

# Three: Parks and Recreation Inventory

In early February, the CSC parks planning team visited Cave Junction's parks to conduct an inventory of each of the City's three park sites: Jubilee Park, the Cave Junction swimming pool, and Old Stage Park. The information below was gathered on site and from information shared by Travis Robbins of the City's Public Works Department.

## Jubilee Park

Jubilee Park is located on the southern end of Cave Junction, two blocks east of the intersection of Hwy 199 and Watkins Avenue. A sign for the park is stationed on South Junction Avenue. The lettering is poorly sized, but the location at the juncture of East Watkins Street and South Junction Avenue provides directions to visitors coming to the park from both South Junction Avenue and Hwy 199.



*View from the East side of Jubilee Park toward the skate park.*

*Table 1: Inventory of Existing facilities and recreation amenities in Jubilee Park.*

Features	Quantity
Parking spaces	84
Standard	80
ADA	4
Benches	6 to 8
Trash Receptacles	5 to 6
Flood Lights	5
Restrooms	6
Male	3
Female	3
Tennis Courts	2
Baseball Field	1
Skate Park	1
Amphitheater	1

Visitors are greeted by new play equipment (built in 2010) behind chain link fencing which extends along the western and southern edges of the park. The parking lot accommodates 80 delineated stalls, and 4 ADA stalls. The CSC team also documented several faded parking lines behind a row of bollards at the northeast corner of the parking lot. Many of these lines require restriping. While the existing parking is sufficient on most days, the parking lot gets overcrowded with cars during the big events, and many attendees struggle finding a safe place to park. Participants in the public outreach suggested the high school parking lot as an overflow-parking location with shuttle buses to drive event attendees to Jubilee Park.

The baseball field on the eastern edge of the site is an important amenity. During the baseball season (beginning in March), advisory committee members described the park as a hub of activity, with parking at capacity. The baseball field is in need of significant upgrades. Lighting structures around the field are outdated, creating large operations costs for



*North edge of the skate park.*

the city. Additionally, the field's backstop is constructed with asbestos covered material, creating a lingering public health hazard. Finally, the existing baseball facilities cannot adequately handle the current level of seasonal use.

The covered picnic table area holds approximately 24 picnic tables, and has an attached kitchen. The picnic table portion serves groups based on first a come-first serve basis, however the

kitchen must be reserved and rented for a flat fee. The facility is well-used during the spring and summer seasons, during park events, and by residents for private gatherings.

Jubilee Park also hosts a new skate park, located on the northeastern side of the park, with a front view of the residential and street area and back view of an undeveloped forested park section. The skate park was funded by a State of Oregon Parks and Recreation Grant, and opened in August 2014. The development of the skate park was led by Maureen Connolly and Stacey Williams, the "SK8CJ" park organizers. The park is often used by the youth of the area. The skate park lacks a drainage system for the water, causing rain to create standing water in portions of the park. In addition, the park ramps themselves are plagued with frequent graffiti and various acts of vandalism.

People experiencing homelessness were seen occupying the wooded, northeastern portion of the park. Some city residents voiced concerns about public safety and cleanliness of the park. The park is regularly cleaned by the City, and as a result the bathrooms are in relatively good condition.

Overall, Jubilee Park is a highlight of the community for residents. Even though several community members mentioned some concerns about the park security and conditions, many positively mentioned their satisfaction with the park's programs and events.

## **Cave Junction Swimming Pool**

The swimming pool is located near Cave Junction's High School, Senior Center, and Lutheran Church. The site was developed 45 years ago (1970s) by Josephine County, and then transferred to the City of Cave Junction in early 2000s. The City was then responsible for cleaning, heating, filtering, winterizing, and maintaining the facility.

According to Travis Robbins of Cave Junction's Public Works Department, it cost the City around \$30,000 per year to operate the pool facility. Due to high maintenance costs and a possible leak, the City closed the pool in 2008. Since then, the pool has become a stagnant water source and the facility is slowly deteriorating into rust, broken materials, and unusable systems.

Table 2: Inventory of existing facilities and recreation amenities in the Cave Junction Pool.

Features	Quantity
Parking Spaces	44
Standard	42
ADA	2
Swimming Pool	1
Locker Rooms	2
Male	1
Female	1
Lockers	228
Male	114
Female	114
Bathrooms	
Male Stalls	4
Male ADA	1
Male Urinals	3
Femal Stalls	5
Female ADA	1
Showers	14
Male	7
Female	1

The pool’s parking lot is located on the western edge of the property in front of the main entrance, with some parking spaces in the back of the building. The Senior Center is located nearby across from the pool’s main parking lot. Much of the site requires new paint and other surface renovations.

The building that houses the pool’s reception area and locker rooms is ADA accessible. Outside on the pool deck, however, there are a few gaps in the flooring between the edge of the pool and the water that might be considered a safety issue for young children and people with disabilities.

The pool’s front desk is in bad shape, along with the office and cabinets. The plastic pool cover has been stored in the front desk area. According to public works staff, this cover will likely need to be replaced. The men’s and women’s bathrooms have one ADA accessible stall each. It would be necessary for a specialist to evaluate the locker rooms, including plumbing systems, water fountains, bathrooms, showers, and lockers to determine the full extent of needed repairs.

The pool itself is contaminated and currently unusable. Six metal stairs into the pool require general maintenance, and the concrete/ tiled stairs and the tiles of the pool require replacement and repair. Despite the deterioration, the swimming pool is still equipped to use an existing propane system and solar pads to heat the water, and has an industrial filter system.

During the first Advisory Committee meeting, members expressed an interest in covering the pool for year-round use, instead of seasonal use. Such a development, however, would likely be quite costly and not necessarily alleviate the issue of the pool’s high annual operational and maintenance costs.

Overall, the swimming pool would require fairly significant and expensive repairs to again become functional. In addition, several materials required for operation are missing and would have to be replaced. In order to clarify lingering uncertainties, the CSC team advised the City of Cave Junction to hire a professional engineering firm to determine the cost of renovation and maintenance.



Looking South from the Cave Junction Pool

Once operational, the pool can host up to 100 persons/day, and can serve the general public, the Senior Center, and the high school. While the pool has the potential to be an incredible asset for the community, the City will have to carefully weigh the costs of repairing and operating the pool. It may be that the costs of hiring a qualified consultant, plumbing, construction, materials, labor, and ongoing maintenance are unfeasible at this time.

## Old Stage Park



*View from the North bank of the East Forks Illinois River*

Previously owned by Josephine County, Old Stage Park was donated to the City of Cave Junction around 1980. The park is 40-acres in size, and is located 1.5 miles southeast of downtown Cave Junction at the end of Old Stage Road. The park is currently undeveloped, and has one entry gate off of Old Stage Road. After the gate, a dirt road leads to the East Forks of the Illinois River. There are no designated parking spaces, restroom facilities, overhead lighting fixtures, or established trails in the area.

Prior to the construction of Hwy 199, Old Stage Road served as a transportation route during the Oregon gold rush of 1851. Mining supplies were initially brought in by train, and by 1857, a road was constructed to bring supplies from Crescent City to the Oregon mining towns of Waldo, Kerbyville, and Jacksonville. The wagon road went through Old Stage Park, and included a bridge that allowed drivers to cross the East Fork of the Illinois River. This route was used for almost 70 years until Hwy 199 was constructed in 1925.<sup>21</sup>

Since 1925, Old Stage Park has been used as an unofficial swimming area for residents, but is less popular compared to the established Illinois Forks State Park, located about a half-mile south of Cave Junction. Additionally, due to the shortage of security personnel, portions of the park have been used illegally as a growing area for marijuana plants. At times, the area has also been a camping/squatting location for transient populations.

There are two properties north of Old Stage Park owned by Paul Cunningham, Jr. and Lester & Mary Diane Story. The property to the east of the park is owned by Chaumont Realty Holding Co, LLC, care of Amy Schell-Lapora. The property to the south is owned by Jonathon Barlow. Additionally, there are three property owners west of Old Stage Park: Tyrone & Jeanette Montgomery, Marian Alderton Trust, and Gregg & Karen Brooks.

<sup>21</sup> Highway 199. "Old Stage Park." <http://www.highway199.org/park-and-recreation-plan/park-recreation-plan-old-stage-park/>

## Public School Facilities

Three Rivers School District cooperates with the community in providing use of the District facilities when possible. The District only requires that community use does not interfere with the schools' educational and activity programming or with the requirements for maintenance, operation, safety, and security of the school buildings and grounds. The District recognizes that its grounds are owned by the public, and it encourages the public use of its facilities outside of normal working hours.

The administrative regulations of the District include a detailed fee schedule, and procedures and rules pertaining to public use of school facilities. The District allows groups and organizations free usage, reduced rate usage, or full rate usage, depending upon the membership of the organization, and the kind of function for which the school facility will be used.

The following facilities may be used by the public with prior approval from Three Rivers School District:

***Evergreen Elementary School:***

- Gym
- Track
- Cafeteria

***Lorna Bryne Middle School:***

- Gym
- Commons/Cafeteria
- Track & field

***Illinois Valley High School:***

- Gym
- Multi-sport field
- Football field/track
- Commons

To apply for scheduled usage of the facilities mentioned, residents must submit a Facility Use Agreement Form and a Proof of Certificate of Liability Insurance (only required in certain circumstances).

Section D of Appendix E includes copies of the following policy forms:

- Facility Usage Procedures Policy Statement – Policy KG-AR(1)
- Rules Governing Community Use of District Facilities – Policy KG-AR(2)
- Fee Charges for use of District Facilities – Policy KG-AR(3)
- Community Use of Building – Policy KG