

**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](mailto:twhitler@cityofsalem.net) at least two business days in advance.

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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 December 10, 2020, 5:30 p.m. Zoom meeting from computer, tablet, or smartphone click on the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/96781292555>**

**You can also view the meeting on YouTube at the following link: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQLj9RKZNHu4wfYcs\\_TC0TA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQLj9RKZNHu4wfYcs_TC0TA)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Contact Toni Whitley, Parks Planner, at [twhitler@cityofsalem.net](mailto: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](mailto: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**  
**December 10, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Dylan McDowell, Chair  
Micki Varney, Vice Chair  
Alan Alexander  
Tony Caito  
Diana Dickey  
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 - December 7 & 14, 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. November 12, 2020
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT** (*Public Comment for agenda and non-agenda items.* (5:40 – 5:50 p.m.)
- 5. BOARD ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS**
  - a. Salem Parks Foundation – Carol Snyder, President (5:50 – 6:00 p.m.)
  - b. Update on *Our Salem* - Eunice Kim, Community Development Department (6:00 – 6:10 p.m.)
  - c. Public Survey about Trees – Deborah Topp (6:10 – 6:20 p.m.)
  - d. Draft Annual Report - Toni Whitler (6:20 – 6:30 p.m.) **ACTION**
  - e. Letter to City Council Re: Unsheltered Persons in Parks – Chair McDowell (6:30 – 6:40) **ACTION**
  - f. Nominations of Officers – (6:40 – 6:50 p.m.)
- 6. INFORMATION REPORTS – WRITTEN** (6:50 – 7:00 p.m.)
  - a. Urban Forestry Update
  - b. Parks Planning Update
  - c. Parks Operations Update
  - d. Recreation Services Update
- 7. NEW BUSINESS** (7:00 – 7:10 p.m.)
- 8. NEXT MEETING**
  - a. January 14, 2020
- 9. ADJOURN**



**SALEM PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
DIGITAL MEETING  
November 12, 2020  
MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Alan Alexander  
Diana Dickey  
Woody Dukes  
Dylan McDowell  
Micki Varney  
Keith Norris  
Tony Caito

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

David Fridenmaker  
Paul Rice

**STAFF PRESENT**

Patricia Farrell  
Jennifer Kellar  
Milan Davis  
Becky George  
Toni Whitler  
Ben Haney

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**1. ROLL**

David Fridenmaker and Paul Rice marked absent.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Alan Alexander moved to accept minutes from previous meeting. Woody Dukes seconded. Minutes approved with no changes.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. 2020 Annual Report Draft Text**

Toni Whitler presented the 2020 Annual Report draft text. Requested all changes be submitted by 11/20/2020. Changes made and approved by board written below.

Mission Statement – The Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Board) is a strong advocate for the acquisition, planning, development, preservation, protection, and enhancement of Salem’s parks including natural resources, trees, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations by receiving input from the community and providing advice to City Council.

Vision Statement – Our vision is for our community to have ample and robust parks that contribute to urban tree canopy, open spaces, and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment.

**Alan Alexander made motion to approve as modified. Micki Varney seconded.**

**Vote: All members voted in favor of the motion.**

**b. Woodmansee Park Aquifer Storage & Recovery Project Construction and Tree Removal Update**

Tom Walsh, Walsh Consulting Group LLC presented the construction and tree removal plans associated with the new ASR Treatment Facility at Woodmansee Park.

Chair McDowell asked if there were any concerns on Phase One of the Treatment Facility, Access Driveway, and Piping overlapping with Phase Two of the additional wells. Tom Walsh ensured the masterplan identifies both plans, and it will adapt to any changes.

Member Norris asked if the pipelines were buried pipelines, Tom Walsh confirmed they all are underground.

Member Varney asked if the level in our aquifer is dropping due to our multi-year drought. Tom Walsh said he was unsure about that, but Ben Haney noted that the City tracks how much they inject in the aquifer versus how much they draw and confirmed that we are injecting more than drawing.

Member Alexander wanted to know how many total trees are being removed. Tom Walsh stated 34 trees are being removed total. He stated they will be adding about 22 trees back. Tom Walsh also noted before removing trees they will post the trees for 30 days instead of the standard 15 for community feedback.

**c. Mission Street Parks Conservancy Annual Work Plan 2021**

Christine Chute, President, Mission Street Parks Conservancy (MSPC), provided the Annual MSPC Work Plan to the Board prior to the meeting.

No questions or comments by Board members.

**Motion**

**Member Dukes moved to adopt the MSPC Annual Work Plan. Member Norris seconded.**

**Vote: All members voted in favor of the motion.**

**d. Board Goals for City Council Strategic Planning Session**

Dylan McDowell presented the draft letter to the Board.

Member Alexander and Member Norris suggested to change the wording of the first bullet point to emphasize the City investing more and include "voter-approved levy" instead of "levy." Micki Varney suggested moving the first bullet point with adaptations to the bottom of the letter. Change in text listed below:

"Increase City investments in parks, such as through a bond measure, voter-approved levy, or other sources to fund park development and associated maintenance needs for existing and future projects." No other changes were determined to be needed.

**Motion**

**Micki moved to approve as modified. Keith Norris seconded.**

**Vote: All members voted in favor of the motion.**

## 5. INFORMATION REPORTS

*(Information reports will now be provided as written reports ahead of the meetings.)*

### a. Urban Forestry Update

Member Norris noted there is a big focus on Oak trees and asked if there is active planting outside of replacement. Milan confirmed it is a focus to get as many large areas (1 acre – ½ acre) planted as possible.

### b. Parks Planning Update

- Patricia Farrell mentioned a website is being developed for Parks & Recreation facts and information. This came from a previous request by the Board to have a fact sheet available to the public for park and recreation information. She mentioned that Rob Romanek created the draft page. (He will present the website to the board at a future meeting.)
- The Climate Action Plan Task Force will have their first meeting next week.
- The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Local Government Grant for Bill Riegel Park is now moving forward. A schedule for the grant review process has not yet been provided. The process was previously placed in a holding pattern due to COVID-19, which impacted the amount of funds available from Oregon State Lottery.

### c. Parks Operations Update

Chair McDowell expressed concerns regarding the aggressive actions Parks Operations staff are experiencing and wanted to know if there were strategies to ensure staff safety in these situations. Jennifer Kellar clarified the security company, DPI's, role in Salem parks. DPI does not have any weapons, they monitor the parks and inform park visitors and do foot patrols of the parks, as well as reporting any issues to the appropriate people (Salem Police, Police Non-Emergency, or Parks Operations Staff).

Chair McDowell asked if there is talk of having more police officers present with City staff because of the increasing safety issues. Jennifer said that is not in the plans at this time. There are now two staff members working at one time at the Parks. They are relying on Code Enforcement for rules regarding camping and Salem Police for criminal activity. Ms. Kellar said they are meeting with Salem Police, the City Manager's office, and Code Enforcement to provide information and keep them engaged in these issues. They are tracking safety issues for Risk Management and City Manager's Office to determine the need of more Police presence.

They are doing clean ups (not displacing unsheltered individuals) for abandoned camps on November 20<sup>th</sup> at Wallace Marine Park and November 24<sup>th</sup> at Cascade. The Trash for Cash program is ongoing to motivate cleaning up garbage. They have been approved for additional equipment to assist in accessing the more difficult areas of the park. Jennifer reported there are 98 trees that have been found to be cut down from unsheltered individuals using them to try to cross Mill Creek. This is in addition to the 100 trees reported cut down from unsheltered individuals in October used to make fires, barriers and campsites. They are working with the Stormwater Division to try to remove these trees from Mill Creek.

Chair McDowell wondered what discussions are happening regarding options for restoration of damaged areas. Ms. Kellar explained that the plan is to wait until the Emergency Declaration is

no longer in place and then quantify the damage and start the planning process to rebuild. If they start to rebuild now, they risk the same damage occurring again.

Member Norris asked how many of these dangerous situations are being communicated to City Council. Ms. Kellar explained the clean ups are being done with Service Master with Parks staff present as well as Salem Police as necessary. She said Salem Police has been very receptive to being present as needed in those situations. She explained that they are doing self-defense classes for the Parks staff as well to help them when Police are not present. She explained that details and reports are shared to the Public Works Director, and City Manager's office and look to them to share this information with City Council.

Member Alexander asked if Parks Operations has been able to recover some of the additional costs that have come out of their budget due to the growth in unsheltered population in Salem parks. Ms. Kellar confirmed they have been approved for additional vehicles and resources that will help. Ms. Kellar had to leave the meeting early but said she will review any additional questions and dialogue and provide any information needed.

**d. Recreation Services Update**

No questions or comments regarding Becky George's Recreation Services update.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is December 10, 2020.

**7. New Business**

Micki Varney proposed an additional letter to City Council regarding SPRAB's involvement in unsheltered persons camping in Salem parks. Micki expressed concerns about SPRAB not being included in meetings and discussions regarding this topic. Micki Varney and Dylan McDowell will work together on the letter for the meeting next month.

**8. ADJOURN**

7:36 PM

Minutes: Michelle Starbuck/Toni Whitler

Written Public Comment for December 10, 2020

1. Mark Wigg – Pioneer Cemetery Path

This is a future Council item. The Board should not take any official or unofficial action on this at this time but has been submitted for your review at the request of Mr. Wigg. I can forward the Council staff report when it is available, which should be on or around December 11, 2020.

## Hoyt-Rural Connector and a New Entrance for Pioneer Cemetery

Salem should improve the entrance to Pioneer Cemetery and reestablish the connection between Rural and Hoyt streets. This proposal shows how this could be completed and the benefits of this action. The two goals of this proposal are to maintain security of the two cemeteries and to provide 24/7 access between Hoyt and Rural. In developing this proposal, I learned that by improving the access to Pioneer Cemetery we could achieve both objectives.

The picture below shows the entrance to Pioneer Cemetery and exit from City View Cemetery. The distance between the two curbs is 24 feet.



With the widening of Commercial Street adjacent to the cemetery, the historic access to the cemetery from Commercial was closed, but an elaborate gateway was constructed at the closed entrance.





The current entrance is not as attractive as the closed entrance and evokes images of concentration camps more than a serene resting place.



After vandals toppled and damaged monuments in the cemetery, a fence was constructed around the entire cemetery to protect it. While the fence is a non-conforming historic element, it has helped protect one of the best-preserved pioneer cemeteries in Oregon. However, the fence also blocked access from the north that was allowed for 150 years.

The narrow roads and tight turning radius of the roads in Pioneer Cemetery has resulted in damage to some of the gravesites in the cemetery as vehicles cut the corners to make the turns. The pictures below show the damage to the gravesites. Posts have been placed to reduce the damage. Note how the concrete borders of the gravesites have been pushed below ground level and were knocked out of alignment. The aerial photograph below shows the roads and traffic patterns in the cemeteries.



The fence between the cemeteries also severs the historic connection between the G. A. R. Memorial Circle and Pioneer Cemetery. The Memorial Circle is visible on the left in the picture below and the aerial photograph shows how the cemeteries were connected.



The picture shows the road leading to the Memorial Circle from Pioneer Cemetery.



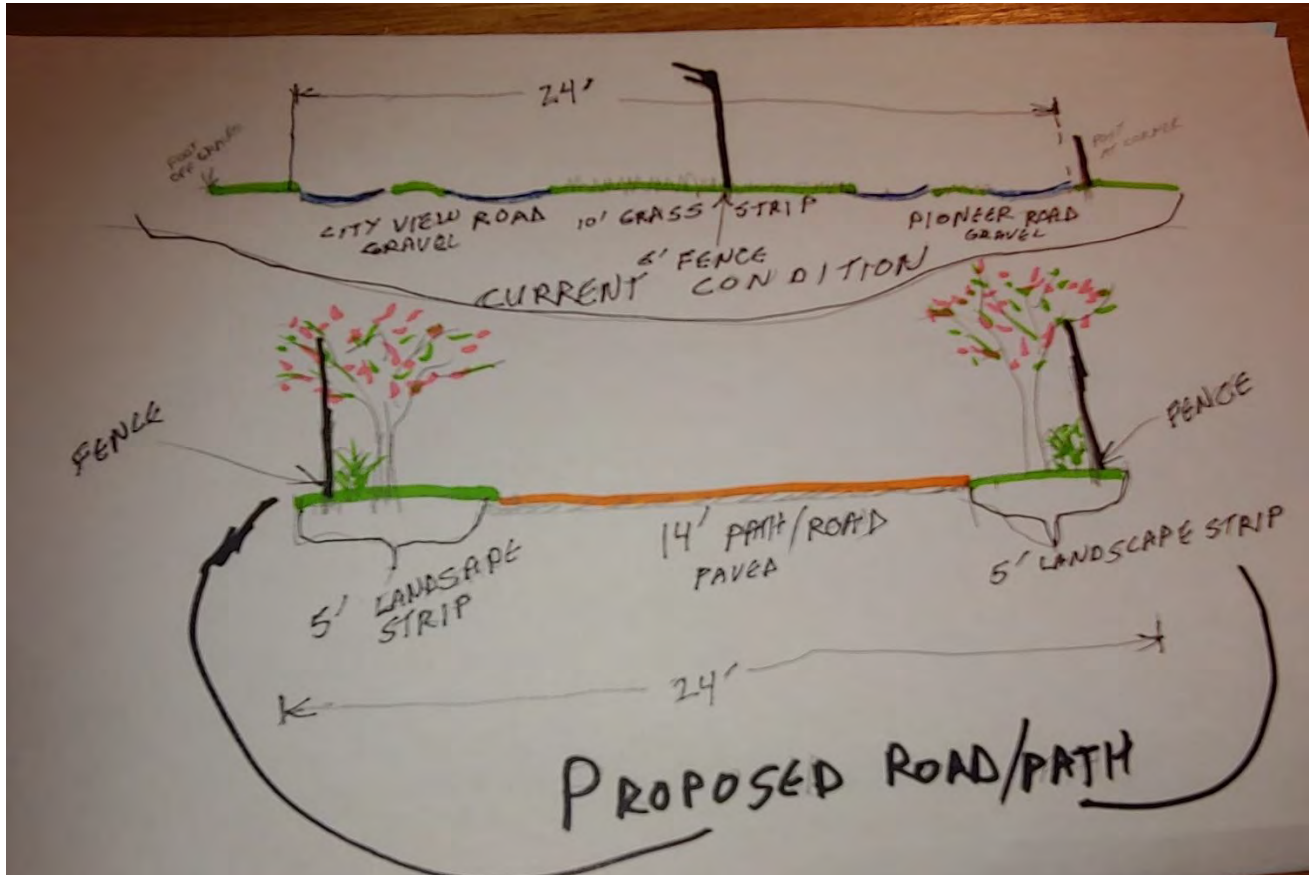
Both cemeteries have flowering trees lining the main roads as shown in the pictures below. Pioneer Cemetery first and City View Cemetery below.



Salem should repeat this visually welcoming pattern by lining the new entrance from Hoyt Street with cherry or other flowering trees as shown below.



By creating a more inviting entrance to the cemeteries Salem could also reestablish the connection between Rural and Hoyt by constructing one 14 ft. road, lined with cherry trees with the fences and gates behind the rows of trees as shown below. The gates could slide like pocket doors rather than swing open.



The section of the roads along the western edge of Pioneer Cemetery shows the 10-ft wide grass strip between the two roads. One 14-foot wide road with landscape strips and two fences would fit within the same footprint of the two narrower roads.



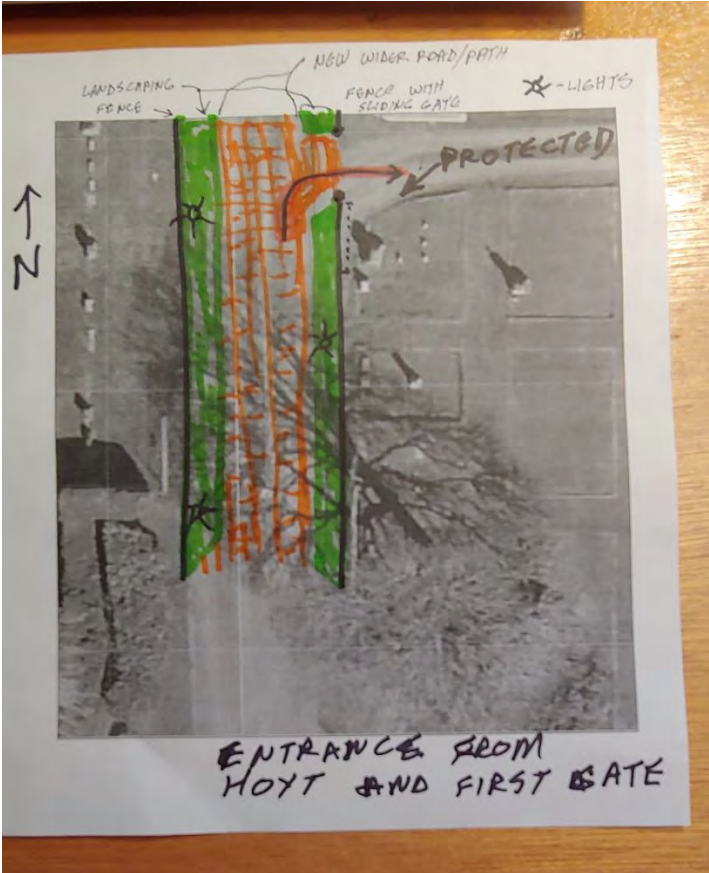
When the new road/path turns west toward John Street, the security fence would be moved to the other side of the road and a sight-obscuring fence would run along the edge of the driveway to give the neighbors more privacy.



The problems with vehicles cutting the corners and damaging graves will be eliminated by the new design. The wider roadway and gate posts will require vehicles to be in alignment with the cemetery roads before passing the gravesites. The aerial photo shows the current condition.



The picture below is a very rough depiction of the same area showing the new landscaping, one road/path instead of two, the new location for the security fences, new lighting, and a gate location that prevents vehicles from cutting across gravesites.



One of the problems with only using the Pioneer Cemetery for a new path, is that the path would require removal of the cemetery maintenance yard. This is the only place in the cemetery for a maintenance yard. The picture below shows a portion of the Pioneer Cemetery maintenance area.

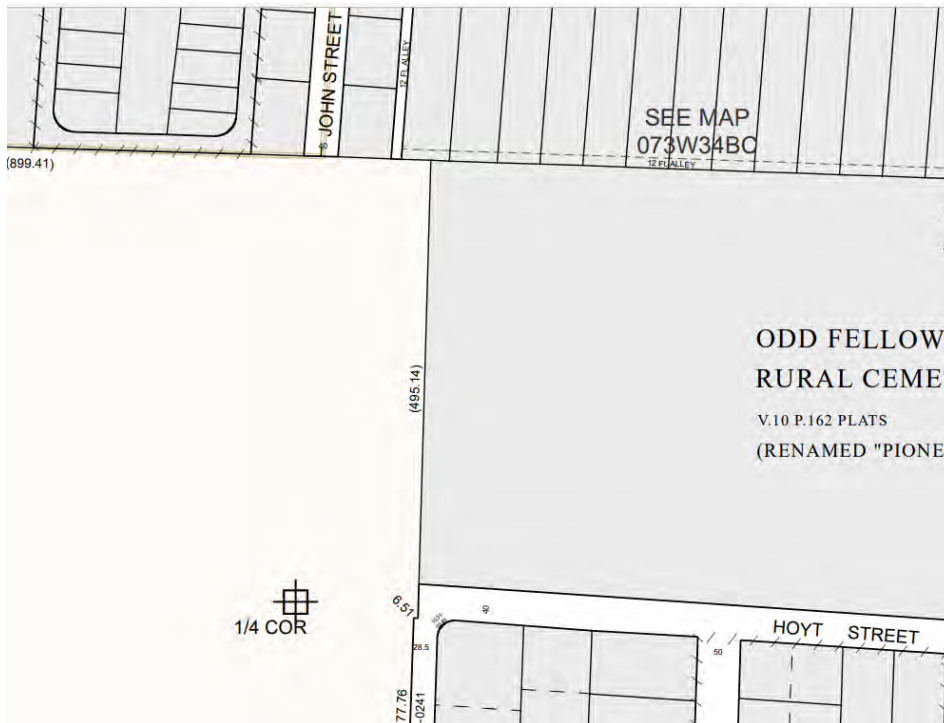


This picture shows the northwest corner of City View Cemetery. The slope of the path to the road would be less than 5%. The path would be off the cemetery road and onto the area between the road and north property line up to John Street.

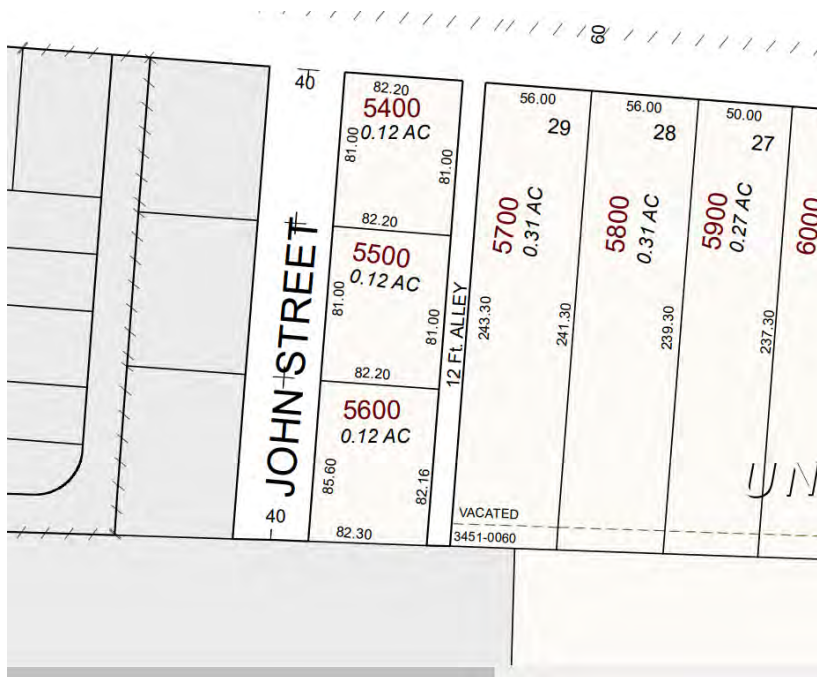
The picture below shows where John Street ends at the cemetery. From the wall at the blue dashed line to the cemetery fence is 14 feet. The 2-ft high wall could be removed and regraded for a gradual path descent to John Street.



By routing the connector to John Street, the properties or alley north of the cemetery would not be needed.







The connector path, right of way easement across the City View Cemetery, fencing, plantings, and gates would cost less than \$200,000.

Please tell our councilors and mayor that this is the solution you support.

Mark Wigg

971-600-6607

**PS: You don't belong here!**

Imagine how hurt a child feels that is playing at Fairmont Park hearing that from an angry adult. This is the reason given by Fairmont residents to oppose the path between Hoyt and Rural. That statement is not only cruel but is not accurate. It hurt me when a friend in Candalaria said it about Fairmont residents using the path to access places in her neighborhood. Our public streets and parks are open to all people. This sense of possession and entitlement for things we own in common divides our city when we need to form better connections.

**Salem Parks Foundation**  
**Annual Report of Activities and Accomplishments**  
*October 2019 – September 2020*

The year 2020 was a most unusual year, because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, but Salem Parks Foundation managed to stay on mission and continue to advocate for and fund improvements for Salem city parks.

We had just completed our annual visits to Neighborhood Associations regarding our Neighborhood Park Grant Program before Oregon issued restrictions on meetings in response to the pandemic. Therefore, all applications for grants (and any questions) were submitted by Neighborhood Association Chairs on-line. In May, we held an outdoor, socially-distanced meeting to review eight applications, and we granted funding for five projects:

\$3000 for a pollinator garden in Brown Road Park; \$1572 to replace a broken park bench in Nelson Park; \$1950 for an information kiosk in Harry & Grace Thorp Park; \$3000 to augment a SPIF grant for repairs to the multi-use court in Aldrich Park; and \$6000 to augment a SPIF grant for landscaping and hardscaping near the playground in Clark Creek Park. The total funding was \$15,522, just over our budget of \$15,000.

We cancelled our plans for our annual Walk in the Park, and we didn't have an information booth at Public Works Day because that event was cancelled by the City. We did manage to share an information booth with Just Walk Salem/Keizer at the Washington Elementary School Resource Fair before the pandemic restrictions started.

We also cancelled our Pinot for the Parks winetasting fundraiser. However, we contacted the supporters who had attended in the past and requested that they donate to our Legacy Fund anyway. We secured \$2900 in donations and entered the names of those donors in a drawing for a magnum of Pinot Noir.

We produced and mailed out three fundraising newsletters. Despite the crippling effect of the pandemic on the economy, our donors came through for Salem's parks and contributed \$37,000 in donations, compared to \$44,000 in the year before.

We added a new board member, Patty Tipton, bringing our number up to 10, meeting one of our goals for the year. Our second goal was to review our Program Policies. We dedicated most of our November meeting to that review and clarified our policy of requiring evidence of community involvement in the applications for our Neighborhood Park Grant Program.

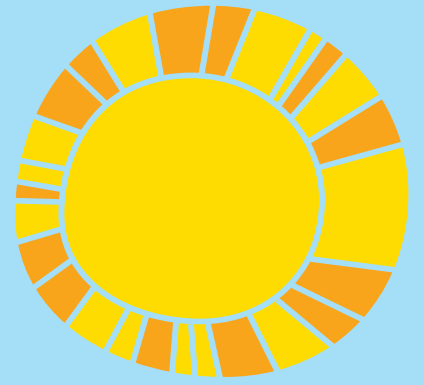
We garnered 880 followers on Facebook and had one feature article in the Statesman Journal. Going forward, we enter the new year, which began in October, preparing to hold our monthly meetings via Zoom.

\* \* \* \* \*

***Salem Parks Foundation is a non-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to improve, enhance, and advocate for the park system of Salem, Oregon, through financial and community support.***

*Salem Parks Foundation Board of Directors: Carol Snyder, President; Alan Alexander, Vice President; Betsy Belshaw, Past President; Pat Norman, Secretary; Linda Bierly, Treasurer; and Directors Gary Pederson, Dan Saucy, Thomas Smith, Bobbie Snead, Patty Tipton. Website: [www.salemparksfoundation.org](http://www.salemparksfoundation.org).*

# 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  
MAR  
APR  
MAY

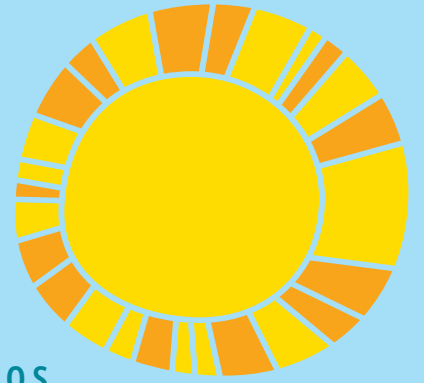
- 3/6/21  
McKay School Park  
NE Salem
- 3/20/21  
Hammond School Park  
NE Salem
- 4/3/21  
Northgate Park  
Arbor Day Event  
NE Salem
- 5/1/21  
McKay School Park  
Tree Care Event  
NE Salem



With the support of and in partnership with:



# Planta Árboles En Salem



Individuos, y familias estan invitados  
ah plantar árboles para mejorar la salud de Salem  
Sabados por la mañana, Noviembre 2020 - Mayo 2021, 9am-1pm

Se Requiere distanciamiento social y máscaras, para obtener más información  
sobre cómo Friends of Trees está siguiendo las pautas de COVID-19,  
visite: [Friendsoftrees.org/covid](https://friendsoftrees.org/covid)

Visite nuestra pagina para mas informacion:  
[Friendsoftrees.org/Salem](https://friendsoftrees.org/Salem)

NOV  
DIC  
ENERO  
FEB

11/14/20

Parque de Escuela McKay  
Evento de el dia del Árbol  
NE Salem

12/5/20

Parque Fisher Road  
NE Salem

1/9/21

Parque de Escuela McKay  
NE Salem

2/13/21

Parque Lansing  
NE Salem

MARZO  
ABR  
MAYO

3/6/21

Parque de Escuela McKay  
NE Salem

3/20/21

Parque de Escuela Hammond  
NE Salem

4/3/21

Parque Northgate  
Evento de el dia del Árbol  
NE Salem

5/1/21

Evento de cuidado de Arboles  
Parque de Escuela McKay  
NE Salem



Con el apoyo y asociación de:

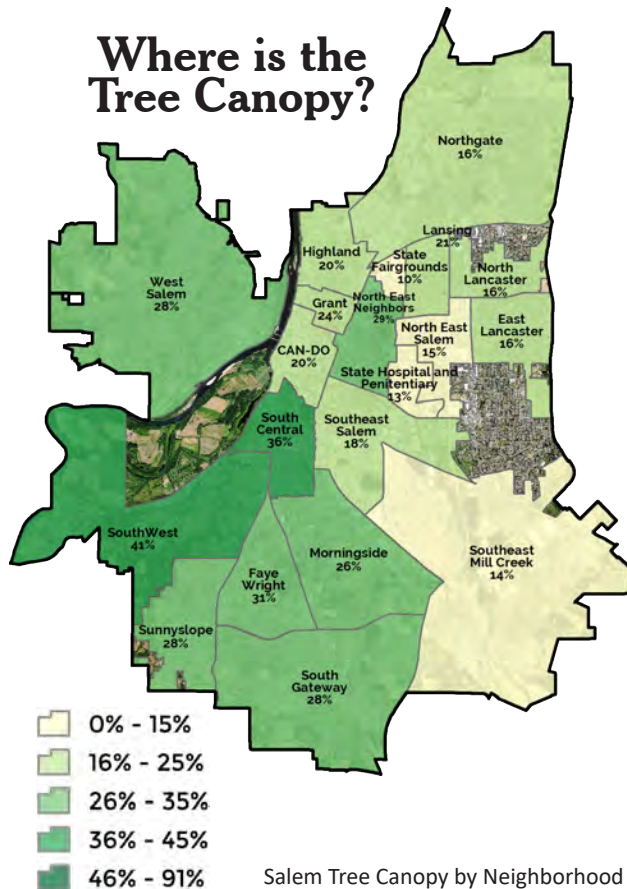


# About Salem's Tree Canopy

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.



# Help Us Grow Salem's Urban Forest

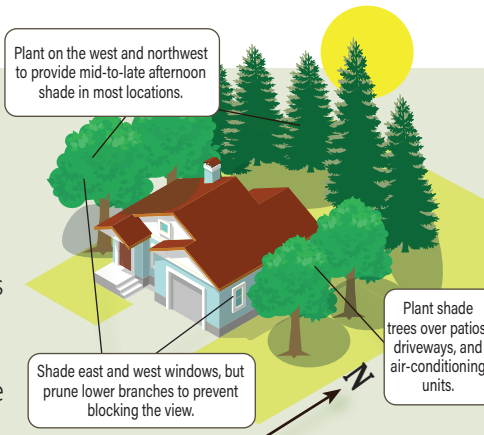
Reports show that 34% of Salem can support tree canopy where currently there is none. **The City is working to plant public spaces, but we need your help to grow the canopy.**

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.

## 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.arboday.org/trees/righttreeandplace](http://www.arboday.org/trees/righttreeandplace).



**Phone:** 503-588-6336  
**Email:** [salemparks@cityofsalem.net](mailto:salemparks@cityofsalem.net)  
**Web:** [www.cityofsalem.net/community-forest](http://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.<sup>(1)</sup>



## 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<sup>(2)</sup>

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.<sup>(2)</sup>



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

# Sobre el dosel del árbol de Salem

El Ayuntamiento de Salem adoptó un Plan Estratégico de Silvicultura Comunitaria en agosto de 2013 para ayudar a la Ciudad a cosechar los beneficios ambientales, económicos y sociales que proporciona un bosque urbano.

**Los objetivos generales del Plan son preservar y aumentar la copa de los árboles dentro de Salem y educar al público, a los encargados de tomar decisiones y al personal de la Ciudad sobre los beneficios de los árboles.**

Además, el Ayuntamiento estableció una meta de dosel urbano del 23 por ciento para alcanzar en 2020. Salem logró alcanzar esa meta y estableció un nuevo.

# Ayúdanos a cultivar el bosque urbano de Salem

Los informes muestran que el 34% de Salem puede soportar la copa de los árboles donde actualmente no hay ninguno. **La ciudad está trabajando para plantar espacios públicos, pero necesitamos su ayuda para cultivar el dosel.**

Plante árboles en su patio y alrededor de su casa. Considere la plantación estratégica de árboles para la conservación de energía.

¡Planta árboles en la comunidad! Voluntario en uno de nuestros eventos de plantación de árboles como voluntario con Friends of Trees o convirtiéndose en un líder de equipo. Los eventos se realizan de noviembre a abril.

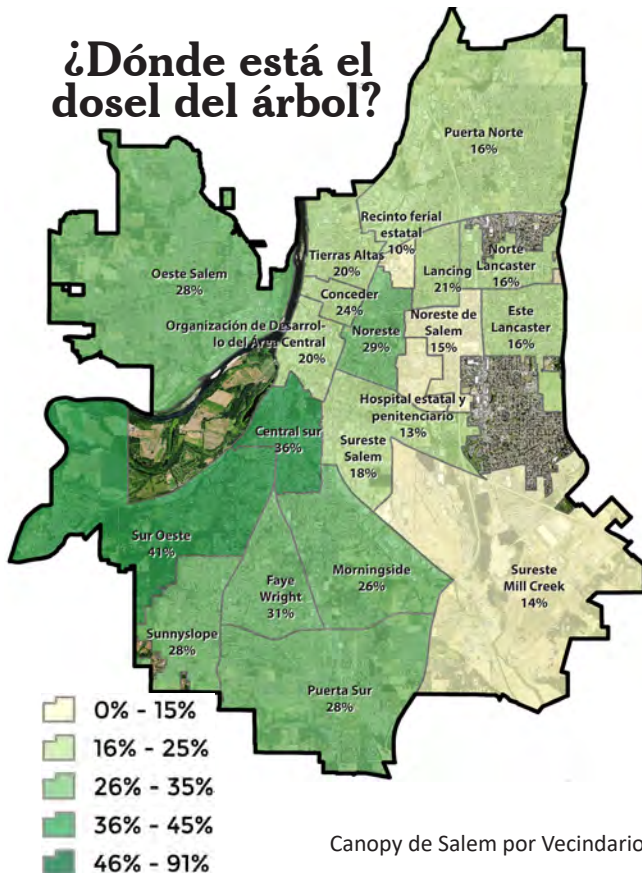
## Planta correcta, lugar correcto

Elegir la planta correcta para el lugar correcto es importante para que una planta prospere. Conocer las características del sitio, como el suelo, la humedad y la sombra, lo ayudará a decidir qué planta será la más adecuada para la ubicación. La altura y el ancho de su ubicación también lo ayudan a garantizar que la planta no supere su espacio. Para obtener más información sobre la planta correcta, el lugar correcto, vaya a [www.arboday.org/trees/righttreeandplace](http://www.arboday.org/trees/righttreeandplace).

Plante en el oeste y noroeste para proporcionar sombra a media tarde en la mayoría de los lugares.



## ¿Dónde está el dosel del árbol?



# Bosque comunitario de Salem Por qué los árboles son buenos para nosotros



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



CIUDAD DE *Salem*  
 A SU SERVICIO

# Cómo los árboles benefician a nuestra comunidad



## FILTROS DE AIRE

Los árboles de Salem eliminan 548,000 libras de contaminantes, un servicio valorado en \$4.2 millones anuales.



## CAPTURA DE CARBONO Y ALMACENAMIENTO

Los árboles de Salem almacenan aproximadamente 423 mil toneladas de carbono, valoradas en \$72.2 millones. La copa de los árboles de Salem absorbe y almacena aproximadamente 3,000 toneladas de dióxido de carbono, valoradas en \$1.5 millones anuales.



## CONTROL DE TEMPERATURA

Los árboles dan sombra a los arroyos, manteniendo el agua fresca para los animales acuáticos. Los árboles ayudan a las ciudades frías y a combatir el efecto de isla de calor. Las superficies sombreadas pueden ser de 20–45 ° F (11–25°C) más frías que las temperaturas máximas de los materiales sin sombra.<sup>(1)</sup>



## CANTIDAD DE AGUA TORMENTA / CONTROL DE INUNDACIONES

En promedio, un acre de copa de árbol absorbe 40 mil galones de agua y ayuda a reducir la escorrentía, que se valora en aproximadamente \$350 por acre/por año. Extrapolada en toda la ciudad, el dosel de los árboles de Salem proporciona \$3.2 millones anuales en beneficios.



## FILTROS DE AGUA

La escorrentía de aguas pluviales se filtra por las hojas de las plantas, las raíces y el suelo, lo que reduce el impacto de la contaminación del agua. Las raíces también estabilizan el suelo y reducen la cantidad de carga contaminante y sedimento en las corrientes.



## CURADORES / BIENESTAR<sup>(2)</sup>

Los estudios han demostrado que los pacientes con vistas a los árboles desde sus ventanas sanan más rápido y con menos complicaciones.

Los niños con TDAH muestran menos síntomas cuando tienen acceso a la naturaleza. La exposición a los árboles y la naturaleza ayuda a la concentración al reducir la fatiga mental.



## HÁBITAT DE VIDA SILVESTRE

Tanto vivos como muertos, los árboles proporcionan beneficios. La vida silvestre utiliza los árboles como hábitat, para alimentarse, anidar en refugios, descansar y aparearse.



## INCREMENTO DE INGRESOS

Los valores de las propiedades son de un 7 a 25 por ciento más altos para las casas rodeadas de árboles y los consumidores gastan hasta un 13 por ciento más en tiendas cercanas a paisajes verdes.<sup>(2)</sup>



El dosel de los árboles de Salem proporciona \$80 millones al año en beneficio ambiental al mejorar la calidad del aire, filtrar las aguas pluviales y capturar y almacenar carbono para ayudar a combatir el cambio climático.



DRAFT

# 2020 Annual Report to Salem City Council

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board | Est. June 1952



## General Board Information

**Meetings:** Second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

**Members:** Dylan McDowell – *Chair*, Micki Varney – *Vice Chair*, Alan Alexander, Tony Caito, Diana Dickey, Woody Dukes, David Fridenmaker, Keith Norris, Paul Rice

**City Staff:** Robert Chandler, Mark Becketl, Patricia Farrell, Jennifer Kellar, Becky George, Milan Davis, Toni Whitler



## Our Mission

The Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Board) is a strong advocate for the acquisition, planning, development, preservation, protection, and enhancement of Salem’s parks, including their natural resources, trees, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations by receiving input from the community and providing advice to City Council.

## Our Vision

Our vision is for our community to have ample and robust parks that contribute to urban tree canopy, open spaces, and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment.

The following SPRAB Annual Report reflects the importance of parks and natural resources through the City’s Strategic Plan mission, vision, values, and goals that were developed in 2017.

*The Board understands that the current COVID-19 pandemic has imposed temporary restrictions and social distancing requirements on large group gatherings and events to maintain public safety. The goals and actions presented by the Board are understood to be implemented through adherence to these requirements until such time as they are lifted.*



## Safe Community



# Safe Community

The Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (SPRAB) recommends a proactive approach through vegetation and grounds maintenance to provide safe walking and recreation areas for all people to enjoy the outdoors. Parks provide increased opportunities for volunteer engagement and local stewardship while presenting a visually clean, safe, and active environment.

### **SPRAB recommends City Council provide funding of the following:**

- Increasing Park maintenance staff and equipment to levels sufficient to maintain existing and newly acquired properties.
- Maintaining Department of Corrections / Marion County agreements for DOC crews who assist in park and right-of-way maintenance.
- Coordination of volunteer programs such as Minto-Brown and Bush's Pasture Park Patrols, and establishment of local park stewards.
- Providing additional Park Ranger(s).
- Supporting the expansion of the Park Ranger's duties and service area to better serve the Community's needs.
- Providing additional security lighting, which allows police and residents a clear view into park areas.
- The Board recommended Salem parks should not be used for permanent or temporary campsites (Motion made 12/12/20. Letter to Council 1/9/20.)



## Welcoming and Livable Community



# Welcoming and Livable Community

Close-to-home and fully accessible parks and recreation facilities are vital to a welcoming and livable community. Salem's neighborhood, community, and urban parks, as well as our trails and natural areas allow for diverse outdoor and recreational opportunities. Maintaining and improving existing parks and expanding Salem's parks and recreation activities through additional programs, new park acquisitions and development, upgrades to existing parks, and new trail connections will ensure Salem continues to provide outdoor recreational opportunities across the City and for all Salem residents.

### **SPRAB has endorsed and recommended the following opportunities and actions:**

- Approval of Master Plans for Eagle's View Park, Geer Park, and Woodmansee Park and Bush's Pasture Park & Deepwood Gardens Cultural Landscape Management Plan.
- Letter of Recommendation to Oregon Recreation and Parks Association/ North Face for grant application for assistance with recreation programs.



- Purchase of seven acres of land on Reed Road SE for a neighborhood park, purchase of 17 acres of land on Rees Hill Road SE for a Community Park, purchase of 2-acre property adjacent to Fisher Road Park, purchase of 7-acre D Street property.
- Annexation of 45-acre Hazelgreen Road park property and 17-acre Rees Hill Road property.
- Application for an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) Local Government Grant for Bill Riegel Park Phase II development.
- Riverfront Park master plan implementation including completion of Riverfront Park north restroom facility through OPRD grant assistance and Parks SDCs.
- Riverfront Park master plan implementation in the south four-acres. Improvements include additional parking, entrance plaza, maintenance yard, and new amphitheater and performance stage.
- Completion of Secor Park Phase I development.
- Salem Park Improvement Fund Program awards.
- Rehabilitation of multiple multi-sport courts.
- Rehabilitation of basketball courts, including new striping, basketball posts and backboards.
- Complete refurbishment of tennis courts at Orchard Heights Park, including four new pickleball courts (Capital Improvement Program).
- Upgrade and/or replacement of parks amenities, including parks entrance signage, drinking fountains, benches, picnic tables, kiosks, shelters and playground equipment.
- Upgrade and/or replacement of Wallace Softball Complex features, including all dugouts, buildings, viewer bleacher stands, and individual field playing turf.
- New curb cuts and paths to address ADA accessibility issues at Woodmansee Park as part of the Safe Routes to Parks program.





## **SPRAB recommends support and funding for the following actions and programs:**

- The enhancement of Salem’s parks through funding and development of additional recreational program opportunities, park acquisitions, and upgrades to existing and new parks.
- Continuation of fee waivers for low-income families to provide positive, healthy activities for children and families.
- Continued collaborative relationships with neighborhood associations through the Salem Park Improvement Fund and Salem Parks Foundation partnerships.
- Applications for funding assistance through Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and National Park Service grant programs for park improvements and development.
- Continued collaboration with Salem Art Association, Friends of Trees, Mission Street Parks Conservancy, Deepwood Estates, Salem Riverfront Carousel, and Gilbert House Children’s Museum.



## **Strong and Diverse Economy**

### **Strong and Diverse Economy**

Beautiful and diverse parks and ample recreational opportunities contribute to a thriving economy. The current restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the canceling of normal events of the summer season. The Board wishes to acknowledge the many events that have assisted in building a strong and diverse economy in Salem, including Riverfront Park’s quality events and regional festivals such as:

- Cherry Fest NW, World Beat, Fourth of July Celebration
- River Rock and Fish Fest Concerts

SPRAB recognizes and fully supports the outstanding recreation events and event facilities within Salem that provide strong economic support to the City. SPRAB recognizes that a strong park system is an economic driver for the community and the region.

While most community events were canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic, youth recreation opportunities such as the Summer Parks Program, sport camps, and outdoor programs did occur. In addition, softball/kickball leagues and tournaments run by City of Salem recreation staff were held, as were facility sport rentals for baseball, softball, soccer and volleyball tournaments. All programs and reservations were required to abide by COVID regulations established by the State of Oregon.



**SPRAB recommends funding for the following programs in accordance with restrictions on social distancing:**

- National and regional softball and soccer tournaments
- STRIDE and 5K/10K events
- Promotion of regional marathon and half-marathon events

## **Safe, Reliable, and Efficient Infrastructure**

SPRAB supports infrastructure improvements as noted in the *Salem Comprehensive Parks System Master Plan* and *Salem Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan* to connect parks with trails and family-friendly bike and pedestrian routes throughout the City.

SPRAB recognizes the importance of park infrastructure to the health and well-being of the entire Salem community. Multi-use paths, safe connections between parks, schools, and neighborhoods, and support facilities such as restrooms and drinking water fountains are key elements to a healthy park system.

**SPRAB has endorsed or supported the following actions and programs:**

- Grant funding applied for and received by Transportation Planning to construct safe pedestrian crossings to Orchard Heights Park (at Parkway Drive NW) and River Road Park (at Riviera Drive NE); construction in 2024.
- Minto-Brown Island Park trail development.
- Pringle Creek trail connection linking downtown to Riverfront Park.
- Bike share locations in City parks.
- Riverfront North Restroom facility.

**SPRAB recommends continued funding and support for the following actions and programs:**

- Safe Pedestrian Crossings Program for safer pedestrian access to parks.

## **Natural Environment Stewardship**

Parks, open space, natural areas, and the urban tree canopy are priorities for community health, individual health, economic vitality, and climate change resiliency. SPRAB advocates for opportunities to provide connections to nature, important plant and wildlife habitat, and overall sustainability for the next generation of Salem residents.

SPRAB recognizes the importance of healthy natural areas and tree canopies for water quality benefits, heat island reduction, carbon sequestration, and restorative passive recreation opportunities. SPRAB fully supports the protection of established trees, preservation of Oregon white oaks, and continued commitment to tree plantings in low canopy areas of the city. Additionally, SPRAB fully



**Safe, Reliable, and Efficient Infrastructure**



**Natural Environment Stewardship**



supports the protection and enhancement of sensitive natural resources in parks through restoration and public education.

**SPRAB has endorsed or recommended the following actions and programs:**

- The active development of a tree survey for home owners to assist in identifying tree planting opportunities on private property.
- Participation on the task force for the Salem Climate Action Plan.
- Hearing of appeals related to removals of City trees.
- Participation in implementing the *Community Forestry Strategic Plan* goals, including formation of a tree committee to assist in education and outreach.
- Applications to Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for restoration grants at Minto Island Conservation Area.
- Working in partnership with Friends of Trees and local environmental groups for community tree planting events, pollinator habitat gardens, and weed pulls.
- Partnership with Willamette Riverkeeper to control invasive aquatic weeds in the Willamette Slough.
- Protection of new eagle's nest in Minto-Brown Island Park through signage, buffer area, and public education and outreach.
- Ludwigia treatment at Minto-Brown Island Park.

**SPRAB recommends continued funding and support for the following actions and programs:**

- Salem Urban Tree Canopy Assessment and new canopy goal of 28% by 2030.
- Applications for grant funding for restoration of natural areas.
- Mayor's Monarch Pledge and pollinator habitat creation in parks.
- The development of a management plan for Minto-Brown Island Park.
- Expanded tree planting efforts through contracts with Friends of Trees and Treecology.
- Update to the City's Integrated Pest Management Plan.
- Opportunities for natural area and trail enhancements for passive recreation.
- Public education through door hangers, interpretive signage, bird walks, and outreach through tree and native vegetation planting events.
- Continuation of Minto-Brown Island Park Turtle Habitat Restoration project with ODFW.
- Continued assessment and inventory of the City's street trees.
- Development and implementation of the Salem Climate Action Plan.





## Good Governance

# Good Governance

The Board acknowledges and appreciates City Council's proactive approach to preserving parks, open space, natural areas, and trees as well as recognizing the need for additional recreation programming. These efforts will provide a more sustainable and economically stable community.

### **SPRAB has endorsed and recommended the following actions:**

- The development of an online fact sheet for Parks & Recreation information to provide one location for the public to find information on park features, recreation programming, reservable facilities, volunteering in parks, contact information, and a link to the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
- SPRAB supports the exploration of a future park bond measure, and other parks funding methods for acquisition, development and rehabilitation of Salem parks, as well as revenue opportunities for park maintenance funding and recreation programming.

### **SPRAB is proud to serve in an advisory manner to City Council and the Public Works Director on park-related matters and recommends that it continue in these capacities.**

- Provide advice and counsel in matters referred to them by City Council and the Public Works Director.
- Participate in advisory groups, such as the Climate Action Plan Task Force.
- Continue to provide SPRAB members as liaisons for park master planning efforts.
- Continue SPRAB's role with regard to hearing SRC 86 appeals or referrals on City-owned trees.
- Conduct annual board retreat or online survey to identify priorities and emerging issues for the Board annual work plan.



Information on all City Boards and Commissions is available through the following link:

[www.cityofsalem.net/boards-and-commissions](http://www.cityofsalem.net/boards-and-commissions)



Dear Mayor and Councilors:

The mission of the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (SPRAB) is to advocate for the preservation, protection and enhancement of Salem's parks, natural areas, and recreational opportunities for current and for generations to come.

For the past few years, Salem has been struggling to find solutions to address the needs of the increasing population of unsheltered individuals in our community. The horrendous outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020 exacerbated those challenges. SPRAB shares the concerns of our community for those who do not have secure housing. We all want to help our unsheltered and address these issues as best we can, but we need to find ways to help without putting our parks and our public at risk.

On January 9, 2020, SPRAB sent a letter to the Salem City Council in regards to camping in city parks. The letter included three points:

1. The Board recommended that "Salem parks not be used to establish permanent or temporary campsites."
2. "The Parks Operations Section is already seriously constrained due to lack of personnel and funding in its efforts to maintain our parks in a safe and sanitary fashion at a level that ensures the greatest public access and enjoyable use."
3. "Please make sure to include SPRAB in any further discussion on this issue"

At the October 26, 2020 Salem City Council meeting (during the public comment period), Corey Poole, Southeast Mill Creek Neighborhood Association (SEMCA) Chair, shared a presentation entitled "Please Save Our Parks". The presentation included photos from and expressed concerns about the garbage, human waste, destruction of 100 trees for firewood and construction of temporary campsites, and illegal campfires occurring in Cascades Gateway Park.

At the November SPRAB meeting, the Board was provided a very informative Parks Operations Update describing current status of actions being taken by the City and the impacts associated with sanctioned camping on our park grounds. The destruction of an additional 100 trees at Cascades Gateway park and lack of information on Wallace Marine was especially alarming. The description of the impacts was a limited assessment due to the inaccessibility of certain undeveloped park areas and serious concerns regarding the safety of Parks staff. The report was very much appreciated by the Board.

The growing population of unsheltered in our parks and the associated crisis has demonstrated an even greater need for critical communication between public entities and Salem's citizens. Between January and November, the Board received limited information on the impact of sanctioned camping in Wallace Marine and Cascades Gateway parks. We understand there will always be costs associated with efforts to

find solutions to such complex problems. But when those costs include excessive and irreparable damage to public properties under SPRAB's purview, it is vital that the Board be kept current on both actions taken involving our park system and their positive and negative impacts.

In order to facilitate improved communication, we request the following:

- A City Council liaison to ensure open, transparent and sustained communications with SPRAB on any actions being considered and taken and their subsequent impacts to our parks system.
- Formal quarterly updates on the City Homeless Strategy so SPRAB can be more involved and facilitate being an effective partner in this all-hands-on-deck approach.

In conclusion, the Board appreciates the commitment and perseverance City leadership and staff continue to devote to help mitigate the needs of the growing population of unsheltered individuals in our community. This is a crisis that impacts our whole community and it is vital that affected parties be included in the discussions and have opportunities to provide input. The Board takes its responsibilities seriously and we look forward to collaborating when and where we can in finding acceptable solutions for all involved parties.

Respectfully,

## Information Reports Packet

For SPRAB Meeting December 10, 2020

1. Mission Street Parks Conservancy Minutes October 22, 2020 – Kathy Savicki, MSPC
2. Urban Forestry Report – Milan Davis, Urban Forester
3. Parks and Natural Resources Planning Report - Patricia Farrell, Parks and Natural Resources Planning Manager
4. Parks Operations Report – Jennifer Kellar, Parks Operations and Recreation Services Manager
5. Recreation Service Report– Becky George, Recreation Services Supervisor



Board Meeting Minutes  
October 22, 2020

**In Attendance**

Gretchen Carnaby  
Christine Chute  
Bonnie Heitsch  
Gary McKuen  
Kathy Savicki  
Michael Slater

1. **Agenda** Christine called the meeting to order via telephone, and the agenda was approved with additions.
2. **Minutes** Gretchen moved and Bonnie seconded adoption of the minutes of the August meeting. The minutes were approved.
3. **Financial** Gary reviewed the end of September financial report.
4. **2020 Work Plan**
  - Rose garden: Brian will identify 6 to 10 rose beds that need to be raised; we will advise and assist with what is mostly city work.
  - Tree planting: Michael walked the NW section of the Park with Brian and made a list of trees to replace, which Brian will review with the city's urban forester. Some trees are historic and will need to be replaced with the identical tree. Michael and Gretchen are working on the replacement list, and once the trees are obtained will list them in our on-line store for sponsorship.
  - Cultural Landscape Plan: Christine and Gretchen reported on the recent meeting and shared the vision statement and initial report. They were impressed by the discussion and the thoughtful consideration of issues. Gretchen is writing feedback to the draft plan. There will be a public open house the end of November.
  - SPRAB report: Christine attended their meeting, at which our MOU was approved to move forward. Patricia asked for changed language in our Work Plan re tree removal, to which we agreed.
- 5 **New Business**
  - Our Volunteer Coordinator has offered to resign as she anticipates being out of town for much of the winter. Board members will cover her duties for now.
  - Christine reported that we are now paying the annual insurance bills in full.
  - Christine requested help locating the anti-harassment and whistle blower policies we previously adopted and which are due for review.

- We discussed our interest in the urban forest issues being addressed in Salem, and decided that Christine and Michael would provide us with quarterly updates so that we can identify opportunities to contribute.
- Due to Covid 19 restrictions we will not be able to host our annual volunteer holiday dinner. We will thank volunteers by providing them with MSPC vests to wear while working in the Park.
- Brian and Amanda have clarified that they need to know if we will be working in the Park other than on Tuesdays. Gretchen has corrected the email list so they will be notified.
- Kathy moved and Gretchen seconded approval of Mike's request that we purchase a large orchard ladder (\$600-\$700) as a gift to the City.
- The Board supports Christine approving an additional \$500 of the 2020 budget line for purchase of plants for the Park.
- Christine is checking with Tibby to understand the need for our volunteers to fill out City volunteer forms. Draft
- We decided that we will do two versions of an end of year fundraising letter, one for previous donors, one as an introduction to our current work for others. Christine and Gretchen are researching non-profit mailing options. We identified articles to be submitted to Michael for a November electronic newsletter.
- We discussed the idea of exploring options for partnering with Lord and Schryver Conservancy for part-time staff to take on Gretchen's current tasks in the Park. Michael suggested that we start by compiling a task list.

**Next Meeting:**

**November , 4 to 6 pm By Phone**

**SPRAB**  
**URBAN FORESTRY REPORT**  
December 2020

City of Salem  
Public Works Department, Parks Operations  
Urban Forestry Division

The Urban Forestry Division reporting to SPRAB for work completed and scheduled for 2020.

The Urban Forestry Division has continued to update the street tree inventory on the GIS Salem Maps Online site. As of 12/3/20 we have inventoried 19020 locations.

During the month of November 2020, the Urban Forestry Division had over 100 Service Requests from PW Dispatch, with 22 of those calls after hours emergency related calls. Currently there are 6 open service requests as of 12/4/20.

Trees planted 2020: 527

In house – 194

Friends of trees- 176

Treecology- 157

Trees Pruned 2020 - 3100

Trees Removed 2020- 225

## **Parks and Natural Resources Planning Update – December 2020**

**Geer Park**- Greenworks is addressing minor modifications to the draft preferred design option and is supporting staff as we begin to prepare for the first and final virtual open house. VOH#3 is scheduled to begin on December 11.

**Bush Pasture Park and Deepwood** - Cultural Landscape Management Plan. A second public open house will be December 7-21. The second survey will show a draft Management Area map with recommendations for each area. Input will be sought on the public's level of support for the draft recommendations.

**Woodmansee Park** - master plan update. The consultant, ESA, is preparing a preferred master plan based on the feedback. The final virtual open house will be online mid-January 2021. Tree removals pending for construction and signs regarding the construction and the tree removals will be posted 30 days in advance. Construction to start in January 2021.

**Parks and Recreation Frequently Asked Questions** - an on-line platform is being developed and will be demonstrated in January 2021. It will be available to the community and provide park, natural resource, and recreation facts and general information.

**Climate Action Plan** has had the first Task Force meeting on Nov. 18. A recording of the workshop and results from the first community survey are also available to the public. This was followed by an online Visioning exercise that is open until December 11.

The first community survey asked people to share their perspectives of Salem and climate change. Nearly 500 responses were received. Key take-aways include:

- 73% of respondents definitely or somewhat agree that it is important for Salem to create a Climate Action Plan.
- 77% of respondents are very or somewhat worried about climate change.
- Salem's top identified strength was its natural environment, including green spaces/parks in the City and access to the mountains and coast.
- Salem's top identified struggle was homelessness/lack of affordable housing.
- 58% of respondents expressed concern about increased extreme weather events caused by climate change.
- Respondents identified leadership/politics as the primary barrier to Salem addressing climate change.

**Secor Park construction** - Due to COVID-19 there will not be a ribbon cutting ceremony, but a news feature will be on the City's website near end of November. Benches and PGE lighting will be completed later.

**Rees Hill Road Park Annexation/Comprehensive Plan/Zone Change** – Annexation process underway. The annexation process will take approximately one-year. The land use actions need approvals from Planning Commission and City Council before going to the Secretary of State for approval.

**Tree Planting Projects**. Due to COVID-19 spikes, public participation in the first two Friends of Trees planting projects was canceled. Planting was done by FOT staff and FOT Salem Crew Leaders. Additional street tree planting will be through Treecology contract, beginning this month.

## Parks Operations Update – December 2020

### COVID-19 Pandemic – Phase II

Clean-up activity occurred at Wallace Marine Park on both Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. On the clean-up of November 20<sup>th</sup>, a 20-cubic yard commercial dump truck was filled, or about 60 yards of uncompacted debris prior to compacting. While this was a productive day, the clean-up barely made a dent towards meeting need. The goal of this initial clean-up was to remove as much garbage from the Willamette River as possible. Below is a picture of the activity.



On the clean-up of November 24<sup>th</sup>, an additional 60 cubic yards of garbage was removed. In totality between the two days, that would be equivalent to 10 heavy 12-yard dump trucks full of garbage. The removed garbage consisted of tubs of human feces, needles, and bicycle parts. Also removed, was 10 cubic yards of bicycle parts and assorted metal for recycling. Between the two days of clean-up only about 200 yards of camp along the river was completed. Below are pictures of the activity at Wallace from the November 24<sup>th</sup> clean-up.





A clean-up was performed at Cascade Gateway Park on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Clean-up crews were able to clear a major portion, about 36 cubic yards worth or 3 heavy dump truck loads, of the garbage from the forested areas west of Mill Creek. Based on this clean-up, an assessment will be made regarding the eastside of Mill Creek regarding the extent of clean-up that will be needed in that area.

At the clean-up, observations were made that many of the camping sites are now vacant in the forested areas west of Mill Creek. The number of campsites now set-up in the open grass area west of the dog park has increased and is continuing to grow.

Clean-up partnerships with Service Master will continue the following three Tuesdays (12/8, 12/15, and 12/22). Clean-ups on these dates will be occurring at Claggett Creek Nature Park and then resuming at Wallace Marine Park.

DPI Security is continuing at Marion Square and Wallace Marine Parks. Activity encounters include: notification of non-camping areas; park, trail and parking lot patrols; and vandalism and potential theft patrols.

**DOC Work Crews** DOC work crews will resume tomorrow, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, after the Governor's "pause" due to COVID. DOC crews will continue to be provided for as long as the Governor's guidelines allow for such and sufficient workers are available.

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Tree Lighting** Due to Covid pandemic, this will be a virtual tree lighting this year. Mayor Bennett will be riding the fire truck into Riverfront park and then turning on the holiday tree. This process will be taped by CC:Media on Thursday evening, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additionally CC:Media will be taping a virtual walking tour of the holiday display. A new augmented reality program will be featured in this year's display. You will be able to download a QR code on your mobile devices at all of the picture cut-outs which will allow you to have an augmented background in your photos. The City's drone will also be doing an aerial tour of the display for viewing. The holiday video will be premiering on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. on CC:Media's youtube channel, Comcast channels 22 and 322 (HD), the City's website, Parks facebook page and Recreation's facebook pages.

**Memorial Tree Planting** On-site meeting was held between Parks staff and representatives from Garden Angels regarding a plaqued memorial tree planting for those lives lost due to the COVID pandemic. A red oak tree will be planted in the circled landscape area at Geer Park between the two softball fields. The brass plaque is in the process of being made with the following inscription (a dedication date will be included on the plaque once determined):

*Quercus rubra – Red Oak Tree*

*Planted as a living tribute to the many lives lost and families broken by the COVID-19  
Coronavirus Pandemic in the City of Salem.*

*We shall always remember them.*

### **Project Updates**

- 1) Riverfront Park
  - a. North restroom project is underway. Restroom structure is in the process of being constructed. Project completion estimated for mid-December 2020.
- 2) Estimates are being assimilated by Parks staff and will be provided Neighborhood Association in January 2021. These estimates are based on approved Letters of Intent from eight neighborhood associations for the upcoming 2020-22 SPIF cycle.

## Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

December 2020

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 working remotely, including answering phones (M-F, 8 am to 5 pm) and assisting customers via email and our online payment system.
- We continue to accept 2021 facility rentals for April 1 and beyond. Inquiries are received daily.
- Park Operations personnel have been busy placing lights on the Holiday Tree and creating a festive holiday light display in Riverfront Park this week. While the annual on-site Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony has been cancelled, a virtual event will be filmed this week (December 3) and shown on various City of Salem social media pages beginning next week, as well as on Capital Community Media channel 21 and channel 321 at 5:30 pm December 10. The public is encouraged to visit the park and walk through the display at their leisure through December 27. Please note, there are QR codes at the giant present and Santa's House, in which a scan of your phone will create an augmented reality background to enhance the display and photo taking experience.

### 2. Youth Recreation Programs

- Fall/Winter Programs
  - An Owl Prowl with the Park Ranger was held at Minto-Brown Island Park on Friday, November 13. It was a stormy day and evening, but the six participants that attended enjoyed the activity.
  - The new Bush Craft Camp offered for youth ages 9 to 12 during Thanksgiving Break, November 23-25, at Minto-Brown Island Park was a success. This program was led by one of our contractors Coyle Outside. Three participants learned the skills it takes to survive in wet weather, including shelters, navigation, hunting and gathering.
- Planning for 2021 – Although we don't yet know the impact COVID-19 will have on 2021 programs, Recreation staff have started planning. A rough draft of the 2021 Recreation Guide – due out annually in March – is currently being developed. Recreation staff are considering pushing the release of this document back, and/or posting a pdf copy online versus mailing a hard copy to past participant families.
- Popular programs such as sport camps, and the Summer Parks Program are expected to return. Recreation staff are also currently evaluating the potential for offering new spring and fall sport activities.
- Contracted programs such as Coyle Outside, Tai Chi, and LEGO were held in 2020 and are planned to continue in 2021. A virtual hybrid LEGO class is being considered as well as other options for youth programs, specifically on Mondays when there is no online school occurring.

### 3. Softball and Kickball Leagues/Tournaments

- Softball is finalizing the tournament schedule for 2021. We will be hosting tournaments starting the first part of April and will have one scheduled every weekend through the second weekend in October.
- Among the City of Salem hosted softball tournaments in 2021, we are scheduled for the USA 14A (youth girls fastpitch) Western United States National the end of July. Recreation staff are currently working with USA Softball to get a personal email invite to each team registered in the 14A division.
- Recreation staff have scheduled a Teams meeting with the Player's Council to discuss this year's league and talk about next season. We will also be evaluating when to open league registration. Not knowing what Covid guidelines we'll have next spring, which impacts if teams are willing to sign up, will be a contributing factor.