

November 12, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Council,

We write to you as members of the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (SPRAB) requesting that you consider parks and local recreation as part of the upcoming strategic planning work session and final goals.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for investing in ample local recreation opportunities in our community. Additionally, maintaining and expanding parks and green space will be integral aspects of both the Climate Action Task Force and the Our Salem project as our city continues to grow. As such, we suggest the following recommendations for your consideration:

- Update and implement the goals included in the Community Forestry Strategic Plan to expand canopy cover in all Wards, with a focus on low-canopy areas and planting on private property.
- Increasing bike and pedestrian pathways in the city with a focus on connectivity between existing and future parks.
- Identify opportunities for increasing community engagement, such as public comment, from all Wards across the city to better represent diverse needs in city planning.
- Increase City investments in parks, such as through a bond measure, voter-approved levy, or other sources to fund park development and associated maintenance needs for existing and future projects.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to partnering with you on growing Salem's parks and recreation opportunities in the coming years.

Sincerely,



Dylan McDowell, Chair

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board