

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote: 6 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Atkinson, Avakian, Courtney, Metsger, Morse, Monroe
Nays: 0
Exc.: Winters
Prepared By: Marjorie Taylor, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Transfers management and control of utilization of specific property near and immediately surrounding the State Capitol from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to the State Parks and Recreation Department. Names the park State Capitol State Park. Includes a portion of the Capitol Mall up to Center Street in the State Capitol State Park. Requires State Parks to manage control and utilization of the State Capitol State Park. Requires DAS to manage and control utilization of the underground parking structure on the mall and the above ground structures that provide access to the garage. Requires DAS to build lavatories on the grounds of State Capitol State Park and State Parks to maintain the lavatories after construction.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Goal of appealing grounds and landscape that signify pride in the State Capitol
- Cost of maintaining capitol grounds and plans for related projects
- Proposed focus of State Parks budget
- Whether or not the Capitol building would be a part of the state park
- Property to be included in the proposed state park
- Current use of capitol grounds and Capitol Mall by the public as a park
- Landscape architecture of the Capitol Mall that highlights the State Capitol

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Names the park State Capitol State Park. Clarifies that the Capitol building is not a part of the park. Deletes transfer of responsibility of collecting fees for parking under the Capitol from DAS to Parks. Expands the park to include a portion of the Capitol Mall up to Center Street. Requires State Parks to manage control and utilization of the State Capitol State Park. Requires DAS to manage and control utilization of the underground parking structure on the mall and the above ground structures that provide access to the garage. Requires DAS to build lavatories on the grounds of State Capitol State Park and State Parks to maintain the lavatories after construction.

BACKGROUND: The State Capitol and Capitol Mall can be considered tourist attractions for the City of Salem and the state. Ornamental and native trees and shrubs are featured in the landscaped areas surrounding the capitol, and the Department of Administrative Services has the responsibility of maintaining the grounds.

To the east and west of the Capitol are two parks. Willson Park, is situated to the west and served historically as the focal point for the entrance to the original Capitol building. The park was a city park from 1853 until 1965 when it became part of the capitol grounds. It was re-designed in 1965, and is the setting for the Waite Fountain, Parade of Animals sculpture, a Liberty Bell replica, and a gazebo constructed in 1982.

Capitol grounds on the east, generally known as East Park, extend from the Capitol to the Justice Department complex on the east side of Waverly Street. East Park is distinguished by the presence of intact aspects of an early landscape design, which include trees, shrubs, and some of the sidewalks. The cast bronze statue, "The Circuit Rider" by A. Phimister Proctor, was moved to this site after the completion of the new capitol building. Also evident are remnants of the classical fluted columns from the old Statehouse portico, which have been arranged as an historical exhibit.

The Capitol entrance faces north to the Mall, and features two adjacent blocks of tree-ringed parks and gardens, bordered by streets and flanked by state office buildings. The Oregon State Library, Public Service Building, and Department of Transportation, were designed to be stylistically compatible with the capitol. More information about the history of the park areas adjacent to the capitol is available on www.salemhistory.net.

Senate Bill 632 A establishes the park areas surrounding the capitol as State Capitol State Park and transfers maintenance and administration from the Department of Administrative Services to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.