

Rachael Gangelhoff

From: peter1962@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 1:37 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Linda Nishioka; Dave Glennie
Subject: City Council Meeting of August 25, 2025 Agenda Item 5.a

Please include my testimony in this evening's Council agenda supporting Councilor Nishioka's motion concerning modified mowing for the southwest picnic and recreation areas at Bush's Pasture Park.

I live at 1297 High Street SE—across the street from the Bush Park oak savanna. My wife and I have lived at this location for 30 years. I want to express my support for Councilor Nishioka's motion that addresses mowing this part of the park. While I strongly support practices that maintain the health of the white oaks throughout the park, these should be balanced with its recreational uses. The southwest part of the park has traditionally been used by residents and visitors for picnicking, walking, and active and passive recreation activities. It is the only area of the park that provides shade for these activities. The lack of mowing this summer has notably and significantly hindered these activities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. My best and warmest regards,

Peter Fernandez

Rachael Gangelhoff

From: dave@telosdevelopment.com
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 9:50 AM
To: Amy Johnson; CityRecorder
Cc: 'William Glennie'
Subject: RE: 8/25/25 ADDITION TO AGENDA ITEM 5.a
Attachments: Bush Park Spreadsheet.082425.final.pdf

Ms. Johnson:

If not too late, please replace the chart I submitted with this one. We discovered a couple of typos and clarified a couple of statements.

dg

From: Amy Johnson <AJohnson@cityofsalem.net>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 8:03 AM
To: dave@telosdevelopment.com; CityRecorder <CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net>
Cc: 'William Glennie' <wglennie.law@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: 8/25/25 ADDITION TO AGENDA ITEM 5.a

Mr. Glennie:

Thank you, your comments have been received.

When you arrive at Loucks Auditorium, please sign up on the speaker roster for Public Comment #2, for items on the agenda. The roster will be located on a utility table in the outer hallway next to the entrance to the auditorium.

Thank you,

Amy Johnson
City Recorder
City of Salem | Legal Department
PO Box 14300 Salem OR 97309-3986
ajohnson@cityofsalem.net | 503-588-6097

From: dave@telosdevelopment.com <dave@telosdevelopment.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 7:30 AM
To: CityRecorder <CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net>
Cc: 'William Glennie' <wglennie.law@gmail.com>; 'Dave Glennie' <dave@telosdevelopment.com>
Subject: 8/25/25 ADDITION TO AGENDA ITEM 5.a

Madame Recorder:

Please add these two attachments to tonight's packet. This relates to Councilor Nishioka's motion regarding Bush Park's "no-mow" policy. I believe it is Agenda Item 5,a

Please confirm receipt.

I intend to also attend the meeting and add additional testimony. I'm not sure if I can sign up with this email, and will check when I enter the venue.

Best regards,

David Glennie
(503)559-6292

SAVING THE WHITE OAKS - COMPARISON BETWEEN STATEMENTS AND IMPLEMENTED PARK POLICIES

	Source (See Notes 1 & 2)	Statement from CLMP	City Imposed Policy	Common Sense Response	Recommended Adjustment	Discussion
1	Page 3 (1.1)	The consulting arborists stress that this report is <u>fundamentally a work of opinion, and therefore subjective.</u>	General statement.	Not applicable (NA)	NA	
2	Page 4 (2.3)	This species is also well known for thriving in challenging conditions.	General statement.	NA	NA	
3	Page 8(5.3)	Soil compaction is one of the main issues that will affect the health and longevity of trees in the upper grove.	General statement.	NA	NA	Soil compaction is the primary argument to implement the current "no mow" policy. It conflates Art Fair activity with picnickers.
4	Page 9-10 (5.5) (5.6) (5.7)	(1) Average human compaction creates pressure of 8 PSI. (2) Standard passenger car or pickup truck is approximately 30 PSI. (3) We noted many trees which had mechanical damage on the root flare consistent with lawn mowing equipment.	Let entire Upper Oak Grove go to seed, promote high grass and fire hazard, isolate play area, remove picnic benches, cease picking up litter and garbage, request walkers stay on asphalt paths.	Vehicular and heavy equipment use is far more impactful than picnicking. Trees have survived over 150 years co-existing with picnickers.	Hand-mowing around trees in upper grove picnic area a prudent policy to protect root health.	City response to questions regarding "science" has consistently misplaced "blame" on picnickers.
5	Page 10 (5.8)	Irrigation can be very harmful to mature Oregon White Oak trees	Stop watering in dry season.	Limit irrigation in dry summer/fall months. Irrigation also amplifies compaction.	Limit irrigation during dry weather.	
6	Page 129, "Management Objective"	Manage the Upper Oak Grove so it can be fully enjoyed, but in a more balanced and responsible way than in times past.	Reports make continual references to impacts of Art Fair traffic. Many recommendations ignore differentiation between Art Fair activities and picnicking	Picnicking, group events in picnic area have little impact and represent no threat to White Oaks. There are no recommendations to remove tables and implement "no mow" in picnic areas.	Keep picnic areas mowed and accessible year-round. Limit irrigation and hand mow around tree bases.	On a global scale, there is no discussion of defining "success" or measuring positive outcomes. The removal of the primary picnic area punishes those who enjoyed it to benefit a few who falsely believe picnicking is a true threat.
7	Page 130, "Things to Consider"	Protecting the oaks is the highest priority for this area while also maintaining lower impact park activities that have taken place here since the historic period, such as picnicking and small gatherings	Current policy completely ignored this recommendation.		Follow this recommendation.	Appears the no-mow policy was implemented without considering the costs to many park patrons.

Notes:

1. Source material for items 1-5 is the "Report on Bush's Pasture Park Oak Woodland", an appendix to the Cultural Landscape Management Plan, or "CLMP".
2. Source material for items 6-7 is the "Upper Oak Grove Management Area 13" from the CLMP.

Rachael Gangelhoff

From: Linda Nishioka
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 2:12 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: FW: Bush Park fiasco

Please add this to testimony for 5.a on our agenda for 8/25/25

Linda Nishioka (She/Her)
City Councilor - Ward 2
lnishioka@cityofsalem.net | 971-707-2112

From: John Piper <johnepiper@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, August 25, 2025 at 1:40 PM
To: Linda Nishioka <LNishioka@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Bush Park fiasco

I'm glad to see the city is finally going to do something about the picnic area at the south end of Bush Park.

Not mowing the grass for months - during the time when families are most likely to use the park -- was a stupid decision by the city. Not only is the grass brown and overgrown, but many tree limbs are almost touching the ground.

Parks are meant to be enjoyed! That's why Salem residents voted for the parks measure.

The park's appearance sends a terrible message to residents, potential residents and visitors --the city isn't a good steward of its public lands.

Two questions:

1. Who decided to make part of the park unusable for the entire summer?
2. Why did it take you so long to correct such a dumb mistake?

I've lived two blocks from Bush Park since 1979 and have never seen it look worse.
Let's hope in the future the city uses more common sense when making decisions that will adversely affect its residents.

John Piper
1645 Cottage St. SE
Salem

Rachael Gangelhoff

From: Kim Davis <kimmardav@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 2:43 PM
To: CityRecorder; citycouncilors@cityofsalem.net
Subject: Agenda Item 5.a, 25-314, re Bush Pasture Park

I am writing to express my strong objection to your consideration to modify the late mowing standard at the SW corner of Bush Pasture Park.

It is now well known throughout the scientific community that we are living through a 6th extinction. This is no longer a debated topic. The global, rapid and accelerating loss of biodiversity is terrifying. The City of Salem needs to do everything possible to support our natural habitats and wildlife. A delayed mowing standard at Bush Pasture Park is one tiny step in the right direction. Protecting and restoring our native plants and trees to support pollinators and native and migratory birds wherever we can is crucial.

U.S. citizens have become habituated over just a few generations to perceive green, watered, manicured lawns, washed in pesticides and herbicides, and tended by mowers and leaf blowers, as 'good' and wild plants, animals and insects as 'bad'. This unnatural and out of date view is causing innumerable harms to our air, water and soils (not to mention health and mental health!).

Increasing education regarding the need for delayed mowing may be helpful to the small handful of concerned citizens. Increased mowing will certainly be harmful to many seen and unseen living things, now and in the future. I hope you will be prudent and consider future generations when hearing complaints from residents who wish the City prioritize their personal desires and fears.

On behalf of our grandchildren, thank you.

K Davis
97306