

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Annual Report to Salem City Council

January 2023

Minto-Brown Island Park

CITY OF *Salem*
AT YOUR SERVICE
Parks and Recreation

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.

Authority: SRC Chapter 13

Number of members: 9



Woodmansee Park

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



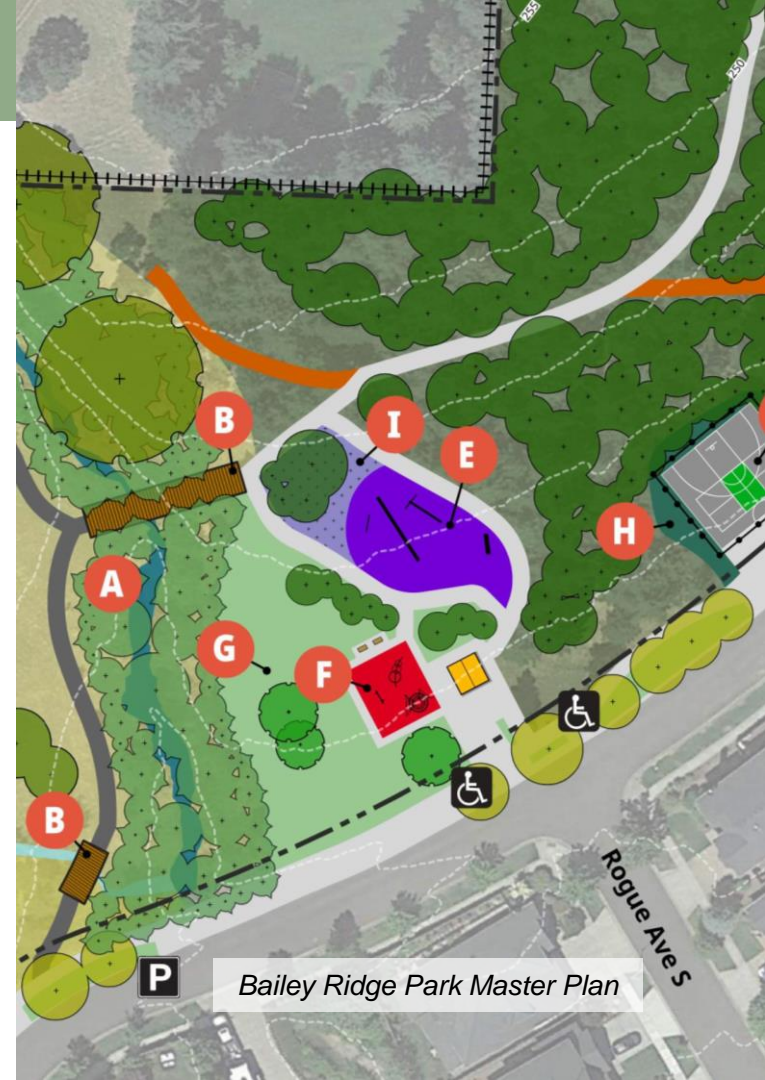
Picnickers at Wallace Marine -1958



Cascades Gateway Park-1962

2022 ACTIVITIES

- Recommended approval of Park Master Plans (including Bailey Ridge Park) while monitoring improvements to other parks.
- Submitted letters of support for funding opportunities to enhance parks, such as Brown Road Park and the Community Infrastructure Bond.
- Collaborated with City staff to award the annual Salem Park Improvement Fund project grant awards.
- Explored opportunities to increase our impact and expand our relationship with City Council.



SPRAB RETREAT IN OCTOBER

- Held our first in-person meeting since early 2020 to discuss SPRAB's role and opportunities for increased effectiveness.
- Identified key areas for growth and methods for expanding community engagement.
- Adopted a new annual work plan at the January 2023 meeting.



First in-person meeting since 2020

A photograph of a dirt path leading through a dense forest. The sun is shining brightly through the trees in the distance, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the path. The trees are tall and thin, with green foliage. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Goals for 2023

Minto-Brown Island Park

ADVISE CITY COUNCIL

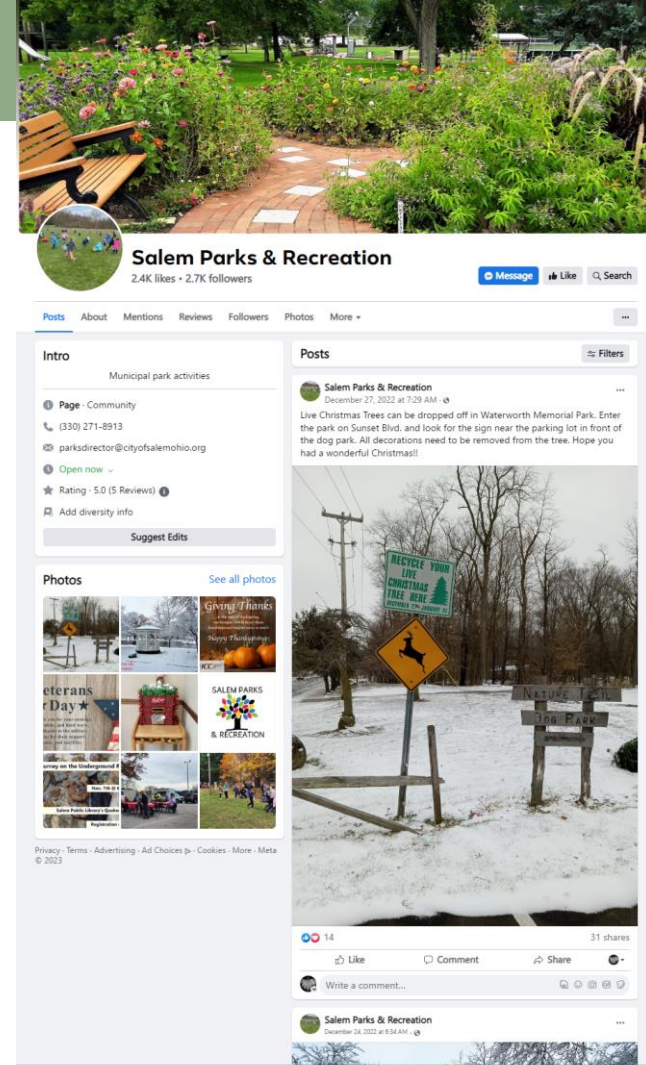
- Report to City Council at least annually with relevant updates and information.
- Work with City Council to identify a SPRAB liaison councilor who can occasionally attend SPRAB meetings and receive updates.
- Advocate for parks and recreation budget lines—especially staffing and maintenance, to keep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



Minto-Brown Island Park

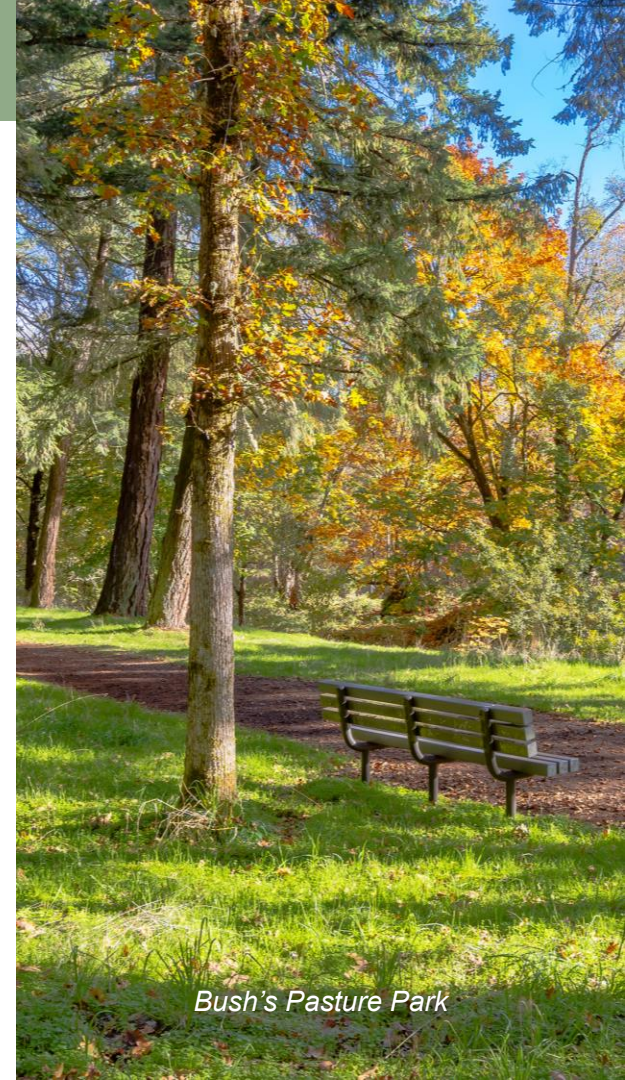
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 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.



Bush's Pasture Park

COME OUT AND PLAY!



Advanced Wilderness Camp

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