

From: [Julia Battle](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Cc: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Recommendation
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 10:57:39 AM

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Dear Councilors,

The Mission Street Parks Conservancy Board of Directors strongly supports the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's recommendation to continue the mowing policy as outlined in their letter. They support following the Cultural Landscape Management Plan (CLMP) guidelines that were adopted by the City of Salem for the continued management and improvement of Bush's Pasture Park. The CLMP recommendations were based on a very complete and well researched scientific study that should definitely be followed.

Sincerely,
Julia Battle
Mission Street Parks Conservancy Board Chairman

From: [LaDonna](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Bush Park's "no mow" management strategy
Date: Sunday, November 9, 2025 9:53:34 AM

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Dear Salem City Council:

As a Salem resident/tax payer I would like to request the Bush Pasture Park's "no mow" management strategy be eliminated.

My husband and I run in Bush Pasture Park every day and have seen the park enjoyed by many throughout the years, until this summer. The picnic and play area were totally unusable, looking more like a "hayfield" than a city park.

Your consideration in abandoning the Bush Pasture Park's "no mow" management strategy would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

LaDonna Smith
Salem, Oregon

From: [Rachael Hubbard](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Request for Review of Bush Park Picnic Area Policy
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 6:19:51 PM

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Dear City Councilors,

I'm writing to ask for a review of the policy that has rendered the Bush Park picnic area unusable. I was initially very supportive of the no-mow policy and its goal of supporting local wildlife, but I had assumed it applied to the lower section of the oaks near the paved path—not the picnic area itself.

I grew up in Salem picnicking in that space and have celebrated my own children's birthdays there 20 years later. The removal of the play structure and the overgrown grass have made what was once a welcoming and well-used community area inaccessible. This feels like a misstep that deprives residents of a valuable, free public gathering place—something especially important in today's economy.

Allowing such a change to occur without public input or an expert review of its impact is a real loss to our city. I hope you will reconsider this decision and restore access to the Bush Park picnic area.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rachael Hubbard

From: [CAROL SNYDER](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Council meeting comment
Date: Monday, November 10, 2025 9:59:58 AM

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TO: Salem City Council

FROM: Carol Snyder, Ward 2

RE: Comments on Agenda item 5.d (Bush Park No-Mow Program and SPRAB'S Letter)

DATE: November 10, 2025

I appreciate SPRAB's balanced approach to the management of Area 13c, where Salem citizens have enjoyed group picnicking for decades. I especially appreciate their recommendations regarding Area 13c for designated picnic areas and accessible improvements, mowed sites with secured picnic tables for large family gatherings.

The group picnics that take place there are often multi-generational, and mobility is an issue. Family reunions, special birthdays, graduation celebrations, and after-church potlucks may include people using walkers, strollers, and wheelchairs. Area 13c works well for these park users because it is shady and on level ground close to parking and pathways.

I love the oak groves in Bush Park and want them preserved. I also love the community connections that our city parks provide. Thank you for considering both.