

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION MINUTES
Monday, December 16, 2024**

Mayor Graham called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Graham and Councilors Hyatt, Bloom, Dahle, Kaplan, DuQuenne and Hansen were present.

I. Public Input

(15 minutes – Public input or comment on City business not included on the agenda)

Neisewander– Spoke about public restroom hours, homeless concerns, and clarified that her public testimony on December. 3 was in support staff’s recommended changes to the Homeless Master Plan.

II. Commission & Committee Workplans & Updates 2024–2025

(See Agenda Packet for full 2024 achievements and 2025 workplan updates)

SERJAC – Social Equity & Racial Justice Advisory Committee

Presentation by Emily Simon, Committee Member, Tara Houston, Committee Co-Chair and Allison Mendel, Committee Co-Chair.

- Interfacing with other Ashland committees and municipalities regarding DEI issues
- Planning an Ashland DEI Climate Survey and will engage in outreach / tabling

HHSAC – Housing & Human Services Advisory Committee

Presentation by Echo Fields, Committee Chair and Tiana Gilliland, SOU Liaison

- Master Plan / Assessment Report for homeless services in Ashland
- Recommended Social Service Grant funds for distribution and is planning resource fair

PAAC – Public Arts Advisory Committee

Presentation by Cassie Preskenis, Committee Chair

- Student representation is valuable – seeking representatives from AHS and SOU
- Ongoing projects including collaboration with SOU and OSF for playwright plaques

HPAC–Historic Preservation Advisory Committee

Presentation by Dale Shostrom, Committee Member

- Committee received less applications for review due to regulatory changes – pivoted to education and outreach – seeking funding for brochures and staff time for this

CEPAC–Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee

Presentation by Mark Morrison, Committee Vice Chair

- Collaborated on Clean Home Energy Score system; progress on RESP loan initiative
- Full membership and community outreach. Council to consult re: electric master plan

TAC – Transportation Advisory Committee

Presentation by Linda Peterson–Adams, Committee Chair

- Reviewed and provided feedback on several projects with community involvement

- TSP Update and Safety Action Plan will require community input. The RFP solicitation is expected to come out in January with potential implementation for April or May

Planning Commission

Presentation by Lisa Verner, Commission Chair

- Reviewed accomplishments and clarified the Commission's recommendation for CFAs to be applied to Railroad Property and the identified portion of the Transit Triangle and for the City to seek additional funding to allow consultants to consider CFA designation Downtown.

APRC – Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission

Presentation by Rocky Houston Parks Director

- Reviewed organizational structure, City/Parks-sponsored events and public events in the parks. Discussed recreational opportunities for seniors, young people, and families.
- The draft CIP is ready for review by the commission in early January as a six-year plan to be updated every two years. Discussed development of a 10-year strategic plan for the Parks Department, a 5-year operations plan for the golf course, and other capital projects including trail maintenance with a newly formed trails advisory committee.

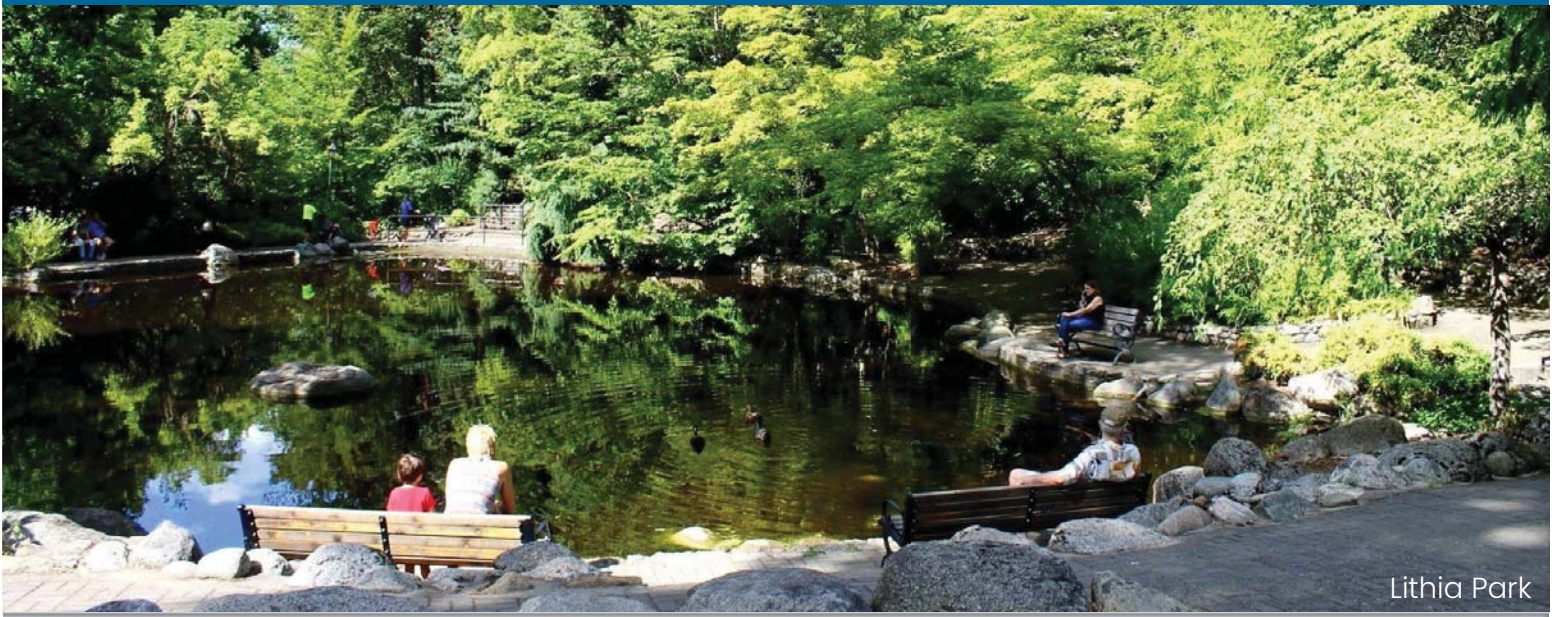
The Council expressed gratitude for all who served on a committee or commission for investing in our community.

III. Adjournment of Study Session

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

City Recorder Alissa Kolodzinski

Mayor Tonya Graham



Lithia Park

Parks & Recreation Department

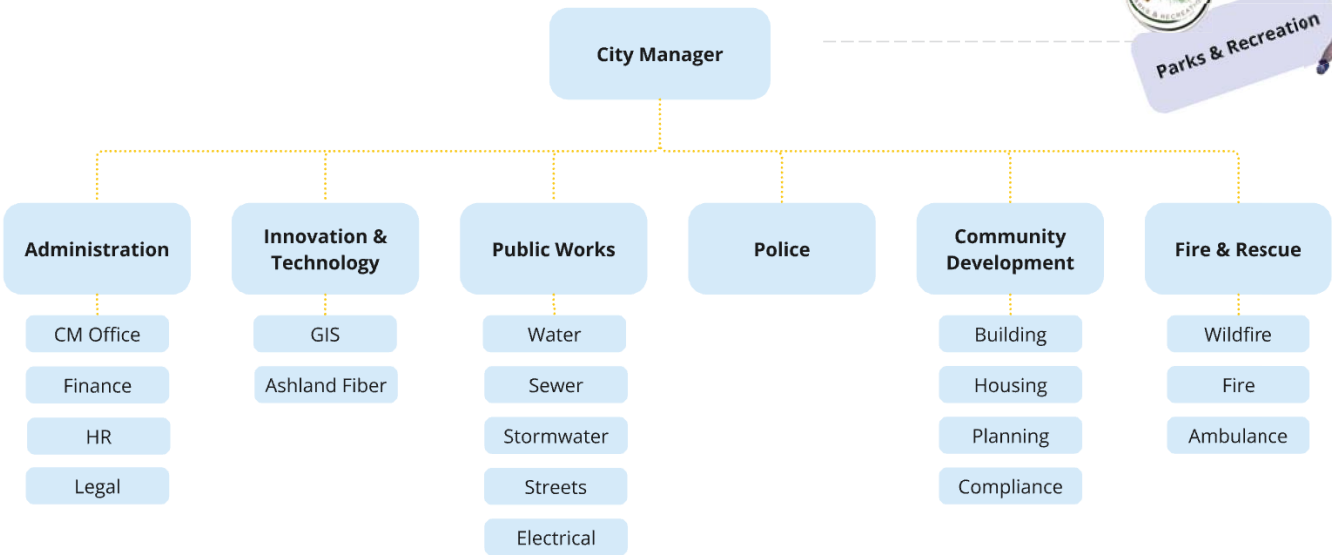
Council Annual Report | December 16, 2024



City Staff Org Chart



Parks & Recreation



Parks & Recreation Structure

Sets Park policies
(Elected)



Implements the
policies
(Hired)



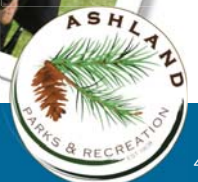
Parks & Recreation Staff



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What we do...

- Provide **community spaces** (outdoor & indoor)
- **Engage** community in learning and staying active
- **Connect** the community to people and to the place
- Create **Memories**



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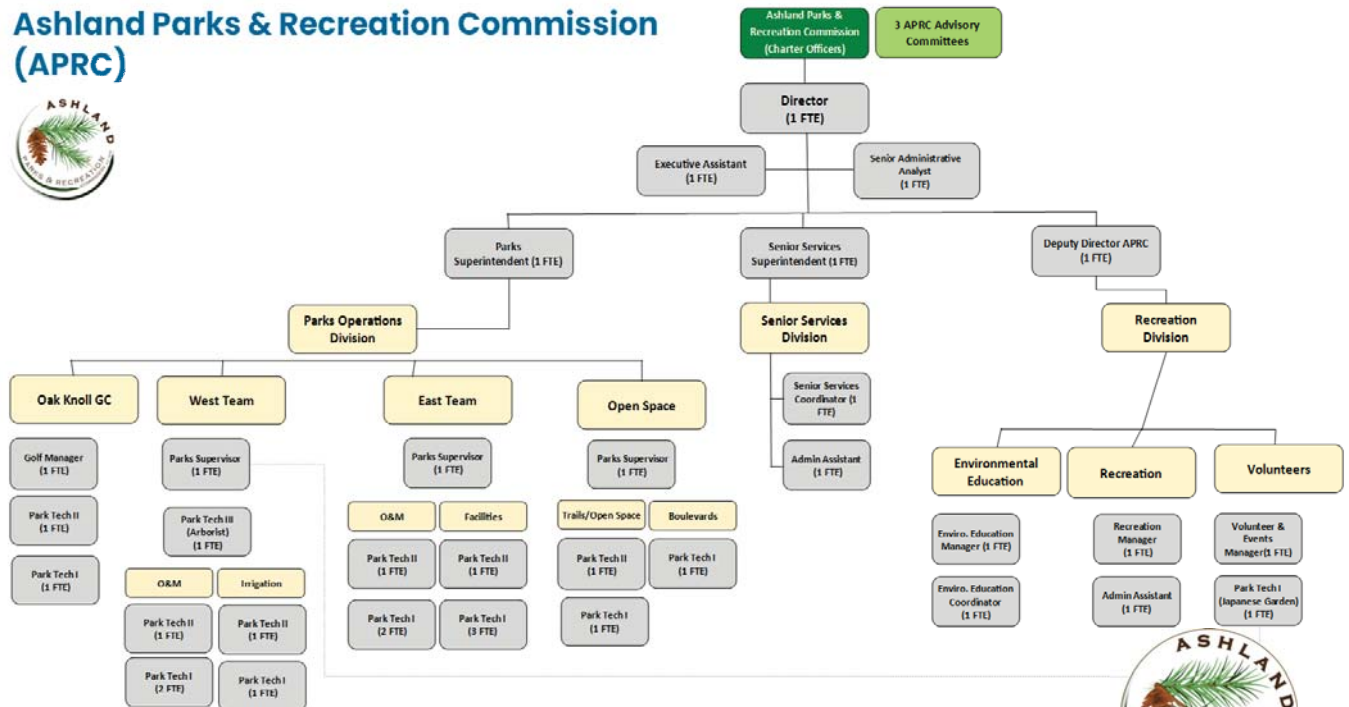
Our 2024 Parks & Recreation Team



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Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission (APRC)



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New Employees



New Employees/Roles for 2024

- **New Janitorial Team**
 - Rick Deckelman
 - Drew Bailey
 - Jesse Rowland
 - Forest Rota
- **Senior Services Coordinator**
 - Shannon Holt
- **Golf Program Manager**
 - Brian Weaver
- **Environmental Education Manager**
 - Kirsten Came
- **Senior Services Superintendent**
 - Natalie Mettler
- **Director**
 - Rocky Houston

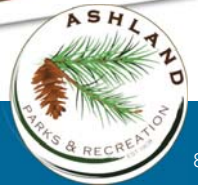


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Recreation



Make Memories ~ Create Connections ~ Learn a new skill



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Park Events

Parks *Sponsored* Events

- Bear Creek Salmon Festival
- 4th of July Run
- Rogue Valley Bike Swap
- Rogue World Music Festival



Public Events in Parks

- Monster Dash
- Southern Oregon Pride
- Summer Sounds concert series



Custodial

- Work **365** days/year
- **37,960** restrooms cleaned annually
- **16,790** trash cans emptied annually

Trails

- **53 miles** of trail managed

Open Space

- Forestry management
- **531+ acres** managed

Boulevards

- **Landscaper** for most city property & streets
- Arborist for street trees

Irrigation

- Manage **672 irrigation zones** in 19 parks & other city locations

Arborist

- Manage all city managed trees (parks, public buildings, ROW)

Operations & Maintenance

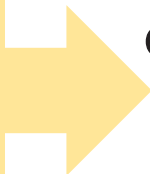
- Lithia Park, multiple other parks NW town





Mission:

- Enhance
- Empower
- Advocate



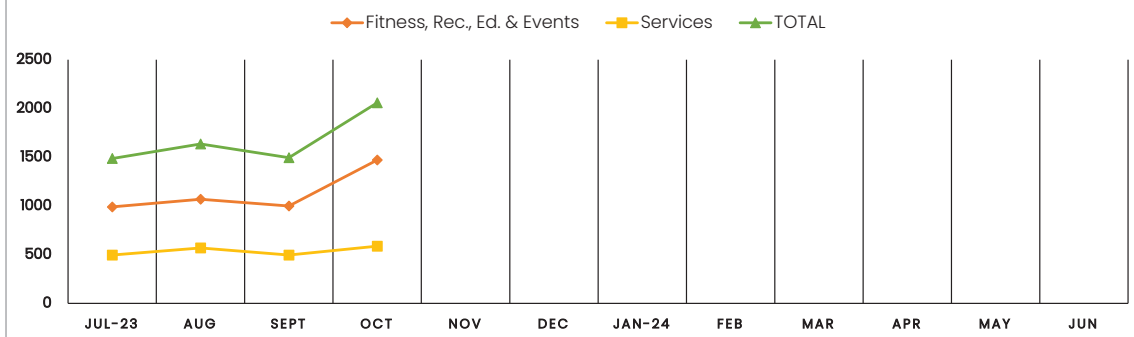
Community
aged
50 years+



Photos by Bob Palermini

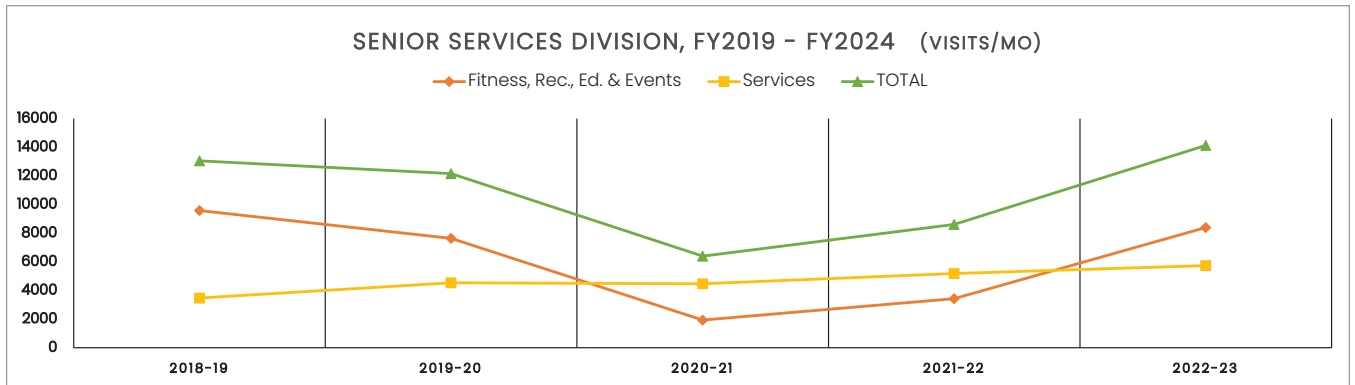


SENIOR SERVICES DIVISION, FY 2024-25 (visits/mo)



	Jul-23	Aug	Sept	Oct	YTD 24-25 Ave. Visits/mo	YTD Total
Fitness, Rec., Ed. & Events	990	1068	999	1471	1132	4528
Services	496	568	496	587	537	2147
TOTAL	1486	1636	1495	2058	1669	6675





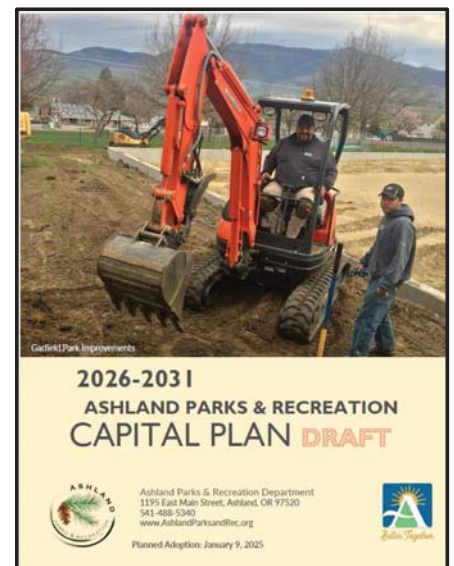
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Fitness, Rec., Ed. & Events	9577	7630	1931	3432	8392	11821
Services	3470	4530	4463	5180	5734	5845
TOTAL	13047	12160	6394	8612	14126	17666



2026-2031 Draft CIP

Acknowledgment

- Rachel Dials, Deputy Director
- Kevin Caldwell, Parks Superintendent
- Bill Miller, Parks Supervisor
- Wes Casale, Parks Supervisor
- Jason Minica, Parks Supervisor
- Brian Weaver, Golf Manager
- Brandon Terry, Senior Administrative Analyst





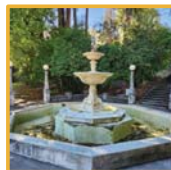
Planning Projects

- Parks, Recreation, Open space & Senior services Plan (**PROS Plan**)
 - 10-year strategic plan for Parks Department
- Oak Knoll Golf Course
 - **5-year** operations plan



Capital Projects

- East Main Community Park – Phase I
- Butler-Perozzi Fountain Restoration
- Hunter Park Tennis Courts Major Maintenance
- ADA Improvements
- Siskiyou Mountain Park – Trail Re-route
- Preventative Maintenance (hazard trees, facilities, pavement preservation)



Parks &
Recreation



QUESTIONS?

