



Completion of Manzanita Visitors Center

Grant project completed December 15, 2016

Project amount awarded: \$20,800

- Project provided outdoor drinking fountain, back patio, improved bike parking area and storage shed for beach accessible wheelchairs.
- Except for storage shed, the other components were left out for budget reasons when the Visitors Center was constructed in 2013.
- Since the Visitors Center opened, City has assumed responsibility for beach accessible wheelchairs, which are loaned out without charge. Due to its proximity to the beach, the Visitors Center is the logical place to store and loan out the wheelchairs.
- The improvements now better serve visitor needs, reduce pressure on local businesses to provide similar amenities, and encourage visitors to return to the area in the future.



Beach Accessible Wheelchair on Manzanita Beach



BIKE PARKING AREA - BEFORE



BIKE PARKING AREA - AFTER



DRINKING FOUNTAIN - BEFORE



DRINKING FOUNTAIN - AFTER (AND BIKE PARKING AREA)



BEACH ACCESSIBLE WHEELCHAIR BUILDING - BEFORE



BEACH ACCESSIBLE WHEELCHAIR BUILDING - AFTER



BACK PATIO - BEFORE



BACK PATIO - AFTER



Manzanita Visitors Center

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2017 Manzanita Visitors Center highlights

- The Manzanita Visitors Center maintains a core of 10-15 regular volunteers, the majority of whom have been with us since the center opened in 2014.
- Busy spring and summer season of visitors at center: April (984); May (957); June (877); July (2,126); August (2,278); September (1,723).
- Visitors to Manzanita Visitors Center in 2017 have come from all 50 states and 32 countries, including: Argentina, China, Germany, Russia, Japan, New Zealand, France, and India.
- The biggest challenge of 2017 was informing visitors, potential visitors, and destination marketing organizations that Manzanita had survived the tornado of October 2016.
- Having beach accessible wheelchairs on site and in close proximity to the beach has heightened awareness of their availability. The ability to store them at the visitors center has also increased the rate of turnaround. They are available 9 am to 5 pm every day, with reservations by phone and email accepted.
- The beach wheelchair program has led to several news stories (KOIN-6, Daily Astorian) which prompted the City of Cannon Beach to acquire beach wheelchairs.
- Hiking remains most popular destination activity in Manzanita and surrounding area, with the trails inside Oswald West State Park the busiest. Since the beginning of 2017, volunteers and staff have handed out over a thousand of our local hiking guides and nearly 1,500 Oswald West State Park brochures.
- Visitors Center has increased its local outreach in 2017 by partnering with the Hoffman Center For The Arts on two programs: securing food and lodging for two Oregon authors for a Writer's Retreat in June; assembling and distributing 'Welcome New Resident' gift baskets. The new resident baskets are specifically focused on increasing awareness of volunteer opportunities in the community.