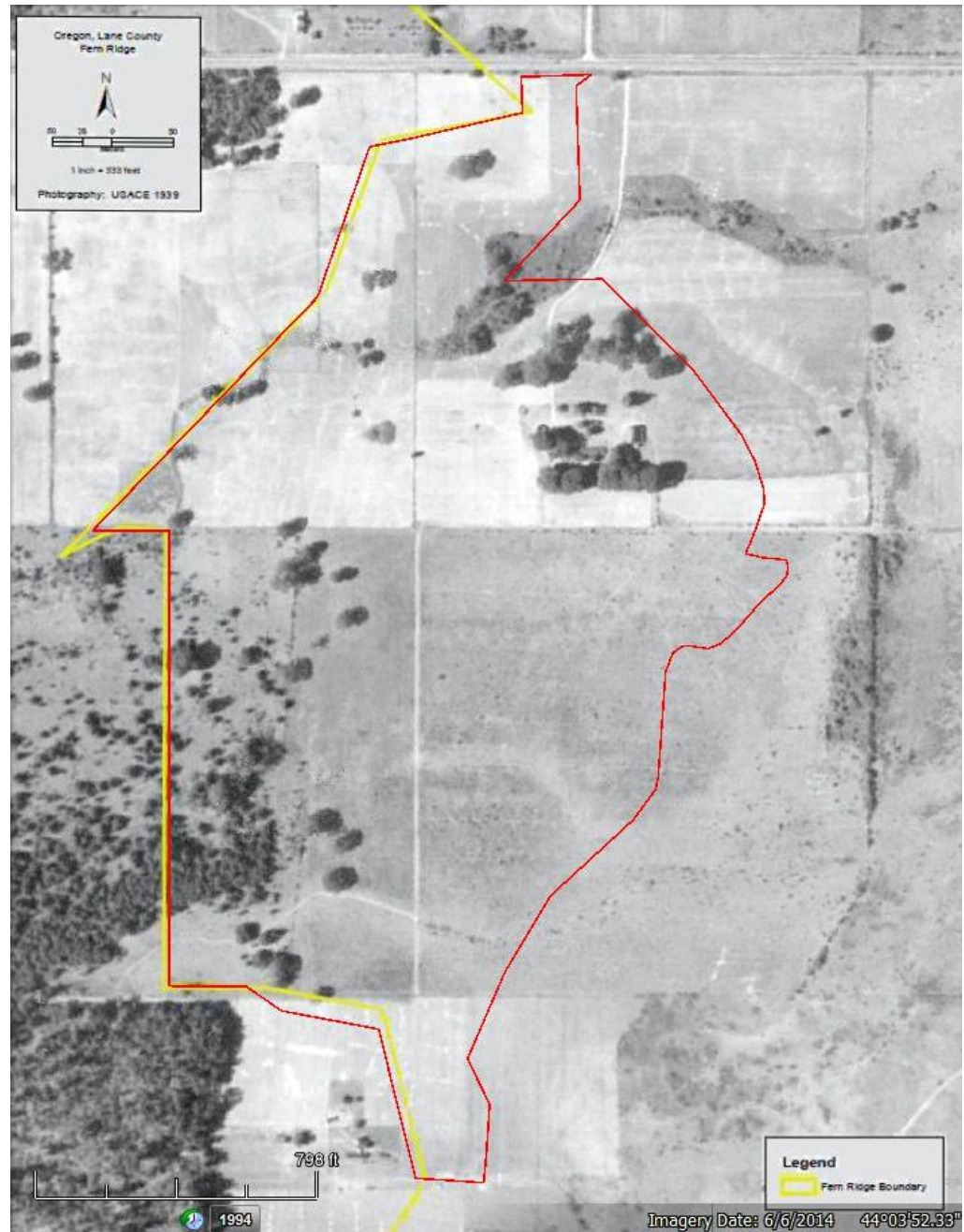
Finding Friends



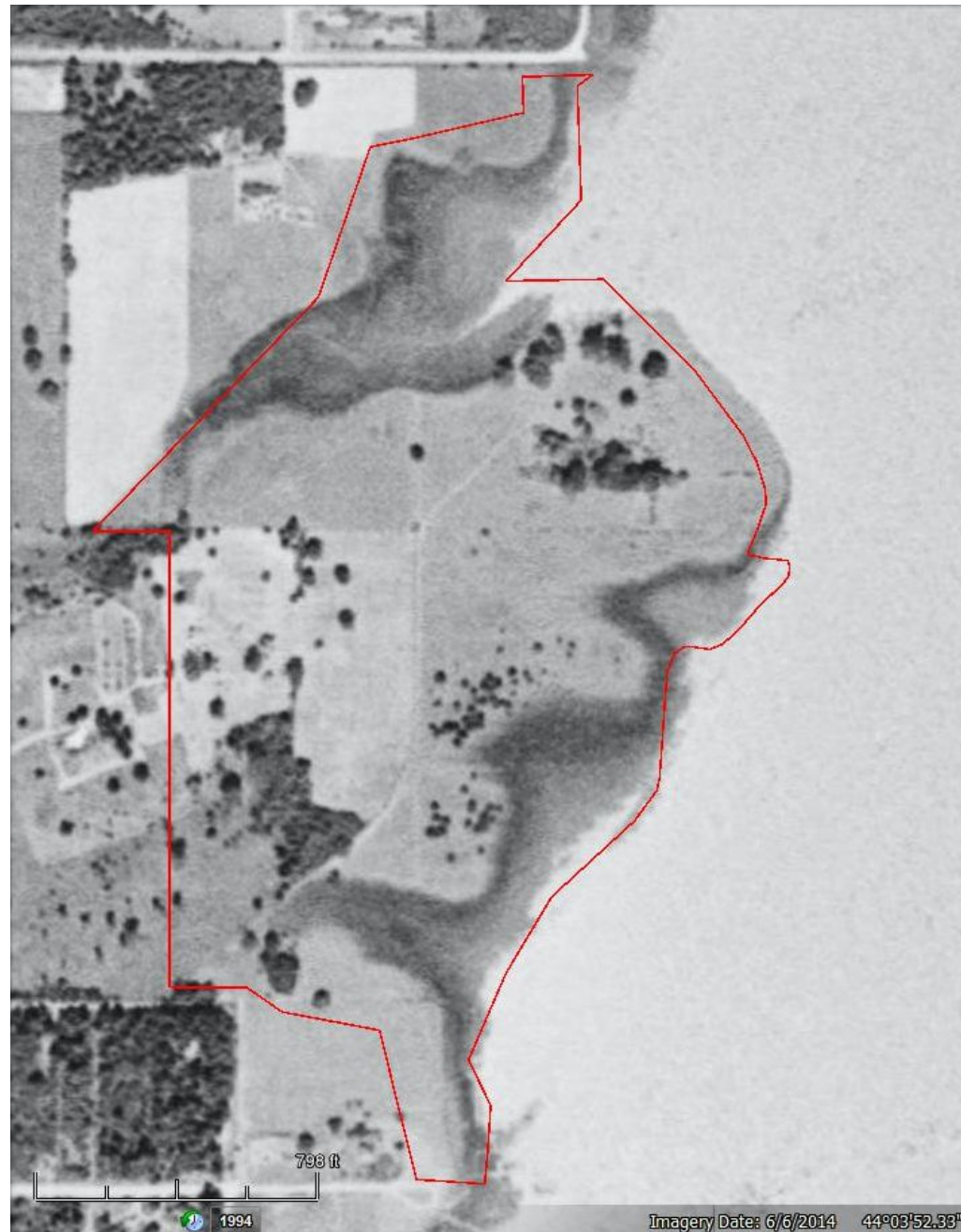
Aerial View, 2014



1936



1955



1978



2014



Recreational Uses

- Day Use: Picnicking, Walking
- Off-Lease Dog Activity
- Reserved for Special Events

Camping During the
Oregon Country Fair



Interpreting Human and Natural History

Smoke, Fire, and Misunderstanding



For trappers and Applegate Trail emigrants were strangers in a strange land. Many passing through this portion of the Willamette Valley, like botanist David Douglas in 1826, found "the whole of the country... burned." Some travelers, like James C. Fremont in 1844, mistakenly believed that "Indians as a their habit when they discover strangers in their country set fire to the grass." Pioneer settlers feared and suppressed the fires because of their impact on split-hill fences, log cabins, and crops.

Explorer John C. Fremont, looking east of the Cascade Range in 1843, was one of the few to notice that "wherever the fire had passed, there was a great growth of strong, green, and vigorous grass." Centuries of Indian field burning maintained great prairies in the Willamette Valley. Annual fires encouraged the growth of seed-bearing plants—an important food source. This took a heavy toll on local carriers, but the necessary tasks grew in great groves around the prairies, where both carriers and groves, fed by winter rains, provided excellent food for elk and deer.

First story of the country, however, only a few patches of the valleys and rolling hills near the river that render it to the main body of the country as a field of grass for the purpose of using the deer to frequent crops in place to this, and the grass is a valuable and of course, it is a valuable asset. Others say that it is a mistake to think that they might be better food for deer and groves, which both are a valuable asset.



7000 Years of Camas Harvesting



Pioneer History

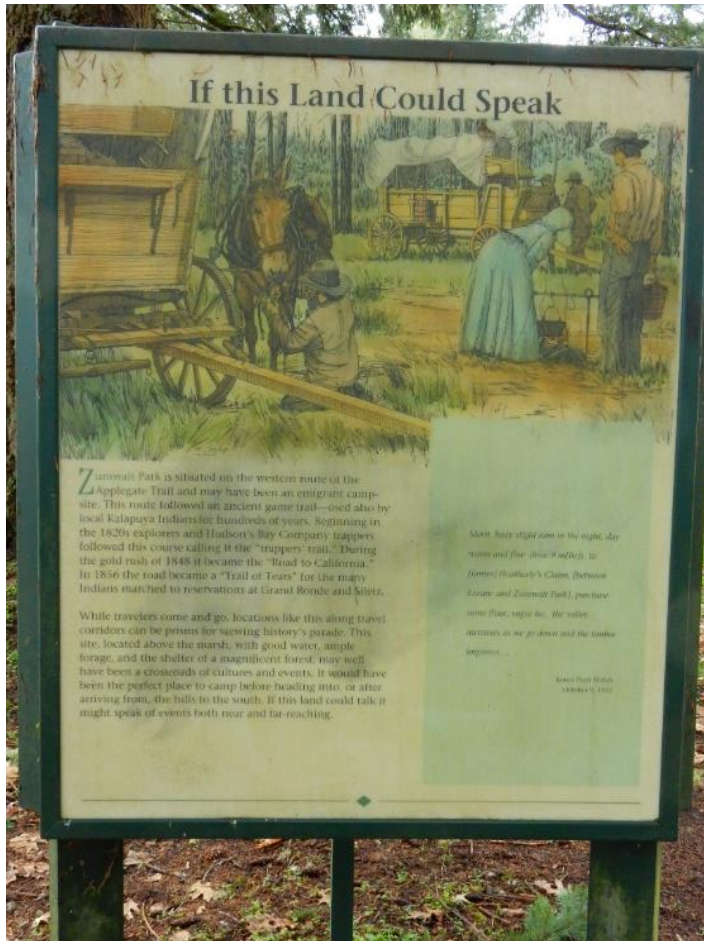


Photo #4 (left) This photo shows the Maple Row leading to the house. Enos and Elizabeth Fisher Elmaker planted the Maple Row in 1857 when they traded donation land claims with Levi Wesley Zumwalt and Mary Malinda Zumwalt. Photo #5 (right) Additional photo of mature trees, many of which still stand today in Zumwalt Park.



Photo # 6 Elaine, Silver, and Ruth LeVan Elmaker with mature trees.

Dedicated Oregon Heritage Tree Grove – 2014





The Saga of the Elmaker Oak

Mowing to Sustain the Remnant Prairie Flora



Mowing and the Importance of Timing



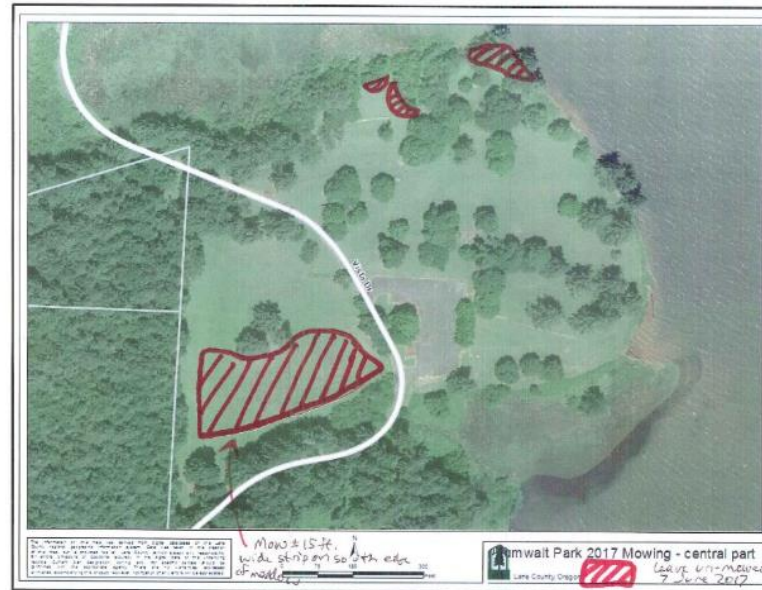
April 2017



May 2017

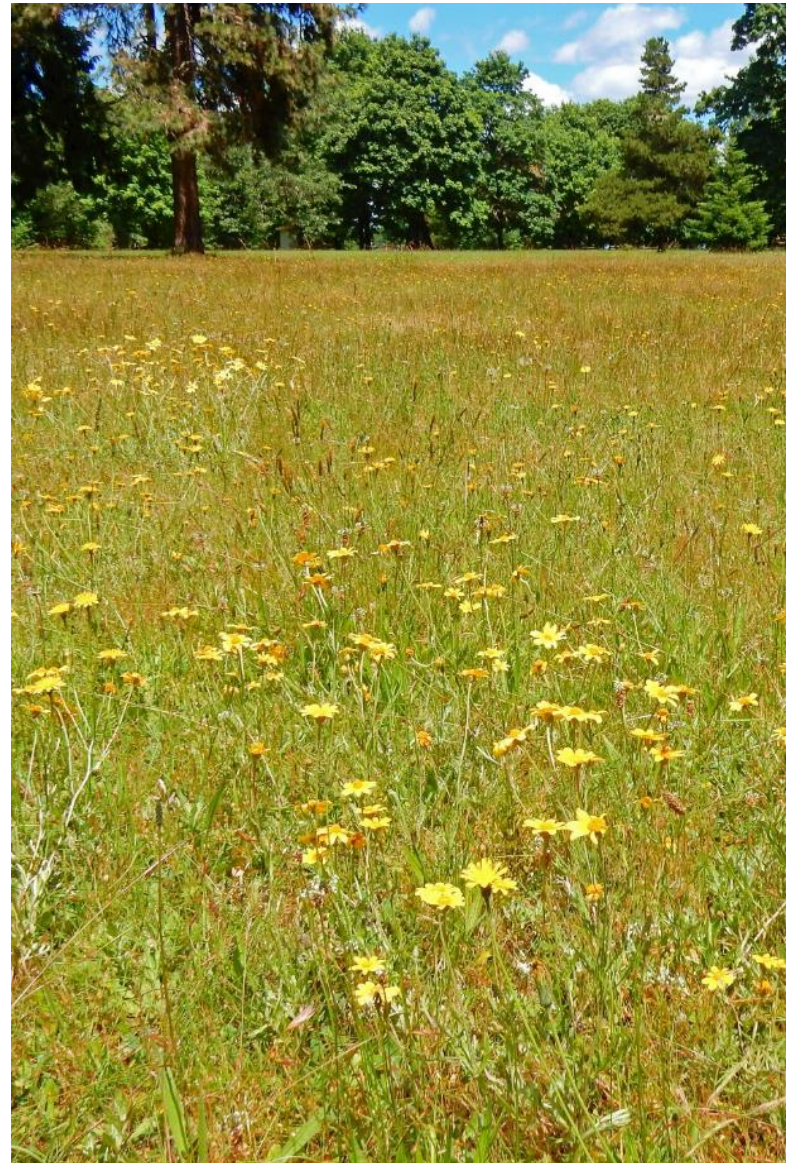


7 June 2017



Integrating Community and Nature in a Public Space

- Stories of place can become a tool for individual and collective learning
- Stories can be told in a variety of ways: through signage, photographs, artifacts, and experiences in a shared landscape
- Park managers can be facilitators of a learning process
- Still important to have clarity around roles, legal or policy authority given ownership circumstances.



Prairies are everywhere, it is just up to us
to find them...

