

*2019 Annual
Report to
Salem City
Council*

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Est. June 1952



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:** Tony Caito, Diana Dickey, Woody Dukes, David Fridenmaker, Kasia Quillinan, Dylan McDowell, Paul Rice, Patty Tipton, Micki Varney
- City Staff:** Robert Chandler, Mark Becketl, Patricia Farrell, Jennifer Kellar, Becky George, Toni Whitler



Board Members



Safe Community



Our Mission

The Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is a strong advocate for the preservation, protection, and enhancement of Salem's parks, natural resources, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations by receiving input from the community and providing advice to City Council.

Our Vision

Our vision is for our community to have ample 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.

Safe Community

Promote healthy, positive park use for all age groups. The Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (SPRAB) recommends a proactive approach through vegetation and grounds maintenance to provide safe walking and recreation areas for all ages to enjoy the outdoors. Parks can provide increased opportunities for volunteer engagement and local stewardship while presenting a visually clean, safe, and active environment.

SPRAB has endorsed and recommends City Council provide funding of the following:

- Increasing Park maintenance staff and equipment to levels sufficient to maintain existing and newly acquired properties.
- Maintaining Department of Corrections / Marion County agreements for DOC crews who assist in park maintenance.
- Coordination of volunteer programs such as Minto-Brown Island and Bush's Pasture Park patrols, and establishment of local park stewards.
- Providing additional Park Ranger(s).
- Providing additional security lighting, which allows police and residents a clear view into park areas.



Welcoming and Livable
Community



Strong and Diverse
Economy



Welcoming and Livable Community

Age-friendly, close-to-home, and fully accessible parks and recreation facilities are vital to a welcoming and livable community. Salem's neighborhood, community, and urban parks, as well as our trails and natural areas allow for diverse outdoor and recreational opportunities. Improving and expanding Salem's parks and recreation activities through additional programs, new park acquisitions and development, upgrades to existing parks, and new trail connections will ensure Salem continues to provide outdoor recreational opportunities across the City and for all age groups.

SPRAB has endorsed the following opportunities and actions:

- Purchase of 45 acres of land on Hazelgreen Road NE for an urban park.
- Application for an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Local Government Grant for the Riverfront Park north restroom facility.
- Riverfront Park Master Plan Update, Brown Road Park Master Plan, Hilfiker Park Master Plan, Battlecreek Park Master Plan, and Secor Park Master Plan and Phase One Development.
- Salem Park Improvement Fund Program awards.
- Finalizing of property swap between 24J and the City of Salem.

SPRAB endorses and recommends support and funding for the following actions and programs:

- The enhancement of Salem's parks through funding and development of additional program opportunities, park acquisitions, and upgrades to existing and new parks.
- Continuation of fee waivers for low-income families to provide positive, healthy activities for children and families.
- Continued collaborative relationships with neighborhood associations through the Salem Park Improvement Fund and Salem Parks Foundation partnerships.
- Applications for funding assistance through Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and National Park Service grant programs for park improvements and development.
- Continued collaboration with Salem Art Association, Salem Public Art Commission, and Mission Street Parks Conservancy.

Strong and Diverse Economy

Beautiful, diverse parks and ample recreational opportunities contribute to a thriving economy. Riverfront Park hosts high-quality events and regional festivals such as Cherry Fest NW, World Beat, Fourth of July Celebration, River Rock, and Fish Fest concerts. Running events, triathlons, and national regional softball and soccer tournaments are just a few examples of how Salem's parks and recreation bring visitors to Salem, enhancing the local economy.

SPRAB recognizes and fully supports the outstanding recreation events and event facilities within Salem that provide strong economic support to the City. SPRAB recognizes that a strong park system is an economic driver for the community and the region.

SPRAB endorses and recommends support and funding for the following actions and programs:

- National and regional softball and soccer tournaments.
- Rotary Multi-Sport Riverfest.
- Rotary Stage and amphitheater development in Riverfront Park.



Safe, Reliable, and Efficient
Infrastructure



Natural Environment
Stewardship



Safe, Reliable, and Efficient Infrastructure

SPRAB supports infrastructure improvements as noted in the Salem Comprehensive Parks System Master Plan and Salem Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan to connect parks with trails and family friendly bike and pedestrian routes throughout the City.

SPRAB recognizes the importance of park infrastructure to the health and well-being of the entire Salem community. Multi-use paths; safe connections between parks, schools, and neighborhoods; and support facilities such as restrooms and drinking water fountains, are key elements to a healthy park system.

SPRAB has endorsed the following actions and programs:

- Minto-Brown Island Park trail development.
- Peter Courtney and Union Street Railroad Bridge connections.
- Pringle Creek trail connection linking downtown to Riverfront Park.
- HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) grant for water bottle filling stations at Riverfront, River Road, and Geer Parks.
- Application for Riverfront North Restroom facility.

Natural Environment Stewardship

Parks, open space, natural areas, and the urban tree canopy are priorities for community health, individual health, economic vitality, and climate change resiliency. SPRAB advocates for opportunities to provide social connections, important plant and wildlife habitat, and overall sustainability for the next generation of Salem residents.

SPRAB recognizes the importance of healthy natural areas and tree canopies for water quality benefits, heat island reduction, carbon sequestration, and restorative passive recreation opportunities. SPRAB fully supports the protection of established trees, preservation of Oregon white oaks, and continued commitment to tree plantings in low canopy areas of the city. Additionally, SPRAB fully supports the protection and enhancement of sensitive natural resources in parks through restoration and public education.

SPRAB has endorsed the following actions and programs:

- Expand its responsibilities with regard to review of City tree plans and projects.
- Participate in implementing the Community Forestry Strategic Plan goals.
- Applications to Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for restoration grants at Minto Island Conservation Area.
- Working in partnership with Friends of Trees and local environmental groups for community tree planting events.

SPRAB endorses and recommends continued funding and support for the following actions and programs:

- Applications for grant funding for restoration of natural areas.
- Mayor's Monarch Pledge and pollinator habitat creation in parks.
- The development of a management plan for Minto-Brown Island Park.



Good Governance

- Expanded tree planting efforts through contracts with Friends of Trees and Treecology.
- Update the City's Integrated Pest Management Plan.
- Opportunities for natural area and trail enhancements for passive recreation.
- Public education through interpretive signage, bird walks, and outreach through tree and native vegetation planting events.
- Seasonal inventory and assessment of the City's street trees in various segments of the city.
- Continuing assessment and inventory of the City's street tree inventory.

Good Governance

The Board acknowledges and appreciates City Council's proactive approach to preserving parks, open space, natural areas, and trees as well as recognizing the need for additional recreation programming. These efforts will provide a more sustainable and economically stable community.

SPRAB is proud to have served in an advisory manner to City Council and the Public Works Director on park-related matters and recommends that it continue in these capacities:

- Provide advice and counsel in matters referred to them by City Council and the Public Works Director.
- Available to participate on advisory groups, such as the Food and Sundries Distribution Task Force.
- Continue to provide SPRAB members as liaisons for park master planning efforts.
- SPRAB will explore expansion of the Board's duties as is appropriate in its advisory capacity to City Council.
- Expand SPRAB's role with regard to City-owned trees through formation of an ad-hoc Tree Subcommittee that includes review of tree regulations and ordinances.
- Evaluate SPRAB and Council's role in the review and approval of park master plans.
- Explore consideration of and recommendations to City Council for a future park bond measure for acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of Salem parks as well as revenue opportunities for park maintenance funding and recreation programming.
- Annual board retreat to identify priorities and emerging issues.



Information on all City Boards and Commissions is available through the following link.

www.cityofsalem.net/boards-and-commissions