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To: Neighbors of Discovery Park

From: Don Horton, Executive Director
Bend Park and Recreation District

RE: Recreational use of Discovery Park Lake

Hello. We hope that you have been enjoying Discovery Park. With the record heat so early this summer many people have been drawn to Discovery Park's lake. The lake is not a public swimming pool and as such, there have been several questions about its use. We're writing today to provide you with answers to your questions.

Is the water in the lake treated? No. The water comes from a well on site and run-off from rain storms. The storm water comes from the park and surrounding roads. Since the lake exists to irrigate the park it is not treated.

Is the park designed for water recreation? The beach, playground and water play feature were designed for explorative play for children. The dock was designed as a fishing pier, however given the number of people recreating in the lake, the District has forgone stocking of fish at this time. Swimming and boating is not restricted at this time, however doing so should be done at your own risk and with the understanding that the water in the lake is not treated or potable (drinkable). Jumping or diving is not allowed due to the shallow nature of the pond.

Will the water quality be tested? This summer the Bend Park and Recreation is working in cooperation with Deschutes County Health Department and Umpqua Research Company to test for E. Coli and total Coliform on a weekly basis. Not all water quality related conditions will be tested. People choosing to recreate in the water should do so at their own risk. Should testing result in closure of the lake, signs will be posted.

How will the lake change over time? The riparian plants and vegetation planted along the banks of the lake will mature and the water will likely darken making the lake look more like a natural feature. This maturing of the lake may have an impact on how people choose to use the lake. Continued public access to the lake will be evaluated regularly based upon park and water conditions.

Discovery Park is a wonderful new recreation area for people from NW Crossing as well as throughout the community. We hope you and your neighbors enjoy the park. Should you have questions about any of your parks, you may acquire information on the District website www.bendparksandrec.org or by calling the Administrative Office at 541-389-7275 or Park Services at 541-388-5435.