

CITY OF SALEM
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (SPRAB)
ON-LINE MEETING AGENDA

Si necesita ayuda para comprender esta información, por favor llame 503-588-6003.

Individuals needing special accommodations such as sign language, foreign language interpreters or equipment for the hearing impaired must request such services at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. To request accommodations or services, please call 503-588-6211 or 503-588-6003 (TTD/TTY 503-588-6439), or by e-mail at: twhitler@cityofsalem.net at least two business days in advance.

This regular meeting of the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will take place online. This page will tell you how to participate in this digital format. The agenda for the meeting is on page two.

DIGITAL MEETING INFORMATION

The City will be using ZOOM software to host this meeting. If you are new to ZOOM, you will be able to access the meeting without downloading the application. If you wish to download the software, that option will be provided when you click on the link to the meeting.

To access the February 11, 2021, 5:30 p.m. Zoom meeting from computer, tablet, or smartphone click on the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/95404210616>

You can also view the meeting on YouTube at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQLj9RKZNHu4wfYcs_TC0TA

PUBLIC COMMENT

Contact Toni Whitley, Parks Planner, at twhitler@cityofsalem.net if you wish to provide public comment on any agenda or non-agenda item.

Email comments: Please provide email comments no later than 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Live, public comment: Please contact Toni Whitley no later than 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Public comments will only be addressed during the public comment period as noted on the agenda (see Agenda on page 2) and will include comment on agenda and non-agenda items. Email comments submitted will be addressed during the comment period.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The City of Salem and the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board thank you for your support by using the digital format. For any questions or concerns about the above information, please contact Toni Whitley, Parks Planner, at twhitler@cityofsalem.net or 503-588-6211.

It is the City of Salem's policy to assure that no person shall be discriminated against on the grounds of race, religion, color, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and source of income, as provided by Salem Revised Code 97. The City of Salem also fully complies with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and related statutes and regulations, in all programs and activities.

Es la política de la Ciudad de Salem asegurar que ninguna persona será discriminada por motivos de raza, religión, color, sexo, estado civil, situación familiar, origen nacional, edad, discapacidad mental o física, orientación sexual, identidad de género, ni fuente de ingresos, de acuerdo con el Salem Revised Code Chapter 97. La Ciudad de Salem también cumple plenamente con el Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, y los estatutos y reglamentos relacionados, en todos los programas y actividades.

CITY OF SALEM
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
DIGITAL AGENDA
February 11, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS, CITY STAFF &
UPCOMING MEETINGS**

BOARD MEMBERS

Dylan McDowell, Chair
Micki Varney, Vice Chair
Alan Alexander
Tony Caito
Woody Dukes
Dave Fridenmaker
Keith Norris
Paul Rice

CITY STAFF

Robert Chandler, Assistant Public
Works Director
Mark Becktel, Operations Division
Manager
Patricia Farrell, Parks and Natural
Resources Planning Manager
Jennifer Kellar, Parks and Recreation
Services Manager
Becky George, Recreation Supervisor
Milan Davis, City Urban Forester
Toni Whitler, Parks Planner & Board
Liaison

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- City Council – February 8 & 22, 6:00 p.m.

LINKS

BOARD WEB PAGE:

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/parks-and-recreation-advisory-board.aspx>

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** (5:30 p.m.)
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. MINUTES** (5:35 p.m.)
 - a. January 14, 2020
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT** (*Public Comment for agenda and non-agenda items.* (5:40 – 5:50 p.m.)
- 5. BOARD ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS**
 - a. Work Plan 2021 Adoption (5:50 – 6:00 p.m.)
 - b. Capital Improvement Plan – Tammi Starrs (6:00 – 6:15 p.m.)
 - c. Introduction to Bond Measures –
Josh Eggleston, Finance (6:15 – 6:30 p.m.)
 - d. Coordination Regarding Unsheltered Individuals in Parks –
Gretchen Bennett (6:30 – 6:45 p.m.)
- 6. INFORMATION REPORTS – WRITTEN** (6:45 – 6:55 p.m.)
 - a. Mission Street Parks Conservancy Minutes
 - b. Urban Forestry Update
 - 2020 Tree Report
 - c. Parks Planning Update
 - d. Parks Operations Update
 - e. Recreation Services Update
- 7. NEW BUSINESS** (6:55 – 7:05 p.m.)
- 8. NEXT MEETING**
 - a. March 11, 2020
- 9. ADJOURN**



**SALEM PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
DIGITAL MEETING
January 14, 2021
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Norris
Alan Alexander
Micki Varney
Dylan McDowell
Paul Rice
Tony Caito
David Fridenmaker
Woody Dukes

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Toni Whitler
Patricia Farrell
Julie Warncke
Milan Davis
Becky George

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dylan McDowell called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL

No board members absent.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dylan McDowell moved to accept minutes from previous meeting. Keith Norris seconded. Minutes approved with no changes.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Betsy Belshaw: Additional Park Ranger Funding

Betsy Belshaw complimented the Board for taking public comments at the beginning of the meeting. Betsy explained that she has submitted a proposal to City Council for funding to provide an additional park ranger, as one ranger is not sufficient to cover 46 parks. Ms. Whitler thanked Betsy for her proposal and commended her service to the Parks Foundation and as a long-time park volunteer. Dylan McDowell agreed that additional coverage would be ideal and confirmed that the Board has submitted a letter in support of additional rangers. Member Alexander complimented Betsy for her successful efforts to fund the current park ranger.

5. BOARD ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

a. Officer Nominations

Dylan McDowell expressed interest in continuing to chair. Micki Varney expressed interest in continuing to vice-chair.

Motion: Member Alexander moved that current offices stay in place for 2021. Motion seconded.

Vote: All members voted to approve.

b. Letter of Support for Transportation Grant Application for Pringle Creek Path

Julie Warncke presented her request for a letter of support to submit to the Oregon Community Paths Program, an ODOT program that funds regional recreational trails and critical transportation connections. The proposed target for this grant is the connection from Riverfront Park across Pringle Creek to the existing path connection under Commercial Street SE and into downtown Salem.

Member Rice commented on the high cost of the project and asked if the 30% contingency is not needed, would grant contribution or city contribution be reduced? Ms. Warncke responded that the grant is a mixture of state and federal funds, only one of which can be awarded. The City may have to front costs and be reimbursed. Member Rice asked if the project could be phased. Ms. Warncke responded that the hanging structure under Commercial Street could potentially be phased, and the scenic overlook could be altered to reduce cost.

Member Alexander inquired if the City owns the right-of-way for the project. Ms. Warncke replied that the City has an easement for the path and permission to complete the project and is in the process of working to acquire additional property. Member Alexander inquired about the distance of the project and the cost elements involved in such a high cost estimate. She explained that the distance is approximately 600 feet and it is a complicated project requiring structural reinforcement around the river, as well as structuring to protect pedestrians from railroad debris.

Chair McDowell inquired about the City's timeline for this project assuming the grant is awarded. Ms. Warncke answered that if federal funds are awarded, the timeline is approximately three years. With state funds, the approximate timeline is five years. She believes federal funds are more likely, and the project would begin immediately upon funding.

Chair McDowell asked what would help create the strongest letter of support. Ms. Warncke answered that the grant is focused on transportation and trails, so a focus on the connection of trails and access to critical destinations such as Riverfront Park should be emphasized.

Member Fridenmaker asked if this would be considered a completion of the trail. Julie confirmed it would complete a network of trails. He suggested this information be emphasized in the letter.

Motion: Member Norris moved to draft a letter of support for the proposal. Member Varney seconded. Members Norris, Rice and Chair McDowell will work together to draft the letter.

Vote: All members voted to approve.

c. Work Plan 2021 Review

Ms. Whitler presented the draft 2021 Work Plan and asked for the Board's input. The members provided suggestions that Ms. Whitler will incorporate and return to the Board in February for adoption.

Chair McDowell opened discussion for interested parties to volunteer for committees. Member Alexander expressed he would like to continue to serve on Salem Park Improvement Fund (SPIF) where he also represents the Parks Foundation. Member Norris expressed interest in participating in SPIF; Member Rice yielded his position to Member Norris. Chair McDowell suggested Member Rice could serve on the Woodmansee Park Master Plan instead; he accepted.

Dylan McDowell expressed hopefulness that the park program facility tour will be able to continue in 2021.

e. Draft Parks & Rec Facts Web Page

Ms. Whitler presented the draft webpage. Member Varney suggested that information about dog parks, pickleball courts, skate parks, and senior wellness options be included in the find-a-park feature. Once the web page goes through the city communication team, a status update will be provided to the Board.

6. INFORMATION REPORTS - WRITTEN

a. Mission Street Parks Conservancy Quarterly Report

Christine Chute provided the final quarter report of 2020. Member Varney asked if the annual plant sale will continue, and/or if there is any intent to sell plants online. Ms. Chute said discussions have been held, but there are concerns about developing the online infrastructure. A sale of limited types of plants may be considered.

b. Urban Forestry Update - Milan Davis, Urban Forester

Member Rice inquired as to why trees are being removed around the Civic Center. Mr. Davis indicated that they are a short-lived species and are in the process of being replaced. Member Norris asked if the open tree trimmer position will alleviate service issues. Mr. Davis indicated a seasonal employee is being trained to potentially fill this open position.

c. Parks Planning Update - Patricia Farrell

Chair McDowell inquired about the City's involvement with Salem Audubon and whether this partnership could be called upon to provide additional educational resources about eagles. Member Varney inquired if the Climate Action Plan aligns with the State Climate Action Plan, particularly regarding emissions. Ms. Farrell confirmed efforts are being taken

to align with the state's plan. Member Rice expressed concern over gasoline-operated backpack blowers being used in parks and suggested a move to battery-powered. She said switches from gas to electric are being made wherever possible.

d. Parks Operations Update/Recreation Services Update – Patricia Farrell/Becky George

Member Varney inquired if all garbage from parks goes to Coffin Butte. Ms. Farrell answered that some items which are harder to dispose of may be sent to the landfill instead. Becky George confirmed. Chair McDowell inquired if the holiday lights program could be left up through the New Year to give more people a chance to enjoy it. Ms. George explained that due to concerns of vandalism and security costs, the decision was made to take down décor on December 28th. Dylan suggested a holiday run and ornament hunt sponsored by local businesses. Ms. George confirmed that there have been discussions about a holiday run, and these events would be a good way to encourage people to use parks in slower seasons.

7. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

8. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 11, 2021

9. ADJOURN

7:12 PM

Minutes: Kimberly Retherford/Toni Whitler

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - 2021 Work Plan Calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Meeting Schedule 2020*			
BOARD DEVELOPMENT													January 14, 2021	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Location: Zoom	
Nominate / Elect Officers	X											X				
Committee Assignments	X	X												February 11, 2021	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Location: Zoom
Work Plan Development/Approval	X	X												March 11, 2021	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Location: Zoom
Board Strategic Planning (optional)																
BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN																
CIP Discussion		X												April 8, 2021	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Location: Zoom
Review Proposed Budget				X												
ON-GOING PROGRAMS & REPORTS													May 13, 2021	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Location: Zoom	
Softball Overview / Recap							X			X						
Summer Recreation Program Overview / Recap							X			X				June 10, 2021	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Location: Zoom
Salem Parks Foundation Presentation							X									
Annual Citywide "Volunteers in Action" Report														July 8, 2021	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Location: Zoom
Staff Information Reports	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Mission Street Parks Conservancy	X			X			X			X				August 12, 2021	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Location: Zoom
Salem Park Improvement Fund Project Updates			X				X					X				
Graffiti and Damage in Parks Report	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	September 9, 2021	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Location: Zoom
Citywide Volunteer Recognition Nominations								X								
SPRAB Annual Report Planning									X	X	X			October 14, 2021	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Location: Zoom
Annual Report to City Council											X					
Park Program/Facility Tour							X							November 11, 2021	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Location: Zoom
														(Possible Cancellation due to holiday)		
NON PROFIT REPORTS													December 9, 2021	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Location: Zoom	
A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village	X															
Friends of Deepwood	X															
Riverfront Carousel	X															
Salem Art Association	X															
BOARD MEMBERS													*Alternate Meetings will be scheduled as necessary.			
2021 OFFICERS													Liaison/Committee Assignments (2 for Liaison Assignments)			
Chair: Dylan McDowell	Alan Alexander	David Fridenmaker											Bailey Ridge Park Master Plan	Micki V., Paul R.		
Vice Chair: Micki Varney	Tony Caito	Keith Norris											Bush's Pasture Cultural Lndscp Pln	Woody D., Dylan M.		
	Woody Dukes	Paul Rice											Geer Park MP	Dylan M.		
													SPIF Application Review Committee	Dylan M., Keith N. Alan A.		
													City-Owned Tree Committee	Woody D., Dylan M., Micki V., Paul R.		
													Woodmansee Park Master Plan	Dave F. Paul Rice		
													Climate Action Plan	Dylan M. Keith Norris		
Notes																

Information Reports Packet

For SPRAB Meeting February 11, 2021

1. Mission Street Parks Conservancy – December 16, 2020 Board Minutes
2. Urban Forestry Report – Milan Davis, Urban Forester
 - Salem Tree Report - 2020
3. Parks and Natural Resources Planning Report - Patricia Farrell, Parks and Natural Resources Planning Manager
 - Salem Audubon Society Birding Jaunt Through Local Parks
4. Parks Operations Report – Jennifer Kellar, Parks Operations and Recreation Services Manager
5. Recreation Service Report– Becky George, Recreation Services Supervisor
6. Park Damage Report



Board Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2020

In Attendance

Gretchen Carnaby
Christine Chute
Bonnie Heitsch
Kathy Savicki
Michael Slater

1. **Agenda** Christine called the meeting to order via telephone, and the agenda was moved by Gretchen, seconded by Kathy and approved.

2. **Minutes** Gretchen moved and Bonnie seconded adoption of the minutes of the November meeting as amended. The minutes were approved.

3. **Financial** The Board reviewed the end of November financial report, and noted questions Christine will take to Gary regarding categorization of some expenditures. Kathy moved and Bonnie seconded that we increase the 2020 budget line for landscape plants to \$2700. Motion approved. The budget needs to be reformatted to show expenditure lines for each grant.

4. **Old Business**

- The fundraising letter has been sent to 800+ people, with costs of \$280 for printing and \$140 for postage.
- Forty-two shrubs plus perennials were planted this fall, with a total of 319 volunteer hours in October and 202 in November. The website is being updated to show the new shrubs.
- Bonnie shared an updated conceptual drawing for the Secret Garden. Christine has been told by Patricia that this will be evaluated once the Cultural Landscape Plan is complete using principles identified in the planning.
- We are scheduled for a Zoon meeting Jan 5 at 10:30 with City staff.
- Michael has listed the new trees to be added this winter in our on-line store for sponsorship. Gretchen moved and Kathy seconded an increase in the budget line for landscape plants to \$3700 to allow purchase in December. Motion approved.
- A draft budget for 2021 was drafted by Michael and revised, to be finalized at the January meeting. Given the uncertainty of plant sales, they will be added via a supplementary budget later if possible.

5 **New Business**

- The current job description for volunteer coordinator was reviewed. The position is currently vacant, but may be covered by Board members and previous coordinator for the next few months.
- A draft job description for the person overseeing horticulture work and volunteers was revised. Christine will circulate the amended version.

Next Meeting:

January 28, 4 to 6 pm By Phone

Agenda:

2021 budget approval

Job description for horticultural/volunteer supervisor

Draft

Urban Forestry Report February 2021

Trees planted 2021- 113

Trees removed 2021- 38

Trees pruned 2021- 75

Service requests 2021 in IPS- 93

Current open Service Requests from January- 0



Quercus ilex planted at Geer Park as a Covid 19 Memorial tree sponsored by Garden Angels

Tree species planted in 2021

Quercus garryana – 43

Quercus shumardii- 6

Nyssa sylvatica- 14

Quercus ilex -10

Platanus acerfolia- 10

Deodar cedar- 3

Ulmus species – 25

Taxodium distichum- 5

Ginkgo biloba- 11

Cladrastis kentukea- 5

Other notable species- Fagus sylvatica ‘Riversii’, Maackia amurensis, Prunus virginiana, Gymnocladus dioicus, Zelkova serrata, Strax japonicus, Cornus kousa, Chionanthus retusus, Tilia cordata, Sequoiadendron giganteum, Arbutus menziesii, Catalpa ‘Aurea’



Quercus garryana planted along the 500 block of 24th St NE in 25’ wide planting strip



Salem Tree Report January 2021
**2020 Summary of
Public Works Tree Projects**



Salem Tree Report January 2021

2020 Summary of Public Works Tree Projects

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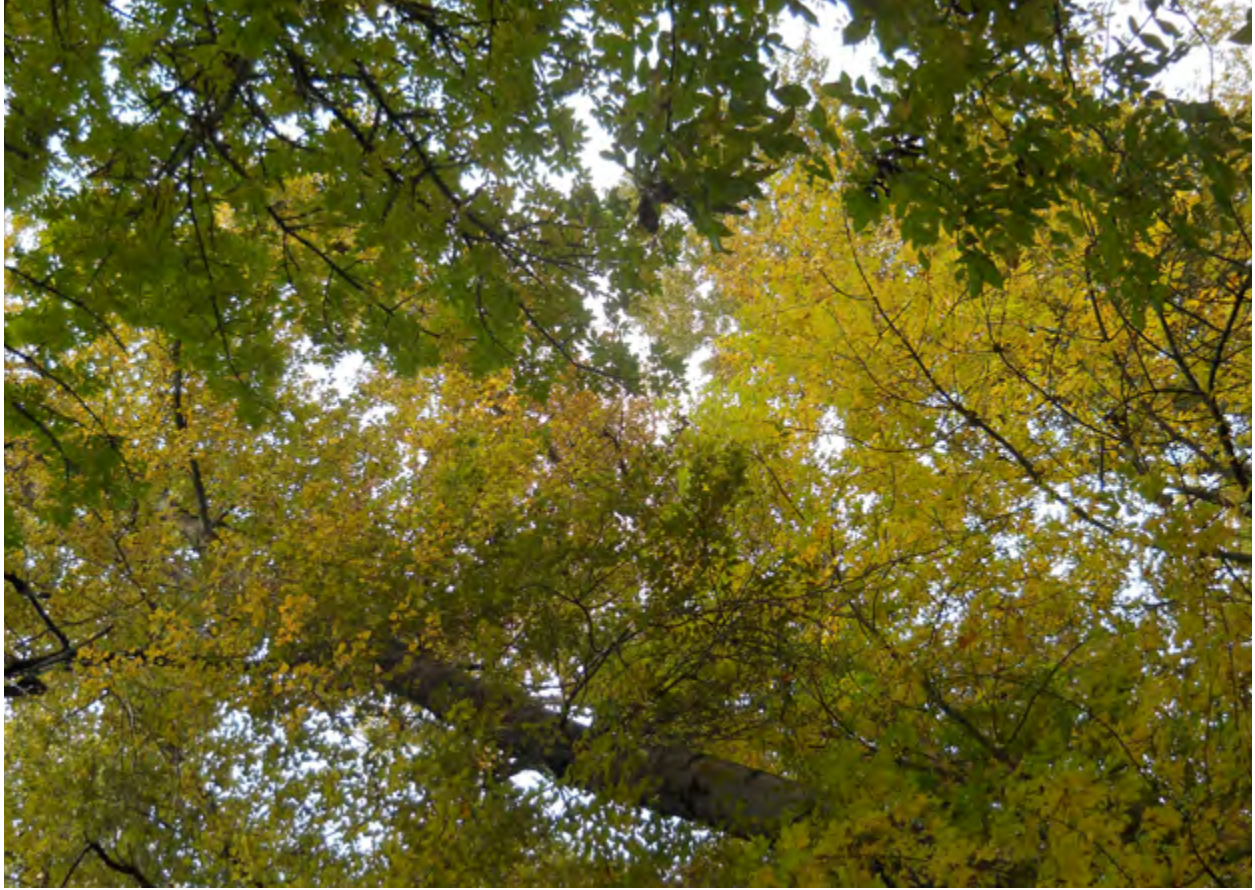


Figure 1: Trees reduce urban heat islands

THE URBAN TREE CANOPY

BENEFITS OF TREES

Trees make cities more livable, improve business, and encourage people to walk and get outside. Extensive research has been done over the last decade on the multiple economic, environmental, and social benefits that trees provide. Some of these benefits can be quantified monetarily, such as in stormwater reduction, air quality improvement, and carbon sequestration that helps reduce greenhouse gases. Trees also help reduce the urban heat island effect by providing shade and reducing temperatures. They provide “green infrastructure” that grows and increases in value over time.

Trees also provide less tangible but equally important benefits, such as natural beauty, a sense of place and identity, increased social interaction, and reduced crime. Healthy cities have healthy tree canopies. Healthy tree canopies can improve the health of cities both environmentally and socially.



SIGNIFICANT TREES AND HERITAGE TREES

Oregon white oaks (*Quercus garryana*), although reduced in population over the years because of development, are still found in the area. The native white oak is a signature tree of Salem and has a special place in Salem's history. Larger diameter (24-inch or greater diameter at breast height) Oregon white oaks are classified as "Significant Trees" and are given special protection under Salem's Tree and Vegetation Preservation Code, Salem Revised Code (SRC) Chapter 808, which is administered by the Community Development Department. In addition to Oregon white oaks, other trees located along riparian areas (streamside areas) are also protected under this code.

Trees can be designated as "Heritage Trees" under SRC Chapter 808. Heritage trees must be nominated by the property owner and approved by resolution of the City Council. Heritage trees are so recognized due to their location, size, age, botanical interest, commemorative planting, or historic significance. Once designated, heritage trees receive protection under SRC Chapter 808.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2013, Council adopted the [Community Forestry Strategic Plan](#). This plan provides specific goals and actions to protect and increase Salem's urban tree canopy. See the Community Forestry Strategic Plan for additional information.

The six goals of the Strategic Plan are:

- Goal 1:** Protect, increase, and enhance Salem's tree canopy;
- Goal 2:** Increase education and outreach about tree benefits, community forestry program, tree regulations, and incentives;
- Goal 3:** Develop support at political, management and public levels;
- Goal 4:** Improve City coordination, communication, and codes related to trees;
- Goal 5:** Develop and implement a Community Forestry Management Plan; and
- Goal 6:** Establish a stable funding for the Community Forestry Program.

URBAN TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT

The City of Salem Public Works Department assesses the urban tree canopy every ten years to monitor changes in canopy coverage over time. This assessment is required every census year per SRC Chapter 808. This canopy assessment is conducted "...for the purposes of measuring the effectiveness of this Chapter and other development-related ordinances in preserving and improving the amount of tree canopy area within the City or the Salem-Keizer Urban Growth Boundary" (SRC Chapter 808.060(b)). In 2010, Salem had 18.3% canopy. In 2013, the Community Forestry Strategic Plan set a goal of 23% canopy and focused tree planting efforts on City properties and low canopy neighborhoods.



In 2019 the City conducted its latest canopy assessment. (www.cityofsalem.net/citydocuments/tree-canopy-assessment-report-2019.pdf)

The 2019 study determined the City’s tree canopy is 24%, a 6% increase from the previous study in 2009 and exceeding our goal of 23%. Based on the assessment, all neighborhood association areas gained canopy, ranging from 2% in Lansing Neighborhood to 8% in Southwest Area Neighbors. Using the previously established 75th percentile methodology for canopy goal setting, the new city canopy goal will be 28% by 2030. Tree planting efforts will continue to focus on low canopy areas and available planting areas along street rights-of-way within the City.

The environmental benefits of Salem’s tree canopy were calculated in the 2019 assessment. According to the report, Salem’s trees provide \$80 million in total annual benefits, including air quality, stormwater, and carbon sequestration. The next canopy assessment will take place around the year 2030.

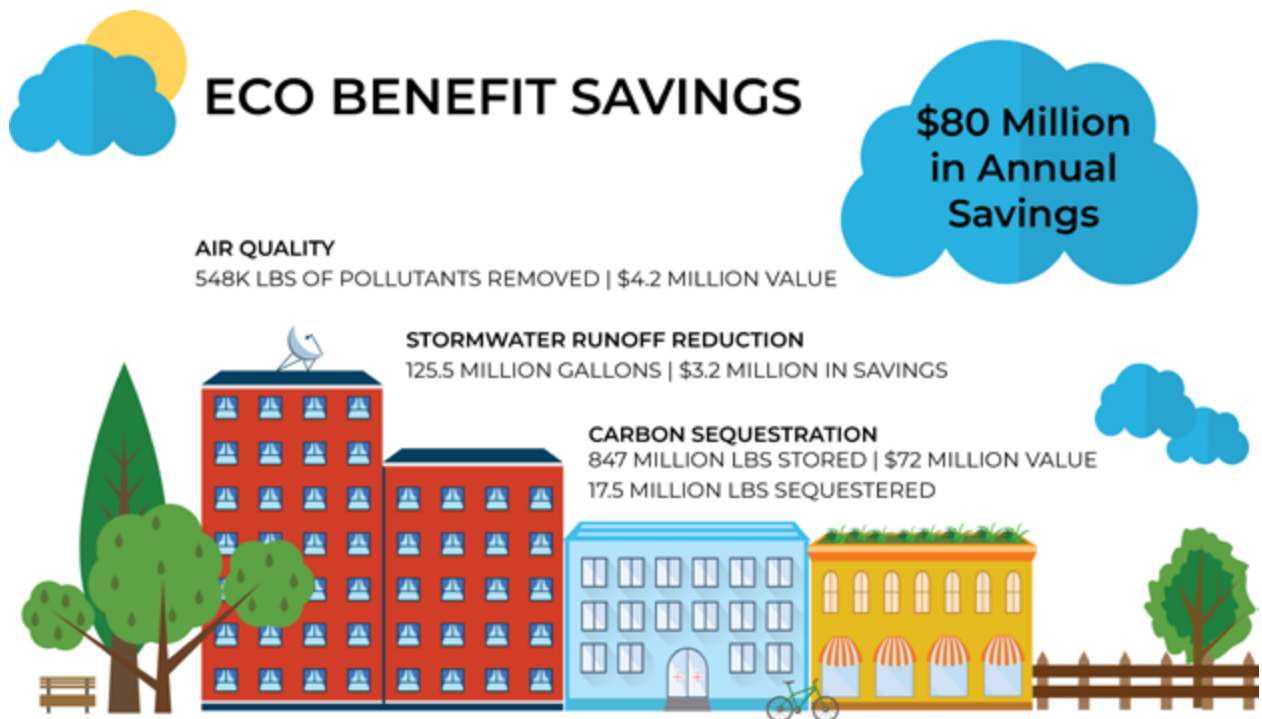


Figure 2. Eco-Benefits Provided by City Trees

2020 PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Salem has a variety of programs and initiatives that promote and enhance our urban tree canopy. Initiatives like “Tree City USA” and “Cities4Forests” connect Salem with national and international municipalities and experts.

Our Urban Forestry Division within Parks Operations maintains, removes, and plants trees along our city streets, in public parks, and in other City properties.



Contracts with nonprofits and contractors such as Friends of Trees and Treecology expand our planting capacity while also providing outreach, education, and volunteer opportunities.

Contracts with local arboricultural companies Mountain View Tree Service and Buena Vista Arbor Care help with tree removals in the right-of-way and in city parks. Mountain View assists the Urban Forestry Division with larger projects, specialized arbor care and collaboration on some city projects where their expertise is required.



Figure 3. Trees provide aesthetic beauty in urban environment

TREE CITY USA



The City of Salem has been a Tree City USA for 44 years. Tree City USA is a program from the Arbor Day Foundation that began in 1976. The program recognizes and guides achievement in four core standards of sound urban forestry management: **1)** maintaining a tree advisory board; **2)** having a community tree ordinance; **3)** spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry; and **4)** celebrating Arbor Day and having an Arbor Day Proclamation.

The City of Salem is proud to be one of only 17 cities in the country to have been a charter participant in the Tree City USA program. In 2020, celebrated 44 consecutive years of participation. In 2015, Salem became a “Sterling City,” having received ten Arbor Day Foundation “Growth Awards” in recognition of innovative and/or increased program participation. In 2020 the City spent \$8.17 per capita on the urban forest.

Arbor Day in the U.S. was started in Nebraska in 1872 “to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees.” Each year, Salem hosts an Arbor Day tree planting event for community volunteers that improves Salem’s urban tree canopy. In recent years, the Arbor Day planting event has been coordinated by Friends of Trees, an Oregon-based nonprofit that organizes volunteer tree planting events.

In 2020, Salem Public Works successfully applied for a grant of \$485 from Oregon Community Trees (OCT) for outreach materials to distribute at the Arbor Day event in April. Unfortunately, the 2020 Arbor Day volunteer planting at Geer Park was canceled because of COVID-19 safety precautions. The City rescheduled the volunteer Arbor Day planting to November 14 with a reduced number of volunteers, however it was also canceled due to



Figure 4: 2020 Planting at Wallace Marine Park



the global pandemic restrictions. In both cases, the trees were planted by Friends of Trees staff and Salem tree crew leaders.

CITIES4FORESTS

In 2018, the City of Salem signed on as a founding member of Cities4Forests, a new initiative that focuses on the value and benefits of trees in cities and forests across the globe.

It is an international effort spearheaded by the World Resources Institute. It aims to cultivate awareness and stimulate action on the part of urban residents to recognize the importance of trees and forests to human well-being. In urban areas, the “inner forest” is a critical component of a healthy city. City trees improve public health, reduce air pollution, protect water quality, store carbon, and help a city become climate resilient. Cities4Forests has a goal of integrating trees into city growth and development, and of harnessing the value of trees to meet multiple objectives, such as: improving public health; protecting drinking water supplies; and providing benefits for air quality, water quality, and heat island mitigation.

Cities4Forests

Figure 6 wri.org/our-work/project/cities4forests

Membership in Cities4Forests complements the City’s current urban forestry programs. Cities4Forests is a voluntary coalition involving mayors’ offices from around the world. Salem was among the 50 founding cities worldwide. Salem staff attended Cities4Forests-hosted information sharing events such as international webcasts and conference calls to share urban forestry information between cities around the world.

STREET TREE INVENTORY

Since 2018, the City has been surveying streets in Salem to build an inventory of street trees. The objective of street tree inventory has been to gain a more detailed understanding of Salem’s urban forest structure. By knowing the location, species, condition, and size of existing street trees, the City can implement more effective practices for planting and maintaining healthy trees in the future. The random surveys in 2018/19 estimated a statistical sample inventory of 42,892 street trees in Salem and an overabundance of maples. Several recommendations were also made related to increasing the health and diversity of Salem’s street trees.

This information led to updating the City’s Recommended Street Tree List to reduce the number of maples planted and increase the variety of species on the list. This will increase species diversity and reduce our vulnerability to pests, disease, and climate change impacts to the urban forest.

In 2020, under the leadership of a new Urban Forester, the Urban Forestry Division of Salem Parks Operations worked with the Parks Planning and Public Works GIS staff to continue the inventory of city street trees and park trees. Urban Forestry employees performed the 2019 street tree survey and continued the inventory work in 2020, significantly reducing the training needed compared to seasonal employees or interns. In 2020, City staff began compiling a



detailed, spatial (with GPS locations) inventory of street trees (or managed park trees, or both), including potential planting spaces, to inform urban forestry planning, operations, and decision-making.

Using the ArcGIS collector app connected to the city GIS Salem Maps Online, forestry staff used iPhones and iPads to update existing tree and proposed tree locations. The inventory collected a comp key, an individual GIS ID number/ Object ID, Unit ID, address, tree species, cultivar, diameter at breast height (dbh), health rating, planting space size, space ownership, utilities present, comments, user ID and last edited date. With this current data, we can identify dead trees and trees that are in poor condition to monitor for removal. We also identified over 2,500 new locations where street trees can be planted.

Currently 18,874 tree locations have been updated in the inventory and over 14,500 of those locations were inventoried in 2020.

We will use this information to manage our program more effectively and will continue with the inventory until it is complete. This database has already proved useful for documenting unpermitted tree removals as well as for health appraisals. The Urban Forestry Division will continue to update the inventory even after completion to help manage and promote the urban tree canopy of Salem.



Figure 7. New Street Trees

CITY TREE PROTECTION AND POLICY

The City of Salem Public Works is responsible for administering SRC 86 Trees on City Owned Property and uses an Administrative Rule of the same name, 109-500-002, to accomplish the goals of that code chapter. Public Works changed how it administers these rules in 2020, coinciding with the hiring of a new Urban Forester. The change became an opportunity to re-establish the protections and guidelines put in place with SRC 86. In 2020, the department has taken a stronger role in protecting street trees from the impacts of development and pursuing violations of the code. Monies taken in for violations are placed into a fund dedicated to street tree plantings by Urban Forestry.

The Public Works Department is in the process of revising SRC Chapter 86 to clarify the protections in place for City street trees, how violations are assessed and resolved, and to update the associated administrative rule, including the City's street tree list.

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (SPRAB), as part of its purview, hears appeals to tree code violations. In 2020 SPRAB held two hearings.

TREE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE

2020 OVERVIEW

Tree planting and maintenance of City-owned trees in 2020 was performed by three groups: Salem Urban Forestry, Friends of Trees, and Treecology.

Trees on City-owned property are managed by the City’s Urban Forestry Division, in the Parks Operations Division of Public Works. To supplement the work of Urban Forestry, Public Works has contracted over the last seven years with Friends of Trees, a nonprofit organization, for community tree planting events, primarily in parks. Friends of Trees’ mission is to bring people together to plant, care for, and learn about trees in communities across the Pacific Northwest. This important work engages Salem’s residents and local volunteer groups who actively participate in planting trees in low tree canopy neighborhoods and along streams with limited shade. Planting locations are selected each year and focus on low canopy areas of the City and along streams that lack shade.

Recognizing the limitations of working with large groups of volunteers and the need to plant more trees along city streets, Public Works began contracting in 2018 with a private arboriculture company, Treecology. Through this renewable contract, approximately 150 trees will be planted each planting season in City rights-of-way, and three years of watering and tree care will also be provided. This will ensure that the new trees get off to a good start. After the initial three-year establishment period, Salem Urban Forestry will take over the maintenance of the trees. The goal of this contract is to increase our street tree planting capability to grow the overall canopy and species diversity. Treecology is an experienced tree service and restoration contractor that has been performing similar contract tree planting work for the City of Portland.

Tree maintenance also includes tree trimming and tree removal. Trees are trimmed for health and structure, vision or access clearance, or because of damage. Tree removals occur due to development, damage, hazard risk, or disease.

URBAN FORESTRY

Street trees, trees in parks, and trees on other City-owned properties in Salem are maintained by the Urban Forestry Division in Public Works. The Urban Forestry Division operates under the direction of the City’s Urban Forester, Milan Davis. Currently there are seven full-time employees and one seasonal staff. There are now four ISA (International Society of

Trees Inventoried	14,936
Trees Planted	265
Trees Removed	286
Trees Pruned	3,372

Table 1. Summary of Work by Urban Forestry in 2020



Arboriculture) Certified Arborists on staff who inspect all tree-related permits and Public Works-generated service requests.

Urban Forestry Division responsibilities include tree removal, pruning, stump grinding, planting and all tree-related work in the city right-of-way and on City-owned properties. They also provide 24-hour response for removing fallen trees or branches obstructing traffic, and work to keep all streets, sidewalks, paths, and bike lanes clear. Approximately 90% of their work supports City projects or is in response to requests from other public agencies or Public Works divisions. The remaining 10% of their work comes from citizen complaints or requests for services. Table 1 summarizes the work done by Urban Forestry in 2020.

Urban Forestry has worked hard to find efficiency and improvement through cooperation with other workgroups and agencies. Wood chips generated from tree removals and trimming are used for landscaping and trails in parks, and this saves the City around \$15,000 per year in material costs. Large wood from tree removals is collected by Marion County Youth Services and is either cut to serve their “firewood for the needy” program or milled into saleable lumber. This partnership benefits the youth program with free materials and saves Urban Forestry the burden of dealing with the logs themselves resulting in an additional annual savings of \$15,000.

Urban Forestry Division supports other tree projects and programs in the City with their expertise and experience. They are also tasked with reviewing all plans and construction documents regarding tree-related work to meet City standards and current codes. Utilizing the experience and expertise of the ISA-certified arborists within Urban Forestry to consult on Public Works tree-related projects ensures that we are planting and preserving a healthy urban canopy.

FRIENDS OF TREES

Eight years ago, the City of Salem contracted with Friends of Trees and began working together to enhance the City’s urban tree canopy and to restore its streambanks and riparian areas.

In 2020, the City and Friends of Trees organized tree planting events at Wallace Marine Park, Cascades Gateway Park, Orchard Heights Park, Geer Park, Bill Riegel Park, Fisher Road Park, and McKay School Park.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on public gatherings, public participation was canceled beginning in March and Friends of Trees staff and crew leaders, and Urban Forestry staff completed the work.



Figure 8. Pre-Pandemic Planting at Cascades Gateway Park 2020



Friends of Trees staff and volunteers planted 182 large stock trees in 2020 in Salem. Friends of Trees planted an additional 2,120 small stock trees, shrubs, and smaller plants in Salem parks and natural areas.

This planting work was accomplished thanks to nearly 1,000 volunteer hours from 275 volunteers. To help facilitate the events, Friends of Trees has trained local crew leaders. These individuals receive additional training on tree planting, tree care, and how to conduct volunteer events. In 2020, these local crew leaders helped fill the gap caused by the pandemic restrictions. With the help of the crew leaders, city staff, and Friends of Trees staff the City was able to complete all planned planting projects in 2020.

A summary of the 2020 Friends of Trees’ events is available in Table 2.

Friends of Trees will continue to work with the City, beginning in early 2021 with plantings in Lansing Park, McKay School Park, Hammond School Park, and an Arbor Day planting at Northgate Park and its surrounding neighborhood. Planting sites for later in 2021 are being assessed using information from our 2019 canopy study and will be based on a variety of factors including prioritizing neighborhoods with low tree canopy.



Figure 9: A Pre-Pandemic Newly Planted Tree in Cascades Gateway Park 2020

Date	Site	Trees (large stock)	Small stock trees and shrubs	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours
1/11/2020	Wallace Marine Park	50	0	86	272.50
2/22/2020	Cascades Gateway Park (Dog Park)	41	0	91	319.50
3/7/2020	Orchard Heights Park	0	1842	77	297.25
4/4/2020	Geer Park	50	0	4	28.00
10/17/2020	Bill Riegel Park (Crew Leader Training)	4	3	3	9.00
11/14/2020	McKay School Park	6	275	6	28.50
12/7/2020	Fisher Road Park	31	0	8	32.00
2020 Total		182	2120	275	986.75

Table 2: Summary of 2020 Friends of Trees Events in Salem



TREECOLOGY

In 2020, 208 trees were planted by Treecology along streets in Salem. Planting occurred in January through April and then resumed in December.

This contract has identified opportunities where large unused right-of-way spaces are available to plant uncommon and large canopy street tree species. By planting less common tree species, the diversity of our street tree population is increased, which adds interest and increases resilience against future pests and disease.

Plantings by Treecology in 2020 were along Liberty Street SE, Clay Street NE, Pearl Street NE, Ricky Street NE, Winter Street NE, Campbell Drive SE, and the Salem Parkway. Plantings occurred in six neighborhoods: SCAN, ELNA, NEN, SEMCA, Grant and Northgate.

The most notable planting was made possible through an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to plant trees within an ODOT-controlled right-of-way near the city limits along Salem Parkway, a main entrance into Salem. This planting took place in December 2020 and lines a popular multi-use path along the Salem Parkway between Cherry Avenue NE and Hyacinth Street NE.

Over the first three years of the contract with Treecology, 401 trees have been planted along Salem streets in 11 different neighborhoods. Treecology is on contract through 2022 to continue with street and right-of-way tree planting. This contract may be renewed in the future.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

In 2020, Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (SPRAB) formed a tree committee to assist in promoting Salem's tree canopy and streamlining the permitting process. As a result of that work, several permitting flow charts were created and a new educational brochure was developed by the City.

In 2020, the City also participated in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima through the planting of a "Peace Tree" at Pringle Park. The persimmon tree was grown from a seed of a tree that survived the bombing. A commemorative plaque was installed and a new kiosk with an informational poster has been installed in the park. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the planned planting ceremony was canceled; however, the tree was planted and continues to thrive.



Figure 10. New trees on Salem Parkway

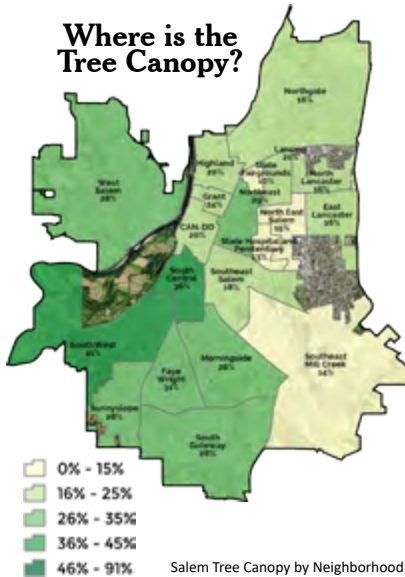
About Salem's Tree Canopy

The Salem City Council adopted a Community Forestry Strategic Plan in August 2013 to help the City reap the environmental, economic, and social benefits that an urban forest provides.

The Plan's overarching goals are to preserve and increase the tree canopy within Salem and to educate the public, decision-makers, and City staff about the benefits of trees.

In addition, City Council set an urban canopy goal of 23 percent to be reached by 2020. Salem succeeded in reaching that goal, and set a new goal of 28 percent to be attained by 2030.

Where is the Tree Canopy?



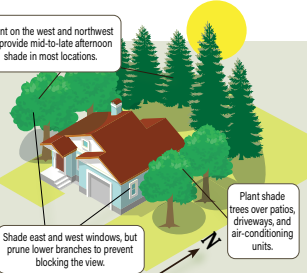
Help Us Grow Salem's Urban Forest

Reports show that 34% of Salem can support tree canopy where currently there is none. **The City is working to plant public spaces, but we need your help to grow the canopy.**

Plant trees in your yard and around your home. Consider strategic planting of trees for energy conservation.

Plant trees in the community! Volunteer at one of our tree-planting events by volunteering with Friends of Trees or becoming a crew leader. Events run November through April.

Plant on the west and northwest to provide mid-to-late afternoon shade in most locations.



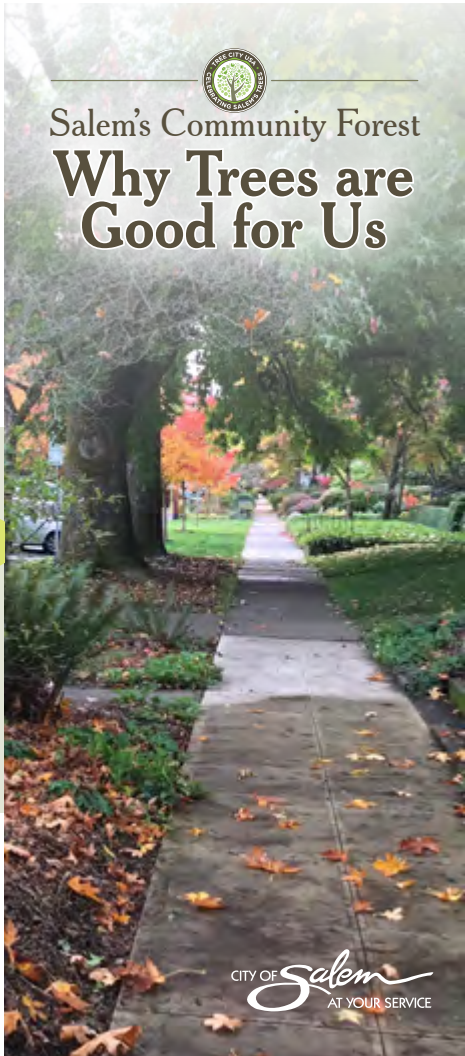
Right Plant, Right Place

Choosing the right plant for the right place is important for a plant to thrive. Knowing the site characteristics, such as soil, moisture, and shade, will help you decide what plant will be best suited for the location. The height and width of your location also helps you ensure that the plant will not outgrow its space. To learn more about right plant, right place, go to www.arborday.org/trees/righttreeandplace.



Phone: 503-588-6336
Email: salemparks@cityofsalem.net
Web: www.cityofsalem.net/community-forest
Address: 1410 20th ST SE Bldg 14, Salem OR 97302

Salem's Community Forest Why Trees are Good for Us



How Trees Benefit our Community

AIR FILTERS
 Salem's trees remove 548,000 pounds of pollutants, a service valued at \$4.2 million annually.

CARBON CAPTURE & STORAGE
 Salem's trees store approximately 423 thousand tons of carbon, valued at \$72.2 million. Salem's tree canopy absorbs and stores approximately 3,000 tons of carbon dioxide, valued at \$1.5 million annually.

TEMPERATURE CONTROL
 Trees shade streams, keeping the water cool for aquatic animals. Trees help cool cities and combat the heat island effect. Shaded surfaces may be 20–45°F (11–25°C) cooler than the peak temperatures of unshaded materials.⁽¹⁾

STORMWATER QUANTITY / FLOOD CONTROL
 On average, an acre of tree canopy absorbs 40 thousand gallons of water and helps to reduce runoff, which is valued at roughly \$350 per acre/per year. Extrapolated citywide, Salem's tree canopy provides \$3.2 million annually in benefits.

WATER FILTERS
 Stormwater runoff is filtered by plant leaves, roots and the soil, reducing the impact of water pollution. Roots also stabilize soil, and reduce the amount of pollutant load and sediment into streams.

HEALERS/WELLNESS⁽²⁾
 Studies have shown that patients with views of trees out their windows heal faster and with less complications. Children with ADHD show fewer symptoms when they have access to nature. Exposure to trees and nature aids concentration by reducing mental fatigue.

WILDLIFE HABITAT
 Both alive and dead, trees provide benefits. Wildlife use trees as habitat, for food, shelter, nesting, resting, and mating.

INCREASED INCOME
 Property values are 7 percent to 25 percent higher for houses surrounded by trees and consumers spend up to 13 percent more at shops near green landscapes.⁽²⁾

Salem's tree canopy provides \$80 million a year in environmental benefit enhancing air quality, filtering stormwater, and capturing and storing carbon to help combat climate change.

1. Akbari, H., D. Kurn, et al. 1997. Peak power and cooling energy savings of shade trees. Energy and Buildings 25:139–148. / 2. EarthShare.org

Marking the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II

HIROSHIMA PEACE TREE PLANTING

Friday, April 10, 2020

10 a.m. to Noon

Pringle Hall

606 Church St. SE

Salem

In honor of the occasion, an Asian persimmon tree, grown from a seed collected from a tree in Hiroshima, Japan that survived the atomic bombing of the city on August 6th 1945, will be planted as a continuing reminder of our desire for peace.

The event will include refreshments and entertainment.



Reasonable accommodation and accessibility services will be provided upon request.
Servicios razonables de alojamiento y accesibilidad se facilitarán por petición.

SUMMARY

Salem is involved in a variety of projects, programs, and initiatives that are working to achieve the goals of the Community Forestry Strategic Plan. Community outreach and planting events, primarily in partnership with Friends of Trees, spread the message of tree benefits and give an opportunity for the community to be involved with growing the urban forest. Programs like Tree City USA and Cities4Forests provide opportunities for Salem to be recognized for our urban canopy work and to keep informed of innovative urban forestry programs around the world.

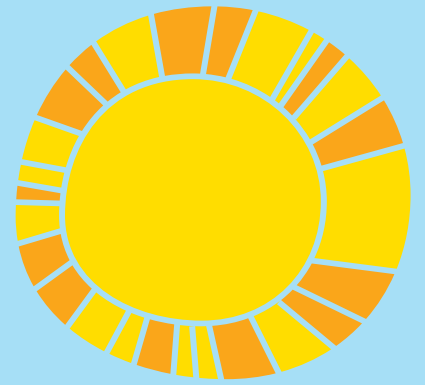
The Urban Forestry Division works daily to maintain, promote and increase the tree canopy through high standards in work practices and safety. Staff responds to all weather emergencies and helps keep city streets and the rights-of-way safe 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. With a limited full-time city staff, it is important to have contractors like Mountain View Tree Service for tree removals, and contractors like Treecology & Friends of Trees for expanding our tree planting capabilities.

Despite the unique challenges faced in 2020 due to COVID and wildfires, 655 trees were planted. The urban canopy should continue to grow as Urban Forestry Division takes an increasingly active role in managing existing trees and putting money from fines and permits towards new plantings.

Salem Public Works will continue to promote tree planting efforts to enhance the City's tree canopy, increase education and outreach about the urban forest, and improve the level of expertise in staff. Urban Forestry's 2021 Work Plan calls for developing an Urban Forestry Management Plan and seeking program accreditation through Society of Municipal Arborists.



Plant Trees in Salem



Individuals and families are invited to plant trees for a healthier Salem!

Saturday mornings, November 2020 - May 2021, 9am-1pm

Social Distancing and Masks Required, for more information on how Friends of Trees is Following COVID-19 guidelines visit: [Friendsoftrees.org/covid](https://friendsoftrees.org/covid)

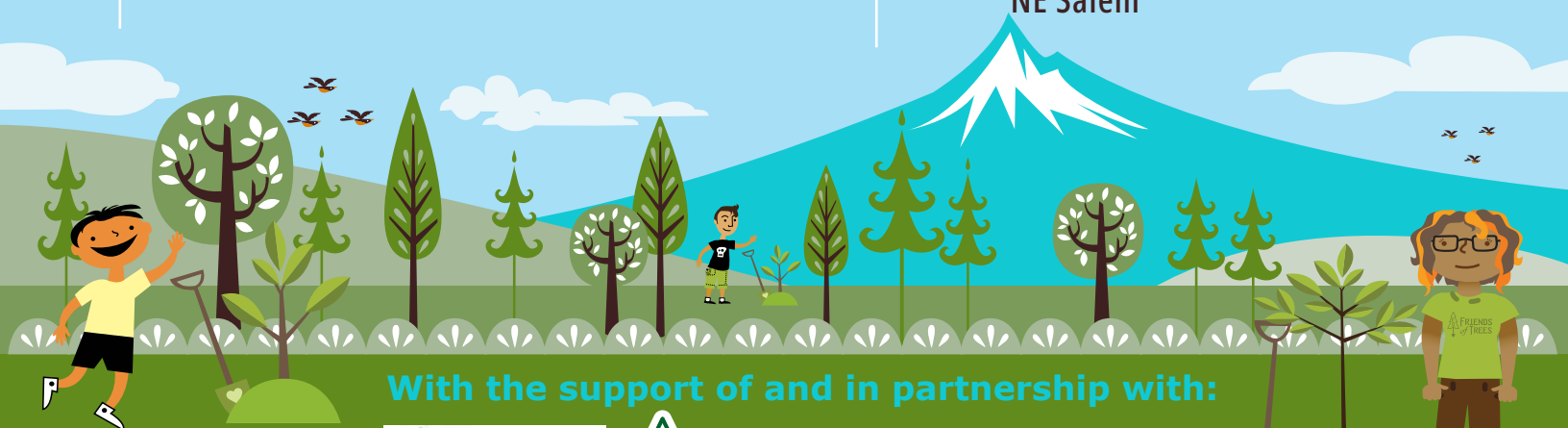
For more information about events please visit: [FriendsofTrees.org/Salem](https://friendsoftrees.org/Salem)

NOV
DEC
JAN
FEB

- 11/14/20
McKay School Park
Arbor Day Event
NE Salem
- 12/5/20
Fisher Road Park
NE Salem
- 1/9/21
McKay School Park
NE Salem
- 2/13/21
Lansing Park
NE Salem

MAR
APR
MAY

- 3/6/21
McKay School Park
NE Salem
- 3/20/21
Hammond School Park
NE Salem
- 4/3/21
Northgate Park
Arbor Day Event
NE Salem
- 5/1/21
McKay School Park
Tree Care Event
NE Salem



With the support of and in partnership with:



Parks and Natural Resources Planning Update – February 2021

Geer Park Master Plan Update- The consultant, Greenworks, is finalizing the master plan, initial cost estimates, and master plan report. Draft master plan should come to SPRAB in March.

Bush Pasture Park and Deepwood - Cultural Landscape Management Plan. A second public open house was open December 7-21. The second survey showed a draft Management Area map with recommendations for each area. Overall there was strong support for the recommendations for each management zone. 259 people took the survey. Next step is to begin drafting report.

Woodmansee Park - Master Plan Update. The consultant, ESA, is preparing a draft master plan based on the feedback we have received. The final virtual open house opened January 25 and will close February 8, 2021. The draft plan will go to Faye Wright Neighborhood Association in March and then to SPRAB in April. Construction for ASR began in January 2021. Visit the web page

Parks and Recreation Frequently Asked Questions – Work on an on-line platform is being developed and Council asked for a demonstration once it is ready for the public. It will be available to the community and provide park, natural resource, and recreation facts and general information.

Climate Action Plan - The third Task Force workshop is February 17. The workshop will continue the work on strategies to reduce GHG and build community resilience. A GHG modeling discussion occurred January 28 for a deeper dive into the modeling for those interested. [Livestream or a recording of the workshops](#) and discussion groups are available online to the public. A new [“Strategies”](#) page is open on the website until February 28. The public can submit ideas for ways to reduce GHG emissions and increase climate change resiliency.

Tree Planting Projects. Due to COVID-19 spikes, public participation in the Friends of Trees planting projects continues to be restricted. Planting will continue to be done by FOT staff and FOT Salem Crew Leaders. Additional street tree planting by Treecology has been completed for this season.

2020 Annual Tree Report has been finalized and is provided to SPRAB this month. It will go to Council possibly in March.

Minto Brown Island – Bald Eagles. Our resident pair of bald eagles has been hanging around at the nest the last week or so; they’ll likely begin working on the nest any day now. They should start by carrying sticks to the nest (they will build a new nest cup on top of last year’s cup). The trail closures are in place again (the river trail may be closed anyway due to high water) and an observation area will be set up in cooperation with Salem Audubon Society.

Minto Island Conservation Area – Phase 3 Restoration. Ash Creek Forestry continues their work in the western forested floodplain area to reduce invasive weeds and prepare for planting in fall.

New Natural Resources Planner, Jennifer Mongolo, has begun and will attend a SPRAB meeting at some point. She will be managing the Minto project, beaver strategy, and migratory bird permit, among other projects.

SUMMARY OF A BIRDING JAUNT THROUGH THREE LOCAL SALEM PARKS

Mike Unger

Salem Audubon Society

January 2021

A few months ago, we promised to send out some birding reports from local parks. Although it has not happened as often as we had hoped. Here is a report on three parks Tim and I visited today including Bryan Johnston Park, Secor Park and Joryville County Park. We had never visited Secor Park before, and it is a gem.

We were met with cloudy skies and cool temperatures. Initially the birds were smarter than we were and stayed under cover for warmth. The temperature ranged from 35 to 38 degrees with windy conditions making the wind chill a balmy 28 – 30 degrees. The bird activity was okay overall with a total of 25 species identified (seen and/or heard).

1. Bryan Johnston Park –

Bryan Johnston Park is an 8-acre spread on top of a hill in South Salem opening in 2011. The park is located at 400 Mildred Lane SE in Salem. The park has wide concrete pathways as well as soft trails that are surrounded by a nice, treed canopy. There has not been much eBird activity here but eBird does show 35 observed species.

It started quite slow but by the time we got to the west side of the park along the residences it picked up quick a bit. The residential feeders helped too. There were lots of robins and juncos flitting around. We heard a White-breasted Nuthatch and saw one Western Bluebird. Also, there were Lesser Goldfinches and a few Yellow-rumped Warblers. We saw or heard 13 species here.

2. Secor Park –

Secor Park is an approximately 8.5-acre, undeveloped neighborhood park with a lush, wooded area and gently sloping grass meadows. It is located at 5555 Stockton Avenue S in Salem. The park is next to Crossler Middle School. Come for a walk or a respite, and enjoy the trees, birds, and year-round flow of Waln Creek. There are paved and dirt trails throughout the park. This park is not an eBird hotspot but after visiting there I am going to suggest it as a hotspot.

The park was teeming with activity, especially the crows. We walked around the edge of the park. Most of the activity was along the south side of the park near the school and residences. Although we saw quite a few birds throughout the park. Besides the crows there were lots of Black-capped Chickadees (11), American Robins (20) and Dark-eyed Juncos (19). We also saw a male Downy Woodpecker and heard both nuthatches. We observed 17 species at this park.

3. Joryville County Park –

Joryville County Park is a natural, wooded area with a stream (Jory Creek) meandering through the park at the base of the hill. The park has 27.4 acres with paved and unpaved hiking trails. The park is located at 6500 Elmhurst Ave. S. in Salem. The park also has an ADA restroom and picnic tables. There has been some eBird activity at this park showing a total of 82 observed species.

One of the first birds we saw here were four Western Bluebirds. Facing east in the parking lot they were along the fence line to the left of the parking lot. There was also a flock of Dark-eyed Juncos. In addition, there were several Steller's Jays making a lot of noise. We also heard the first Golden-crowned Kinglet of the day further up in the forest. We observed 12 species at this park.

Mike Unger

Salem Audubon Society

Three Salem Parks Jaunt Checklist Summary for January 25, 2021

Identified Species: 25

Number of Checklists: 3

Checklists included in this summary:

(1): Bryan Johnston City Park @ 8:24 AM

(2): Secor Park @ 9:07 AM

(3): Joryville County Park @ 10:03 AM

1 Eurasian Collared-Dove -- (2)
3 Mourning Dove -- (1),(2)
1 Anna's Hummingbird -- (1)
1 Red-tailed Hawk -- (3)
1 Downy Woodpecker -- (2)
4 Northern Flicker -- (1),(2),(3)
5 Steller's Jay -- (3)
4 California Scrub-Jay -- (1),(2),(3)
24 American Crow -- (1),(2),(3)
11 Black-capped Chickadee -- (2)
1 Golden-crowned Kinglet -- (3)
2 Red-breasted Nuthatch -- (2),(3)
4 White-breasted Nuthatch -- (1),(2),(3)
1 Bewick's Wren -- (2)
12 European Starling -- (2)
5 Western Bluebird -- (1),(3)
35 American Robin -- (1),(2)
2 House Sparrow -- (2)
8 House Finch -- (1),(2)
4 Pine Siskin -- (1)
2 Lesser Goldfinch -- (1)
42 Dark-eyed Junco -- (1),(2),(3)
5 Song Sparrow -- (2),(3)
3 Spotted Towhee -- (2),(3)
4 Yellow-rumped Warbler -- (1)

Parks Operations Update – February 2021

COVID-19 Pandemic – Phase II

A Wallace Marine Park clean-up was held on 1/15/2021. Approximately 90 cubic yards of uncompacted garbage (equivalent to 7.5 heavy dump trucks), which weighed 9 tons compacted (18,000 lbs.) was removed. Also hauled away were 12 cubic yards of metal (1 to 2 tons of metal). The debris clean-up area was approximately 4 acres of park land along the Willamette River.







A Cascade Gateway Park clean-up was held on 1/29/2021. Approximately 64 cubic yards of garbage and debris, plus another 6 cubic yards of metals for recycling, for a total of 70 cubic yards (equivalent to 6 heavy dump truck loads) was removed. The density of the garbage was high and only approximately 1.5 acres of camping areas along the west side of Mill Creek was covered in the clean-up.





A fire was set at Cascade Gateway Park adjacent to the dog park area on 2/3/2021. This fire was smaller in scale than the previous fire setting.





Adults In Custody Work Crews With the persisting positive COVID test results within DOC, the return date for AIC crews has continued to be pushed out. With each positive test result, the resume work date is pushed out 10 days. As of today, Parks Operations has been without the use of DOC work crews for approximately 7 weeks.

Discussion between Parks Operations staff and Marion County continue regarding details to amend their agreement specific to number of AIC crews they would be able to provide, timelines for crew start dates and additional maintenance equipment needed to support the crew. The additional Marion County work crews would ultimately replace, in some part, the abolished Mill Creek DOC crews due to the closure of Mill Creek Correctional Facility.

Bald Eagle Viewing at Minto Brown Park Similar to last year, signage and barricades have been put up for the Eagle Watchers program. Watchers have indicated that the birds have been hanging out in the nest quite a bit lately; however, there hasn't been any nest building activity per se. Last year, the eagles did not do any nest building. The viewing station is approximately ¼ mile from the nest tree. The trail closures are at least 330 feet from the tree, the recommended distance per the US Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines for minimizing sight disturbances. Per USFWS 660 foot is the USFWS recommended distance for auditory disturbance. Additionally, Park Ranger, Mike Zieker, has an outreach table setup for printed materials on eagle nesting. The table is monitored by volunteers, including several members from the Salem Audubon Society.

Project Updates

- 1) Northgate Park - Clatterbridge replaced on play equipment due to safety reasons.
- 2) River Road Park – Restriping of parking lot completed through contracted services.
- 3) Wallace Marine Park – Through contracted services, new ADA spots installed at Wallace parking lot adjacent to soccer fields. Additionally, parking lot was restriped at time of ADA spots installation and access markings.
- 4) Parks staff have removed SKSD signage on City property indicating that users must reserve city areas through SKSD Facilities Services. Previous emails had been sent to SKSD personnel requesting they remove and/or add clarifying signage to address the issue. No action to remedy situation was taken by SKSD personnel. Some of the locations to which signs were removed were Richmond, Bush/Aldrich, Hoover.
- 5) Old, unsafe baseball backstops were removed from Stephens-Yoshikai City property. Backstops were initially placed on City property by SKSD when a Cooperative Use Agreement was in place. The backstops had not been used in several years and deteriorated to such an extent they were a safety issue.
- 6) Pringle Hall – Parking lot repairs were made to front lots in front of Pringle Hall. Additionally, parking lot was restriped when repairs were concluded. Repairs and restriping are now being addressed in parking area behind Pringle Hall. Repairs include addressing ADA parking issues and access markings.
- 7) Riverfront North Restroom – Project nearing completion. Interior painting was done last week on restroom facility.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

February 2021

Recreation Update

1. Events/Facility Use

- The Public Works Office, Room #325 of City Hall, continues to be closed. Permit Specialist staff in the front office are mostly working remotely, including answering phones (M-F, 8 am to 5 pm) and assisting customers via email and our online payment system.
- Parks and Recreation staff met this week to discuss the State of Oregon and Oregon Health Authority mandates and their impact on facility rentals. In October of 2020 the policy was to accept permit requests from customers with use dates of April 1 or after. Due to the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic, this date was recently pushed back to June 1. Parks and Recreation staff anticipate new mandates and guidelines from the state in the next two weeks, so another follow-up meeting has been scheduled for February 18.
- During the last two months some of the larger community festivals had considered moving their event to the fall. Currently, in looking at the vaccination effort trajectory, and the realization of new variants, most have elected to cancel again for 2021.

2. Youth Recreation Programs

- Meetings with the Governor's office regarding summer programming takes place this week with anticipation of new guidelines around February 12.
- We have approval from the city manager and council to proceed with summer programming! This is in large part due to the great job staff did in 2020. Recreation staff received citywide acknowledgement for following and enforcing safety protocols while providing opportunities for kids in 2020.
- With ongoing updates concerning covid-19 protocols, we are looking to produce a pamphlet to promote summer offerings. This is a change from the past Recreation Guide. The new look will focus on the programs we offer and encourage people to go to the online registration system for current programming opportunities. We anticipate this will be more helpful than running the risk of printing schedules only to have to cancel what has been printed due to virus protocol changes.
- City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff have indicated our seasonal/part time youth Recreation staff could qualify for COVID vaccines, similar to the current push by the State of Oregon to vaccinate teachers and other school personnel. EOC staff stated they are still hoping to get more vaccines from the County, but right now they are all on hold. However, as soon as they open the doors, EOC personnel will reach out to each department and ask about their needs.

3. Softball and Kickball Leagues/Tournaments

- Recreation management staff are planning for a full season at the softball complex under whatever restrictions and guidelines are necessary to keep staff and customers safe and comply with the Governor's and OHA's mandates.
- All six of our city hosted youth tournaments are open for registration and teams are registering on a regular basis. We already have 17 teams signed up for our USA Softball 14A Western National in July!
- As far as leagues go, we are set and ready to open registration but are waiting for an update to outdoor recreation guidelines from the state before we do so – which we anticipate receiving in the next two weeks. Overall, we're prepared to take whatever steps are needed to run a safe season. Again, Recreation staff received citywide acknowledgement for following and enforcing safety protocols while providing opportunities last year, so we are looking forward to offering another successful season.