

Application Form

Profile

Chris

First Name

Middle Initial

Donaldson

Last Name

Email Address

Home Address

City

Suite or Apt

State

Postal Code

What Ward do you live in? Use the following link to determine your Ward if you do not know: (<https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/city-council-mayor/about-city-council/find-a-ward-map>) \*

☒ Ward 1 - Downtown (north of State St.) and Northwest Salem

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

US Forest Service

Employer

Regional Fuels Coordinator

Job Title

Prescribed Fire and Wildfire Response

Occupation

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Submitted

Which of the following City of Salem Board or Commission meetings have you attended? \*

☒ None

Interests & Experiences

What do you feel you can contribute as a board or commission member?

As a US Forest Service employee with over 25 years of experience—and a parent and frequent user of the City’s parks and recreation areas—I’m eager to contribute to the care, maintenance, and development of our public outdoor spaces. My experience with the Forest Service has given me an appreciation for public lands and the value of community input in their management. I’m looking for meaningful ways to stay connected to our city and believe serving on, or becoming more involved with, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would be a valuable way to apply my skills and experience. While my long-term goal is to become a board member, I am currently interested in any opportunities to attend board meetings as a prospective board member and gaining insight and experience into board matters.

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**What prompted your interest in applying to serve as a board or commission member?**

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I've lived in Salem since 2018 and am seeking ways to feel more connected to the community by giving my time to things that I value. As a parent of a young child and someone who prioritizes time spent in nature, I am a frequent user of our parks and recreation facilities and am interested in how we maintain and enhance the outdoor spaces in Salem. I am especially drawn to the City's efforts to balance developed recreation and preservation and restoration of native oak habitats.

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**Please explain how your education, professional, personal, lived, or volunteer experience and knowledge qualify you to serve on the board(s) or commission(s) for which you are applying.**

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Through my work with the US Forest Service, I've come to appreciate the complexities of public land management. While my primary focus has been fire management, I've also contributed to interdisciplinary teams conducting environmental analysis for forest project, work that requires balancing ecological goals with public expectations. Stakeholders often hold diverse, sometimes conflicting, views on how public lands should be managed. I've learned to embrace these tensions and recognize that while no decision will satisfy everyone, inclusive and thoughtful engagement honors the principle that public lands are managed by and for the people. My academic background in natural resources provides a strong foundation in land management, while my studies in history offer valuable perspective on the cultural significance of our landscapes. Parks and natural areas are not only ecological assets but also reflections of our shared heritage. I'm committed to preserving cultural sites and native habitats, while also supporting practical decisions that ensure access and enhance quality of life for all Salem residents.

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**List any experience you have with volunteering for the City of Salem, your neighborhood association, or other public bodies organizations.**

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Over the past 25 years I have volunteered with: • Friends of Trees: Native planting projects at Minto Brown Park. 2018-2020. • Englewood Park Neighborhood Volunteer Events: Removing invasive species and planting native vegetation. 2019 and 2025. • AmeriCorps: Year long volunteer program in Southern Oregon focused on trail building and maintenance, fire risk reduction, and noxious weed removals. 2000-2001. • US Coast Guard Auxiliary: Member of the volunteer uniformed branch of the US Coast Guard, currently training to deploy with active-duty US Coast Guard assets as a culinary assistant and communications watch-stander. 2023-present. I've been a sporadic attendee of NEN Neighborhood Association meetings in the past, but this year I committed to attending regularly and participated from January through July, until work and other commitments limited my availability. While I've served on various committees through my work with the Forest Service, this would be my first opportunity to serve on a public body.

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**Can you commit to attending a minimum of 75 percent of scheduled meetings? (Please refer to the City's website for the meeting schedule. Failure to meet the attendance requirement may result in removal from office.)**

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☒ Yes ☐ No

**Please list up to three (3) references whom we could contact to learn more about your qualifications (name/email address or phone number/relationship).**

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References □ Dana Skelly Senior Advisor for Natural Resources and Ecosystem Management US Forest Service 503-351-1738 dana.skelly@usda.gov (former supervisor) □ Nathan Shinkle Forest Fire Staff Officer US Forest Service 435-671-9374 nathan.shinkle@usda.gov (professional reference/colleague) □ Ian Dooley Senior Associate Attorney Earthjustice 541-570-0304 ian.s.dooley@gmail.com (personal reference)

Question applies to Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

**Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board bylaws state that one member must have expertise in urban forestry, horticulture, or arboriculture. Does this apply to you?**

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☐ Yes ☒ No

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Although I have experience in forest management and prescribed fire implementation I do not have urban forestry experience.

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## Demographics

Some boards and commissions require membership to be racially, politically or geographically proportionate to the general public. The following information helps track our recruitment and diversity efforts.

**Ethnicity**

**Gender**

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**Question**