



CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Monday, November 16, 2020

6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

City Council Work Session - Strategic Plan Update: Priorities for 2020-2023

2.a. [20-462](#) Priorities for Strategic Plan Update

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Area(s): Result Areas - Good Governance; Natural Environment

Stewardship; Safe Community; Safe, Reliable and Efficient

Infrastructure; Strong and Diverse Economy; Welcoming and Livable
Community.

Attachments: [SPRAB Recommendation on Council Goals](#)

Add - Written Testimony

November 12, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Council,

We write to you as members of the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (SPRAB) requesting that you consider parks and local recreation as part of the upcoming strategic planning work session and final goals.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for investing in ample local recreation opportunities in our community. Additionally, maintaining and expanding parks and green space will be integral aspects of both the Climate Action Task Force and the Our Salem project as our city continues to grow. As such, we suggest the following recommendations for your consideration:

- Update and implement the goals included in the Community Forestry Strategic Plan to expand canopy cover in all Wards, with a focus on low-canopy areas and planting on private property.
- Increasing bike and pedestrian pathways in the city with a focus on connectivity between existing and future parks.
- Identify opportunities for increasing community engagement, such as public comment, from all Wards across the city to better represent diverse needs in city planning.
- Increase City investments in parks, such as through a bond measure, voter-approved levy, or other sources to fund park development and associated maintenance needs for existing and future projects.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to partnering with you on growing Salem's parks and recreation opportunities in the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dylan McDowell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dylan McDowell, Chair
Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board