

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Est. June 1952

*2016 Annual Report to Salem City Council
April 24, 2017*



General Board Information

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Civic Center in the Public Works Traffic Control Center, Room 325

Members: Kasia Quillinan, Chair; Tony Caito, Woody Dukes, David Fridenmaker (SKSD), Bill Fujii, Kyle Smith, Carol Snyder, Patty Tipton

City Staff: Robert Chandler, Mark Bechtel, Alicia Blalock, Patricia Farrell, Jennifer Kellar, Toni Whitler



Our Mission

The mission of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is to provide safe, clean, and beautiful facilities, parks and open spaces, along with professionally managed leisure activities for all people, and to enrich the quality of life, provide economic value, and encourage long-term community stability and growth.

The Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (SPRAB) was first established in June 1952 and has been an active advisory board to Salem City Council for 63 years.

The Board appreciates this opportunity to share with City Council the wide variety of issues and subjects undertaken by this Board. The community we serve is the benefactor of a great deal of citizen work and effort, resulting in the positive parks and recreation system we all enjoy today. In this report, the Board will give an overview of the scope of its responsibilities and note upcoming work plan items.

Examples of the Board and City Council's Purview



- Over 2,000 acres of park land.
- More than 5,800 youth and adults involved in summer recreation activities that include sport camps, Summer Parks Program, COUNTRY Financial Kids Relays, and STRIDE running/walking events.
- 156 softball league teams, 49 kickball teams, and 606 tournament teams in spring/summer/fall, bringing in approximately 80,000 spectators each year.
- Comprehensive Park System Master Plan.
- Cooperative Facility Use Agreement and Joint Maintenance Agreement between City of Salem and Salem-Keizer School District.
- Grant review for Oregon Parks and Recreation and Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- Park master planning and construction of new parks.
- Salem Parks Improvement Fund.
- *SRC Chapter 86* Review Committee.
- Approximately 105,000 street trees and 30,000 park trees.



2016 Accomplishments

- 2016 was the first full year of the SPRAB's new role as City Tree Advisory Board, established in *SRC Chapter 86: Trees on City-Owned Property*. During the course of this year, the Urban Forester provided opportunities for the Board to learn City processes for removal permits and appeals.
- Support of a half-time Park Ranger position, and its increase to three-quarter time, was approved by the Budget Committee for FY 2016-2017.
- Testimony and proposal was received from Salem Pickleball Club to create a pickleball facility at Highland Park tennis courts. The Board supported the proposal unanimously.
- Support of a proposal by the City of Salem to purchase 14 acres of Oregon State Hospital property that includes the sports field at 23rd and D Streets NE.
- Participation on the Salem Park Improvement Fund (SPIF) grant program award committee, which awarded \$60,000 in matching grants for park enhancements, such as playground equipment, drinking fountains, and irrigated and seeded open play areas.
- A formal presentation was received from staff regarding the transfer of school-park property between the City and Salem-Keizer School District. The board heard testimony from South Central Association of Neighbors (SCAN) representatives, and forwarded a recommendation to City Council in support of the property transfer, but included a request to consider the concerns presented by SCAN.
- Participated in a park tour of both developed and undeveloped park sites.
- Forwarded a recommendation to City Council to adopt the Fairview Park Master Plan.
- Received informational reports from various agencies and individuals, including the Salem Parks Foundation and State of the Parks reports from the Volunteer Coordinator, Urban Forester, and Park District Supervisors
- Annual reports presented by Gilbert House Children's Museum, Deepwood Museum and Gardens, Riverfront Carousel, and Salem Art Association executive directors.
- Annual budget presentation received.
- Softball and summer recreation overview received by Recreation Services staff.
- Received park planning priorities schedule.
- Salem Audubon Society presented its proposal to protect native turtle species at Minto-Brown Island Park through placement of educational signage at the park. The presentation was supported by the Board
- Approved a policy change to Salem Park Improvement Fund that allows the Review Committee to award up to 75 percent of the project estimate instead of 50 percent.



- Received information from staff and approved changes to the Youth Access Grant Program. A representative from the Board participated in the application review and award process.
- Approved the awards to the Youth Recreation Access Grant Program.
- Received a presentation from Urban Development on the 2nd Street Extension project and took testimony from West Salem and Salem residents. If this project moves forward, the Board will be apprised of its progress and effects to Wallace Marine Park and the Union Street Railroad Bridge.
- The Board held a special meeting to receive a presentation by Public Works Transportation Planning staff to express their concern about the effects on Wallace Marine Park by the land use actions being proposed to the *Salem Transportation Plan* related to the Salem River Crossing. The Board supported the amendments to the *Salem Transportation System Plan* with the design mitigation provisions outlined in the draft ordinance text amendments to the TSP, and asked that it have the opportunity to weigh in on future design mitigation phases.
- Board members, representing SPRAB, presented testimony to City Council on the Salem River Crossing and the Salem-Keizer School District/ City of Salem school-park property transfer.

2017 Goals

- Participate in park openings.
- Continue to receive training on City Tree Review appeal process. Participate in appeal process as required.
- Continue support for Salem Park Improvement Fund and Salem Parks Foundation.
- Participate in the Battle Creek Park master plan, Riverfront Park master plan, and Neighborhood Park plans.
- Participate in the Peter Courtney Minto Island Pedestrian Bridge opening.
- Support additional funding for park improvements and maintenance.
- Continue support of inmate crews, and support efforts to enlist additional volunteers.
- Develop tracking system for insuring park maintenance at a level of adequate or better.
- Support the continued refurbishing of Salem Municipal Rose Garden.
- Promote additional sports fields.
- Participate in park tours as needed.
- Review and respond to proposed land use actions affecting park properties.
- Outreach to other civic groups in addition to Salem Pickleball Association, Friends of Bush Gardens, and Englewood Park Neighbors.
- Support the City's effort to purchase a minimum of seven acres of Oregon State Hospital property as a public park and recreation facility. Receive updates from City staff as necessary, and forward recommendations to City Council as required.

