

From: [N. Hiro](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: For tonight's hearing
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 3:23:03 PM

I am disturbed to hear that the city is proposing more and more cuts to public services which benefit our community.

I implore the city to not to take punitive action against its residents by taking away community benefits because a tax was unsuccessfully implemented.

Surely there are other means and avenues that can be looked into to keep our city alive and engaged.

Thank you.

From: [Alexis Harrington](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Please keep library services open
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 3:24:00 PM

Hello-

I just wanted to make clear. As a resident and business owner in Salem, our public services need real work. To hear that we are closing library services is really disheartening. I come from a Midwestern town not much bigger than Salem, and is often considered "run down", but somehow that town has an excellent library, zoo, and museum. We are out great state's capital, and we can even keep our library services open? Such a let down. I moved out here 6 years ago to support small business on the west coast and I am a believer in Salem. Please consider keeping public services and attractions open. It's is embarrassing that Salem's citizens have to travel to Portland for tourism, we should be keeping these dollars in the city! And not relying on Portland or other cities for tourism. It sends its citizens and tourists away from Salem, and we should be capturing those dollars.

Thanks for your consideration.

From: [Michael T](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Splash pads
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 3:44:54 PM

Hey I just want you to know during covid these splash pads were closed! And we just want normalcy, splash pads are a great low budget idea for kids I think every one available should be opened. I understand the complexity of your job and budgeting I just wanted to share my thoughts.

From: [William Colson](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Appeals to Save Splash Parks in Salem
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 4:09:29 PM

Dear Budget Office,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of Salem to express my deep concern regarding the potential shutdown of our beloved splash parks due to the city's current financial constraints. Splash parks are not just recreational areas; they serve as vital community spaces that bring joy to families, provide relief during hot summer days, and promote physical activity among children.

As a parent myself, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that splash parks have on children. These parks foster a sense of community, encourage outdoor play, and contribute to the overall well-being of our residents. Closing down these facilities would not only deprive the children of Salem of a safe and enjoyable place to play, but it would also diminish the quality of life for families across the city.

I understand that the city is facing financial challenges, but I urge you to consider alternative solutions to address the budget deficit without sacrificing the well-being of our community. Perhaps exploring partnerships with local businesses, implementing cost-saving measures, or seeking out grants and funding opportunities could help alleviate the financial strain without resorting to closing down splash parks.

I implore you to reconsider the decision to shut down the splash parks and instead work together with the community to find sustainable solutions that will allow these valuable amenities to remain open for generations to come.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my plea. I am optimistic that with thoughtful deliberation and community support, we can find a way to preserve our splash parks and continue to enrich the lives of residents in Salem.

Sincerely,

William M. Colson

From: [Amanda Nugent](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Splash Pad
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 4:20:47 PM

Hi there,

I am deeply disappointed in the idea our city's splash pads will be closed.

We live near Wes Bennett park. When my son was not old enough for preschool, we went to the splash pad every single day. We would get there and, along with many other families, would sit around in our bathing suits until the fountains turned on. On hot days we would visit multiple times, as we don't have air conditioning.

Turning these off will mean children - and not just younger than school aged- are without a safe, community-based area to play.

Riverfront Park is twenty minutes away from our home, and we aren't close to being the furthest away from the park in Salem. Not only will the restriction of the splash pads impact family recreation, it will cause Riverfront Park to be more busy than it already is on hot summer days, increase unnecessary cross-town traffic, and discriminate families who may not be able to travel the distance.

Please - as a mother and someone who is proud of their city's family-oriented community - please do not turn off the splash pads.

Sincerely,
Amanda Nugent

From: [Mckayla Bell](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Why the splash pad is necessary to the community
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 4:37:44 PM

My kid loves to go to the park on hot days and then go cool off at the splash pad , it's perfect for anyone who wants to have something to do for their kids that's free and close by .

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jolene Bray](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Keep Splash Pads Open!
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 6:04:18 PM

I'm writing to ask that the city's splash pads remain open this summer. The city has little enough recreation for children that to consider closing them is cruel, especially since meteorologists are projecting another extremely hot summer.

I hate to be a resident that uses the phrase "my tax dollars," but I feel the city is punishing residents for not supporting more police funding. We have a right to demand the city provide basic services aside from law enforcement. The city doesn't have a public pool, so allowing children to run and play in what amounts to a public sprinkler isn't much to expect. Also, cutting and reducing low cost programs that benefit families and children is counterintuitive to reducing crime.

Please keep the splash pads open so kids have a safe place to play and cool off this summer. Its the right and decent thing to do.

~ Jolene Bray
425 McKinley St SE
Salem OR 97302

From: [Sarah Harkey](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Splash pads
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 8:46:00 PM

Please don't turn off our splash pads and park maintenance. We really rely on these spaces for our kids. Thank you.

-Sarah Harkey

From: [Tealah Meyer](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Splash pad/water park
Date: Thursday, May 9, 2024 2:57:49 PM

I hear that you're thinking of cutting funding for the splash pads and water parks, this needs to be reconsidered. What about the families that depend on that splash pad to keep cool in the summer? The low income that can't afford an air conditioner or fans for their apartments? This is inappropriate. We've dealt with your budget cuts depriving our children of public restrooms, a basic necessity when using the parks. Children don't deserve you to take away part of their childhood too, most of them don't even understand what a budget even means. I strongly believe this will cause more ER visits for heat exhaustion in children and adults. If you cut the splash pads or water parks just prepare yourself for that.

Sincerely a very disappointed Salem resident.

From: [Christian Pass](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: Please consider
Date: Thursday, May 9, 2024 5:29:34 PM

Please consider the below peer review concerning reducing costs by giving housing first. Keep people off the streets, allow downtown to flourish and feel safe, and your revenues will increase as people spend money.

Best,
Chris

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/em/spring-summer-23/highlight2.html>

From: [Josh Eggleston](#)
To: [budgetoffice](#)
Subject: FW: City Parks and Water
Date: Monday, May 13, 2024 5:21:16 PM

Josh Eggleston | Office: 503-588-6130 | mobile: 971-453-2804
City of Salem | Finance Department

From: Laura Herrmann <laurajherrmann@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 3:47 PM
To: citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: City Parks and Water

Hello Salem City Council,

I understand that the question of whether our city will have adequate funding for water in neighborhood parks has been resolved - for this summer. I am writing to advocate for future funding for the important resource of water (bathrooms, drinking fountains, splash pads) in our city parks in the summer of 2025 and into the future. My children are now beyond the ages to enjoy a splash pad. When they were younger we would walk to the neighborhood park together on a hot summer day to cool down and have some fun at a splash pad, inevitably needing to use the bathroom and likely also would want to refill a water bottle. I remember those days clearly and want to make sure that kids across our city have this opportunity in the future.

Furthermore, it is a problem that Salem does not have an outdoor, centrally-located, affordable public pool. Families go to the river instead, where currents can be dangerous to kids and others who are not strong swimmers. A public pool would also need to provide free swimming lessons. This is an issue of equity. Cities across the nation (and around the world) fund public pools. Salem needs to prioritize this service. Imagine, should splash pads close in the future due to lack of funding, even more families with young children will choose to refresh themselves in the river. Again, if they are not strong swimmers, this becomes a public safety concern.

I would like to take a moment to just say that I am willing to pay more to the city in the form of taxes for these services, especially on behalf of young kids. If there is a way to send donations to the city to pay for water in our parks and even to fundraise for a public pool, please let me know. Maybe it would be in the form of an "opt-in" tax for those of us who are able and willing to pay more to fund our city. Surely the Revenue

Task Force is considering options such as this. I am certain that I am not alone in the desire to keep water in our parks and even the desire to see an outdoor, public pool in Salem.

Thank you,

Laura Herrmann