



MEMO

TO : Commissioners  
FROM : Melissa Enright, General Services  
DATE : September 22, 2025  
RE : Big Eddy Playground Grants

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Commissioners,

There are currently two funding opportunities available that could help the Parks Department upgrade the playground at Big Eddy Campground. Big Eddy is the County's most popular campground, thanks to its prime location along the Nehalem River. It is used year-round by families, cyclists, hunters, and other community members.

The existing playground at Big Eddy is limited—it features outdated equipment, lacks a play structure, and has sand as ground covering. Upgrading this area with modern equipment, an ADA-accessible play structure, and inclusive surfacing will greatly enhance the playground's accessibility and usability, ensuring that all children have the opportunity to play and explore.

**Grant Opportunities:**

1. **GameTime Playground Grant**

GameTime is currently offering a 50% matching grant on play structures through October 30th. We successfully secured this grant in 2023 for the Camp Wilkerson playground and would like to apply again to help cover the cost of a new structure at Big Eddy. The proposed design includes 12 ADA-accessible play elements.

2. **OPRD County Opportunity Grant**

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's (OPRD) County Opportunity Grant is also open until October 1st. We have previously received funding through this grant for Camp Wilkerson and plan to apply again to support additional components of the Big Eddy project, including ADA-accessible ground surfacing.

These two grants together would significantly offset costs and allow us to create an inclusive, high-quality play space for the community at Big Eddy Campground.

If you are ok with us moving forward, we will need a resolution to apply for the OPRD grant.

Thank you.

Melissa Enright