

North Lancaster Neighborhood Association

Monthly Meeting

September 6, 2023, at 6:30 PM

Salem, Oregon & via Zoom

1. Call to Order / Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:29 PM, followed by introductions of all present in person and anyone present on the Zoom call.

Board Member	Position	Attendance
Deanna Garcia	Chair	Present
Doug Rodgers	Vice-Chair	Absent - Unexcused
Christine Potter	Secretary/Treasurer	Present
Shirlene Gonzalez	Parks Chair	Present
Dennis Will	Land Use Chair	Absent
Carl Engstrom	Member at large	Present
Denise Currey	Member at large	Present
Kim Currey	Member at large	Present
Pamela Blake	Member at large	Present
Bobby Ottis	Member at large	Absent
Patty Tipton	Member at large	Absent
Claudine Shaw	Member at large	Absent

Attendees: Dylan McDowell (Salem Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Chair), Antonio Mercado (McKay HS Assistant Principal)

Neighbors: Rodger Haase, Bethany Crespin & Gretchen

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from July 2023 were submitted for Board review on 7/9/2023.

Kim Currey motioned to approve. Shirlene Gonzalez seconded the motion. The minutes from July 2023 were unanimously approved.

3. Police Report – Sergeant Baskett from Salem Police Department was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

- a. He sent a message to our Chair in advance of the meeting regarding recent shootings off of Hawthorne (two minors were involved, one is in custody) and in Northgate Neighborhood (pedestrian fired at a vehicle that was passing by) which are under active investigation, so details are limited. PD is directing strategic investigation unit that is focusing efforts towards youth violence with guns which are not entirely gun related.
- b. General Discussion regarding traffic concerns, especially around schools where traffic control is needed. Antonio Mercado advised that historically this has been an issue and at McKay HS, there is limited staff available to direct traffic and address this problem. He will look at this issue from an administrative perspective. Currently they are looking into asking parents to utilize the front parking lot for drop offs and students could walk in from there. Generally the school’s perspective is that traffic is a city issue. At a previous meeting, Sgt Baskett mentioned that we have to bring our concerns to the school first.

Q – *What about parent volunteers, could they be utilized to monitor both traffic and students crossing the street?*

- c. Traffic control around schools will require increased communication to parents as well as enforcement to deter traffic blocking, etc. Distributing a safety message via the student body is recommended.
- d. Neighbors have requested crosswalks on Hollywood. The board was advised that neighbors requested this from the city, but only received a response that it would be looked into. Crosswalks are an easy, inexpensive mitigation. Shirlene Gonzalez made a MOTION that NOLA's Chair write a letter to the City Engineer/Public Works to request crosswalks on Hollywood. Pamela Blake seconded the motion which received unanimous consent. Deanna will prepare a letter and send it to the Board for review and comments.
- e. Traffic control signs in the neighborhood near Waldo school are now installed. They were only installed on the street where the petitioners reside, and not on all of the surrounding streets.

Homeless encampment reporting portal [HERE](#)

Sergeant Baskett can be reached for questions by email: mbaskett@cityofsalem.net

4. Councilor Report: Neither Councilor Julie Hoy – Ward 6 nor Jose Gonzalez were in attendance to provide a report to NOLA.
5. Antonio Mercado – McKay High School update
 - a. 400+ freshman were welcomed this week as the new school year began. There are over 2000 students in attendance.
 - b. Upon completion of the summer program which allowed some students to catch up on unmet requirements, the August graduation increased the class of 2023 graduating seniors to 540.
 - c. This is the first year in 5-6 years where the same principals and vice principals are returning. An expectation is that this will provide more traction with students who are facing challenges, some of which are generational. The hope is that as the younger generations have better experiences in high school and graduate that will improve the attitude towards public education.
 - d. A goal for Antonio is for students to value their educational experience. The administration is setting up systems for students to be rewarded for doing what is right at addressing those who don't hold up their end of the bargain.
 - e. Principal at McKay has an open-door policy and encourages families and neighbors to view McKay in its entirety.

Q – *Truancy consequences are a safety net for some students, does the truancy officer ever issue citations,? Truancy court never returned post-pandemic. Community support is probably needed.*

Q – *How do you expect students to be on time and in their seats if there are no consequences?*
They are looking at ways to work with teachers to encourage kids to attend such as making

them give up lunch break or require after school time. Some families don't want to have consequences for truancy or tardiness.

Q – *Who is the person to contact to connect with artists in the school?* Antonio will check first with art department to identify. Deanna will send a follow up email to Antonio to formalize the request and make progress on our mural project.

6. Salem Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (SPRAB) – Dylan McDowell, Board Chair
 - a. Presentation
 - i. Nine-member board advised City Council, advocates and makes recommendations on park policies, planning and development, maintenance and operations.
 - ii. Public meetings held monthly via Zoom on 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM. View at the 'City of Salem Public Meetings' YouTube channel. Comments on agenda and public hearings should be submitted to salemparks@cityofsalem.net by 5 PM at least one day prior to the meeting.
 - iii. Salem's park system includes 91 park units (61 developed parks) covering approximately 2,350 acres with a trail system made up of 66 miles of soft and hard surface trails.
 - iv. Salem Park Improvement Fund (SPIF) project cycles run for a 2-year period beginning September of each year. Letters of intent are due by the end of October each year. NAs and city staff prepare project budgets between November and January each year. NAs submit formal applications by the end of January each year. SPIF Committee reviews applications and awards funds in February each year.
 - v. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Updated annually, the 5-year forecast identifies major projects requiring public funds over and above routine annual operating expenses.
 - vi. Park Planning & Development of NOLA Parks
 1. McKay School Park: Design of restroom facility, picnic shelter and soccer field renovations starting this fiscal year.
 2. Brown Road Park: Design of "Phase 1" master plan improvements starting this fiscal year.
 3. Livingston Park: Playground improvements may be funded in next year's budget.
 4. Lansing Park: Sidewalk improvement & volunteer tree planting event
 - vii. Volunteer opportunities in Salem parks – contact Volunteer Coordinator, Amanda Sitter asitter@cityofsalem.net

Q – *Does the Heritage Tree designation include services to maintain the tree?* The designation pertains to protection against cutting down a tree and trimming but does not include upkeep of the tree. *Recently, a Heritage Tree branch fell and seriously injured someone.*

Q – *What can you tell us about the \$20M GO Bond?* \$28M total for parks and recreation which will go towards paving Minto Brown Island and development of other parks.

Q – *What is SPRAB planning related to the decrease in gas tax funding?* This is included in the ongoing general budget discussion and the impact on the park system.

Q - *How can we improve communication about the grant cycle?* The presentations to NAs is intended to highlight the schedule and increase communication about the cycle and projects which are in the works.

Q - *How do we get on the agenda to talk about a CIP improvement for one of our NA parks?* Dylan will follow up with us. Visit <https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/capital-improvements> to view Capital Improvements Map.

Q - *In line with CIP and actual approved budgets, money has been allocated to begin development of Brown Road Park. Does staff give you updates as to how projects are performing to budget?* Dylan does receive some reports. Brown Road Park construction is expected in 2026, but the design phase begins winter 2023/24.

- b. Dylan will ask Parks to share designs for McKay. He will recap our meeting discussion with Rob Romanek (Parks Planning) and request that Shirlene receive the updates on project planning and status.
- c. Lansing Park – College program developing Rapidly Dismountable Timber Shade Structures that are removed during the wet seasons.

Q – *Who would embrace a conversation regarding an interest in expanded options of trees, for example those that could be harvested for food?* Milan Davis, formerly of DC parks system is excited about diversity of trees, drought tolerance and urban gardens. Dylan will share Shirlene’s contact information.

7. Committee Reports & Board Business

- a. Transit – Doug Rodgers -no report--- visit [Cherriots web page](#) for details.
- b. Traffic – Deanna Garcia
 - i. Update from Rosa regarding signs near Waldo School
 - ii. Hollywood project is expected to be ongoing through November. There is a shortage of some supplies.
 - iii. Email sent to Travel Salem regarding mural project. We need volunteers to get going. The Boys & Girls Club and/or CAPES could be a resource. Our original plan is to put the mural on Hollywood at the entrance to McKay Park. If that isn’t a good fit, we can also consider Brown Road. Concern was expressed over paint on the street as a pollutant and that such a project shouldn’t be funded by the government. Additionally, concern was expressed that the paint on the street could be slick and dangerous.
- c. Land Use – Dennis Will (absent)
 - i. Silverton Road from 17th to Fisher improvements to curb ramps and sidewalks. Notifications were sent to property owners in June that survey work would be conducted and work would be ongoing for several months.
 - ii. Follow up on the request to partition the lot on Vaughn Avenue. We didn’t have significant concerns. Their development application has been submitted to the city.

- iii. No responses have been received related to our questions about the Park Avenue property.
 - d. Parks – Shirlene Gonzalez
 - i. Follow up from our SPIF grant application, our park improvement project has been partially funded but the Parks Committee would like to leverage as much funding as we can for benches and tables at Lansing Park. MOTION from Deanna Garcia that NOLA expand our SPIF request for additional benches and tables at Lansing Park, Kim Currey seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by NOLA.
 - e. Bylaws Update update: Due to a lack of progress, we expect the project needs to be re delegated. Shirlene is willing to take the lead on the project to update NOLA Bylaws. Deanna started a living document that she will share with the board and we will collectively review.
 - f. NOLA NNO Event Follow Up: The event was well attended. Deanna will send thank you emails to the resource attendees and Christine will send a thank you to our sponsors. We have several leftover raffle prizes which we will use as a giveaway at our annual meeting.
- 8. Open Forum for any discussion
 - a. Friends of Trees planting event at Lansing Park is scheduled for January 6, 2024. Sign up at <https://friendsoftrees.org/salem/>
 - b. There is a growing encampment at Lansing Park that has been reported via the portal. Others are encouraged to report also.
 - c. We received an email from someone concerned about large parties which were happening in the ELNA neighborhood. They were referred to attend ELNA’s NA meeting and the message was forwarded to ELNA’s Chair. Additionally they were advised that Code enforcement may be unavailable during the times parties occur so they may consider filing a formal report and/or make calls to non-emergency police number for documentation purposes. Neighbor to neighbor mediation is also an option.
 - d. Roger Haase, who was involved with transit for many years let us know that Cherriots recently lowered the price to ride to Wilsonville, Silverton, etc. Also recently allowing youth 0-18 years old to ride for free.

Q - *Were we going to write a letter to City Councillors about our discontent with their attendance at NOLA meetings?* Email was sent after our July meeting and NOLA Board was copied. Julie Hoy responded regarding challenges. *Can we get a report from them in advance if they aren’t able to attend?* Deanna will discuss with Irma.

Q – *What were the voting statistics in last election from Ward 5 and 6 (Registered voters, number of ballots cast)?*

- e. Annual Meeting next month
 - i. Recommendation that we place signs directing attendees of Annual Meeting so they can find our meeting location.
 - ii. Board roster review
 - iii. November elections for executive board (Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer)

- iv. Annual review of NA to be in compliance – this includes completion of a questionnaire and preparation of our goals.
 - v. To prepare for meeting, we should review last year’s goals and consider goals for coming year.
 - f. Last Year’s Goals
 - i. Boost attendance and community interaction.
 - ii. Increase social media presence.
 - iii. Enhance community parks, seek & acquire funding opportunities to continue development.
 - iv. Address homelessness and its impact on NOLA.
 - v. Advocate for safer roads with speed bumps, better lighting and appropriate pedestrian crossing areas.
- 9. Close of Meeting / Adjournment

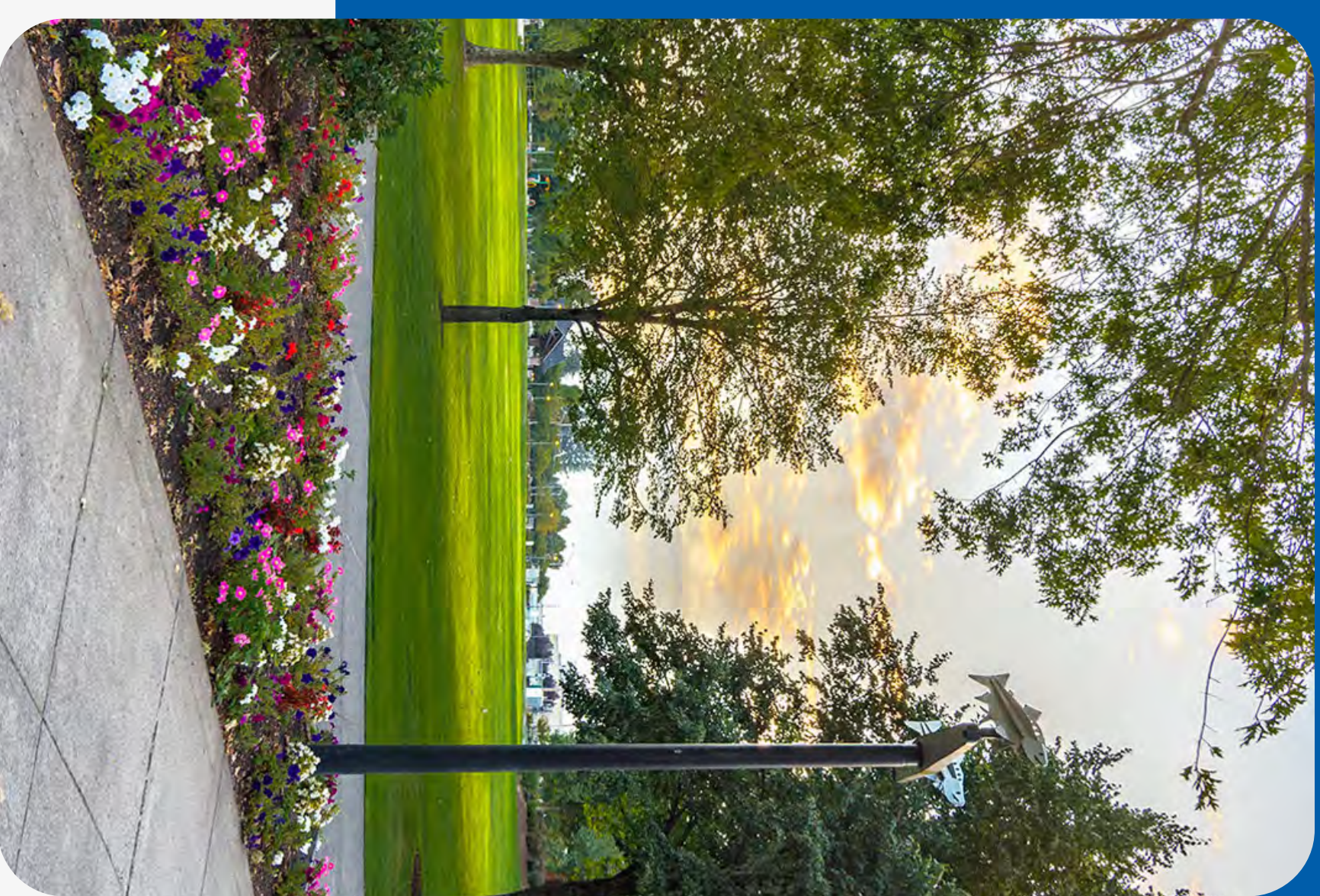
There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.



Salem Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (SPRAB)

Est. June 1952

Presented to North Lancaster Neighborhood Association
September 6, 2023



Organization & Duties of SPPRAB

- **Nine Members**
One expert in urban forestry, horticulture, or arboriculture
- **Advisory Board to Salem City Council**
Council Liaison: Councilor Micki Varney, Ward 8
- **Advocates and makes recommendations on:**
 - Park Policies
 - Park Planning and Development
 - Park Maintenance and Operations
 - Recreation Programming
- **Issues decisions on appeals to tree removal permits for city-owned trees**
- **Recommends nominations for Heritage Tree designations**



Participate in SPRAB Meetings

Meetings held monthly

- Second Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m.
- All meetings are public

Online viewing and participation

- View at the 'City of Salem Public Meetings' YouTube Channel
- Join us on Zoom to participate
- Meetings are scheduled on City website calendar (on the homepage)

Comment opportunities

- On items on the agenda
- On items not on the agenda, typically Agenda Item 3
- Public hearings

Please provide written comment by 5 p.m. or earlier one day prior to the day of the meeting. Send to salemparks@cityofsalem.net.



Salem's Park System

Park Land: Approximately 2,350 acres

Park Units: 91 parks

- 48 Neighborhood Parks
- 11 Community Parks
- 11 Natural Areas
- 7 Urban Parks
- 6 Linear Parks and Connector Trails
- 4 Special Use Facilities
- 4 Historical Areas

Developed Parks: 61

Trails: 66 miles of soft and hard surface trails

Parks In Your Neighborhood

Neighborhood Parks

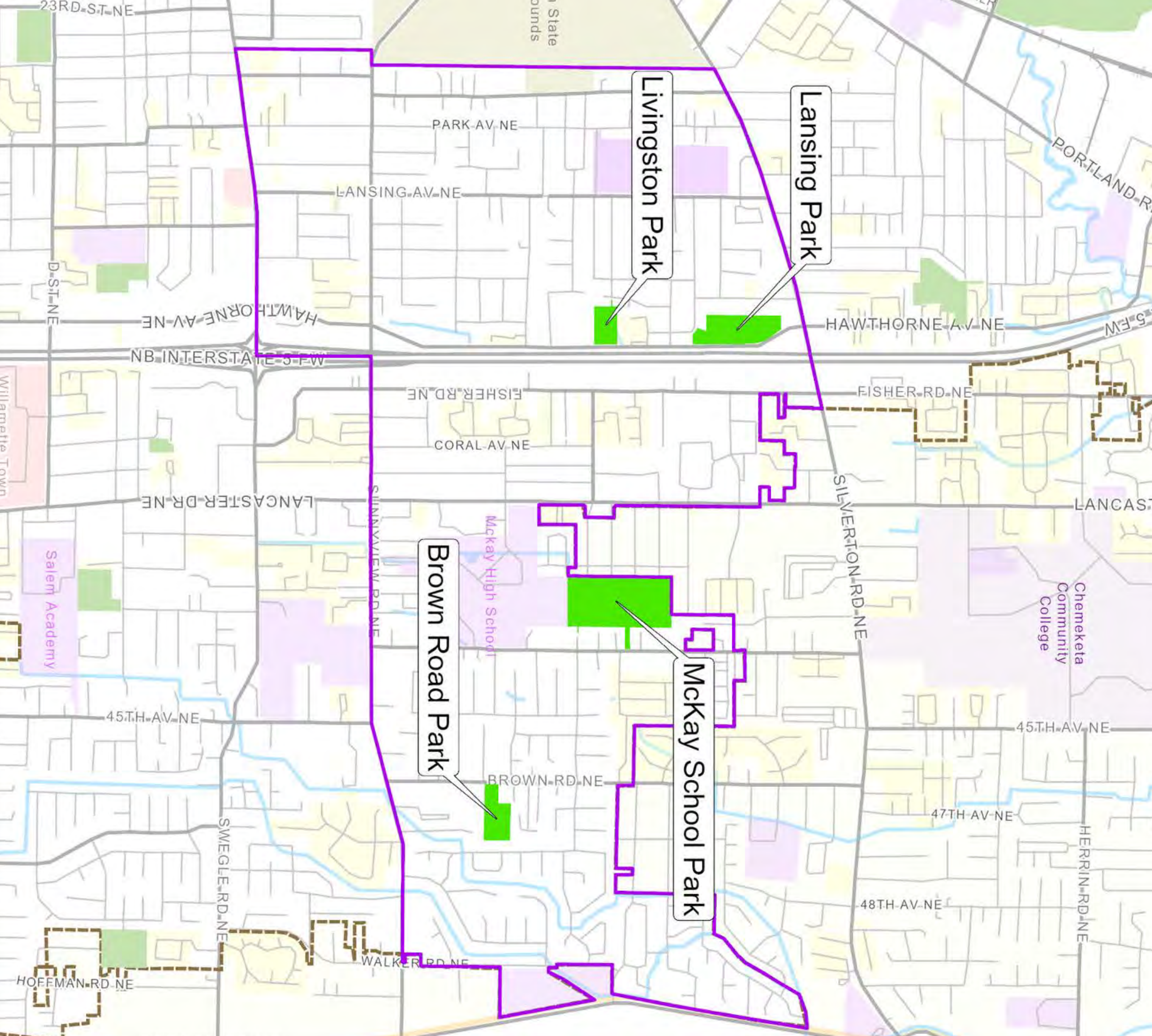
Brown Road Park

Lansing Park

Livingston Park

Community Parks

McKay School Park



Park System Funding Streams

- General Fund
- State Highway Funds (Gas Tax)
- Interfund Transfers
 - Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)
 - Other Revenue (Donations, Endowments, Permit Fees, Direct Program Fees)
- General Obligation (GO) Bond

FISCAL YEAR
2024



Adopted Budget



Salem Park Improvement Fund (SPIF)

Funding opportunity for Salem's neighborhood associations (NAs)

City Council typically provides \$60,000 in SPIF funds each year

Projects must be approved by City staff and consistent with Salem Comprehensive Park System Master Plan policies

How the Partnership Works:

- NA identifies a project within one of their parks
- City staff works with the NA to ensure feasible
- Projects selected by the SPIF Project Review Committee
- City awards up to 75% of funds needed to construct the project
- SPIF project cycles run for a 2-year period

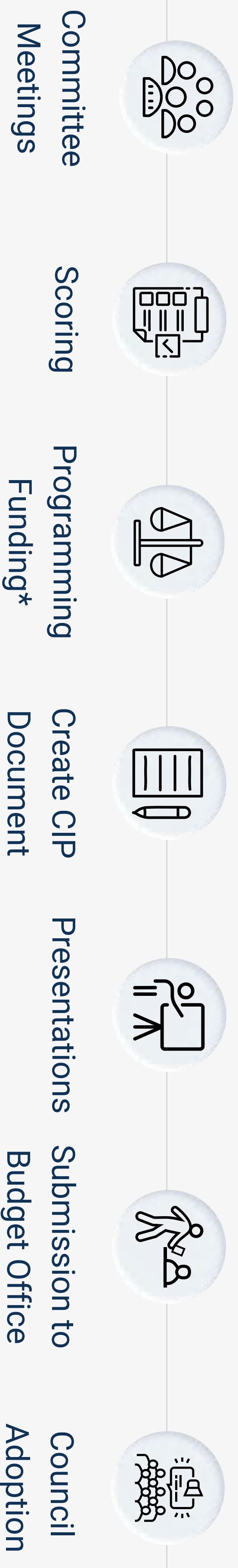
SPIF Timeline

Beginning	End of October	November of	November –	End of January	February of
September of	of Each Year	Each Year	January of Each	of Each Year	Each Year
Each Year			Year		
Neighborhood	Letters of	Review Letters	NAs and City	NAs Submit	SPIF Committee
Associations	Intent Due	of Intent	Staff Prepare	Formal	Reviews Formal
Notified of			Project	Applications	Applications and
New SPIF			Budgets		Awards Funds
Cycle					

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Five-year forecast identifying major projects requiring public funds over and above routine annual operating expenses, updated annually

Annual CIP Process



*Funding sources include General Fund, System Development Charges, Development District Fees, Bonds, Grants, Transient Occupancy Tax, Loans, and Tax Increment Financing from Urban Renewal Area

Park Master Plan Process

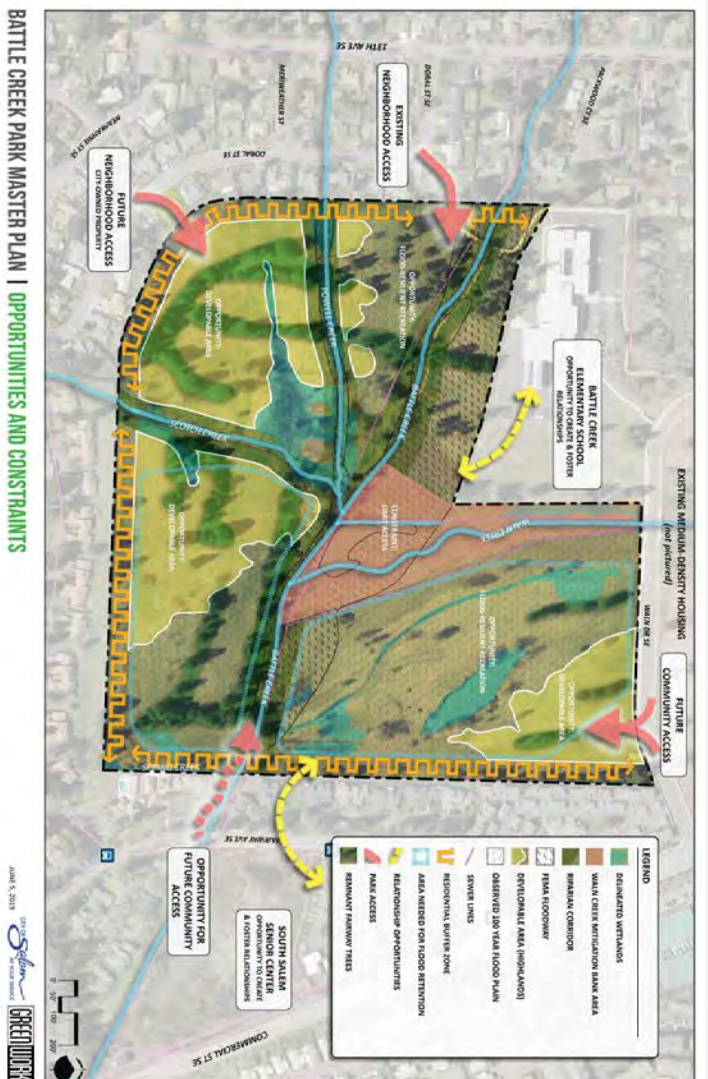
Identify Local and System Priorities and Needs

Outreach and Public Participation

Development of Design Options

Staff Recommendation to SPRAB; SPRAB Recommendation to City Council

Council Approval



If you would like to be involved in a park planning project, you can sign up to get email updates.

<https://bit.ly/COSParkPlanningList>

Park Planning & Development in Your Neighborhood

Mckay School Park

- Design of permanent restroom facility (4-stalls), picnic shelter and soccer field renovations starting this fiscal year

Brown Road Park

- Design of “phase 1” master plan improvements starting this fiscal year

Livingston Park

- Playground facility improvements may be funded in next year’s budget, sooner than previously communicated

Lansing Park

- PW Streets Section is connecting sidewalk to the park, filling a gap along the park frontage to Glendale Ave NE
- Volunteer tree planting event will be held this upcoming planting season - visit [friendssoftrees.org/salem](https://www.friendssoftrees.org/salem) for more info

Contact

Rob Romanek, Parks Planning Manager

503-588-6211 | rromanek@cityofsalem.net





Recreation, Sports, and Activities

Come Out and Play!

Athletics

Baseball | Basketball | Cheerleading | Flag Football | Pickleball
Soccer | Softball | STRIDE / Fun Runs and Walks | Tennis
Track & Field | Volleyball | Kickball | Multi-Sport

Activities

Fishing Derby | Movies in the Park | Nature Camps | Owl Prowl
Such A Voice | Summer Parks Program Day Camps | Tree Climbing

www.cityofsalem.net/recreation

Contact

Customer Service: 503-588-6261

Recreation Staff: 503-588-6211

Email: parksandrecreation@cityofsalem.net



Volunteer in Salem Parks

Salem parks receives over 55,000 volunteer hours a year or the equivalent of approximately 27 full-time equivalent employees

Park Volunteer Programs

- Park Partners
- Gardening
- Deadhead Rose Bushes
- City partnership with Friends of Trees
- Salem Pioneer Cemetery

Contact

Amanda Sitter, Volunteer Coordinator

503-589-2197 | asitter@cityofsalem.net

Connect



<https://www.facebook.com/salemparksvolunteers>