

# Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Est. June 1952

## *2017 Annual Report to Salem City Council*



CITY OF *Salem*  
AT YOUR SERVICE

Public Works Department  
Parks and Recreation

### *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, Vice Chair; Woody Dukes, David Fridenmaker (SKSD), Bill Fujii, Kyle Smith, Carol Snyder, Patty Tipton, Kourtney Linebaugh
- City Staff:** Robert Chandler, Mark Becketl, 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. Salem's inviting parks and recreation system is the result of countless hours of citizen and staff efforts

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 66 years.

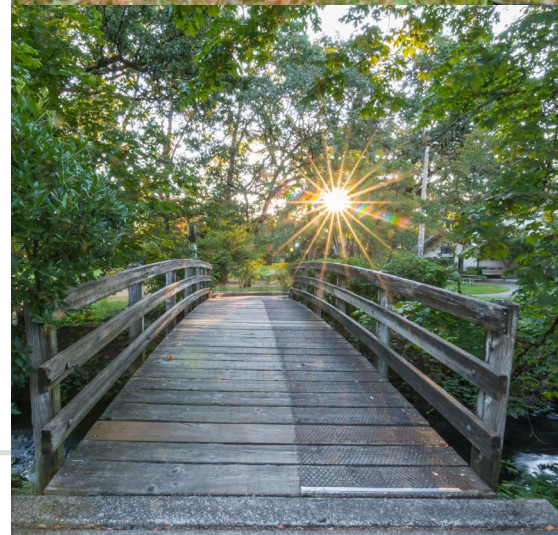
The Board appreciates this opportunity to share with City Council the wide variety of issues and subjects undertaken by this Board. The community we serve is the benefactor of a great deal of citizen work and effort, resulting in the positive parks and recreation system we all enjoy today. In this report, the Board will give an overview of the scope of its responsibilities and its goals for the current year. Below is a list of presentations, actions taken, planning, and land use issues reviewed last year.

## *Examples of the Board and City Council's Purview*

- Over 2,000 acres of park land.
- More than 5,900 youth and adults involved in summer recreation activities that include sport camps, Summer Parks Program, COUNTRY Financial Kids Relays, and STRIDE running/walking events.
- 150 softball league teams, 50 kickball teams, and 543 tournament teams in spring\summer\fall, bringing in approximately 92,400 spectators.
- 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 Park Improvement Fund.
- SRC Chapter 86 Review Committee.
- Approximately 105,000 street trees and 30,000 park trees.



**2017 Board Members (left to right):**  
Tony Caito, Bill Fujii, Woody Dukes, Kasia Quillinan,  
Kyle Smith, Dave Fridenmaker, Carol Snyder.  
Missing is Patty Tipton and Kourtney Linebaugh.



## *Presentations*

- Softball and summer recreation overview by Recreation Services staff.
- Straub Environmental Center shared a presentation on Outdoor Educational Programming and proposed utilizing Salem parks as part of the program.
- Osborne Adventures presented a proposal to install bike-share stations at Riverfront and Bush's Pasture Parks.
- A proposal from the Downtown Rotary Club to erect a covered stage over the Riverfront Park amphitheater to commemorate the Downtown Rotary Centennial celebration.
- A grant opportunity for the removal of invasive plant species, Ludwigia, at Minto Brown Island Park.
- A review of the Community Forestry Strategic Plan.
- A presentation by the executive director of Salem Art Association at the newly renovated Art Barn in Bush's Pasture Park.
- Proposed art murals to be located around the downtown core.
- Annual budget presentation.
- Seasonal ice skating rink by Salem on Ice, LLC.
- Friends of Trees annual report.
- Status of an archaeological study of the Chinese Shrine in Pioneer Cemetery.
- Annual reports presented by Gilbert House Children's Museum, Deepwood Museum and Gardens, and Riverfront Carousel executive directors.

## *Action Items*

- The Board met in special session to discuss and take action on the Federal Highway Administration 4(f) de minimus impact determination of the Salem River Crossing project on Wallace Marine Park and Wallace Natural Area. The Board voted in support of de minimus determination, but with concerns pending additional facts.
- The Board endorsed the "Preferred Design" for the proposed Rotary stage at Riverfront Park and forwarded a recommendation to City Council to approve the design.
- An update to the bylaws including a procedure for hearing tree permit appeals was approved by the Board.



## *Activities*

- The Board participated in a tour of several park properties that correlate with current projects or master planning efforts.
- Friends of Trees plantings at Minto-Brown Island Park, Eola Ridge Park, and McKay Park.
- Englewood Park invasive species removal.
- Peter Courtney Pedestrian Bridge grand opening.

## *Park Planning and Land Use Items Reviewed by the Board*

- Signage for regulating usage of drones at Minto-Brown Island Park.
- Initiation of Riverfront and Hilfiker Parks Master Plans.
- Participation on System Development Charge Methodology Update Committee.
- Agreements between the City and the Salem Cricket Club and Salem on Ice.
- Minto Island Conservation Area Trail Guidance Plan.
- Continued updates on the proposal by the City of Salem to purchase a portion of Oregon State Hospital property that includes the sports field at 23rd and D Streets NE.
- Partnership between the City and the Salem Parks Foundation to construct a new playground at McKay Park.
- Reviewed the City's plans to prepare for the Eclipse event and its management of park properties during the event.
- Salem Park Improvement Fund (SPIF) grant program and the Board's participation on the award committee, awarded \$60,000 in matching grants to Neighborhood Associations for park enhancements at Geer Community Park for a bicycle pump track, West Salem Park for a drinking fountain, Brown Road Park for bike racks, and upgrades to the Stephens-Yoshikai Cricket field.
- Informational reports from various agencies and individuals, including the Salem Parks Foundation and State of the Parks reports from the Parks Volunteer Coordinator, Urban Forester, and Park District Supervisors.



## 2018 Goals

- Participate in Battle Creek, Brown Road, Hilfiker, Stephens/Yoshikai, Woodmansee Park master plans, and the City Center Park and Trail Plan.
- Participate in the Parks Capital Improvement Plan and the System Development Charge processes.
- Support recreation programs and services.
- Continue to serve as tree appeal board.
- Support efforts to minimize the impacts to wildlife and birds throughout Minto-Brown Island Park.
- Advocate for additional walking trails at Wallace Marine Park.
- Support the boat ramp repair and address erosion issues at Wallace Marine Park.
- Move forward with the development of Fairview and Riverfront Parks.
- Move forward with the revitalization of the playground area at McKay Park.
- Continued support for Salem Park Improvement Fund and Salem Parks Foundation.
- Support additional funding for park improvements and maintenance.
- Continue support of the utilization of inmate crews.
- Support efforts to enlist additional volunteers.
- Pursue the development of a tracking system for insuring park maintenance at a level of adequate or better.
- Follow the continued refurbishing of the Salem Municipal Rose Garden at Bush's Pasture Park.
- 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, Lord & Schryver Gardeners, Englewood Park Neighbors, and Audubon Society.
- Track the City's progress to purchase a minimum of seven acres of Oregon State Hospital property as a public park and recreation facility.



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