



Manzanita Visitors Center

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City of Manzanita
167 S 5th St.
Manzanita, OR

Subject: Enhancement of Beach Accessibility and Safety

Manzanita City Council,

I would like to offer my proposal of two projects that will enhance beach accessibility and safety for our residents and visitors alike.

First is the installation of special beach mats at base of the beach ramp at the Laneda Avenue beach access ramp. These mats are specially designed to provide smooth access to the beach over areas of soft sand. The stretch between the beach ramp and the hard sand, in particular, is extremely difficult for people pushing beach wheelchairs to navigate. Many of the folks who check out beach wheelchairs are elderly and end up turning back when they can't push the chair through the soft sand. Over the last year, I have been in contact with a second homeowner, April Foster, who proposed this idea when she had a hard time pushing her daughter's wheelchair through this area. She has provided me with photos of these mats, as well as catalogs and pricing guides from which I believe we can determine a good fit. In an effort to get this project off the ground, April has partnered with local retailer, Unfurl, to sell handmade "Walk With Me" face masks. To date, this effort has raised \$5,000, all of which April wants to donate toward the purchase of these beach mats. Along with the beach materials, I have enclosed letters of support for this project from Ms. Foster and from Unfurl. Ms. Foster has expressed willingness to answer any questions council might have for her.

The second project addresses beach safety. As we recently saw, winter tides have created extremely unsafe beach conditions. Though the Visitors Center works hard to communicate warnings of these events, the message is not often received by a majority of beach-goers. During the last King Tides in mid-January, I witnessed several people on the beach playing in the surf and being knocked over by sudden surges. I want to avoid a repeat of last January's tragedy involving two children who were swept out to sea. To that end, I would like to propose the installation of permanent surf warning signs at beach access points, as well as some kind of red-flag warning that can be raised during extreme surf events. The surf warning signs are easy to find and order and I have included a photo sample of a non-rust aluminum sign (\$22.00 for 1-2, \$21.10 for 3-4). The red-flag warning could be placed either at the beach ramp or at the Visitors Center. In both instances, the Visitors Center would be responsible for the flag. I have included a couple of photos of possible designs and have reached out to Scovel's Ink in Manzanita for further estimates and suggestions.

Once final cost is accounted, I propose use of city's off-season tourism funds to finish these projects.

Thank you for your consideration,

Daniel A. Haag
Manzanita Visitors Center