

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

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

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

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

DIGITAL MEETING INFORMATION

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

To access the December 9, 2021, 5:30 p.m. Zoom meeting from computer, tablet, or smartphone click on the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83663874330>

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

Live, public comment: Please contact Toni Whitler **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 Whitler, at twhitler@cityofsalem.net or 503-588-6211.

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

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

CITY OF SALEM
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
DIGITAL AGENDA
December 9, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Dylan McDowell, Chair
Micki Varney, Vice Chair
Alan Alexander
Tony Caito
Woody Dukes
Dave Fridenmaker
Rick Hartwig
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 6, 2021 –
Climate Action Plan – Informational Report @
6:00 p.m.
- City Council – December 13, 2021 @ 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** (5:40 p.m.)
 - a. None.
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT** (*Public Comment for agenda and non-agenda items, 3 minutes.*) (5:45 – 5:55 p.m.)
- 5. BOARD ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS** (5:55 – 6:30)
 - a. Mission Street Parks Conservancy Annual Work Plan – *Christine Chute*
ACTION
 - b. Approve Annual Report to Council – *Toni Whitler* **ACTION**
 - c. Board Vacancies/January Elections/Bailey Ridge Park Liaison Change –
Dylan McDowell/Toni Whitler
- 6. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES** (6:30 – 6:40 p.m.)
- 7. INFORMATION REPORTS – WRITTEN** (6:40 – 7:00 p.m.)
 - a. Mission Street Park Conservancy Minutes
 - b. Urban Forestry Update
 - c. Parks & Natural Resources Planning Update
 - d. Parks Operations Update
 - e. Recreation Services Update
 - f. Park Damage Report - Forthcoming
- 8. NEW BUSINESS** (7:00 – 7:15 p.m.)
- 9. NEXT MEETING**
 - a. January 13, 2022 – Happy New Year!
- 10. ADJOURN**

SALEM PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
November 16, 2021
5:30 PM
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Alan Alexander
Tony Caito
Dylan McDowell
Micki Varney
David Fridenmaker
Paul Rice (late)
Rick Hartwig
Keith Norris

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Patricia Farrell
Toni Whitler
Marc Weinstein
Kimberly Spivey

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair McDowell called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

3. MINUTES

Alan Alexander moved to adopt the October 14 minutes as presented. Micki Varney seconded. All in favor; motion passes. Minutes approved. Member Fridenmaker abstained from vote as he was not present for previous meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Victoria Miles, Community Impact Coordinator for Integrated Supports for Living

Victoria introduced herself as the Community Impact Coordinator for Integrated Supports for Living, an organization that provides therapeutic group homes and employment support for children and adults with disabilities. She has been speaking with Keizer Parks regarding adaptive play equipment and is hoping to bring this same issue to Salem for discussion, to see what ADA accommodations could be made in Salem parks.

Patricia Farrell explained that park master plans usually reference inclusive and ADA accessible play equipment. The Parks department is always working to upgrade play equipment and feedback is welcome. Patricia is interested in learning any suggestions Integrated Supports for Living may have regarding additional accommodations.

Victoria explained that Integrated Supports for Living is hosting an “inclusive field day” fundraiser involving children and adults ages 4-21 on June 4, 2022, to raise money for play equipment. She will put together additional fundraiser information in email form. Patricia mentioned that the Geer Park Master Plan was recently completed with plans for an inclusive playground, and it would be helpful to have suggestions as the play equipment plans grow more specific. Chair McDowell thanked Victoria for her comments and encouraged her to also share related information or language from her discussions with City of Keizer, as this information may be helpful in the planning process.

5. BOARD ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

a. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – PATRICIA FARRELL

Patricia thanked the Board for taking the time to meet. She explained that there has been a change to the expected timeline for the plan and presented a revised schedule. The public comment period for this plan was originally open until November 5, 2021. Hundreds of comments were received, many related to natural gas strategies. The public comment period has been extended. Instead of moving ahead with the planned December 6, 2021, hearing, an informational report will be provided to Council at that time.

A new revised final draft report will be posted November 19, 2021. This will include the new greenhouse gas modeling forecast that was requested by NW Natural Gas. There have not been substantial changes to this version of the report, mostly small editorial changes; a summary of the changes will be provided with the report.

Member Norris asked for clarification as to whether there is a set deadline for the public comment extension. Patricia replied that it is open until further notice, until Council sets a meeting. The form that was previously available for public comment submission will not be available, but emails will continue to be accepted.

Chair McDowell inquired if SPRAB should still create a letter of support at this meeting, given the changes in timeline and information. Patricia replied that it would still be appropriate, because any additional information received will be added to the informational report for Council.

Chair McDowell explained that the goal of SPRAB's letter regarding the Climate Action Plan would be to support the plan and place an emphasis on natural resource concerns. He asked if Woody Dukes would like to comment on the suggestions he submitted on this topic.

Member Dukes expressed concern regarding the preference for planting native species. He believes that due to temperature changes, native species may not necessarily be the best choice. Native maples and Douglas firs in Salem are dead or dying, and these changes in climate may not make suitable habitats for native species anymore.

Patricia explained that both native and non-native options are included in the plan – the goal is to plant more native trees on City property and to also add climate-resilient trees. Chair McDowell clarified whether Woody's comments will be included in the upcoming draft. Patricia confirmed that Woody's email will be included in the packet with public comments.

Member Norris offered support for Member Dukes's comments and agreed that while native trees would be preferable, adaptation will be an important component in the long-term success of the Climate Action Plan. He suggested an addition to the Board's letter indicating the date of the specific draft this letter is referring to.

Chair McDowell asked for clarification as to how different drafts of the plan are delineated. Patricia replied that there is a tracking system but she is unsure of the exact details at this time.

Member Alexander expressed issues with the Climate Action Plan. He believes the plan is too broad in scope and that many of the strategies indicate incentivizing citizens, without indication where this funding would be sourced. He does not feel that gas tax would make a significant difference in car use. He believes the plan should focus on two factors: reducing greenhouse gases and increasing resiliency,

and that many of the items included in the plan are unnecessary at this time. Many items could be easily implemented by the City Manager without having to go through this plan process.

Chair McDowell thanked Member Alexander for his comments and added that the Climate Action Plan is much like a wish list, which will allow for a prioritization process where goal items can be pared down in the future.

Patricia explained that a cost/benefit analysis was performed on gas tax and parking. Gas tax did not pencil out and raised equity issues, but charged parking has the potential to be effective with further research. The data of whether these items would incentivize citizens is to be determined. She explained that items given priority in the plan include those with high GHG reduction potential, lower cost to the City, and the City could successfully implement. Items that the City is already doing were also analyzed, such as ongoing sidewalk replacement. Some items in the plan would need to be implemented at a state level. Other priorities include hiring someone to manage the plan, developing partnerships, and identifying measures the City could implement early. Multiple plans of action are being considered.

Member Alexander expressed concern that if Salem discourages downtown parking, it will drive people elsewhere to shop. He is very concerned about Salem's parks and natural resources and believes that the plan's cost analysis does not consider the financial cost to citizens. For example, required energy upgrades to homes before selling would be very costly to citizens.

Patricia agreed that there is a lot of concern over costs of things like housing weatherization. Consultants involved in the plan consider weatherization to be an important step in reducing energy loss and producing less greenhouse gases, particularly in older homes. Incentives could potentially be provided by the state, Energy Trust of Oregon, or other funding sources. The City's has limited capacity to provide financial incentives but would be able to offer services such as technical advisory and energy audits. Member Alexander reiterated that incentives being mentioned without any indication of funding sources makes those aspects of the plan very concerning.

Member Varney expressed support for the letter and appreciation for the suggestions presented through a natural resource lens. She believes this aspect is crucial. She thanked Patricia for clarifying about the plan's prioritization process. Member Varney feels that when looking at the strategies from a scientific view, all items should include an assessment metric. She asked Member Dukes about his comment regarding bringing in new native variants and whether he means variants found locally or from other parts of the state. Member Dukes replied that it could be both. Member Varney agreed that a mix of trees would be prudent as temperatures continue to warm.

Member Norris suggested the board's letter could be further tailored to address natural resources issues. Chair McDowell agreed. Member Alexander concurred with this and added that he wholeheartedly supports the two goals listed in the plan's Executive Summary. Member Rice applauded the efforts of putting this plan together. He agreed with Member Norris that that this will need to be an adaption process and the Board's letter should be tailored to the natural resource's purview. He voiced a concern that growth indicated in the Salem Comprehensive Plan creates a dilemma when viewed alongside the Climate Action Plan. Future growth could be more environmentally sensitive, but this growth and population increase could cause additional issues.

Dylan inquired how City staff is looking at integrating all the ongoing plans.

Patricia replied that the Climate Action Plan is being developed in integration with the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan. More dense housing is being considered along the core Cherriots service area to encourage use of public transportation, better bike systems with separate or protected bike lanes are being considered, as well as more sidewalks and trails. Because not everyone will be mobile enough to utilize these options, electric vehicles and charging stations continue to be an important consideration. Cherriots is a key partner and will be generating their own climate action plan. They have made moves toward reduced emissions and have purchased ten new EV buses.

Member Fridenmaker expressed confusion over GHG reduction mentioned in the plan; he is not sure if this information refers to reduction of gases or a sequestration of emissions into the soils. He noted that the plan does not seem to mention sequestration at all.

Patricia explained that GHG potential is primarily based on reducing emissions. Initial analyses of sequestration potential were disappointing. She added that new technologies of carbon sequestration are emerging, and the City is unable to determine as of yet what the capacities of those technologies will be.

Member Fridenmaker asked how much land is needed to successfully sequester the amount of carbon produced by the City. Patricia replied that the City does not currently possess enough land for these purposes. Member Fridenmaker mentioned that he hopes for coordination with the state regarding land use laws so that additional land could be used for sequestration.

Chair McDowell asked if Member Fridenmaker would like to see this information mentioned in the letter, to include both carbon reduction and sequestration. Member Fridenmaker replied in the affirmative; he believes it is critical to discuss both sides of the equation.

Member Dukes mentioned that significant tree canopy has been lost to wildfires and ice storm. This is relevant to his comment about native and resilient trees.

Member Norris shared a document with his suggestions for wording changes to the letter. Member Alexander expressed support for the letter as written. Member Rice concurred.

Marc Weinstein suggested that once the draft is finalized, there be a formal vote on the final version of the letter. Chair McDowell agreed and added that one person should be designated to sign the letter on behalf of the board.

MOTION

Member Alexander moved, and Member Hartwig seconded to endorse the *Salem Climate Action Plan* by forwarding a letter of support, as amended, to City Council for approval.

Eight members voted in favor of the motion; Member Fridenmaker abstained due to his role being specific to Salem Keizer School District; therefore, he can neither support nor oppose the motion.

7. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

8. NEXT MEETING

December 9, 2021

9. ADJOURN

6:30 PM

November 16, 2021

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council:

The Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is pleased to support the overall goals and efforts contained within the Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the City of Salem presented in draft form prior to November 5. We believe that reducing carbon emissions and adapting Salem to the realities of climate change will make the City more livable, sustainable, and inclusive for our residents.

Given SPRAB's purview of parks and green space, we are specifically supportive of the Plan's Natural Resource vision that "Salem's natural resources will provide benefits to all residents, including physical and psychological health benefits and natural resilience." Many of the included strategies in this section are labeled as low cost and could be achieved in the short-term with immediate results. While the majority of these strategies are ranked as having a low to medium greenhouse gas reduction potential, the associated community benefits--such as reduced flooding impacts--are high and should be prioritized. The strategies also allow the City to prioritize currently underserved areas to ensure all residents have the benefit of parks, green space, and robust canopy cover.

We encourage you to incorporate the Natural Resource strategies as complementary pieces of other goals during implementation. For example, bike paths and greenways can be planted with native vegetation and ensure access to the City's park system. Additionally, increased canopy cover incorporated into new development brings an impressive number of co-benefits alongside carbon reduction and sequestration, ranging from reduced urban heat to improved mental wellbeing.

We recognize that this plan is an approximation and an initial effort by the City to do its part in addressing the world's changing climate and making the city more resilient. We encourage further efforts to prioritize, monitor, and assess the potential and realized outcomes of these actions as the plan's strategies are further developed and implemented.

We are grateful for the tremendous work of City staff to make this plan possible, and the intentional effort to include a diverse set of stakeholders in the plan development. We appreciate that SPRAB was represented on the Task Force and believe our input has helped strengthen the Natural Resources section and will also allow us to stay involved in executing those strategies. We encourage you to adopt and implement the plan to help our City address and adapt to our changing climate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dylan McDowell". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Dylan McDowell, Chair

On behalf of the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY

2022 Work Goals

MAINTENANCE

- March, April – Install new trees, shrubs, and other plant material
- March thru November – Continue weekly volunteer gardening work in landscape beds with focus on edging, mulching, weeding, and hand watering as needed
- April, May – Help dig out tulips; help replant with summer annuals as needed
- April thru June, after bloom time – Help Park staff prune spring-flowering shrubs (Camellias, Rhododendrons, Pieris, lilac, Deutzia, forsythia, azalea, etc.) as needed.
- May, June – Clean up Nursery Garden
- June, July – Consult with City Horticulturist to order 2022 spring tulips
- July, August – Provide input to City Horticulturalist and Urban Forester on health of trees in the Orchard and northwest corner of BPP
- September, November – Install new trees, shrubs, and other plant material
- October – help Park staff prune climbing roses as needed; work in Old Rose Collection
- October, November – Help dig out summer annuals and plant tulips
- November thru February 2023 – Provide input to City Horticulturalist and Urban Forester on new tree plantings in the Orchard and northwest corner of BPP

PROJECTS

- January – Work on development and implementation of urgently needed preservation plan for the Oregon White Oaks in the lower field area as outlined in the Cultural Landscape Management Plan (CLMP)
- January or February – Select first project(s) to work through CLMP flow chart and associated City approval processes
- January thru May – Continue rehabilitation of the Tartar Old Rose Collection, including new plants and new plant labels
- January thru March – Rehabilitate kidney bed in Tartar Old Rose Collection
- February – Take scion wood from crab trees and cherries (Orchard) to grow replacement trees
- February or March -- Replant roses in focal point of Tarter Old Rose Collection
- March thru October -- Offer first Saturday free garden tours with partner Bush House Museum
- March through December – Work the selected project(s) through CLMP flow chart and associated City approval processes.
- Fall – Partner with City to ‘raise’ more rose beds in the Hybrid Tea/Floribunda collection (This is an annual activity.)
- On-going – Continue to accession new plant material in the NW corner of the park
- On-going – Continue identifying Tarter Old Rose collection roses, accession, and install labels

EVENTS

- About April 22-23 – Spring plant sale
- About May 15 – Organize and host garden party for MSPC donors
- Mid-June – Organize and host Rose Garden Open House and celebration of focal point project
- About June 18 – Partner with Bush House Museum in Exploration Day
- About July 15-17 – Summer plant sale
- About Sunday, December 4 – Annual volunteer appreciation dinner

OTHER

- Attend and report to SPRAB quarterly in January, April, July, and October.
- Advocate for the development of a formal City of Salem management plan or management policies for Oregon White Oaks.
- Advocate for the development of formal City of Salem policies that allow for nature play.
- Develop a strategy to participate in and contribute to preservation and improvement of natural landscapes in the riparian area and lower oak grove in Bush's Pasture Park.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT TO SALEM CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF *Salem*
AT YOUR SERVICE
Parks and Recreation

DRAFT

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Est. June 1952

Advanced Wilderness Camp

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, Rick Hartwig, 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 (SPRAB) advocates 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 through input from the community and 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, wellbeing, 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 six, established result areas are the framework for this report, which also highlights Council Priority Areas as applicable.



SAFE COMMUNITY



Youth Corps Clean Stream Crew

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board 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. Safe and accessible routes to parks, while outside the purview of SPRAB, are a critical component for a safe community.

- SPRAB does not recommend that Salem parks be used for permanent or temporary campsites.

SPRAB recommends City Council provide funding of the following:

- Increasing Park maintenance staff and equipment to levels sufficient to maintain new and existing park properties and amenities.

- Continued park cleanup of Cascades Gateway Park, Wallace Marine Park, and other park properties where camping has occurred.
- Maintaining Marion County agreements for corrections 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.
- Provide additional park rangers and police coverage of parks where higher incidences of threat are likely and to provide needed enforcement of park rules and regulations.
- Providing additional security lighting, which allows police and residents a clear view into park areas.



WELCOMING AND LIVABLE COMMUNITY



Pickleball Camp

Council Priority Area 4, Building Great Neighborhoods

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:

- In May 2021, City Council requested that SPRAB identify policy recommendations for park usage and permitting of events at City parks in order to provide a clearer and more equitable

process for park and event reservations, along with expectations for conduct in city parks. This task was completed and recommendations presented to City Council in September 2021.

- Approval of Master Plans for Geer Park, Woodmansee Park, and Bush's Pasture Park & Deepwood Gardens Cultural Landscape Management Plan.
- Phase One improvements to Woodmansee Park including reconstructed tennis courts, multi-use field, picnic shelter and hard surface pathway.
- Eight-unit restroom facility at Riverfront Park completed this year.
- Initiation of annexation of 2-acre Fisher Road park addition.
- Salem Park Improvement Fund Program awards.
- Rehabilitation of several multi-sport courts.
- Rehabilitation of basketball courts, including new striping, basketball posts and backboards.



...Continued

- Upgrade and/or replacement of parks amenities, including parks entrance signage, drinking fountains, benches, picnic tables, kiosks, shelters and playground equipment.
- Annual refurbishment of two softball infields each year in Wallace Marine Softball Complex.
- New playground near soccer fields at Wallace Marine Park.
- New playground at Rees Hill Park.
- Continuation of fee waivers for low-income families to provide positive, healthy activities for children and families through recreation programming.
- 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.

SPRAB recommends support and/or funding for the following actions and programs:

- The inclusion of park development and upgrades as priority spending areas for a potential bond measure.
- The enhancement of Salem's parks through funding and development of additional recreational program opportunities, park acquisitions, and upgrades to existing and new parks.
- Continued collaboration with Salem Art Association, Friends of Trees, Mission Street Parks Conservancy, Lord and Schryver Conservancy and Gardeners, Deepwood Gardeners, Deepwood Estates, Salem Riverfront Carousel, and Gilbert House Children's Museum.
- The Summer Parks Program, sport camps, Owl Prowls, Jr. Ranger programming, and outdoor survival programs.





STRONG AND DIVERSE ECONOMY



Gerry Frank Salem Rotary Amphitheater

Beautiful and diverse parks and ample recreational opportunities contribute to a thriving economy. 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.

SPRAB has endorsed and recommended the following opportunities and actions:

- The completion of the Gerry Frank Salem Rotary Amphitheater that will provide a new venue for future events and continue to promote Salem.
- The Ironman event held in July that drew 2,200 participants and an estimated 11 million dollar impact for our community.

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/El Rey Concerts

While most community events were canceled in 2021 due to the pandemic, the following outdoor recreational opportunities for youth and families did occur and followed COVID regulations established by the State of Oregon.

- Softball/kickball leagues and tournaments run by City of Salem recreation staff as well as facility sport rentals for baseball and softball tournaments.

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

- National and regional softball and soccer tournaments
- STRIDE and 5K/10K/Half marathon and special event runs/walks
- Promotion of regional marathon, half-marathon and multi-sport events



SAFE, RELIABLE, AND EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE



Peter Courtney Minto-Brown Island Bridge

Council Priority Area 4, Building Great Neighborhoods

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 wellbeing 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:

- A grant application to Department of Transportation for a pathway along Pringle Creek in downtown through a letter of support from the Board.

- SPRAB requested the enhancement of public transportation to Geer Community Park with the reduction of parking spaces at the park in the 2021 Geer Park Master Plan Update.
- Pringle Creek trail connection linking downtown to Riverfront Park

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

- Safe Pedestrian Crossings Program for safer pedestrian access to parks.
- Bike share locations in City parks.



Jr. Park Ranger Camp

Council Priority Area 5, Taking Action on Climate Change

Parks, green spaces, natural areas, and the urban tree canopy are priorities for community health, individual health, and economic vitality, and are all important components of climate change and the Climate Action Plan. Parks play a key role in protecting these features for climate change resiliency, carbon sequestration, and equity.

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, urban heat island reduction, carbon sequestration, and restorative passive recreation opportunities.

SPRAB has supported or recommended the following actions and programs:

- Increasing funding for the Urban Forestry Division to manage and maintain over 300,000 right of way trees. Increase staffing to provide

certified arborists for GIS asset management, customer service and tree planning & preservation. As well as adding arborists to provide high quality care of existing tree canopy and increased tree planting efforts that will support future goals laid out by the Climate Action Plan and the Urban Forestry Master Plan.

- The creation of a City Climate Action Plan by participation on the Climate Action Plan Task Force.
- Planning Commission's proposal to adopt all trees over 24" dbh as Significant Trees and protected under city code.
- Salem Tree Report summarizing Public Works tree projects for 2020.
- The development of a tree survey for property owners to assist in identifying tree planting opportunities and barriers on private property.
- The Salem Climate Action Plan.
- Hearing of appeals related to removals of City trees.



...Continued

- Participation in implementing the Community Forestry Strategic Plan goals, including formation of a tree committee to assist in education and outreach.

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

- Protection of established trees, preservation of Oregon white oaks, and continued commitment to tree plantings in low canopy areas of the city.
- Protection and enhancement of sensitive natural resources in parks through restoration and public education.
- 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.
- Natural Resource strategies in the Climate Action Plan as they relate to parks.
- Salem Urban Tree Canopy Assessment and new canopy goal of 28% by 2030.
- Applications for grant funding for restoration of natural areas.
- Salem Library explorer backpack kits for nature exploration in parks.
- 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, owl prowls, and outreach through tree and native vegetation planting events.
- Continuation of Minto-Brown Island Park Turtle Habitat Restoration project with ODFW.





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 and park maintenance. These efforts will provide a more sustainable and economically stable community.

SPRAB has endorsed and recommended the following actions:

- Two important City-wide plans that are being finalized in 2021, including Our Salem, an update to the City's Comprehensive Plan, and the Climate Action Plan. Both plans recognize the importance of parks for a livable city and for addressing climate change. Both plans also propose new policies and strategies that promote complete streets and neighborhoods, thereby reducing the need to drive and enhance other travel options, such as biking or walking to local destinations.
- The inclusion of park development and upgrades as priority spending areas for a potential bond measure in 2022.
- Improvements to Parks & Recreation web pages as part of the implementation of new City website software to provide equitable access 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.

- Coordination with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz, and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs per the Memorandum of Understanding.

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 such as the recent request for policy recommendations on park usage and permitting.
- Participate in advisory groups, such as the Climate Action Plan Task Force and Library Strategic Plan Steering Committee.
- 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.



Public Works Department

APWA ACCREDITED AGENCY

Information on all City Boards and Commissions is available through the following link:
www.cityofsalem.net/boards-and-commissions



Information Reports Packet

For SPRAB Meeting December 9, 2021

1. Mission Street Parks Conservancy Minutes - October 28, 2021
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 - Delayed
5. Recreation Services Report– Becky George, Recreation Services Supervisor
6. Damage Reports - Delayed



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY

Board Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2021

In Attendance

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

1. **Agenda** Christine called the meeting to order (via phone). The agenda was approved as written.

2. **Minutes** Michael moved and Bonnie seconded adoption of the minutes for the September meeting as amended. The minutes were approved.

3. **Financial** Gary provided the end of September financial report. Mike moved and Gretchen seconded that we move \$1500 for the rose garden restoration from the restricted fund to the general fund now that the restriction's condition has been met. Motion passed.

4. Old Business

- **Insurance** Christine reported that a slight increase in the cost of our liability insurance puts us slightly over budget.
- **Check in with City Staff** Christine reported on her Oct. 6 call with Jennifer, Patricia and Brian. They have no requested changes in extending the MOU, which is now under review by their legal department. It will go to SPRAB in December along with our 2022 Work Plan. The City has given permission for us to resume tagging the trees and shrubs in the Orchard. Other Board members will join Christine on the January call with City staff.
- **Lower Oaks** The Board concurred (via email) with Brian's suggestions for protecting these trees. Milan is planning to prepare a report on the oak tree we've identified as ailing and send it to us.
- **Volunteers** Emily is working with Anita and Donna to recruit a back-up person to work in the Conservatory. Our last Tuesday gardening day this year will be Nov. 23, resuming in March. Mike will work with Brian to prepare a list of team leaders and projects to tackle on days when we have extra volunteers. After much discussion, we reluctantly decided that a winter volunteer celebration gathering is not safe given high COVID levels. We committed to an outdoor event when the weather allows. Emily and Gretchen will take on the research to find a wearable gift for volunteers.

5. New Business

- **Strategy for lower oak preservation and riparian area restoration** was added back to the 2022 Work Plan after discussion with City staff. Mike suggested we explore joining with the City to raise funds to hire a company which specializes in this work. He will check with Brian to see what approaches he is considering.
- **Selecting a 2022 improvement project** There was consensus that development of the nursery garden is the most feasible next project. Christine will request a meeting with City staff to explore what would be needed to move ahead with the application process.
- **End of year fund-raising** Mike and Gretchen will write an appeal letter to be mailed Nov. 26, with a possible follow-up appeal on Dec. 22.
- **Newsletter** Articles and authors were identified, all due to Mike by Nov. 15.
- **Spring Plant Sale** Gretchen suggested April 15-16. She will assist Emily with volunteers, support Mike with growers and plant set up, and handle cash as the Treasurer. Mike agreed to take on publicity. We need to recruit someone to coordinate the physical set up and take down. Kathy moved and Gretchen seconded that we proceed with planning for an April plant sale. Motion approved.
- **2022 Budget** Mike agreed to draft a proposed budget for our next meeting.

Next Meeting:

December 2, 4 to 6 pm

URBAN FORESTRY REPORT

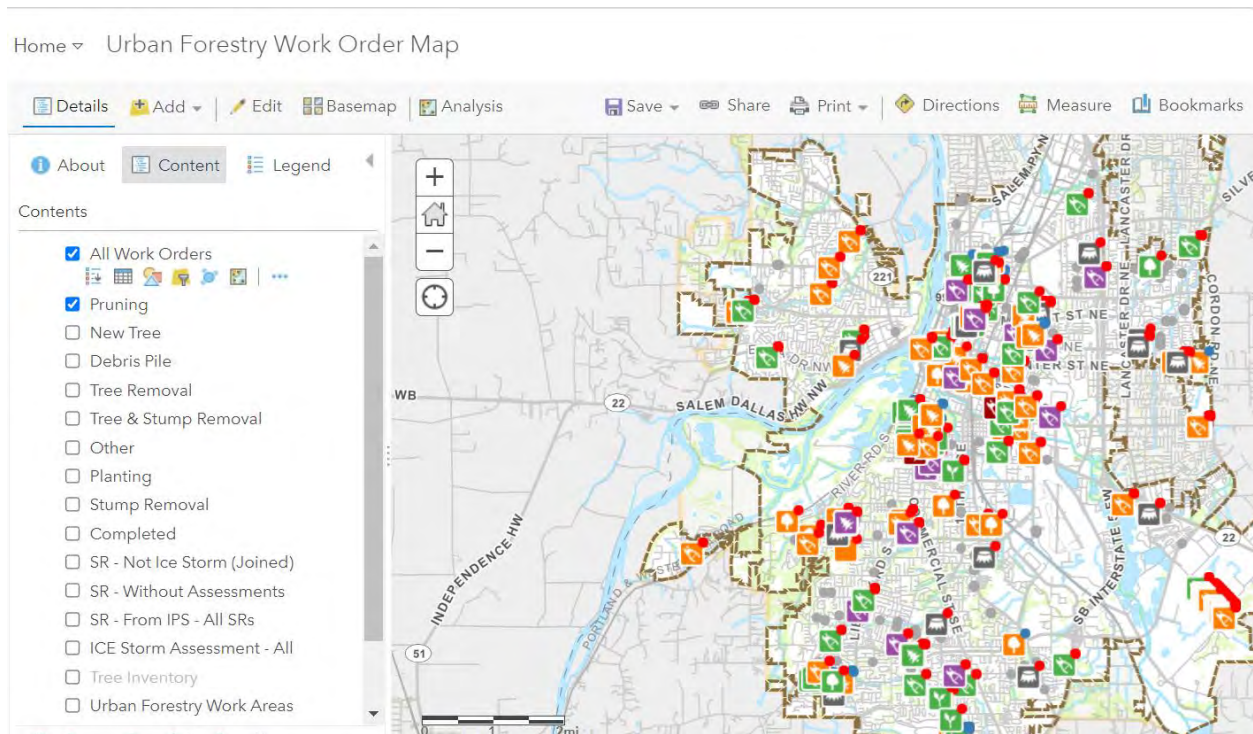
November 2021

Urban Forestry Division

Parks Operations

City of Salem Public Works Department

The UFD continues to do storm cleanup work from the February ice storm. One full time contract crew from Mountain View is being managed by city arborist Don Gunther to complete work order tasks related to storm damage. As well one city tree crew is working daily on storm related pruning and removal. Other city staff is focusing on routine maintenance including our new tree structural pruning, street tree inventory, Service request related work orders and stump grinding. We are working with IT and GIS staff to clean up and complete the Workforce Ice Storm map and move all of the remaining work to a more current GIS forestry map to track and create work for tree related activities.



Our new GIS map will track and record all work performed by the UFD including pruning, removals, planting, stump removal, tree inspections, and service request. This map will increase our efficiency and allow other city staff including dispatch to know what work is scheduled and completed city wide.

Don Gunther recently passed his ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification. The city now has two ISA Certified TRAQ Arborists to inspect trees at the highest level of qualification given by the International Society of Arboriculture. The tree crew also replaced one of our PMO staff and welcome long time seasonal employee Cesar Estrada to work with the crew full time.

Parks and Natural Resources Planning Update – November 2021

Climate Action Plan – Staff met with the Planning Commission, Human Rights Commission, and SPRAB in November. The Final Draft plan has been posted and public comment period has been extended. Council decided that there will not be a public hearing on Dec. 6th, but there will be an informational report to Council instead on that date. Approval of the plan by Council TBD. SPRAB letter of support (and all public comments) will be attached to the staff report for December 6.

Bailey Ridge Park Master Plan – Staff has met with Cameron McCarthy, Landscape Architects in mid-October for kickoff site visit and initial meeting. This is a neighborhood park in Ilahee area of Salem (SWAN Neighborhood Association.) Planning has begun and we are working under the assumption that all meetings will be virtual. The first meeting will be in late January (1/26/22). Toni Whitler is the project manager. Micki and Paul are the SPRAB liaisons.

Geer Community Park Master Plan Update/Phase 2 Development - Skate Park 30% Design – Public survey on initial feedback for skate park design was well received with hundreds of responses. Responses are being analyzed. The next round of public engagement will be held in January and will focus on the review of initial design concept.

Bill Riegel Park –Engineering is developing construction plans and bid package. Park will be under construction in summer of 2022.

Candalaria Reservoir – At the request of SWAN, Staff has been investigating possible new play equipment to add to the open space however safety and ADA requirements increase cost substantially. Toni is keeping SWAN apprised of opportunities and constraints. Technically this is not a park, so they cannot apply for SPIF grants.

Tree City USA 45th Year – Staff has submitted our annual TCUSA and Growth Award applications.

Tree Planting –Results of the public survey about trees on private property are being analyzed and a brief report prepared. Goal of the survey is to find out barriers and incentives to private property tree plantings. This will help with our outreach in the future. Pilot private front yard tree project kicking off in NOLA in February.

Beaver Dam Operational Plan. Draft plan being prepared and reviewed. The plan was presented at the October SPRAB meeting and comments from stakeholders and agencies are being incorporated into final draft. It will come back to SPRAB 2022 and then go to Council after that as an informational report.

Minto Island Conservation Area (MICA) Events– staff is working on proposed changes to the event guidance in order to accommodate larger events such as Ironman during bird nesting season. Proposed changes are being reviewed by ODFW and BPA.

SPRAB Annual Report –an updated version was sent to the Board in November for their review and comment. A final draft will be presented in December as an action item to approve and forward to City Council in January.

Park Usage and Permitting Recommendations – Toni is lead on incorporating the recommendations into the Parks, Streets, and Public Open Spaces Administrative Rule. Some of the recommendations have complexities that may take some time to work through. She is working with Jennifer Kellar, Becky George and her staff in this process. (no change)

Fairview Land Donation — A 1.7-acre parcel of land is being donated to the City at the corner of Lindberg Road and Strong Road. This land will be added to Fairview Park.

Hilfiker/Meyer Farm/Fairview Connectivity. There are a number of changes in the vicinity of Hilfiker Park. The attached map shows the location of these potential changes.

- The Meyer Farm property has a subdivision application that will come before Council at a public hearing on January 10, 2022. The proposed development would have a road connection between Battle Creek Road and Hilfiker Lane, with sidewalks and bike lanes. The attached plan shows the subdivision plan.
- There is a potential land donation for a Natural Area at the “Fairview Woods” property. This could include a trail towards Fairview Park.

Trail Connectivity Map: Hilfiker Park to Fairview Park to Reed Road Park

Legend

- Shared Use Path, Existing
- Shared Use Path/Park Path, Proposed
- Soft Trail, Existing
- Potential Off Street Trail (CPSMP)

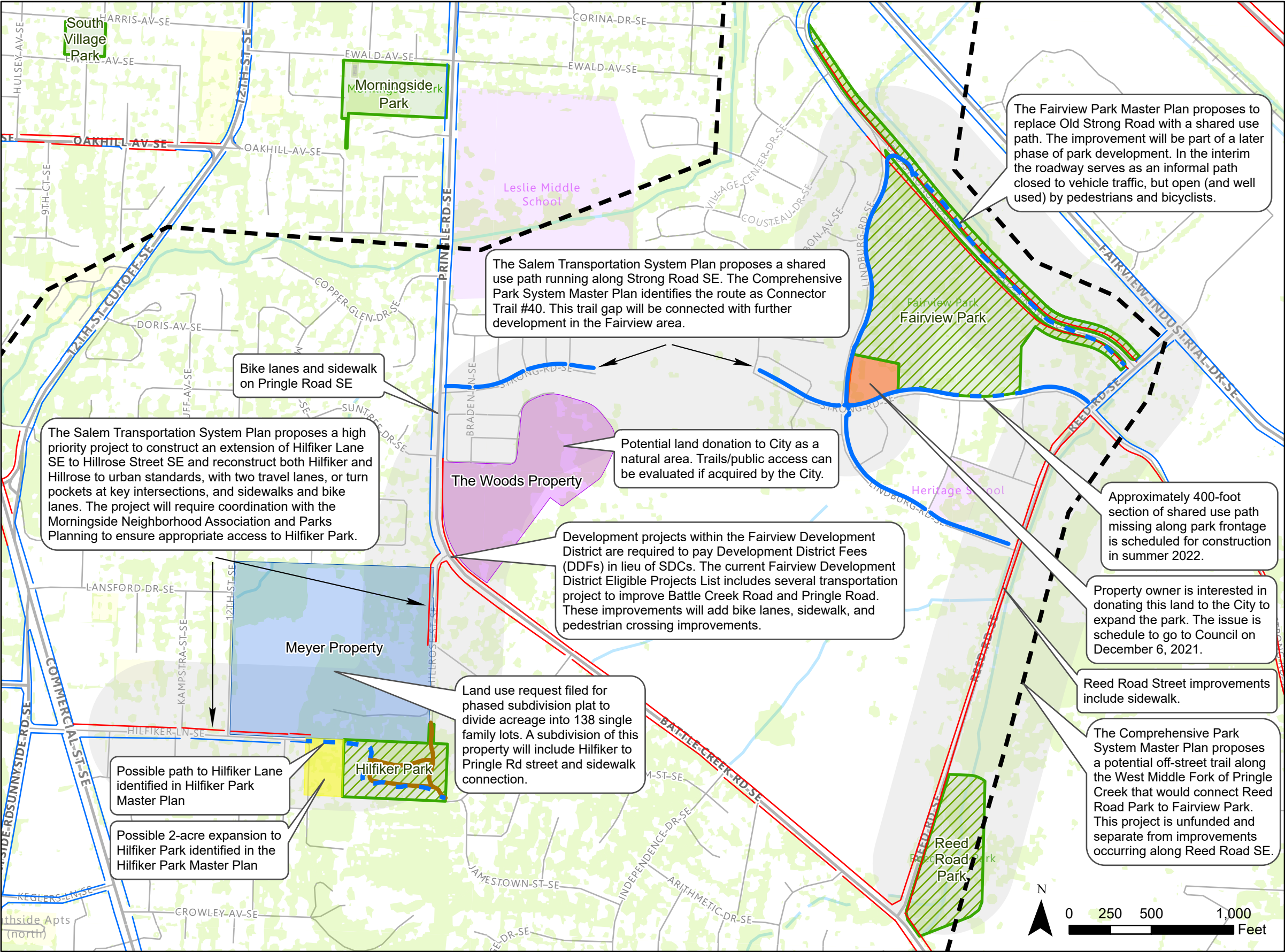
Salem-Keizer Area Sidewalk Inventory 2020*

- No Sidewalk Present
- Sidewalk Present

- Park Boundary, Developed Park
- Park Boundary, Undeveloped Park

* Data provided by the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments

Dated December 1, 2021
Prepared by Rob Romanek, Parks Planner





4540 PRINGLE RD SE
TAX MAP - 3000 & 3002
TAX MAP - 083W11BC
SW1/4 NW1/4 SEC11 T8S R3W W.M.
SALEM, OREGON

TENTATIVE COMPOSITE
UTILITY PLAN

REVISIONS	
NO.	DESCRIPTION

EMERIO
ENGINEERING • SURVEYING • DESIGN
2687 WILLAMETTE ROAD, SUITE 1A
EUGENE, OREGON 97401
TEL: (503) 746-5812
FAX: (503) 639-9592
www.emeriodesign.com



Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Recreation Update – December 2021

1. Events/Facility Use

- The Holiday Lighting in Riverfront Park will occur on Friday, December 10 at 5:30 pm. Parks Operations staff are currently setting up the holiday light display and the tree crew will be placing the topper and lights on the tree in the coming days. Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, a full ceremony will not occur. Instead, a very short flip-the-switch event to light the tree – led by Mayor Bennett – will begin at 5:30 pm and will only last a few minutes. There will be holiday music played by a DJ and Santa will be in attendance to help turn on the Holiday Tree, but we will not be providing children's activities or handing out hot chocolate or cookies. The public is welcome to attend but should dress for the weather as everyone will be outside (tents will not be available).
- Event scheduling for 2022 continues with most weekends, in June, July and August already reserved. A return of the Movies in the Park, a July 4th Fireworks show, Ironman, World Beat Festival, Fish and El Rey Concerts, as well as many small non-profit runs/walks and company picnics are scheduled.
- Inquiries for the new Gerry Frank I Salem Rotary Amphitheater remain high. City Council approved funding in Public Works to hire a limited duration (up to 18 months) employee to manage the new facility. That position closed a few weeks ago with 19 applicants. After applications were scored the pool of candidates now stands at eight. These eight candidates have been asked to answer three essay questions. In the coming weeks those essays will be scored, and the remaining candidates will be interviewed.
- Parks and Recreation staff will be meeting this week with new staff at the Salem Art Association to discuss the Cultural Landscape Management Plan at Bush's Pasture Park and potential layout options for future Salem Art Fair and Festivals.

2. Youth Recreation Programs

- Recreation staff, in cooperation with the Park Ranger, hosted an evening Owl Prowl in October and November at Minto-Brown Island Park. Participants dissected owl pellets prior to walking through the park looking and listening for owls. We had a great turnout both evenings!
- October's Frightfully Fun Run was held in Bush's Pasture Park. Some participants even came out in costume! It was quite a sight to see a T-Rex and giraffe bobbing through the trees by the Lower Leffelle Picnic Shelter! Check out some fun event photos at end of this report.
- November's 1k/5k/10k Turkey Trot in Riverfront and Minto-Brown Island Parks on Saturday, November 20 was well attended and bigger than all the other fun walk/run events hosted during COVID. The weather was beautiful, and the participants were thankful for the activity.
- Looking ahead to December, we have the Riverfront Holiday Tree Lighting on Friday, December 10, and our first Jingle Bell 5k Relay taking place the following Friday, December 17 at Riverfront Park.

3. Softball and Kickball Leagues/Tournaments

- In mid-October Pacific Sports Turf laser leveled and refurbished the soil on field 2 and field 5. With wet weather setting in, the final grading will have to be completed in the spring along with the over seeding of the outfields.
- Softball staff attended the USA Softball Conference in Oklahoma City, OK on October 22-27, 2021. Bidding for 2023 USA Softball National Tournaments took place and the City of Salem was

awarded the 2023 USA Softball Girl's 12A and 16A Western Fast Pitch Nationals! These tournaments are currently scheduled to be held the end of July 2023.

- Softball staff have started planning and promoting the 2022 USA Softball Girl's 10B Western Fast Pitch National that will be held at the Wallace Marine Softball Complex next summer, July 25-31. Team check is set to occur the afternoon of Monday, July 25th, followed by Opening Ceremonies at the Gerry Frank I Salem Rotary Amphitheater that evening.
- Work has begun on scheduling softball and kickball leagues and tournaments for the 2022 season. Staff are working with tournament renters and the City of Salem Players League Council on the line up for weekend tournaments and weeknight leagues.
- Recreation staff spent a couple of days cleaning out storage units and the attic of Wallace Marine Softball Complex to prepare it for the winter.

FRIGHTFULLY FUN 1K RUN/WALK – Bush's Pasture Park, October 23, 2021





