

A Parking Magnet

As a Visitor Center employee, I hear a common question from a great many of our visitors: Where are some good hikes in the area?

Another group that I see, but seldom hear from, are serious and casual bicyclists in the downtown area, who rarely seek information. The appearance is that they have a pre-planned route, or a casual plan to explore on two wheels.

How does this help? A dedicated, peripheral parking area for bikers and hikers would draw these visitors. Knowing that this lot is created for them, users would be drawn to it because they would be less likely to have to compete for space. A perfect location would be somewhere on the east side of Highway 101, with a paved pathway leading to the underpass where Sunset Boulevard meets 101.

One suggestion is perpendicular parking along the east side of Elk Land Road, possibly continuing around the corner onto the south side of Haskell Lane.

Manageable distances would not deter these users, as long as there are no great obstacles. No shuttle service required.

The Hike-n-Bike Lot

Paving and striping would be expected, and good automatic dark-sky friendly lighting would be desirable. Relatively basic informational signage would be appreciated. I would discourage parking fees for this area. Instead, we could offer an easy way for visitors to support the environment in Cannon Beach while sharing the cost of construction and maintenance of the parking area, and that would produce some return on the investment. This eases traffic and parking while increasing foot traffic and commerce. Win-win for everyone.