



Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Annual Report to Salem City Council

February 12, 2024

Bailey Ridge Park

CITY OF *Salem*
AT YOUR SERVICE

ABOUT SPRAB

Duties

The Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board acts as a community catalyst for our parks and recreation system. It makes recommendations, offers advice, and issues reports to City Council and other groups.

SPRAB also issues decisions involving city-owned tree removal appeals as well as Heritage Tree designation nominations.

Mission

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.

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, well-being, community, and the environment.

BRIEF HISTORY

1952

Public Park Advisory Commission created.

1954

Name changed to Parks Advisory Board.

1969

Name changed to Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

1974

Board increased from seven to nine members to represent broader community interests.

1976

Bylaws established: operational pattern for communications to community groups, other boards and commissions, and City Council.

Picnickers at Wallace Marine - 1958

Cascades Gateway Park - 1962



Increased coordination with City Council through the establishment of a SPRAB Board Liaison position, currently held by Councilor Varney.



Raised awareness of the Salem Park Improvement Fund process, leading to a record number of applications from neighborhood associations.



Conducted outreach and listening sessions through presentations to most neighborhood associations in the community.



Supported park access through engagement with National Walk to a Park Day and the City's proclamation, along with the commitment to the 10-Minute Walk Campaign.

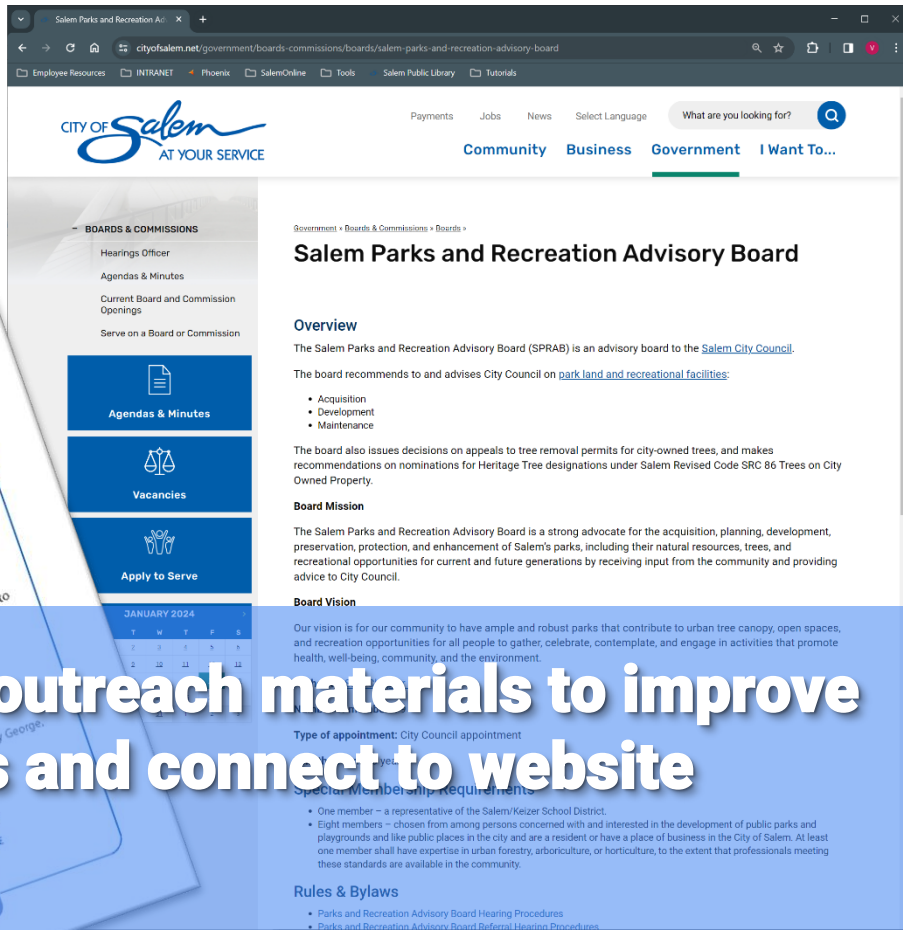
A photograph of two people riding bicycles on a paved path. In the foreground, a man with a beard is wearing a blue t-shirt, black shorts, a red and black helmet, and blue sunglasses. He is riding a blue bicycle. Behind him, a woman is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt, blue shorts, a white helmet, and glasses. She is riding a black bicycle. The path is paved and surrounded by green grass and large rocks. In the background, another person is walking on the path. The image has a blue gradient overlay at the bottom where the text is located.

Researched policy options from other communities to inform Salem's e-bike and micromobility rules currently in development.



Submitted support letters for grant applications related to parks and reaction, including Pringle Creek Trail Connection, Miller Elementary to Bill Riegel Park Connector Planning Project, Geer Park Skate Park and Pathways, and Treatment of Invasive Aquatic Plants in Oxbow Slough.

Developed coordinated outreach materials to improve SPRAB communications and connect to website resources.





Participated in city hiring processes, including interviews for the Deputy City Manager and the Chief Communications Officer positions.



Joined the University of Oregon Sustainable City Program events to provide input on projects related to our parks.

Goals for 2024

Minto-Brown Island Park



ADVISE CITY COUNCIL

- Report to City Council at least annually with relevant updates and information.
- Work with City Council to identify a SPRAB liaison councilor who can occasionally attend SPRAB meetings and receive updates.
- Advocate for parks and recreation budget lines—especially staffing and maintenance, to keep pace with development of new facilities.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Present annually to each neighborhood association and share information about upcoming opportunities.
- Develop shared outreach materials highlighting SPRAB's role, upcoming Master Plans, and information about funding opportunities.
- Explore opportunities to better promote parks and recreation through social media, website updates, and board member leadership.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Work through the City's Climate Action Plan goals and provide recommendations for implementation based on best practices and ideas from other cities.
- Proactively work with staff to research and recommend solutions to emerging topics, such as regulations around e-bikes and micromobility devices in parks.
- Take on additional research or parks advancement as opportunities arise or as directed by City Council.

A photograph of three children (two boys and one girl) peeking out from under a brown tarp shelter set up in a grassy field. The children are smiling and looking towards the camera. The text "COME OUT AND PLAY!" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters across the center of the image.

COME OUT AND PLAY!

Advanced Wilderness Camp

Thank you for supporting Salem's parks and recreational opportunities!