



Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Agenda

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

STUDY SESSION MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Council Chamber, 1175 E Main Street - 6:00 PM

To provide public input see participation instructions.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. HUNTER PARK TENNIS COURTS PROJECT

1. Hunter Park Tennis Courts Project Agenda Report
2. Dual Striped Court for Tennis and Pickleball

IV. PARK WALK MEDALLION

1. Park Walk Medallion Agenda Report

V. LOOKAHEAD REVIEW

1. Parks And Recreation Department Lookahead

VI. ADJOURNMENT

If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Nancy Mero at nancy.mero@ashlandoregon.gov or 541.488.5340 (TTY phone number 1.800.735.2900). Notification at least three business days before the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Participation Instructions

This meeting will be held in-person in Council Chamber 1175 E. Main Street. Those who wish to provide oral testimony on an agenda item must attend the meeting, fill out a speaker request card, and give it to a staff member before the meeting begins. If you would like to give testimony on an agenda item electronically, please contact Nancy Mero at nancymero@ashlandoregon.gov by 10:00 AM the morning of the meeting. Please type “**Virtual Public Testimony**” in the subject line.

Written testimony will be accepted via email sent to Nancy Mero at nancy.mero@ashlandoregon.gov. Please type “**Public Testimony**” in the subject line. Written testimony submitted by 11:00 AM the day before the meeting will be made available to the Park Commissioners before the meeting. All testimony will be included in the meeting minutes.

This meeting will be broadcast and recorded by RVTV. For ways to view this meeting and watch previously recorded Park Commission meetings, please visit this webpage. <https://ashlandoregon.gov/740/Watch-a-Meeting>





Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Agenda





STUDY SESSION AGENDA REPORT

April 1, 2026

Agenda Item	IV. Hunter Park Tennis Courts Project	
Presenter	Rachel Dials	Acting Director
Item Type	Commission Requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request for Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Information <input type="checkbox"/>	

SITUATION & BACKGROUND

In 2024, the Ashland Parks and Recreation Department (APRD) secured a matching grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to rehabilitate the Hunter Park Tennis Courts. As the project approaches the bidding phase, staff are requesting feedback on proposed design amendments to better align with current regional multi-sport demand and participation trends.

The currently approved grant scope includes the rehabilitation of eight tennis courts, including one multi-use court designated for bike polo and futsal. Because any deviation from this scope requires a public process and formal submission to OPRD, staff seek direction on the following alternatives.

At the March 11, 2026, regular meeting, Park Commissioners (PC) directed staff to present options for the April study session.

ASSESSMENT

The following three options for discussion are:

- **Option 1: No change to grant submittal**
 - Court #5 to remain available as a multi-use court for bike polo and futsal with a removable tennis net.
 - No addition of pickleball courts.

- **Option 2: Court #5 multi use tennis court dual lined for pickleball (addition of four pickleball courts)**
 - Eight tennis courts (one multi-use court #5).
 - Court #5 remains available for tennis with a removable tennis net and as a multi-use court for bike polo, futsal. Also lined for pickleball.
 - Pickleball nets are temporarily set up and removed by users after play.
 - Add option for versatility by adding removable tennis nets to all back courts #5-8 for future event needs.
 - Court usage evaluated in one year.

- **Option 3: Adding pickleball lines for up to 4 tennis courts #5, 6, 7, 8 (addition of up to 16 courts)**
 - 8 tennis courts (2-4 shared courts)
 - Pickleball nets would be temporarily set up and removed by users after play.
 - Continue the use of bike polo & futsal on court #5.
 - Add option for versatility by all back courts #5 - #8 having removable tennis nets to plan for future events/needs.

Option	Description	Key Features
Option 1	No Change	Maintain original grant submittal: 8 tennis courts . Court #5 remains multi-use (bike polo/futsal).
Option 2	Limited Expansion of Pickleball	8 Tennis Courts (1 shared) . Court #5 dual-lined for 4 pickleball courts. Includes removable nets for courts #5-8.
Option 3	Significant Expansion of Pickleball	8 Tennis Courts (2-4 shared) . Courts #5-8 dual-lined for up to 16 pickleball courts. All back courts utilize removable nets.

Proposed Management & Shared Use Plan: If dual striping is implemented, staff recommend the following operational guidelines:

- **Reservations:** Non-net programs (futsal and bike polo) must be reserved through the APRD office; signage will indicate reserved times.
- **Priority Play:** Outside of reservations, play is first-come, first-served.
- **Seasonal Exceptions:** During High School Tennis Season from March to early June (3 PM to 6 PM) and during permitted tournaments, all eight courts will be reserved exclusively for tennis.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff would advise the PC to consider Option 2 (one dual-striped court). This approach allows APRD staff to monitor usage, and report back in one year. This maximizes public resources by allowing up to 16 participants to utilize the same footprint that typically serves only two – four tennis players.

Staff would monitor usage by:

- Customer phone calls and emails
- Bi-weekly onsite tracking of use
- Reservation reports

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

- Would the PC like to consider one of these three options?
- What other information is needed prior to a decision on April 8?

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

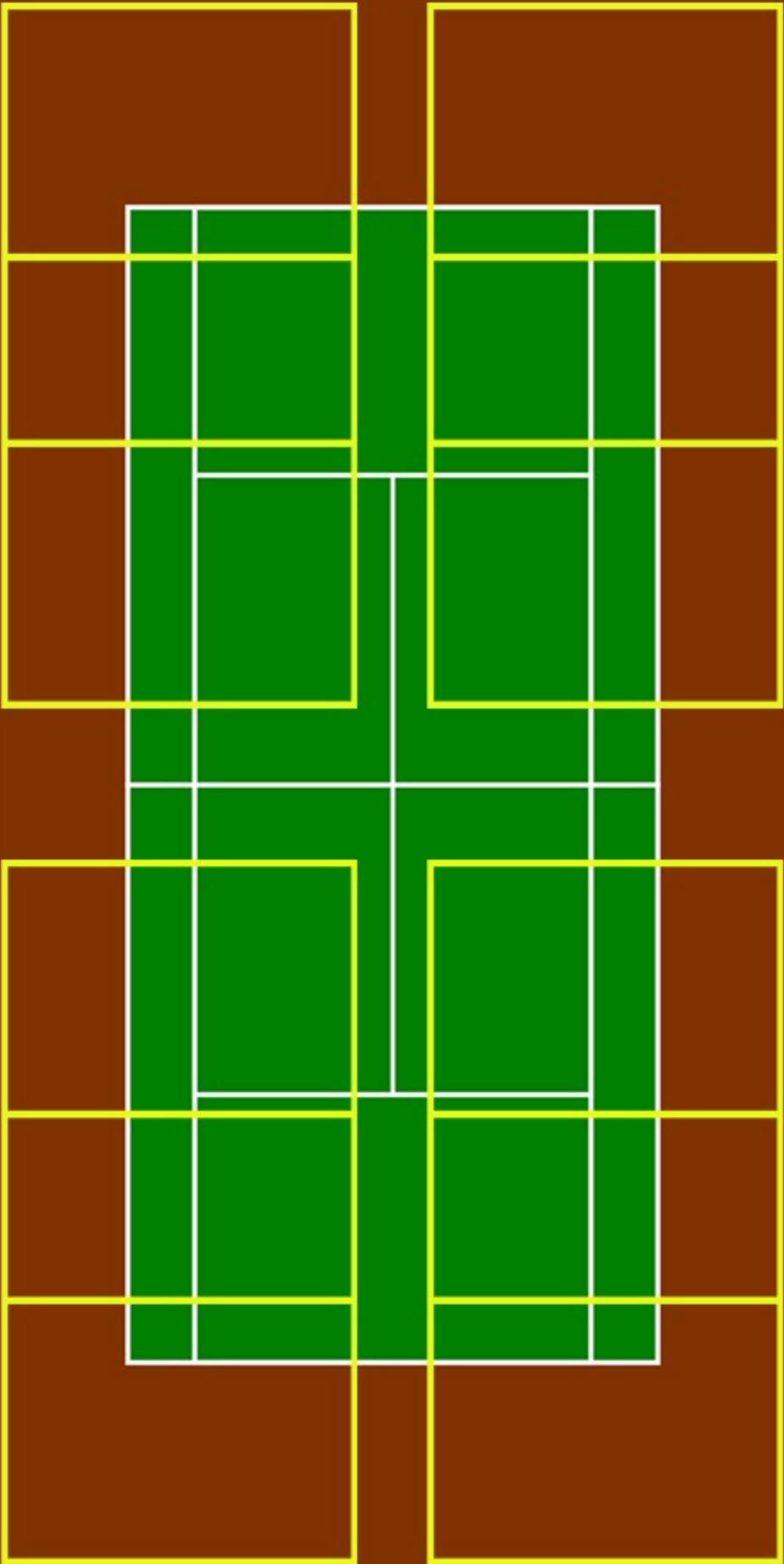
Parks Capital Improvement Project and workplan

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This project is approved for grant funding through OPRD. \$720,000 (60%) grant, \$480,000(40%) from Parks CIP, for \$1,200,000 total project cost. These proposed amendments would have little impact on the approved budget.

ATTACHMENTS Dual striped tennis and pickleball court example

PREPARED BY Rachel Dials, Acting Director





STUDY SESSION AGENDA REPORT

April 1, 2026

Agenda Item	V. Park Walk Medallion	
Presenter	Mike Gardiner	Park Commission Vice Chair
Item Type	Commission Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SITUATION & BACKGROUND

In 1989 Tom Foster lead a group of local citizens to develop an informative Park Walk program. Volunteers got together and trained themselves on the history of Lithia Park and early Ashland settlers and incorporated these tales, along with the identification of local flora and geological highlights, to create what came to be known as the Lithia Park Nature Walks.

These volunteers had been associated with the Pacific Northwest Museum of Natural History (now ScienceWorks). Over the years interest in these free guided tours has introduced more than 20,000 visitors to Lithia Park, the crown jewel of our park system.

This program operated uninterrupted for over 30 years until it was sidelined by the onset of the Covid pandemic in the early 2020's. After a few years off, the program was brought back to life and continues to sponsor weekly park walks on Saturdays at 10:00 from May through September.

These walks are coordinated by the Ashland Parks and Recreation Departments Volunteer and Events Coordinator, Sulaiman Shelton and lead by a group of four to six hearty volunteer guides.

At Tom's request, we would like the Park Commission to consider the idea of placing a sidewalk medallion near the main entrance to Lithia Park to recognize the volunteer efforts of all the many individuals that have led park walks in Lithia Park since 1989. The medallion would be similar in size and fashion to medallions that have been placed at many locations around town identifying important local historical

events (MAP Project) and the current Public Art Advisory Committee's efforts to create the Literary Walk around town.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

Would the PC like to consider this request?

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

Not applicable

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

We anticipate that this will be a private donation project that would be sponsored by the Ashland Parks Foundation.

ATTACHMENTS

None

PREPARED BY Mike Gardiner, Vice Chair, Ashland Parks Commission



Date	Agenda Item	Presenter
4/1	Park Commission Study Session Council Chamber 6:00 PM	
	Hunter Park Tennis Court Project	Dials
	Park Walk Medallion	Commissioner Gardiner
4/8	Park Commission Regular Business Meeting Council Chamber 6:00 PM	
	Hunter Park Tennis Court Project (Action)	Dials
5/6	Park Commission Study Session – No meeting due to Joint Meeting with City Council on May 5	CANCELED
5/13	Park Commission Regular Business Meeting Council Chamber 6:00 PM	
	Winburn Way & Japanese Garden ADA (Information)	Caldwell/Fleury
	Ashland Fish Rehabilitation Project (Information/Tentative)	Scott Howell/Dials
	Public Art Proclamation (Information/Tentative)	PAAC
APRC Advisory and Management Advisory Committees		
4/16/2026	Recreation Division Advisory Committee, the Grove 3:30 PM - CANCELED	
4/13/2026	Ashland Senior Advisory Committee, Senior Center 3:30 PM - CANCELED	
TBD	Trails Advisory Committee, the Grove	
TBD	Ashland Japanese Garden MAC Lithia Cabin 2:00 PM	
TBD	Bee City USA MAC	
TBD	Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance MAC	
Council Business/Budget Meetings/Commissions		
4/6/26	Food and Beverage Tax Discussion – City Council Study Session	Dials
5/5/26	Joint PC/City Council Meeting 6:00 PM Council Chamber	Council Hosts
5/19/26	Miscellaneous Fees – City Council Business Meeting	Dials



Department Work Plan

1. Complete projects identified in the adopted Capital Improvement Plan for FY 26-27
 - Preventative Maintenance Projects
 - Hunter Park – Tennis Court Rehabilitation
 - Lithia – Butler Perozzi Fountain Restoration
 - Irrigation Controllers
 - ADA Improvements
 - Siskiyou Mountain – Trail Re-route
 - Lithia – Master Plan work plan projects
 - East Main – Phase I development projects
2. Improve recreation and senior programming access by replacing staff eliminated during COVID-19 and developing a cost recovery policy.
3. Complete the Parks, Recreation, Open space, & Senior services strategic plan (PROS)
4. Establish Equipment Replacement and Repair program to be consistent with Citywide fleet standards.
5. Update employee onboarding, training, and safety program
6. Complete work plan items identified for FY 26-27 to implement the Lithia Park Master Plan
 - Fuels reduction between Glenview Rd & Ashland Creek
 - Winburn Way traffic speed and road design
 - Hazard tree removal
 - Trail map update
 - Development and promotion of citizen science and/or other environmental education
 - Replacement of interpretive signs for flora
7. Develop funding strategy for future capital projects, specifically:
 - Pool replacement project
 - East Main future development phase(s)



2026

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Budget Concepts (odd years) Adopt CIP (odd years)	VIP Annual Report ✓	Recommend Budget (odd years)
Golf Course Annual Report ✓	Budget Direction (odd years) Calle Guanajuato Lease Agreement ✓	Recreation Division Annual Report ✓
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
		Senior Services Cookout with APD
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
July 4th Parade	Senior Services Ice Cream Social	
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Return of the Salmon Family Field Day	Senior Services Annual Report Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink Opens Senior Services + Ashland Firefighters Union Thanksgiving Pie	Ashland Parks Foundation Annual Report First Frost Community Skate Event Senior Services Holiday Party