

Application Form

Profile

Dylan

First Name

Mcdowell

Last Name

Middle Initial

Email Address

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Salem

City

OR

State

97304

Postal Code

What Ward do you live in? *

☒ Ward 8

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

National Caucus of
Environmental Legislators

Employer

Deputy Director

Job Title

Nonprofit

Occupation

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Submitted

Which of the following City of Salem Board or Commission meetings have you attended? *

☒ None

Interests & Experiences

What do you feel you can contribute as a board or commission member?

I recently relocated to Salem and am eager to become active in the community. My background is in environmental education and I strive to find opportunities to increase outdoor access. I work remotely for a nonprofit called the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, which is a nationwide network of more than 1,200 state legislators focused on environmental issues. Through this work, I travel across the country assisting lawmakers as they improve the environment in their states and communities and I have become aware of many wonderful initiatives I believe would be great in Salem. A few of these include the national 10-minute walk initiative, Nature Smart Libraries, and Park Rx. In my freetime, I run, bike, and walk my dog through Salem's many parks. It would be an honor to work on continually improving these great resources.

Upload a Resume

What prompted your interest in applying to serve as a board or commission member?

I have always been very active in my community as I grew up in Yachats and went to Oregon State University. However, I lost that connection over the past three and a half years living in D.C. Now that I am back in Oregon, I am eager to re-engage by putting my passion for outdoor education and parks to work locally. I am very impressed with Salem's park system and believe I can help bring new ideas into the city to further increase the use and offerings of our park system. Finally, as a new 27-year old new resident, I hope to add a young voice and outside perspective to Salem parks planning.

Please explain how your education, professional, personal, or volunteer experience and knowledge qualify you to serve on the board(s) or commission(s) for which you are applying.

I studied Fisheries and Wildlife Science at Oregon State University in addition to getting a dual degree in Education. This degree was inspired by numerous hours involved with park restoration, wetland protection, and waterway cleanups on the Oregon Coast in my youth, and volunteering at the Oregon Coast Aquarium in high school. In my professional career, I have participated in both science communication opportunities with Oregon Sea Grant and legislative assistance through the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators. Collectively, these experiences provide me with an understanding of government processes, knowledge of local ecosystems and wildlife, experience with developing educational opportunities, and insight from park programs across the country that would all benefit the Advisory Board.

List any experience you have with volunteering for the City of Salem or other organizations.

While I am brand new to Salem, I have extensive volunteer experience related to this position. One of my earliest high school volunteer opportunities was as Steward of the Yachats wetland in the city park where I cleaned up the area and helped with vegetation maintenance. Since then, I have regularly participated in volunteer clean up and restoration events in Yachats, Corvallis, and D.C. This came through a variety of organizations such as Key Club (high school), Mortar Board (college), and Potomac Conservancy (D.C.). Recently I have been volunteering with a group called Better World Education that develops interactive lesson plans based on interviews with individuals in other parts of the world. I believe this educational training would be helpful in promoting Salem parks.

Briefly explain any experience you have working with your neighborhood association or other public bodies or committees.

Growing up, I was involved with the Yachats City Council from a young age through various volunteer groups and city projects. I regularly attended meetings up through high school and supported efforts to improve the city. Professionally, I have served two years on the planning committee for the State Environmental Leaders Program, which hosts an annual conference of more than 100 state leaders at a different location every year. I have also been active in the national Gilman Study Abroad Alumni program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State where I have served as an ambassador and group leader at various trainings. There have been numerous short-term engagements as well, such as the Fisheries and Wildlife Student Promotion and Tenure Committee at OSU. Each of these taught me lessons about serving on a board or commission and I look forward to participating in a more regular fashion.

Can you commit to attending a minimum of 75 percent of scheduled meetings? (Please refer to the City's website for the meeting schedule. Failure to meet the attendance requirement may result in removal from office.)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please list up to three (3) references whom we could contact to learn more about your qualifications (name/email address or phone number/relationship).

Jeff Mauk, NCEL Executive Director of the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators; Phone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]; my direct supervisor Bill Hanshumaker, Oregon Sea Grant Chief
Scientist; Phone: [REDACTED]; Email: [REDACTED]; former internship supervisor
and mentor Dan Edge, OSU Associate Dean College of Agricultural Sciences and Professor of Wildlife
Ecology; Phone: [REDACTED]; Email: [REDACTED]; my former Dean and professor

Question applies to Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board bylaws state that one member must have expertise in urban forestry, horticulture, or arboriculture. Does this apply to you?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Demographics

Some boards and commissions require membership to be racially, politically or geographically proportionate to the general public. The following information helps track our recruitment and diversity efforts.

Ethnicity

☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

☒ Male