

From: [Bill Dixon](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Vanessa Nordyke](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of funding for seasonal maintenance and family events in parks
Date: Thursday, June 6, 2024 4:02:59 PM

Dear Mayor Hoy and City Council Members,

I urge you to support funding in the 2025 budget for two worthy parks programs: seasonal maintenance and family events such as concerts, movies and kids relays.

This funding, totaling \$518,000, has been approved by the Budget Committee. Although the City Council has the authority to modify this plan, it would be unfortunate to exercise that authority in this case.

The funding for operations and family events ensures that neighborhood parks will retain their physical integrity -- including restrooms, drinking fountains, play equipment and splash pads. Of equal importance is that this funding maintains parks as summer gathering and cooling places for families, regardless of income.

This funding plan is not perfect. It represents a reduction of more than one-third from the amount needed to maintain the normal service level. However, it does provide enough stability for these important activities to continue for one more year while the Council pursues a more stable revenue structure for city services.

Overall, the allocation for essential maintenance and family events in our parks makes budget sense. Moreover, it is good public policy.

Please support it with your vote.

Sincerely,

Bill Dixon
Ward 7 Budget Committee Member
608 Salem Heights Ave. S.
Salem, OR 97302

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of ednaly.jimenez10@gmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Contact City Recorder
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 7:10:58 PM
Attachments: [City of Salem.pdf](#)

Your Name	Ednaly Jimenez-Gomez
Your Email	ednaly.jimenez10@gmail.com
Your Phone	5038840375
Street	3737 Watson Ave NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97305
Message	Please see letter attached.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 5/28/2024.

Re: Budget Committee's Recommended Budget Cuts for City of Salem Youth Development Services

Dear Committee,

I am saddened to hear about the proposed budget cuts that will eliminate the Youth Development Services. These services help run crucial programs in our community and enable youth to connect with their peers and community.

I graduated high school in 2013 and participated in TAT, iLead, CAREcorps, and 1000 soles. My friend and I actually led the first 1000 soles shoe drive ("100 soles" back in 2012), which began with a goal of getting 100 shoes donated. To see the shoe drive increase its goal from 100 to 1000 and from 2 leaders to 200 leaders across Salem-Keizer just proves how many teens are benefiting from these important programs and the huge impact they're making in our community.

Furthermore, the skills and connections the youth build while participating in these programs is crucial. The skills I personally learned within these programs helped me navigate my life beyond high school. These programs engraved within me a passion to lead and to care for my community. As an adult, I continue to care for and serve my community by working at a local non-profit here in Salem.

In conclusion, these programs are creating strong leaders for our future community. These successful programs are not found anywhere else in our community, which means it would be a huge loss for Salem's future by eliminating the Youth Development Services. We cannot destroy the spaces that are creating thoughtful leaders. We must continue to foster these services for a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ednaly Jimenez-Gomez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ednaly" being the most prominent part.

Ednaly Jimenez-Gomez

From: [KAREN R. HEUBERGER](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Written comments on City Council agenda items
Date: Monday, June 10, 2024 7:54:56 AM

Please find my written comments regarding city of Salem budget items:
The primary priority must be funding the necessary services and items that make Salem a safe, sanitary, sound, livable community. The move to "defund" police has been a huge failure. We need to have more police enforcement so that vagrancy, pan handling, sidewalk camping and filth, graffiti defaced structures, drug addled mentally ill are not ubiquitous; like they currently are in Salem. The quality of life for citizens has plummeted.

A "housing first" approach to homelessness/"houselessness" means that the homeless can bring their drugs/substances with them and continue to "use" in taxpayer provided shelter. NO! Any "housing first" needs to end and treatment first needs to be the policy.

Operation hours at the Main Library branch needs to be expanded, not reduced. And the West Salem Library branch hours are now ridiculous: a very few hours on Tuesday and Saturday afternoon. The West Salem branch has a fine meeting room--that is now essentially worthless due to the minimal hours.

Your consideration in these matters is appreciated.

Sincerely,
K. R. Heuberger
P. O. Box 724
Salem, OR 97308

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of bierlyskl@gmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Monday, June 10, 2024 9:44:26 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Linda Bierly
Your Email	bierlyskl@gmail.com
Your Phone	5038849069
Street	2308 Ptarmigan St. NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	24-228 Public hearing on the FY 2025 City of Salem Budget Please support the Budget committee's partial restoration of parks and recreation funding. Please consider a Parks Operating Levy preceded by a public education campaign regarding park needs to address the 40% deficit. Thank you.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 6/10/2024.

From: [Marissa Theve](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Monday 6/10 City Council meeting testimony for item 4. b.
Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024 9:50:11 AM

Greetings. Please find my testimony for item 4. b. below. Thank you.

Dear Councilors, Mayor Hoy, and City Staff,

First, I would like to acknowledge the hard work you all do for our city. Thank you. I know this work is stressful and often appears lose-lose to people not keeping a closer tab on all that you accomplish. Understanding that the City is kneecapped in what revenue it can take in by the State, and understanding that there is a wide disconnect between what services citizens think the City should provide and what they are willing to spend on their City (as evidenced by the ballot last spring), I know you are doing the best you can.

However, I would like to point out that there is an opportunity cost to not funding services like our parks and library which is sadly manifesting as community violence. When folks do not have a free and safe place to exist in Salem, unsafe activities can fill that gap. In other words, a dollar saved today in parks funding might cost tens or hundreds of dollars to address using the police budget years later. To cut community services just as Salem is increasingly recognized as the community-centered space it is blossoming into would be a mistake.

For the sake of Salem in 2025 and beyond, and in the face of dwindling one-time federal funds, I urge you to please do everything you are able to fully fund our parks.

Thanks very much,
Marissa Theve, Ward 1, 97301

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Marissa Theve (*ma-RIS-uh Tev*)
Pronouns: she/her/hers

From: [PAT NORMAN](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [PAT NORMAN](#)
Subject: Budget
Date: Monday, June 10, 2024 3:07:08 PM

Dear Mayor Hoy and City Council,

I was discouraged when first hearing that movies in the park and other activities were canceled due to city choices resulting from funding shortages. It is crucial to provide opportunities for families and youth to participate in events and activities within our community. If there is an absence of these positive engagements, the alternatives could be detrimental to Salem. Thank you for reconsidering these activities and restoring part of the funding.

Parks are a very important part of Salem, and they are growing in importance as our city continues to add housing and population. Personally, I have had very positive experiences with parks staff, who have been attentive and responsive to parks' business even when the past 2 years have brought staffing shortages within Parks and Recreation. The current and long term contract for mowing at Salem Pioneer Cemetery, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, ends 6-30-2024 for budgetary reasons. Parks staff will add this chore to their list of duties. I am not concerned about capability but am concerned about availability. On average, it takes 5 employees at least 3 days to mow and use weed eaters in Pioneer Cemetery which requires cleaning in open areas, in aisles between plots and on the plots themselves. This may be an example where a contract could be established for one mowing per month instead of adding more responsibility to the limited Parks and Recreation staff. Everyone in Salem should have opportunity to benefit from parks and recreation. Events for families and youth should continue. Maintaining parks should be a priority in our neighborhoods. There are so many positives to having green space and opportunities for activity. I thank you for your willingness to take on this budget task and hope that Salem will continue to offer all that our parks can provide.

Pat Norman, MSW

Salem, Oregon

Member:

Friends of Pioneer Cemetery

Salem Parks Foundation Board

SWAN neighborhood Board

From: [Ron Kelemen](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Testimony regarding Parks and Recreation budget
Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024 5:25:07 PM
Attachments: [Ron Kelemen.pdf](#)

Please see my comments in the attached document.

Ron Kelemen
503-931-7088
rwk777@gmail.com

Ron Kelemen
777 Commercial Street SE #515
Salem, OR 97301
rwk777@gmail.com

June 9, 2024

Mayor and City Council, City of Salem
555 Liberty Street SE, Room 220
Salem, Oregon 97301

Mayor Hoy and City Counselors:

As a Salem resident since 1974 and a member of the Salem Parks Foundation, I urge you to fully restore the proposed cuts back into the budget. While I am grateful that the budget committee voted to restore \$422,000 for Parks and \$96,000 for recreation, that still leaves a 40% gap from current funding levels.

Over the years, the Parks and Recreation Department has been undergoing a slow death by numerous cuts. While some of our crown jewels like Riverfront, Bush, and Minto Brown are well-maintained, the maintenance and services in other parks have declined.

Salem is more than just its streets, police, fire fighters, sewers, and water lines. Our parks are the soul of the city. If they keep degrading, we will end up with an unenjoyable and soulless place to live. In an era where government at all levels gets a bad rap, parks, recreation, and the library are one of the few services where residents can have a positive interaction with city government.

Moreover, this is an income inequality issue. The affluent in Salem can afford to go send their kids to a summer camp or to a private pool to cool off. The less-well-to-do living in large apartment complexes with little greenspace cannot.

I realize that you have difficult choices to make. But please do all you can to restore the forward-facing services that make Salem the special place that it is.

Thank you for your volunteer service,



Ron Kelemen

From: [CAROL SNYDER](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Comments for City Council Meeting 6-10-24
Date: Monday, June 10, 2024 1:19:45 PM
Attachments: [SPF-LettertoCityCouncil2024-6.pdf](#)

Please distribute the attached letter to all City Council members before the City Council meeting this evening.

Thank you !

Carol Snyder

President, Salem Parks Foundation

SALEM PARKS FOUNDATION



Rooted in the Past, Providing for the Future

June 10, 2024

Mayor and City Council, City of Salem
555 Liberty St. SE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mayor Hoy and City Council,

I am writing on behalf of Salem Parks Foundation in support of restoring funding for the City's parks and recreation service.

We appreciate that you are facing difficult decisions in the budgeting process, but we believe that parks and recreation are vital elements in keeping Salem a livable and welcoming city. Parks provide space for physical activity, for accessing the healing power of nature, for making community connections, and for mitigating the climate crisis.

Parks also help in Salem's efforts to be an inclusive city – everyone can have access to all the benefits of a robust city park system. As we move toward encouraging density in housing options, it becomes even more important than ever that we provide and maintain parks and green spaces.

Salem Parks Foundation will continue to promote the enjoyment of parks in our city, and we will continue to raise funds for additional amenities in our parks. However, a vibrant park system is a core function of city government and should be a priority in Salem's budget.

Thank you for all you do in volunteer service to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol Snyder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Snyder
President, Salem Parks Foundation

P.O. Box 5764, Salem, OR 97304 • Phone (503) 364-8674
E-mail: info@salemparksfoundation.org
Website: www.salemparksfoundation.org
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