



City of Salem Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

October 10, 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/86733570825>

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, AIC Recreation Program Manager; Tammi Starrs, Engineering Administration Manager; Raymond Jospeh, Senior Parks Planner, Leann Moore, Parks and Recreation Staff Assistant

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes from September 12, 2024
3. Public Comment - Appearance of persons wishing to address the Board on any matter other than those which appear on this agenda.
4. Council Liaison Updates (10 minutes)
5. Board Items/Presentations
 - a. Fairview Park Master Plan Revisit and Refinement – *Rob Romanek and project consultant team to be named* (40 minutes)

Summary: The proposed update and refinement of the Fairview Park Master Plan (Master Plan) is the results of a year-long community

engagement and planning process. It presents the overall community vision and park design, describes the proposed facilities and uses for the park, and provides recommendations for its future development. The Master Plan has been developed in consideration of community input and the unique characteristics of the site.

Recommendation: Endorse and forward the Master Plan to the Salem City Council with a recommendation of approval.

b. Capital Improvement Plan Update – *Tammi Starrs* (30 minutes)

Summary: The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a five-year plan outlining the City's prioritized investments in capital assets, including park facilities, along with corresponding financial strategies. A capital improvement, or capital project, is defined as a planned activity that creates, enhances, maintains, repairs, or replaces a fixed asset. It must result in a permanent addition to the City's asset inventory, valued at \$100,000 or more, and have a useful life of over 5 years. Staff will be providing updates on the development of next fiscal year's CIP and discussing opportunities for SPRAB's involvement.

Recommendation: Information and discussion.

c. Delayed Start to the Comprehensive Park System Master Plan Update – *Rob Romanek* (5 minutes)

Summary: The Comprehensive Park System Master Plan (CPSMP) is Salem's long-range planning document that shapes the future of the city's park system. It outlines policies, recommendations, and an implementation plan to guide park acquisition and development. The current plan, adopted by City Council in 2016, is scheduled for an update as part of the Parks Planning workplan, following the 2022 update to the Salem Area Comprehensive Policies Plan. This Policies Plan update introduced new goals for the City's parks and recreation programs, and the CPSMP revision will provide detailed policies to support those goals. This agenda item will provide a status update on the project.

Recommendation: Information and discussion.

6. Board Member Updates

7. Information Reports – written

- a. Parks and Recreation Division Report
- b. Mission Street Parks Conservancy Quarterly Report
- c. Mission Street Parks Conservancy Meeting Minutes
- d. Parks Damage Report

8. New Business
9. Adjourn

Next Meeting: October 18, 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
September 12, 2024
Hybrid Meeting
Draft Minutes

Members Present

Keith Norris, Chair
Joan Lloyd
Al Holland
Mauricio Flores

Members Absent

Dylan McDowell, Vice Chair
Debbie Miller
Zachary Hammerle

Staff Present

Jennifer Kellar
Rob Romanek
Leann Moore

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Keith Norris called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call** – Members Dylan McDowell, Debbie Miller, and Zachary Hammerle were absent. Al Holland joined via Zoom. All other members were in attendance.
3. **Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)**
 - **Patty Tipton (NOLA Resident):** Shared photos and highlights from the Lansing Park painting project held on August 17, 2024.
 - **Jim Shepke (Ward 2 Resident):** Expressed appreciation for SPRAB’s support of the baseball project. Additionally, he discussed his advocacy for funding City libraries and Center 50+, and Parks & Recreation, with the goal of increasing library hours and keeping the West Salem branch open. He aims to place this issue on the May ballot and requested written testimony from the public at the next SPRAB meeting.
4. **Presentations**
 - **Floodplain Species Assessment/Ken Bierly (Glen Gibson Watershed Council):** Presented on the Floodplain Species Assessment work being completed in partnership with the City of Salem.
 - **Al Holland:** Inquired about the impact of existing structures in floodplains.
 - **Ken Bierly:** Clarified that the focus is on future development, with no immediate changes to existing conditions.
 - **Geer Park Baseball Field Infield Surfacing/Rob Romanek:**
 - Discussed plans for the Geer Park baseball field infield surfacing, including details of potential artificial turf field systems.
 - Shared turf samples being considered for Geer Park, specifically for baseball use.
 - Highlighted the goal of maximizing field usage year-round with long-term turf durability.
 - Provided plan showing project improvements and outlined state-owned properties transitioning to city ownership.

- **Al Holland:** Inquired about the availability of local organic fill materials.
- **Alan Alexander:** Asked about costs and the turf's life cycle.
- **Rob:** Estimated the cost at approximately \$12 per square foot with an expect life cycle up to 8 years. Minimal maintenance is expected.
- **Keith Norris:** Asked about the effect of different sports cleats on turf durability.
- **Mauricio Flores:** Raised questions about the cost-benefit of the project.
- **Motion:**
 - **Mauricio Flores** moved to advise staff to proceed with specifications for the baseball infield surfacing as part of the 2022 Safety and Livability Bond-funded upgrades.
 - **Al Holland** seconded the motion.
 - **Keith Norris** moved to introduce a friendly motion to clarify the recommended specifications.
 - **Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.**

The motion advises staff to proceed with the following specifications for the baseball infield surfacing as part of the 2022 Safety and Livability Bond-funded upgrades:

- 1. Encourage the use of an organic infill system, such as olive core, that excludes rubber and provides heat reduction without additional maintenance requirements.**
- 2. Ensure that any artificial turf system specified for the baseball fields contains minimal pre- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.**

These recommendations aim to enhance the environmental and safety standards of the artificial turf installation while maximizing field usability.

- **McKay Park Bond Improvement Project/Rob Romanek:**
 - Rob outlined plans for renovating the soccer fields, developing a reservable picnic shelter, removing the old playground area, and preparing for future park restrooms.
 - **Motion:**
 - **Joan Lloyd** moved to advise postponing McKay Park bond improvements to 2026 to maintain soccer field availability during Geer Park construction.
 - **Mauricio Flores** seconded the motion.
 - **Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.**

The motion advising the Bond Steering Committee and staff to consider postponing the start of construction for the McKay Park Bond Project to 2026. This delay aims to minimize construction-related disruptions by avoiding the simultaneous closure of all four soccer fields at Geer Park and McKay Park.

- **2024 SPRAB Park Tour/Chair Norris**
 - Chair Norris asked for input on conducting a park tour.
 - **Mauricio Flores:** Suggested visiting parks that are often overlooked but could benefit from future improvements.
 - **Al Holland:** Requested city staff provide a list of potential parks.
 - **Jennifer Kellar:** Recommended early October for the tour but noted scheduling

conflicts for Chair Norris and Al Holland.

- **National Walk to a Park Day**

- Chair Norris mentioned the event on October 10 and discussed promotional opportunities within the community.
- Chair Norris established a committee composed on Vice Chair McDowell and Member Alexander to assist with event planning.
-

5. Board Member Updates

- **Alan Alexander:** Thanked city staff for completing the Skyline Trail.
- **Al Holland:** Asked for updates on Emerald Ash Borer traps and pedestrian access at Straub Nature Area.
- **Rob Romanek:** Reported no detections of the borer and noted policy discussions around improving park connections.

6. New Business

- **Keith Norris:** Raised Jim Shepke's comments about bond levies and other park revenue options for future discussion.
- **Mauricio Flores:** Expressed concern about the potential impact of Emerald Ash Borer, especially within riparian areas, and requested discussion of this issue at a future meeting.

7. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

FOR BOARD MEETING OF: October 10, 2024
AGENDA ITEM NO.: 5.a.

TO: SALEM PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

**FROM: ROB ROMANEK
PARKS PLANNING MANGER**

SUBJECT:

Fairview Park Master Plan Revisit and Refinement

ISSUE:

Shall the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board endorse and forward the proposed update and refinement of the Fairview Park Master Plan to the Salem City Council with a recommendation of approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board endorse and forward the proposed update and refinement of the Fairview Park Master Plan to the Salem City Council with a recommendation of approval.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

In late 2023, the City of Salem initiated a process to revisit and refine the Fairview Park Master Plan to address the time that had passed since the community's initial involvement in developing the original plan in 2016. The goal of this project is to enhance residents' quality of life by providing an updated, cohesive vision for the park's future.

A project team from Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture & Planning has collaborated closely with City Parks Planning staff to gather and integrate community feedback throughout the process. The proposed updates to the Master Plan reflect the community's vision for park development and design, considering both public input and the site's unique characteristics. The revised plan outlines future facilities, intended uses, and development recommendations for the park.

As depicted in Attachments 1 and 2, the proposed update and refinement of the Fairview Park Master Plan (Master Plan) identifies the following elements for the park:

- Interpretive Space, which may include art, history, and educational features
- Amphitheater Gathering Space, with capacity for approximately 250 people
- Natural Play Area, consisting of nature play and one picnic shelter
- Central Play Areas, consisting of accessible play, two picnic shelters, and one restroom
- Pickleball Courts (8), with court lighting, one restroom, and one picnic shelter

- Fenced Dog Park (i.e., Off-leash Dog Area), with small and large dog areas, two shelters, and one restroom
- Market Space, consisting of a community hall, plaza, and food cart space
- Basketball Court
- Multipurpose Lawn
- Community Garden
- Naturalized Drainage Swale
- Rain Garden
- Art and/or Play Pod
- Maintenance Yard

The Master Plan has been developed through a robust public process facilitated by Cameron-McCarthy and City Parks Planning staff. Public involvement methods included community events, stakeholder interviews, and online surveys. Specific engagements included the following:

- **Community Events**
 - Neighbors and park visitors at Fairview Park (60 participants)
 - Latino youth at Willamette Academy's Saturday Workshop (20 participants)
 - Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (IDD), Shangri-La's Accessible Spring Festival (200 or more participants)
 - Neighbors and park visitors at Painters Hall (56 participants)
- **Stakeholder Interviews**
 - Winter and Spring (14 interviews total)
 - Older adults, IDD community, local residents, former Fairview Training Center residents
- **Online Survey**
 - Fall/Winter and Spring (390 and 568 responses, respectively)

Key findings from the public involvement process are outlined as follows:

- **Preserve and Restore Natural Areas:** Emphasize the protection of mature trees, maintaining open spaces, and creating quiet areas.
- **Universal Accessibility:** Ensure accessible paths, parking near amenities, restrooms with larger stalls, sheltered areas, interactive elements for inclusive play, and accommodations for users with mobility limitations.
- **Passive Recreation:** Expand walking trails and add seating throughout the park.
- **Community Programming:** Provide facilities for community events, gathering spaces, and flexible areas for spontaneous use.

- **Informational and Wayfinding Signage:** Install signs to guide visitors, share historical context, and display important safety information.

These findings have been integrated into the Master Plan through proposed site features and guiding design principles:

- **Site Features:**
 - Paths and key amenities are universally accessible.
 - Significant Oregon white oak, Douglas fir, and giant sequoias, and Western red cedar trees are preserved.
 - Establish native prairie natural area to support habitat.
- **Guiding Design Principles:**
 - Prioritize inclusive recreation through universal design.
 - Recognize the site history and former residents.
 - Minimize disturbance of site topography and existing native trees.
 - Serve active and passive recreation needs.
 - Design for year-round community events.

The Master Plan marks a departure from the existing Fairview Park Master Plan, approved by City Council in 2016. Along with the elements previously mentioned, it incorporates donated parkland at the corner of Lindburg Road and Strong Road, acquired by the City in 2021. Notably, the allowed uses and development standards for this property differ from the rest of Fairview Park. Consequently, the plan introduces specific transportation infrastructure and the Market Space, featuring a community hall, plaza, and food cart area. Implementing the Market Space will still require adjustments to several development standards. However, discussions with the City of Salem Planning Division have taken place, and they are supportive of the proposed development and uses.

Fairview Park will be developed in phases, with an estimated minimum of approximately \$4.5 million anticipated for the initial phase. Funding will come from a combination of sources, including system development charges, development district fees, and bond proceeds from the 2022 Safety and Livability Bond, specifically allocated for the dog park. Additionally, the City may seek state and federal grants to further leverage local funding.

Construction of the initial phase is tentatively scheduled for 2027. A detailed phasing plan, included as Attachment 4, outlines the proposed improvements, which will be prioritized based on available funding. To support implementation, a professional cost estimator is currently preparing a construction cost estimate covering all the improvements identified in the phasing plan.

BACKGROUND:

Fairview Park is an approximately 28-acre underdeveloped community park located in southeast Salem. The park is positioned at the eastern edge of the Salem Hills, at the transition zone between the hills and the valley floor and features rolling topography. It sits to the

southwest of Salem Municipal Airport and is bordered by Lindburg Road, Strong Road, Reed Road, and includes the decommissioned Old Strong Road. This location provides convenient access with recently improved collector streets featuring multi-use paths along most of the park's perimeter. The park is part of a larger zoning designation known as Fairview Mixed Use (FMU), designed to accommodate residential and mixed-use developments surrounding the park.

The historical context of the area is significant. Prior to Euro-American settlement, the land was home to the Kalapuya people. Euro-American settlers arrived in the mid-1800s, and the land was claimed under the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850. For much of the 20th century, the park site hosted the Fairview Training Center, a state-run facility for individuals with developmental disabilities. The center, which opened in 1908, became one of Oregon's largest and most notorious institutions, housing over 1,300 patients by the 1980s. It was ultimately closed in 2000 following lawsuits related to human rights violations. The facility was seen as a symbol of the marginalization and systematic abuse of those with developmental disabilities. Most of the Fairview Training Center's buildings were demolished between 2010 and 2016, with the last structures removed in 2019, leaving only two remaining buildings outside the park's boundary: an administrative building now used by the Heritage School and a laundry facility in the process of being designated as a local landmark.

Fairview Park is now part of a larger redevelopment effort to transform the entire 275-acre former Fairview Training Center campus. The surrounding subdivisions, including Pringle Creek Community, Fairview Hills, and Fairview Addition, are being developed with a mix of residential and commercial uses. The City of Salem acquired the park property in 2016 as part of this broader redevelopment plan, with the goal of creating a public space that honors both the natural landscape and the site's complex history.

The park's existing conditions reflect its previous uses. Mature ornamental and native trees, such as Oregon white oak, Douglas fir, and giant sequoias, are scattered across the site, some planted as part of the Fairview Training Center's landscaping. Significant groves of Douglas fir and Oregon white oak are present, particularly in the northern portions of the park. The park also features remnants of the former training center, including roads, sidewalks, curbs, and remnants of demolished buildings. The landscape slopes downward from Strong and Lindburg Roads toward Pringle Creek, and the site's vegetation includes a mix of riparian species near the creek, as well as invasive blackberry and ivy in some areas.

Attachments:

1. Proposed Fairview Park Master Plan
2. Perspective View
3. Fairview Park Master Plan, 2016
4. Phasing Plan

Fairview Park Conceptual Design Plan

09.26.2024

- Project Limits
- Property Line
- Fencing
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees
- Permanent Structures
- Accessory Structures
- Creek Restoration
- Plant Bed
- Irrigated Lawn
- Native Prairie Natural Area
- Bark Mulch at Existing Trees

- A Interpretive Space**
May include art, history, and educational features
- B Amphitheater Gathering Space**
Capacity for approximately 250 people
- C Natural Play Area**
Nature play and 1 shelter
- D Central Play Area**
Accessible play, 2 shelters, 1 restroom
- E Pickleball Courts (8)**
Court lighting, 1 restroom, 1 shelter
- F Fenced Dog Park**
Small and large dog areas, 2 shelters, 1 restroom
- G Market Space**
Community hall, plaza, food cart space
- H Basketball Court**
- I Multipurpose Lawn**
- J Community Garden**
- K Naturalized Drainage Swale**
- L Rain Garden**
- M Art and/or Play Pod**
- N Maintenance Yard**



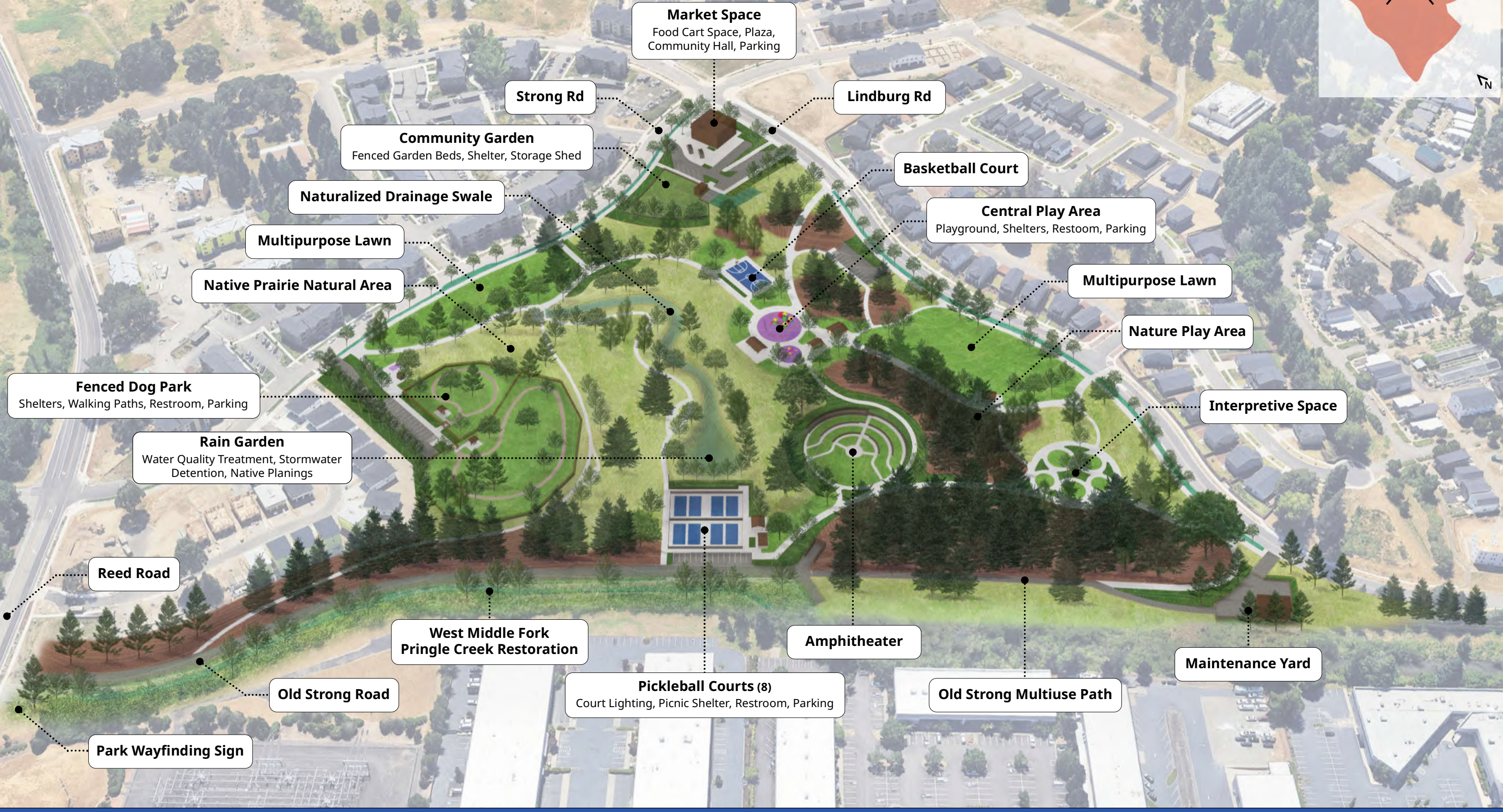
Guiding Principles

- Prioritize inclusive recreation through universal design.
- Recognize site history and former residents.
- Minimize disturbance of site topography and existing native trees.
- Serve active and passive recreation needs.
- Design for year-round community events.

Site Features

- Paths and key amenities are universally accessible.
- Significant Oregon White Oak, Douglas Fir, Giant Sequoia, and Western Red Cedar trees are preserved.
- Establish native prairie natural area to support habitat.





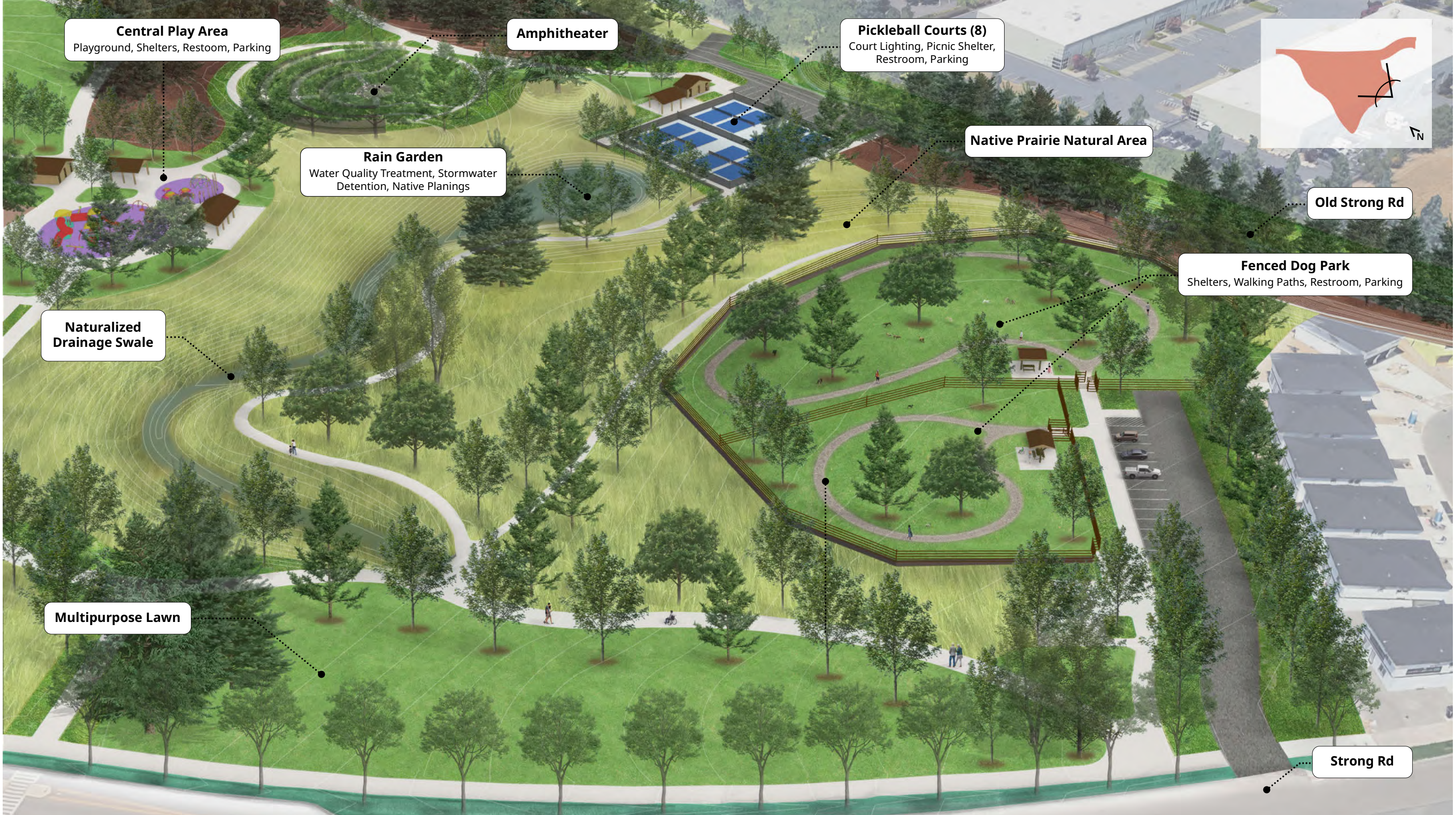
Fairview Park / Parque Fairview

Overall View - Looking Southwest

09.26.2024



CAMERON McCARTHY



Central Play Area
Playground, Shelters, Restroom, Parking

Amphitheater

Pickleball Courts (8)
Court Lighting, Picnic Shelter, Restroom, Parking

Native Prairie Natural Area



Rain Garden
Water Quality Treatment, Stormwater Detention, Native Plantings

Old Strong Rd

Fenced Dog Park
Shelters, Walking Paths, Restroom, Parking

Naturalized Drainage Swale

Multipurpose Lawn

Strong Rd

Fairview Park / Parque Fairview

Dog Park View - Looking North from Strong Rd

09.26.2024



Central Play Area
and Picnic Shelters

Naturalized
Drainage Swale

Basketball Court

Restrooms

Lindburg Rd

Fairview Park / Parque Fairview

Central Play Area View - Looking Southeast from Lindburg Rd

09.26.2024



Park Elements	
1	Play Area
2	Splash Fountain
3	Event Space
4	Off-Leash Dog Area
5	Sand Volleyball
6	History Plaza
7	Baseball / Softball Field
8	Multi-Use Field
9	Maintenance Yard
10	Pickleball Court (4)
11	Basketball Court (1)

0 60 120 180 240
Feet

N

Legend

- Park Boundary
- Right-of-Way
- Major Contours
- Minor Contours
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees
- Potential Connections
- Paved Trails
- Soft Trails
- Picnic Shelter
- Restroom
- Play Areas
- Parking Lot

Figure 5-1 Fairview Park Master Plan
 Fairview Park Master Plan
 June 2016

Attachment 4 Fairview Park Phasing Plan

10.01.2024

----- Project Limits

----- Property Line

Phase 1

Includes:

Dog park with shelters, main play area with shelters, restroom, paths, landscape improvements, parking, screening fence (for portable restroom at dog park), path lighting, and lighting at shelters.

Mulch at all existing trees on entire site.
Mulch at all proposed trees in lawn areas.

Does not include:
Restroom at dog park

Phase 1A

Includes:

Pickleball courts, parking, paths, retaining wall, landscape improvements/repair, lighting at pickleball courts, path lighting, monument sign at Reed Road.

Does not include:
Restroom, shelter

Phase 1B

Includes:

Paths, path lighting, landscape improvements.

Phase 1C

Includes:

Landscape improvements and path lighting.

Does not include:
Shelter



1" = 100'-0" 0' 50' 100' 200'



SALEM PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (SPRAB) MEETING

Parks and Recreation Division Update – October 2024

1. Events/Facility Use

The Recreation team is wrapping up a busy year of coordinating the activities in our Parks and City spaces. As this week draws September and Summer to a close, we can take a look back at how our community enjoyed our beautiful City Facilities.

- Sports and Activity Use in Parks - Between the months of April and September 2024 we had more than 1600 uses of reservable city spaces! This includes field and court reservations for sports use, events, and activities. Our most active parks are Riverfront Park, Wallace Marine, Minto-Brown Island, Geer, Bush's Pasture, Pringle, and Woodmansee.
- Riverfront Park Events
 - Between the months of April and September 2024 Riverfront Park had 140 Event Reservations, including concerts, festivals, fun runs, theatre performances, weddings and private events such as birthday, company and engagement celebrations.
 - The City of Salem hosted 12 community centered events at Riverfront Park in the Summer of 2024, including Let's Dance, Concerts in the Park, Movies in the Park, STRIDE 5k/10k, Viva Salem and the Boot, Scoot and Brew.
 - Of the 140 Events that took place at Riverfront Park between April and September, 40 events were held at the Gerry Frank | Salem Rotary Amphitheater.

2. Recreation Programs

- Over the course of 9 weeks this summer, we offered 210 recreational opportunities. This is an average of 23 camps or activities a week.

3. Softball and Kickball League/Tournaments

- Fall League play ended on Tuesday October 1st with all leagues completing full schedules for the first time in over 10 years.
- This year we had 195 teams playing over 26 weeks of Spring, Summer and Fall seasons and even with cancelations (rain outs, lighting and heat we finished within a week of original scheduled finish.
- The complex finished the tournaments season with three USA Softball Tournaments the last three weeks of September with all three tournaments selling out and having great weather.
- Softball finished the City Hosted Tournaments for 2024. We hosted over the September 14/15 and 21/22 weekends our Fall Series Girl's Fast Pitch Tournaments. To go along with our three Play for a Cure Oregon Fundraiser Series. And the weeklong USA Softball National Tournament this summer. Below is the list of City Hosted Tournaments and the number of teams in each:
 1. Fall Classic 24 Teams
 2. Fall Wrap up 24 Teams
 3. Play for Mother's Day 24 Teams

4. Reach for the Stars 32 Teams
 5. Stars and Stripes 32 Teams
 6. USA Softball 10 & 12B Western Fast Pitch Nationals 60 Teams
- We wrapped the 2024 tournament season on September 27-29, with our last rental tournament being the Jag Softball Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraising Tournament that drew 34 teams raising close to \$10,000 for the cause.

4. Reinstating Cascade Gateway Park Gate Closure for Enhanced Security

Effective Monday, October 14, 2024, the entrance gate at Cascade Gateway Park will return to its pre-COVID-19 practice of being closed daily from sunset to sunrise. This measure is being reintroduced to address ongoing security concerns, including vandalism, graffiti, illegal camping, and vehicle abandonment. The gate closure is a coordinated effort between the Parks and Recreation Division, the Salem Police Department, and Code Enforcement to improve safety and preserve park resources.

5. Individual Park Master Planning

- Fisher Road Park Master Plan – The consultant project team and Parks Planning staff are nearing completion of a preferred concept for the Fisher Road Park Master Plan. The concept, developed based on extensive community feedback, will soon be shared with engaged stakeholders. During the second round of community engagement, participants expressed a clear preference for a shaded picnic area, a playground with water play, and a community garden. Community priorities also emphasized safety, accessibility, trails, a restroom, off-street parking, and shade structures, with some suggestions to combine elements from both alternatives. These considerations are examples of the factors that have guided the preparation of the preferred concept.

The preferred concept will be presented to SPRAB at the November 14 meeting for review and consideration of endorsement.

6. Parks Planning and Development

- Parks Planning at the ¡Viva Salem! Hispanic Festival — The Parks Planning team was excited to participate in the second annual ¡Viva Salem! Hispanic Heritage Festival, held at Riverfront Park on Saturday, September 28. With an estimated 2,000 people in attendance, the event provided a fantastic opportunity to engage with the community. We capitalized on the large turnout by hosting a double-sized booth, showcasing information on 12 active park planning and development projects across the city. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the community expressed strong support for our work. The festival was a tremendous success, made possible by the collaborative efforts of many.

Photos from the event can be found on the following page.



- **Riverfront Park Playground Project Update** — Salem’s Riverfront Park Playground and Pathways Project is progressing as we take the first steps toward design work. We have received proposals from two landscape architecture firms and are currently evaluating them to begin the design process. This project will modernize the park’s playground with inclusive equipment and improved pathways.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission has approved our \$770,000 funding request, following a strong case made by the City to the Local Government Grant Program Advisory Board on July 24. Mayor Hoy and SRPAB Chair Keith Norris played key roles in advocating for this priority project. We also received media coverage of these announcement through the Salem Reporter.

With the funding secured, we anticipate starting construction in 2026. The project aims to create a space that serves residents of all ages and abilities, aligning with Salem’s commitment to inclusivity and accessibility.

Here is Riverfront Park playground concept magnification on to the park master plan.



- **Sport Court Improvements at River Road Park and Sumpter Park** — Construction of these project is progressing with completion still scheduled for late November 2024.
- **Minto Brown Island Park Parking Lot Paving** — The Minto Brown Island Parking Lot Paving project is nearing substantial completion with paving operation concluding at Parking Lot No. 3. However, several closeout tasks, including material disposal (soil containing household garbage) and tree planting may extend into November or possible December. As a result, an event to celebrate the completion of the project is being postponed until mid-spring 2025, allowing for a more impactful and enjoyable event.
- **Park Improvement Tracking Report** – See attachment of the following 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	█			2025
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%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	2028
Riverfront Park Electrical Improvements	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	2027
Riverfront Park Playground Expansion and Pathway*	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	2026
Community Parks				
Fairview Park Development, Phase 1*	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	2027
Geer Park Skatepark and Pathway	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	2025
Geer Park Land Trade and Access Improvement	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	2026
Neighborhoods Parks				
Bailey Ridge Park Development, Phase 1	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	2027
Brown Road Park Development, Phase 1	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	2027
Other Master Plan Projects				
Skyline Trail Connection - Sprague High to Joplin Court S	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	2024

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



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY

TO: Members
Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Mission Street Parks Conservancy

DATE: October 7, 2023

RE: MSPC Report on Activities for the Period July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023

The Mission Street Parks Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to preserving, maintaining, enhancing, and interpreting Bush’s Pasture Park and other iconic landscapes on and near Mission Street.

The MSPC Board began a significant transition in July, with the election of Maureen McGee as Board President. Maureen succeeds Christine Chute in the role. Current leadership is as follows:

- Maureen McGee, Chair
- Kathy Savicki, Secretary
- Gretchen Carnaby, Treasurer
- Patti Sieg
- Michael Weber
- Emily Standish
- Julia Battle

Preserve

Rose specialist Elaine Sedlack has been working with MSPC to identify Bush Park old roses throughout year and, between March and mid-September, volunteers have planted 38 new roses in the Tartar Old Rose Collection. Other new and replacement roses are still on order to be delivered later. Weeding and edging in this area continues, and plans are to mulch the southern half of the old rose collection potentially in early to mid-October.

We continue to coordinate with the Salem Central Association of Neighbors (SCAN) on this work.

Maintain

The Tuesday Gardeners were hard at work each week this summer on routine but important maintenance projects. Given the season’s heat and drought, volunteers conducted regular hand watering to protect new plantings and other specified plants—largely protecting them from the warm weather. Other major tasks included weeding, edging and mulching in various gardens, renovation of tree circles, removing suckers, thinning shrubs, and other detail work.

Enhance

Construction on the Woodland Garden started in earnest this period with the City removing trees and shrubs and engaging in other preparatory work. MSPC is in the process of ordering materials to begin the next steps in the



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY

project, including stone cobbles for edging paths. We anticipate the project to continue to stay on schedule for completion in late 2023, early 2024.

As of mid-September, MSPC had received \$38,370 in donations out of a budgeted \$44,596 for the Woodland Garden project. MSPC is incredibly thankful to our generous donors for this support!

Interpret

The MSPC Board is continue to work on plans for temporary signage to identify the work being done in the Woodland Garden, and permanent signage for that space. Work also continues to add new signage identifying the varieties of Old Roses in the Mae Tarter Old Rose Collection.

Plant Sales

The MSPC Summer plant sale was held in coordination with the Salem Air Fair & Festival on July 21 through July 23. Final proceeds for the summer sale were a decrease from previous years, totaling \$4,487.69.

MSPC gives our sincere thanks to all of the hardworking volunteers who helped to plan and run the July event, as well as to our amazing growers and vendors: Egan Gardens, SeaDance Nursery, Van Hevelingen Herb Nursery, Garden Thyme Nursery, and Michael Slater.

The summer plant sale is a major fundraiser for MSPC and is one of two plant sales we do annually. As we look forward to 2024, we appreciate the ongoing and very positive discussions with the Salem Art Association for how we can continue to coordinate going forward given their recently-announced decision to move the Art Fair to September.

Community

In late August, the Tuesday Gardeners had a fabulous trip to the Eugene area to visit the garden of Tom Beatty, Salem's former Horticulturalist, and to visit the Owen Rose Garden with a guided tour of the special old roses by rose specialist Elaine Sedlack.

Each week, MSPC's fantastic volunteer coordinator, Emily Standish, shares calendar listings for local social, plant-related and educational events with our Tuesday Gardeners. MSPC is extremely grateful to Emily for her work enhancing the sense of community among our large group of dedicated volunteers and friends!

Attachments: Four Photos by Jim Schomaker



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY



Tuesday Gardener volunteers cut an entryway through the hedge into the new Woodland Garden space.



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY



Casa Blanca Lily blooming in the Bush Park gardens in August.



Rose specialist Elaine Sedlack (right) guiding MSPC's Tuesday Gardeners on a tour of the Owen Rose Garden in Eugene.



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY



Naked Lilies (*Amaryllis Belladonna*) showcasing their beautiful blooms in mid-September. These plants are located on the north side of the Bush Park Conservatory.



Board Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2024

In Attendance

Melissa Bazargani
Gretchen Carnaby
Maureen McGee
Kathy Savicki
Patti Sieg
Emily Standish
Mike Weber

NOTES	ACTIONS
1. Agenda: Maureen called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.	
2. Minutes: Mike moved and Patti seconded approval of the May minutes. Motion passed.	
3. Financial Report: The June report is not yet available and will be reviewed in August.	
<p>4. Regular Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Coordinator. Emily noted 5 new volunteers since the first of the year, and two high school students working with us for the summer. Patti will be talking with staff at South High to explore options for engaging more students to work in Bush Park. We brainstormed a number of ideas for engaging other civic groups and for seeing whether the City needs our help with reaching out to potential park volunteers. This will be a focus in the August meeting. • Garden Management: Mike has checked with park staff and they agree we should install a short stone path in the muddy choke point at the southwest corner of Bush House. We also plan to purchase and install a trellis for the clematis just west of Bush Barn. Emily raised a concern that we have not been doing hand watering of non-irrigated plants on Tuesdays. 	<p>Maureen will check with Amanda and a contact at the Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>Mike will check with Brian’s replacement when selected, then develop a budget.</p> <p>Melissa will research trellis options.</p> <p>Mike will ask Brian what needs watering.</p>
<p>5. Old Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden Manager Recruitment: A subcommittee narrowed the scope of work and agreed that we are seeking an independent contractor. 	<p>Maureen will write up an RFP and ask a legal colleague to review. Board members are asked to send Maureen a list of individuals and organizations we should approach.</p>

Mission Street Parks Conservancy
Board Meeting Minutes for July 9, 2024

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development/fundraising: Maureen has edited Gretchen’s draft letter and met with Emily and Melissa to consolidate our database into one list of emails we can upload into NEON or Mailchimp. There is a plan in place to keep the list current.• Summer Volunteer Potluck: The Board will provide protein for grilling.• Legal community work party: We are waiting for the group to select a date. Amanda is on board to support the event.	<p>Melissa will send the fundraising letter using NEON.</p> <p>Patti will bring a shopping list to the August meeting.</p> <p>Maureen will tell Mike the number of volunteers; he will calculate the amount of mulch to be ordered by Amanda.</p>
---	---

Next meetings

- August 13** 11:30-1:30
- September 10** 11:30-1:30
- October 15** 12-2
- November 12** 12-2
- December 10** time tba



Board Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2024

In Attendance

Melissa Bazargani
Gretchen Carnaby
Maureen McGee
Kathy Savicki (by phone)
Patti Sieg
Emily Standish
Mike Weber

NOTES	ACTIONS
1. Agenda: Maureen called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.	
2. Minutes: Minutes from the July meeting were adopted with corrections.	
3. Financial Report: The June report was reviewed. Given that there were no transactions in July, we will receive and review the July and August financial reports at the September meeting.	
<p>4. Regular Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Sale: All of the spring sale vendors, except for Pedersen’s, are returning for the fall sale, with Out In The Garden nursery participating again after many years. • Garden Management: We have had at least 25 volunteers each week, with the current focus on weeding and mulching rose beds and mulching around oaks and near the ravine. There have been some losses of new plantings in the Woodland Garden, probably due to water issues which Amy is addressing. 	Maureen will contact Mike Slater to request that he meet with Gretchen and Mike Weber to update the garden task list for fall, to include Woodland Garden tasks, planting crabapples, trees in storage at Deepwood, and managing our tree care contract with Brian French.
<p>5. Old Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Roses: Gretchen reported that we have expended our grant funds, and she has 3 roses coming in September and 2 more yet to order. . • Summer Volunteer Potluck: Patti will purchase drinks, meats for grilling and condiments. • Community Outreach: Patti has reached out to 3 schools, and has a meeting scheduled with Jane Goodall Environmental Middle School and Ike Box to talk about youth involvement in the Park. 	Board members are asked to come early to set up.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education: Julia has completed teaching summer classes with SAA and the partnership has gone well. She suggested we develop an annual list of activities in the Park that we can publicize through partner organizations. • OWLS Work Party: The event was successful and made good progress in mulching rose beds. It was suggested that we create a rose bed revival event each April and recruit a large crew to ready the beds for spring. • Woodland Garden: Patti will shop for styles and vendors for tables and chairs in the Woodland Garden so that we can make a decision on purchase. 	
<p>6. New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bush House: Bill Galbraith has volunteered to serve as our liaison to their advisory committee. Maureen wrote a letter of support from MSPC for SAA’s application for a grant for Bush House improvements. • SCAN: Maureen has invited their new board chair to attend our September meeting. • Salem Baseball: There is no public comment period for the land use application they submitted on Aug. 2. • Communication/fundraising: Melissa will draft a description of the tasks we need to contract for. We agreed that we need to get our communication needs and fundraising plan addressed before we recruit a garden manager. 	<p>Mike W, Melissa and Julia will work on the plan for regular newsletters and an annual fundraising plan.</p>

Next meetings

September 10 11:30-1:30
October 15 12-2
November 12 12-2
?December 10 time tba