



City of Salem Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

September 12, 2024
1:00- 2:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

In Person: City Operations Building, 1457 23rd St. SE, Room 146

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87582033256>

Via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@cityofsalempublicmeetings8184>

Si necesita ayuda para comprender esta información, por favor llame 503-588-6336.
Para asistencia en español, llame al 503-540-2489.

PARTICIPANTS

Board Members

Keith Norris, Chair; Dylan McDowell, Vice-Chair; Alan Alexander; Mauricio Flores, Zachery Hammerle; Alan Holland; Joan Lloyd; Debbie Miller

City Council Liaison

Councilor Micki Varney

Staff

Jennifer Kellar, Parks and Recreation Division Manager; Rob Romanek, Parks Planning Manager; Kathleen Swarm, Events Program Manager; Milan Davis, City Urban Forester/Parks Supervisor; Leann Moore, Parks and Recreation Staff Assistant

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Approval of May 2024, June 2024 and July 2024 Minutes
3. Public Comment - Appearance of persons wishing to address the Board on any matter other than those which appear on this agenda.
4. Board Items/Presentations
 - a. Presentation of Floodplain Species Assessment for the Salem area – *Ken Bierly, Glenn Gibson Watershed Council* (15 minutes)

Summary: The Glenn Gibson Watershed Council, with City cooperation, has prepared a floodplain species assessment for Salem. This work supports development of a Natural Floodplain Functions Plan, which aligning with Salem's floodplain goals, involves

enhancing ecological protection, and may potentially contribute to lowering flood insurance rates for Salem residents.

Recommendation: Information and discussion.

b. Baseball Infield Surfacing at Geer Park – *Rob Romanek* (15 minutes)

Summary: As part of the design process for the 2022 Safety and Livability Bond-funded upgrades to Geer Park, staff have identified an opportunity to increase the utilization of the existing baseball fields by installing artificial turf within the infields. Pending funding availability and any constraints related to the use of bond proceeds, staff are currently evaluating the inclusion of artificial turf in the baseball field renovations and are seeking SPRAB’s input on the following considerations:

- Use of products free of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
- Use of organic infill material.

Recommendation: Provide input to staff on these considerations, indicating whether to pursue specific specifications and identifying any features essential for the possible application of artificial turf at the Geer Park baseball fields, even if additional funding is required.

c. McKay Park Bond Project Implementation Timeline – *Rob Romanek* (10 minutes)

Summary: This project encompasses a series of improvements at McKay Park funded by the Safety and Livability Bond passed in November 2022, with construction set to begin in 2025. The planned work includes renovating the two existing soccer fields, building a picnic shelter, demolishing former playground facilities, and planning for future restroom infrastructure. To minimize construction-related disruptions by avoiding the simultaneous closure of all four soccer fields at Geer Park and McKay Park, staff are considering delaying the start of construction to 2026.

Recommendation: Provide guidance to the Bond Steering Committee and staff on the option to postpone the start of construction at McKay Park to 2026.

d. 2024 SPRAB Park Tour – *Chair Norris* (10 minutes)

Summary: The 2024 SPRAB Workplan includes a park tour, which Chair Norris, Vice Chair McDowell, and staff are preparing to schedule for early to mid-October. Members are encouraged to provide input on objectives and destinations for the tour.

Recommendation: Information and discussion.

- e. 2024 National Walk to a Park Day Planning – *Vice-Chair McDowell*
(10 minutes)

Summary: Last year marked the City's first observance of National Walk to a Park Day, which has been celebrated annually on October 10 since 2018. Past Chair and current Vice Chair McDowell played a key role in organizing the 2023 event. As part of the 2024 SPRAB Workplan, the Board plans to support the planning of the 2024 observance.

Recommendation: Form a subcommittee to work with staff in planning for the celebration of the 2024 National Walk to a Park Day.

- 5. Board Member Updates
- 6. Information Reports – written
 - a. Parks and Recreation Division Report
- 7. New Business
- 8. Adjourn

Next Meeting: October 10, 2024

Interested persons may view the meeting online on [YouTube](#). Please submit written comments on agenda items, or pre-register to provide Public Comment on items not on the agenda, by 5 p.m. or earlier one day prior to the day of the meeting at salemparks@cityofsalem.net.

Special accommodations are available, upon request, for persons with disabilities or those needing sign language interpretation, or languages other than English. To request accommodations or services, please call 503-588-6336 (TTD/TTY 503-588-6439) at least two business days in advance.

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, source of income and housing status, as provided by Salem Revised Code 97. The City of Salem also fully complies with 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.



City of Salem
Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
May 9th, 2024
Hybrid Meeting
Draft Minutes

Members Present

Keith Norris, Chair
Dylan McDowell, Vice Chair
Rick Hartwig
Joan Lloyd
Al Holland
Woody Dukes
Alan Alexander

Members Absent

Debbie Miller

City Council Liaison Present

Councilor Micki Varney

Staff Present

Rob Romanek
Jennifer Kellar
Leann Moore
Becky George
Jeff Johnson

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1. **Call to Order** – Welcome and call to order by chair Keith Norris at 1:00 pm.
 2. **Roll Call** – Member Debbie Miller was marked absent. Member Llyod, Member Holland, Member Alexander present via Zoom. All other members present.
 3. **Approval of Minutes**
Member Joan Lloyd motioned an approval of the minutes from the meeting held on April 11th, 2024. Vice Chair McDowell seconded the motion. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.
 4. **Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items**
 - a) **Patty Tipton – Resident**
Former chair of NOLA and was in charge of Lansing and Livingston. Patty is strongly connected to Lansing from all the work that has been done. Her wish list is to paint the fencing. She is asking for volunteers to help, and will she purchase supplies, snacks and drinks for the day. Patty wants to be sure there is enough paint left over in case there is graffiti.
 - Chair Norris responds with support from SPRAB
 - Jennifer Kellar responded with information and clarification to help make the project possible
 5. **Board Items/Presentations**
 - a) **Tami Starrs from Public Works Engineering – Proposed Capital Improvement Plan**
 - Starrs is the lead on the city’s 5 year CIP working closely with Jen and Rob for the Parks portion. There are 195 projects with 44 being Parks. There are 26

- funding sources which include grants, general funding, bonds, TOT, utility rates
- Scoring will be 100 points for all individual infrastructure category
 - Showed allocation for Parks for the next 5 years – includes various areas of funding
 - Vice Chair McDowell asks why the bond distribution is so variable and not consistent
 - Starrs responds saying it depends on the project designs
 - Grants will be updated in a few years
 - Starrs mentioned more money can be added depending on development costs
 - Starrs pointed out upcoming key parks projects which spread out across 5 categories
 - Increase public outreach is key and wanting to keep the community informed on master plans is important
 - Al Holland asks to describe what the restroom restoration at Wallace will look like and where
 - Rob Romanek responded with the location being near the old boat launch
 - Vice Chair McDowell asks where we are on timeline and is there opportunity for SPRAB to make comment to Council in support of CIP
 - Starrs responded that the Budget Committee had already approved it for Council in June, and the next cycle will start again in July and that all CIP requests should be turned in by December
 - Staff, board and Starrs further discuss the CIP process and costs/budget
 - Public comment included questions about Livingston Park and if there are any upcoming projects
 - Rob Romanek responded with it is in the early planning stages for a playground update

b) Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed City Budget: Highlights of Parks and Recreation Impacts – Jennifer Kellar

- In Sept 2023, the department had to come up with reductions – had the ability to take those in reductions or come up with revenue to fill the gaps for Parks and Recreation
 - \$700,000 for Parks \$400,000 Recreation were part of the reductions that were forwarded to budget committee
 - Service impacts include no irrigation, bathrooms or drinking fountains at neighborhood parks; no splash pads except for Riverfront; limited evening support; reduced playground equipment and amenity repair
 - Recreation service impacts include fewer program sites and options; no Movies in the Park or Kids Relays; eliminating fee waivers and change fee reduction; increased fees for softball, park reservations and rec programs
- The department did receive a 1 million grant for tree planting
- Parks bonds include projects like various athletic courts and playground facilities, and McKay soccer fields and improved parking lots
- There was much concern from the public

- Proposal to reinstate some reductions using ARPA funds
 - Discussion with budget council to provide funding \$422,000 will cover irrigation in neighborhood parks, allows the department to bring back seasonal staffing, amenity replacement; \$96,000 to reinstate the Movies in the Park, Kids Relay and Summer Concerts series
 - Budget committee approved by a slim margin restoring the recommended funds for the current year
 - Approval moves to City Council for June 10 meeting
 - Member Woody Dukes expressed concern about the possibility of irrigation shutting off – for city trees
 - Jennifer responds that there are other options to provide watering for the trees should Council not approve proposal
 - Vice Chair motions to write a letter on behalf of SPRAB to City Council in support of the reinstatement of the Parks and Rec services – second by Rick Hartwig – motion passes
- c) Neighborhood Association Outreach Assignments**
- Member Hartwig suggests updating the assignment lists to include new members – Chair Norris agrees
 - Board agrees to move forward with the same assignments as before
- d) Board Member Updates**
- Research committee updates – follow up comments questions
- e) New Business**
- Terms for two members have come to an end – Woody Dukes and Rick Hartwig
 - Two new members will start – Zachary Hammerle from Ward 3 and Mauricio Flores from Ward 4
 - Chair Norris thanks Member Dukes and Hartwig and presented certificates
 - Member Hartwig expressed his appreciation for SPRAB, staff and volunteers
 - Member Dukes mentions that his anniversary for being an arborist is being celebrated – 51, as well as his other accomplishments – expresses his interests in continuing to volunteer – would like to see the heritage tree program started again

Adjourned at 2:49 p.m.



City of Salem
Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
June 13, 2024
Hybrid Meeting
Draft Minutes

Members Present

Keith Norris, Chair
Dylan McDowell, Vice Chair
Joan Lloyd
Al Holland
Debbie Miller
Alan Alexander
Mauricio Flores
Zachary Hammerle

Members Absent

Staff Present

Rob Romanek
Jennifer Kellar
Milan Davis
Leann Moore

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1. **Call to Order** – Chair Keith Norris called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
 2. **Roll Call** – Member Alan Alexander was marked absent. Member Zachary Hammerle was present via Zoom. All other members were in attendance.
 3. **Introductions of New Members** – Chair Norris welcomed new members Zachary Hammerle and Mauricio Flores, who introduced themselves:
 - Member Mauricio Flores expressed his excitement to become involved in the community.
 - Member Zachary Hammerle, who works at Western Oregon University, shared his enthusiasm about joining the team.
 4. **Approval of Minutes** – The approval of the May 2024 minutes was postponed.
 5. **Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items**
 - **Kassi Roosth - Marion Soil and Water Conservation District**
 - Introduced a new pilot certification project, "The Little Habitat Project," which aims to build ecosystem resilience in areas where wildlife and people intersect, such as private and school yards and parks.
 - Englewood Park is being considered for certification; if approved, signage with a QR code will be installed to provide more information about the program.
 - Chair Norris expressed interest and suggested that the board could work with the neighborhood association to help get Englewood certified.
 6. **Restatement of Agreement Between the City and Willamette University**

- Parks Planning Manager, Rob Romanek, shared remarks related to the proposed project by Willamette University, including the parks classification, which focuses on enhancing existing facilities for public use. He explained the Cultural Landscape Management Plan for Bush's Pasture Park and Deepwood Estate and Gardens, confirming that the project would not harm protected oaks, wildlife, or Pringle Creek.
- Willamette University Athletic Director, Rob Passage, presented a map outlining proposed expansions into Bush's Pasture Park and shared images of the planned stadium, emphasizing the community focus. He noted that if approved, Willamette University would assume maintenance and replacement of wind screens at the tennis courts.
- The revised proposal will go to City Council for approval on June 25.
- **Board Member Questions**
 - Member Al Holland questioned the necessity of 90ft high lights. Rob Passage responded that the height is needed for adequate baseball coverage during night games and assured that surrounding areas would not be illuminated.
 - Member Holland asked about the materials used for the turf and potential issues. Rob Passage provided information on the safety of the turf material.
 - Vice Chair McDowell inquired about the relocation of the south-end gate and fencing. Rob Passage explained that the current gate requires substantial maintenance due to frequent use, and a new location would improve foot traffic flow.
 - Member Alan Alexander asked if the project would result in costs to the parks or the city. Rob Romanek clarified that there would be no direct costs to the city.
 - Member Debbie Miller expressed environmental concerns regarding the use of plastic materials and requested additional information. Rob Passage noted the concerns and promised to provide further details.
 - Member Zachary Hammerle sought confirmation that Willamette University would waive rental fees for city and school use for the next 10 years and asked about potential revenue for the city. Rob Passage confirmed the commitment to increased community use.
- **Public Comment**
 - Evan West, a resident of Ward 7, expressed concerns and opposition to the Willamette University project.
 - Rob Kimmick, a resident of Ward 2, appreciated the staff report but felt the approval process seemed rushed and urged the board to wait for more information.
 - Joan Stimbridge, a resident of Ward 2, supported the use of the stadium by local organizations but encouraged larger leagues to use other venues and urged the board to reject the proposal.
 - Ellen Stevens, a resident of Ward 8 and founding member of the Mission Street Park Conservancy, opposed summer baseball at Bush Park due to concerns over the protection of natural resources, traffic, parking, and city budget impacts.
- **Board Discussion and Actions**

Chair Norris asked Vice Chair McDowell to address the draft agreement moving forward to City Council.

 - Vice Chair McDowell presented a draft motion recommending approval with

amendments, including removing the reference to a third party, providing shuttle service to the stadium, supplying parking staff at Mission Street lots, and including covered bike parking and an annual review of impacts on neighboring areas.

- The motion was seconded by Member Joan Lloyd.
- Member Al Holland raised concerns about the project's location and questioned if similar issues would arise if developed elsewhere, such as Chemeketa Community College.
- Member Holland reiterated his preference for development in Northeast Salem.
- Member Debbie Miller noted the benefits for youth and suggested additional parking could be opened by Salem Health.
- Member Mauricio Flores emphasized the importance of proper conversations.
- Member Zachary Hammerle expressed support and excitement for Willamette University's involvement with the city.
- Member Alan Alexander hoped that the parks and residents would be adequately protected and that the city would secure the best possible deal.
- **Vice Chair McDowell proposed an amendment to the motion to use the best materials for turf and to test for plastics annually, including post-consumer waste. The amendment was seconded by Member Debbie Miller and passed.**

7. Board Member Updates

- Vice Chair McDowell acknowledged the strong public support for parks and libraries.
- Member Al Holland expressed his pleasure in seeing all the trees being planted.
- Rob Romanek announced that the July SPRAB meeting would be canceled, with the possibility of the August meeting being canceled as well.
- Member Mauricio Flores inquired about the inventory of Ash trees. Milan Davis responded that the city has an inventory of right-of-way and park trees, except in natural areas, including Minto.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.



City of Salem
Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
July 23, 2024
Hybrid Meeting
Special Meeting
Draft Minutes

Members Present

Keith Norris, Chair
Dylan McDowell, Vice Chair
Joan Lloyd
Al Holland
Debbie Miller
Mauricio Flores
Zachary Hammerle

Members Absent

Alan Alexander

Staff Present

Jennifer Kellar
Rob Romanek
Julianna Douglas
Leann Moore

-
1. **Call to Order** – Chair Keith Norris called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
 2. **Roll Call** – Member Alan Alexander was marked absent. Members Joan Lloyd and Zachary Hammerle were present via Zoom. All other members were in attendance.
 3. **Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items**
 - **Patty Tipton**
 - Requested volunteers and additional paintbrushes for an upcoming event and mentioned that refreshments would be provided.
 - Estimated the project's cost to be approximately \$750.
 - **Loraine Galindo**
 - A Lansing Park neighborhood resident for over 20 years, Loraine spoke in support of Patty's project.
 - She expressed a desire for Lansing Park to become more family-friendly.
 4. **Committee Updates**
 - Chair Norris requested updates from the research committees and encouraged new board members, Zachary Hammerle and Mauricio Flores, to join a committee.
 - Vice Chair McDowell provided an overview of the Climate Action Research Topics for SPRAB:
 - Vice Chair McDowell and Member Al Holland are focusing on Alternative Transportation Plans to Parks, including bicycle access and parking options.
 - Members Debbie Miller, Joan Lloyd, and Mauricio Flores are concentrating on Electric Equipment Use.
 - Member Alan Alexander is working on Materials Used in Capital Projects, and

- Member Zachary Hammerle will join this committee.
- The committees aim to present their reports to SPRAB between October and December.
- **Vice Chair McDowell's Committee Update on Alternative Transportation Plans to Parks**
 - Inquired about discussions with Cherriots regarding transit access to parks, including signage directing park visitors to the nearest bus stop and trails connecting large businesses to city parks.
 - Member Al Holland expressed interest in a river bike trail connecting Keizer Rapids.
 - Salem Climate Action Plan Manager, Julianna Douglas, mentioned that Cherriots could participate in large city events.
 - Chair Norris asked about bus routes specifically serving city parks.
 - Rob Romanek added that city planning efforts include communication with Cherriots to explore alternate bus stops closer to parks.
 - Julianna Douglas shared examples from other cities, such as trailhead shuttles and park-and-ride lots in Sedona, AZ, and transit services from Bend to Mt. Bachelor, as well as bike share and mobility hubs.
 - Vice Chair McDowell noted that progress has been made with Cherriots but emphasized the need for infrastructure for safe riding, including hubs near hospitals, Willamette University, and parks.
 - Rob Romanek suggested including guidelines in the master plan to highlight covered bike parking.
 - Jennifer Kellar commented on past bike share programs at Riverfront and Bush parks that were unsuccessful due to vandalism and theft.
 - Vice Chair McDowell discussed parking design standards and revisiting parking levels at Geer Park, looking for data on parking usage and limits, and considering EV wiring for parking spots.
- **Member Debbie Miller's Report on Electric Equipment Use**
 - Discussed the alignment of proposed policies with Emission Reduction Goals and the Climate Action Plan strategies, aiming for a 50% reduction in citywide greenhouse gas emissions from the 2016 baseline year and for Salem to be carbon neutral by 2050.
 - Addressed phasing out combustion and two-stroke engines, such as those used in vehicles, leaf blowers, lawnmowers, and other machinery.
 - Evaluated existing city and parks policies, noting a lack of data on which equipment has been converted to battery power.
 - Jennifer Kellar will follow up with Parks and Urban Forestry staff to obtain more information.
 - Recommended developing a city policy for equipment upgrades from gas to electric.
 - Highlighted the need for more staff time and input to identify internal resources, while external resources could provide much information, including examples from other cities.
 - Conducted a pros and cons analysis of costs and impacts on the city, including electric costs, performance, infrastructure, and workflow.

5. Adjournment

Due to several board members needing to leave, the quorum was lost. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

DRAFT

SALEM PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (SPRAB) MEETING

Parks and Recreation Division Update – September 2024

1. Events/Facility Use

- The 2024 IRONMAN 70.3 Oregon race was a celebrated and successful event. Chosen as one of the most recommended races in the IRONMAN portfolio, the race sold out with 2,500 athletes. The IRONMAN team, race participants, and supporters shared many kind words about the beauty of our City and parks. Positive feedback continues to come in from visitors and organizers about the professionalism of City staff who supported the event.

Here is a few of images from the event.



- The summer months are an active time for reservations in many parks including Minto-Brown Island, Bush's Pasture, McKay, Geer, Riverfront, River Road, Pringle, Wallace and Woodmansee.
- Riverfront Park is a center for activity and recreation. The number of expected events with finalized or pending permits for Riverfront Park is as follows: August (41), September (14), October (6), November (2), and December (2).

- City organized events in Riverfront Park are currently scheduled as follows:
 - STRIDE 5K/10K: September 7, Frightfully Fun Run: October 26, Turkey Trot: November 23, Jingle Bell Relay: December 13
 - Viva Salem (organized by Community Services Admin Division): September 28
 - Let's Dance (organized by Center 50+): July 14, August 25, September 22
 - Boots, Scoot and Brew (organized by Center 50+): September 6
 - City of Salem Concerts in the Park: August 16, and September 13th
 - Movies in the Park: July 12, July 26, August 9, and August 23

2. Recreation Programs

- We offered some new programs over the summer which included Fun4All Workshops, Pickleball Camp for youth, evening Pickleball Match Play, and Tennis Match Play opportunities.
- 2,040 people participated in a variety of summer offerings. Of the registered participants, we gave out 199 fee waivers.
- Movies in the Park hosted 3 movies, the 4th was canceled due to bad weather. Each of the Movies were largely attended with an average of 1,500 spectators.

3. Softball Tournaments and Kickball Leagues

- We hosted the 2024 USA Softball Girls' 10B/12B Fastpitch Western National Championships from July 28 to August 4, welcoming 59 teams, including 9 from Oregon, and nearly 800 players with around 3,500 spectators from across the western U.S., including Hawaii and Colorado.

The event began with a manager's breakfast and draw at the Salem Convention Center, followed by team check-in and skill events at the softball complex. That evening, we hosted a team party and opening ceremony at the Gerry Frank Amphitheater with food vendors, a DJ, a costume contest, and a team parade. Mayor Hoy welcomed everyone to Salem during the kickoff.

Games ran throughout the week, with champions crowned on Sunday. Highlights included the Home Run Derby on Wednesday night, which filled the park with excitement. Hotels and Airbnbs were near full capacity, and local businesses enjoyed increased activity. It was a fantastic event!

Here is a photo from the kickoff party.



- The complex will wrap up the Fall Ball tournaments with USA Softball Fast Pitch Tournaments for the last 3 weekends of September. All 3 are sold out with the City of Salem hosting 24 teams for the Fall Classic September 14-15 and 24 teams in the Fall Wrap Up on September 21-22.
- The final tournament at the complex this year is the Breast Cancer Awareness Tournament hosted by Jag Softball (our local fast pitch USA Softball Umpire Association September 27-29 with 36 teams playing in this new fundraising tournament.
- Our fall softball and kickball leagues have started. We have 66 teams playing that will finish up in early October.

4. Salem Park Improvement Fund Projects

Park staff has completed the following Salem Park Improvement Funds (SPIF) projects:

- Fairmount Park Purchase and installation of mutt mitt dispenser.
- McRae Park Purchase and installation of new soccer goals.
- Sunnyslope Park Pickleball Court Striping completed.
Purchase and installation of seasonal and portable GaGa Pit.
- Secor Park Purchase and installation of seasonal and portable GaGa Pit.
- Fairview Park Fabrication and installation of new Information kiosk.
- Edgewater Parkway Fabrication and installation of park entrance sign.
Purchase and installation of new garbage receptacles.
Fabrication and installation of new information kiosk.
- Nelson Park Fabrication and installation of new information kiosk.
- Northgate Park Purchase of materials for artist toward fence art project.

5. Urban Forestry

- [Emerald Ash Borer in Three New Oregon Communities including Marion County](#) – The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, is an invasive beetle from Asia that attacks ash trees by boring into the bark and feeding on the inner tissues, eventually killing the tree. Since its U.S. discovery in Michigan in 2002, EAB has spread to over 30 states, including Oregon. The Oregon Department of Forestry warns that EAB poses a serious threat to ash woodlands and riparian areas, where Oregon Ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) is a dominant species. The loss of these trees could reduce urban tree canopy, increase invasive plants, and diminish shade and habitat along streams.

Following the recent detection of EAB in Marion, Yamhill, and Clackamas Counties, which are now under quarantine, the City of Salem is implementing management plans to slow the pest's spread and preserve the city's tree canopy. Staff from Urban Forestry, Parks, Public Works Natural Resources Planning, and Public Works Stormwater Quality are collaborating with the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Department of Agriculture to protect ash trees larger than 12 inches in diameter by injecting them with pesticides.



The City also plans to apply for a grant of up to \$750,000 from the Oregon Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Subaward Program. The funds would support EAB response efforts, including treating and replacing ash trees, public outreach, and developing a readiness plan. The grant aims to protect ash trees, especially in disadvantaged communities, and mitigate ecological impacts. The City Council will soon consider whether to approve the grant application.

Neighborhood Trees Program with Friends of Trees – Summer is a slower time for our tree planting activities with Friends of Trees. However, we have identified dates and locations for the upcoming planting season, with events planned for Saturday mornings (9am – 1pm) from October-April. Here are the upcoming events:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| ○ Riverfront Park Planting and Crew Leader Training | November 16, 2024 |
| ○ South Village Park Planting | January 11, 2025 |
| ○ D Street Park Planting | February 15, 2025 |
| ○ Northgate Neighborhood Yard Tree Planting | April 12, 2025 |

Additionally, the Salem Public Works Department continues to collaborate with Friends of Trees on their Green Space Program, which focuses on restoring natural areas, increasing habitat, and improving watershed health. Here are the upcoming Green Space Program events in Salem:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| ○ Minto-Brown Island Park Planting – Parking Lot No. 2 | October 12, 2024 |
| ○ Woodmansee Park Planting | December 7, 2024 |
| ○ McKay Park Planting | March 22, 2025 |

Volunteering with Friends of Trees is a great way to get outside, learn how to plant trees, meet people, and help make Salem greener and healthier—all in a few short hours. Register to save your place on the Online Planting Calendar: <https://friendsoftrees.org/event-calendar/>

6. Individual Park Master Planning

- Fairview Park Master Plan Revisit and Refinement – Parks staff and the consultant project team are continuing to revisit and refined the Fairview Park Master Plan to a schematic design level, guided by the extensive community feedback received over the past year. A new design vision will be presented at next month's SPRAB meeting, where SPRAB will be asked to endorse the updates and revisions to the park master plan.

As we approach this upcoming presentation, our ongoing work includes:

- Development of a detailed site plan rendering.
 - Production of three perspectives illustrating both long-term and Phase 1 improvements, focusing on the overall park view, proposed dog park, and play areas.
 - Finalization of a phasing plans, with an accompanying construction cost estimate.
 - Preparations for the October 10 presentation to SPRAB.
- Fisher Road Park Master Plan – Parks staff and the consultant project team have completed the second round of community engagement, where two initial park concepts were reviewed, and further feedback was gathered. During this phase, there was a clear preference for Alternative B, which features a shaded picnic area, a playground with water play, and a community garden. Key community desires focused on improved safety, accessibility, trails, and providing a restroom, off-

street parking, and shade structures, with some suggesting combining elements from both alternatives.

The team is now developing a preferred park concept based on this feedback, in preparation for a third round of public engagement, set to begin at the Viva Salem Festival on September 28. Graphic boards of the final plan will be shared to gather additional input from attendees.

7. **NEW** Park Improvement Tracking Report

As a new addition to the monthly division report in response to a request from Chair Norris, staff have prepared and attached a park improvement tracking report. This report provides details on the status of park upgrades funded by the 2022 Safety and Livability Bond, along with other funded projects that support the implementation of park master plans. Future division reports will include this tracking sheet and will highlight the progress made since the previous report.

8. Parks Planning and Development

- Rees Park Playground Equipment Replacement Project Completed — We are excited to announce the completion of the playground equipment replacement project at Rees Park, located at 1545 Rees Hill Road S. The original playground served the community well for many years but had succumbed to age, wear, and outdated safety standards. To celebrate the newly upgraded playground, we hosted a neighborhood event on June 18. Thank you to Councilor Gwyn and all the neighbors who joined us in celebrating this achievement!

In September and again in December 2023, a survey was distributed to Rees Park neighbors, inviting residents of all ages to provide input on the project. The December survey presented six distinct options, each with unique features and themes. A nature-themed option emerged as the overwhelming favorite and was selected for the park.

A couple of images from the event are included as follows.





- Riverfront Park Grant Proposals Presentation to State Advisory Board — On July 24, the City made a strong case to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)'s Local Government Grant Program Advisory Board for our \$770,000 funding request for the Riverfront Park Playground and Pathways Project. On July 29, OPRD announced Advisory Board's award recommendations, which include the City's funding request. These recommendations are currently under review by the OPRD Commission, with a final decision expected at their meeting on September 18. We anticipate an official announcement regarding the funding award shortly after this meeting.

Staff are deeply grateful for the support and contributions of Mayor Hoy and SRPAB Chair Keith Norris, both of whom were instrumental in advocating for this priority project as part of our July 24 presentation. If fully funded, the project, scheduled for construction starting in 2026, will revitalize the Riverfront Park playground with modern, inclusive equipment and enhanced park pathways.

Salem is one of 60 applying from across the state that is requesting funding awards. The total grant funds requested among these 60 applications is approximately \$37 million. Fortunately, OPRD can fund most of these, with approximately \$34 million available for funding awards.

- Sport Court Improvements at River Road Park and Sumpter Park — Beginning August 12, the City and its contractor, North Santiam Paving Co., started constructing improvements to the sport courts at River Road Park and Sumpter School Park, funded by the 2022 Safety and Livability Bond. The enhancements include new asphalt surfacing, upgraded tennis and pickleball facilities, improved accessibility, and the addition of benches, waste receptacles, and drinking fountains.

Construction at Sumpter Park, scheduled on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., is expected to be completed by late November 2024. The playground at Sumpter Park will remain temporarily closed to safely facilitate pathway accessibility improvements but is expected to reopen by the end of the month.

However, due to a geotechnical engineering issue encountered at River Road Park, that project is now expected to finish in spring 2025. The Engineering Division is overseeing the work in coordination with Parks and Recreation. Parking at River Road Park will remain limited throughout construction, and access to construction areas at both parks will be restricted through the course of the construction work.

- Skyline Trail Realignment and Reopening — The Skyline Trail, a popular one-mile wooded trail in south Salem, underwent a realignment last year on the section crossing Sprague High School property, completed by a contractor for Salem-Keizer School District. This project left a 40-foot gap at the end of the trail where it is intended to connect to Joplin Court S. After more than a year, this gap in the northeastern section is now substantially complete, with an expected opening next week following completion of sidewalk repaving by Public Works where the trail connects to the sidewalk. Parks staff will return following the end of the dry season to replant and restore the surrounding landscape. The project is funded with Park System Development Charges.

The final segment was particularly challenging due to steep topography, numerous utilities, and the need to coordinate with adjacent property owners. A permanent easement was successfully negotiated, ensuring a safer, more accessible trail connection.

Parks Project Coordinator Chris Huffman and Parks Equipment Operator Sam Welsh played a key role in constructing the trail connection, reducing project costs, and shortening the timeline compared to outsourcing to a contractor. Kudos to Chris and Sam for their excellent work!



- City of Salem Acquires Property for its Ninety-Third Park — The City of Salem has completed the acquisition of a 2-acre property at 1325 49th Avenue SE in Ward 2, bringing the total number of city parks to 93. This new park, called for in the Comprehensive Park System Master Plan, will be developed into a Neighborhood Park, improving access to green spaces in an area that is currently underserved.

The property was purchased for \$650,000, funded through Parks System Development Charges. This acquisition supports Salem's goals of fostering a Welcoming and Livable Community. As a next step, Parks Planning staff will recommend programming a new capital project in the Fiscal Year 2026 City Budget process to develop an interim use plan and implement minimal development, allowing for public enjoyment and use of the new park prior to site master planning and formal development. This acquisition contributes to the City's goal of providing seven acres of neighborhood, community, and urban parks per 1,000 residents. However, a current trend show that the city is falling slightly behind in making process toward achieving this goal as population growth outpaces new park acquisitions. Currently, the ratio stands at 4.94 acres per 1,000 residents, not including this new acquisition.

A map identifying the location of the new park property can be found on the next page.



Performance: 2022 Safety and Livability Bond

Year 2 of 10

Playground Equipment Replacement

	Design	Permits and Contracting	Construction	Expected Completion
Aldrich Park				2027
Brush College Park				2029
Clark Creek Park				2030
Livingston Park	█			2025
McRae Park				2029
Minto-Brown Island Park				2028
Morningside Park	█	█		2025
Riverfront Park*	█			2026
Royal Oaks Park				2027
Woodmansee Park				2028

Sport Court Replacements

Highland Park	█			2025
Hoover Park	█			2025
Morningside Park	█	█		2025
River Road Park	█	█	█	2024
Sumpter Park	█	█	█	2024

Sport Field Renovations

Geer Park Baseball and Soccer	█			2025
McKay Park Soccer	█			2025
Orchard Heights Park Softball				2031

New Off-Leash Dog Areas

Geer Park	█			2026
Fairview Park*	█			2027

New Picnic Shelters

Bush's Pasture Park				2029
Geer Park	█			2026
McKay Park	█			2025
Orchard Heights Park				2031

Restrooms

Bush's Pasture Park (replacement)				2029
Cascades Gateway Park (replacement)				2031
McKay Park (new)	█			2029
Northgate Park (new)				2031
Wallace Marine Park (replacement)				2031

Other Urgent Work

Minto-Brown Island Park Paving - Parking Lot No. 2 and No. 3	█	█	█	2024
Fixing Broken Paths and Trails (repaving)	█			2025

* Combined with another project. See master plan improvements on the next page.

Performance: Master Plan Improvements

	Design ↓	Permits and Contracting ↓	Construction ↓	Expected Completion ↓
Urban Parks				
Battle Creek Park Development, Phase 1	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	2028
Riverfront Park Electrical Improvements	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #0056b3;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	2027
Riverfront Park Playground Expansion and Pathway*	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #0056b3;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	2026
Community Parks				
Fairview Park Development, Phase 1*	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #0056b3;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	2027
Geer Park Skatepark and Pathway	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #0056b3;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	2025
Geer Park Land Trade and Access Improvement	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #0056b3;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	2026
Neighborhoods Parks				
Bailey Ridge Park Development, Phase 1	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #0056b3;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	2027
Brown Road Park Development, Phase 1	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"></div>	2027
Other Master Plan Projects				
Skyline Trail Connection - Sprague High to Joplin Court S	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #0056b3;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #0056b3;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #0056b3;"></div>	2024

* Combined with another project. See 2022 Safety and Livability Bond projects on the prior page.

An October update will provide details on additional capital improvements not related to park master plans.