



# Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

## ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, July 15, 2026  
1195 E Main Street - 5:00 PM

To attend the meeting or to provide public input, see public participation instructions at the end of the agenda.

### I. CALL TO ORDER

### II. ROLL CALL

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Trails Advisory Committee May 20, 2026

### IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

### V. PUBLIC FORUM

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

### VI. BUSINESS

1. Trail Proposals Procedure Draft
2. Alice in Wonderland/Mimsy Trail Proposal Update
3. Update/Discussion on Lithia Park East Hillside Mountain Bike Trail Process
4. Trails Advisory Committee Member Recruitment Update

### VII. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

*If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Nancy Mero at [parksinfo@ashlandoregon.gov](mailto:parksinfo@ashlandoregon.gov) or 541.552-2256 (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.*

### Public Participation Instructions

This meeting will be held in-person at the Grove, 1195 E. Main St. Those who wish to provide oral testimony must attend the meeting and fill out a speaker request card.

Written testimony will be accepted via email sent to [nancy.mero@ashland.or.us](mailto:nancy.mero@ashland.or.us). Please include “**Public Testimony**” in the subject line. Written testimony submitted the day before the meeting by 11:00 am will be made available to the Trails Advisory Committee members before the meeting. All testimony will be included in the meeting minutes.





## **TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**May 20, 2026**

**The Grove 1195 E. Main Street, 4:15 PM**

Committee Members Present: Josh Cott (Chair), Ethan Braught, Torsten Heycke, Stef Seffinger, Eric Hansen (Ex-officio Council), Justin Adams (Ex-officio Commissioner)  
Staff Present: Acting Director Dials, Parks Division Manager Caldwell, Executive Assistant Mero  
Absent: Yu Kuwabara, Jason Minica

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Cott called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM

II. **ROLL CALL** – Braught, Heycke, Cott present (Seffinger arrived after roll call)

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –

1. Trails Advisory Committee November 19, 2025  
Minutes were approved.

\*Chair Cott spoke briefly to the Proposed Glenview Hillside Trail noting the TAC does not have the final say on if it proceeds. That authority lies with the Park Commission.

\*Chair Cott also noted that the TAC had recently had two members resign. Parks staff will work to fill the vacancies accepting applications for thirty days. Applicants will be interviewed by staff members and the Commission Chair. The finalists will be appointed to the committee by the Commission Chair at a Park Commission business meeting.

IV. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Chair Cott switched the order of business items 4 and 5

V. **PUBLIC FORUM** – All public forum participants wished to speak to the Glenview Hillside Trail agenda item.

VI. **BUSINESS** –

1. **Election of Vice Chair (Action)** – Chair Cott

**SUMMARY** – The vice chair of the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) Brooke Hansen has resigned from the committee due to work conflicts. The members of TAC will need to nominate and elect a new vice chair.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS OR MOTION(S)** – Move to elect (nominated individual) as the vice chair of TAC.

Heycke/Cott m/s:

I move to nominate Ethan Braught as the Vice Chair of the TAC.

Vote was all yes.

## **2. TAC Schedule of Remaining Meetings (Action) – Chair Cott**

**SUMMARY** – Based on input received from the TAC members, in 2025 Chair Cott created a 2026 meeting schedule for the Committee. The schedule has yet to be approved by the Committee. In the interim, the meeting place was changed from the Lithia Cabin to the Grove. Several Committee members have also asked if the meeting time might be changed to better accommodate working members' schedules.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS OR MOTION(S)** – I move to approve the schedule of remaining TAC meetings in 2026.

**ATTACHMENT:** Schedule of remaining meetings for 2026

### **TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SCHEDULE OF REMAINING MEETINGS FOR 2026**

(All meetings will be held at the Grove 1195 E Main Street)

July 15, 2026 5:00 – 6:30 PM

September 16, 2026 4:15 – 5:45 PM

November 18, 2026, 5:00 – 6:30 PM

It was determined that the meeting schedule was okay for the time being (No motion was made).

## **3. Trails Proposal Procedure – Draft – Chair Cott/Acting Director Dials**

**SUMMARY** – The Parks and Recreation Department (Department) needs to develop a procedure to formalize the process to assess trail proposals.

**ASSESSMENT** – The Department, with assistance from the previous trails advisory committee, developed a process to review new trail proposals. With the adoption of Policy 1.01.001 – Policy Framework, the Department needs to formalize a procedure for this process. The Trails Proposal Procedure (Procedure) was introduced at the July 15, 2025, Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. The primary issue raised by TAC members was the preference to eliminate the staff recommended scoring system. A working group was formed to provide TAC with an opportunity to edit the Procedure. The draft Procedure is inclusive of the working group’s proposed edits.

**POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED** – Policy 1.01.001 – Policy Framework

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS** – This procedure will not impact Department operations or capital budgets directly. The Department will manage the capital and operations budget within the current budget limitations.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS OR MOTION(S)** – I move to approve the draft Trails Proposal Procedure.

Acting Director Dials reviewed the draft Trails Proposal Procedures.

Questions/Discussion:

- Section C.1.a.ii. will be deleted.
- Item 2.b.i.3. changed the number of days the proposal must be submitted to the Department prior to the next TAC meeting from 30 days to 14 working days.
- Item 2.b.iii.1. Broke this step down further from one to three steps. (1) TAC will outline the reasons that the proposal is recommended. (2) If there are multiple proposals currently under consideration TAC will assign an order of priority to the proposals. (3) The proposal would move forward to the FMLAC for review.
- Regarding the Dormouse trail proposal, it will be presented for discussion at the August 5 Park Commission study session. It will go to the Park Commission for potential action at their September 2, regular business meeting.
- Discussion occurred regarding when to start the 30-day comment period for proposed trails generally and specifically on the proposed Dormouse trail. Decided to strike 4.a.i. from the draft Trails Proposal Procedure (The 30-day comment period will begin 14 days prior to the Park Commission study session where the proposal will be reviewed) because comment could begin sooner. Decided to leave it more vague.

- There was discussion regarding defining 'new' trails. Decided not to add to the definitions section. Would trail reroutes have to go through this whole procedure? Answer is no.
- Question about TAC rating trails as Green, etc. That suggestion was made by previous director; however, the definition of green trails doesn't fall neatly into a category especially for pedestrian trails and the Committee rejected the idea of trying to rate the trails especially trails that change from green to blue, etc. Not up to the committee to make that determination.
- Does a proposer have to have some kind of qualifications to propose a trail. No.
- D.I. Agreement. The trail proposer should not be the one to enter into a trail construction and operation agreement with the Department. Striking this from procedures.
- What about prioritizing ADA accessible trails? The TAC will get to prioritize proposals as they are made. Need to have the proposals made for ADA trails.
- Heycke has proposed ADA access trails to the Forest Service near the Fairie Ponds and has not heard back from them.
- Can TAC vote on the proposed Alice in Wonderland – Mimsy reroute proposal today if they decide to bring the redline version of the procedure to the next meeting? Dials: Yes.
- Decided to bring a redline version of the Trails Proposal Procedure to the next TAC meeting for action.

#### 4. **Alice in Wonderland – Mimsy Trail Proposal** – Heycke, President AWTA

**SUMMARY** – On January 13, 2026, the Department received a trail proposal to separate downhill mountain bike traffic from pedestrian and uphill bike traffic on the existing Mimsy trail by creating two new sections of trail and possibly decommissioning a section of existing Alice in Wonderland trail. Both downhill bike and uphill paths would be less steep than the existing trail increasing the safety for users.

**POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED** – Trails Advisory Committee Bylaws/Charge

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS** – The Ashland Woodland & Trails Association (AWTA) will be responsible for funding the proposal. The AWTA and the Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association could maintain the trail.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS OR MOTION(S)** – I move to recommend the Alice in Wonderland – Mimsy Trail Proposal

**ATTACHMENTS** – Alice in Wonderland – Mimsy Trail Proposal Application, Map of trail proposal

Proposal is for two new very short trails in the area of the Alice in Wonderland and Mimsy trails on the former Palen property. Mt. bike trail is .14 miles long downhill only averaging 8% grade. The pedestrian/equine trail is .11 miles uphill only averaging 9.5% grade. The trails are in concert with but not necessary for future Forest Service trails. The routes have been flagged.

The pedestrian/equine trail is already partially built and would only take two people about two hours to finish. The downhill only mt. bike trail would likely take a team of four to five people four days to build. Soil is not ideal right now so work could be done in the winter months.

Benefits: Increased safety due to separation of user groups, beginner level mt. bike trail from White Rabbit to Mimsy, affords various loops for user groups, improves overall experience for everyone.

The decommissioned section isn't necessary, but it is an erosive spot.

#### Questions/Discussion:

- Will the trails impact parking at the White Rabbit trailhead? A: Potentially.
- Will the trails make it better for pedestrians? A: The trails will make it super easy for peds. Much less steep and not erosive.
- Does the uphill portion tie in with Snark without having to go back to 2060? A: No.
- The Forest Service component is in front of the Forest Service, but unknown when they will get to it. The portion on City land can go forward independently.

#### Review criteria:

No funding necessary, will create a very pleasing experience for different user groups. Trails are immediately adjacent to existing trails so no effect on habitat, will decommission an eroded portion of Alice in Wonderland trail, increasing safety. The parking lot issue bears looking into, especially if this area becomes a new hot spot. Could collaborate with the Forest Service, push for more parking. Current quality of the road is discouraging people from driving it.

Cott/Brought m/s

Motion to move the Alice in Wonderland – Mimsy Trails forward to the Forest Lands Management Advisory Committee for their review.

Vote was all yes.

#### **5. Glenview Hillside (Dormouse) Trail Proposal Next Steps – Dials, Acting Director**

The proposed trail was already recommended by the TAC to move forward at their November 19 2025 meeting. The proposal will go to the Park Commission for discussion at the August 5 study session and to the September 9 Business Meeting for possible action. Public testimony will be collected at both meetings. There will also be at least a 30 day comment period for citizens to send comment via the City website. The Park Commission could decide to hold additional meetings to collect more input. It is entirely up to them.

Parks staff do have some concerns regarding the impact of bikers and hikers on the hillside and will be discussing them throughout the process.

The Forest Lands Management Advisory Committee (FLMAC) has reviewed the trail proposal. Dials is waiting to receive their comments. Would like to have a TAC representative at the August 5 Park commission study session. Councilor Hansen offered to be at that meeting if appropriate.

Park Commissioner Adams was at the FLMAC meeting where the trail proposal was presented. They have very few concerns. From a fire prevention perspective, they voiced that more eyes in the area could be a good thing. The downhill trail specifically would make a good fire break (It's wider than the uphill trail). No endangered plants in the area of the trails. One shrub and a patch of native milkweed would need to be avoided.

The proposed trails run from Pioneer Street near the current pedestrian trail to the parking lot by the gravel pit on Glenview. Each trail is .5 miles long. The downhill trail will be accessible to alternative bicycles. The trails will be marked as part of the public input process.

### **Public Forum**

Stacy Trumbull: A lot of misinformation out there saying they want to put mt. bike trails in Lithia Park – a big fat no. Wanted to attend a meeting to see what was going on. Speeding bikes coming down is scary.

Jen Sturges: Concerned about mt. bike/hiker interactions. Lithia Park is kind of her backyard. Increased traffic (from bikes) will take away some of the peace, have an effect on Pioneer St., too. Tired of being afraid of speeding mt. bikers.

Pat Turner: Attended the TAC meeting when they voted to recommend the trail proposal. Missed the opportunity to speak then. Thinks they are making a big mistake with this controversy. There are people who want more pickleball courts. People who want a big swimming pool. Parks just bought \$700,00.00 worth of property for more trails. Referenced parks \$5 fee, property taxes, food and beverage tax. Will eventually want a park district. Controversy doesn't bode well for getting a park district.

Dave Richards: Spoke in favor of the Glenview Trail. Will increase safety. Since paving Glenview there's been an increase in car speed on that road, making cycling dangerous.

Having a safe place for cyclists to come down the hillside is good. Referenced the intersections of bike/ped users on Snark and Jabberwocky trails rarely sees a bike. Pleased there will be an adaptive aspect to the proposed Glenview trail.

Sandra Scase: Big unnecessary mistake. Makes mt. bikers look bad and insensitive. In addition to Winburn, bikers can also use Glenview and Granite Streets. Don't mess with the peace of the ambience and peace of the park.

Commissioner Adams raised the issue of order in public meetings.

Chair Cott elected to allow questions/have an exchange with the citizens in attendance:

- Can the proposal move forward regardless of public comment? A: The Park Commissioners will make the final decision.
- Ashland has been asking for this trail for years. Younger mt. bikers and visitors. It is appealing for economic reasons. Winburn Way has the most bike/car accidents. The proposed trail will improve safety, livability and fulfill a need.
- Bikes are not allowed in Lithia Park by the City Charter. Would the Council be able to veto the trail? A: Not sure.
- When will the signage/marketing of the proposed trail go up? A: TBD but it will be part of the public comment process.
- Will the proposed trail still cost \$30,000.00? A: That estimate was made a while ago and costs have gone up, but it is still close. The money would come from the Parks CIP, budgeted \$75,000.00 for trail work. The Park Commissioners could choose to access that money for the proposed trail.
- Will electric bikes be allowed on the trail? A: Currently the rules say no. The rules governing the use of electric bikes on trails are difficult to enforce.

**VII. UPCOMING MEETING DATES -**

1. July 15, 2026, 5:00 – 6:30 PM, the Grove
2. September 16, 2026, 4:15 – 5:45 PM the Grove
3. November 18, 2026, 5:00 – 6:30 PM the Grove

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT –** Chair Cott adjourned the meeting at 5:41 PM

Respectfully submitted by Nancy A. Mero, Executive Assistant



# Council Business Meeting

Date: July 15, 2026

|             |                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Agenda Item | Trail Proposals Procedure Draft |
| Department  | Parks & Recreation              |
| From        |                                 |

## **TIME ESTIMATE**

## **CATEGORY**

Contract Approval - as the contract board, confirm proper procedure with a motion to approve.

## **SUMMARY**

## **POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED**

## **BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

## **FISCAL IMPACTS**

## **SUGGESTED ACTIONS, MOTIONS, AND/OR OPTIONS**

## **REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS**

1. VI1. Trail Proposals Procedure Draft
2. Draft Trail Proposal Procedure





## TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

### AGENDA BRIEF

**July 15, 2026**

|                    |                                                                                 |                  |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Agenda Item</b> | VII. Trail Proposals Procedure (Draft for review)                               |                  |
| <b>Presenter</b>   | Rachel Dials                                                                    | Interim Director |
| <b>Item Type</b>   | Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information <input type="checkbox"/> |                  |

#### **SUMMARY**

The Parks and Recreation Department (Department) needs to develop a procedure to formalize the process to assess trail proposals.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

The Department, with assistance from the previous trails advisory committee, developed a process to review new trail proposals. With the adoption of Policy 1.01.001 – Policy Framework, the Department needs to formalize a procedure for this process.

The Trails Proposal Procedure (Procedure) was introduced at the July 15, 2025, Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. The primary issue raised by TAC members was the preference to eliminate the staff recommended scoring system. A working group was formed to provide TAC with an opportunity to edit the Procedure. The draft Procedure is inclusive of the working group's proposed edits. The draft Procedure was again reviewed at the May 20, 2026 TAC meeting where more revisions were suggested. Other City management staff also had some suggested edits that are incorporated into the draft proposal.

#### **POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED**

Policy 1.01.001 – Policy Framework

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This procedure will not directly impact Department operations or capital budgets. The Department will manage the capital and operations budget within the current budget limitations.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS OR MOTION(S)**

I move to approve the draft Trail Proposals Procedure.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Draft Trail Proposals Procedure

**PREPARED BY:** Nancy A. Mero, Executive Assistant


**PROCEDURE**

|                                             |                                                                   |                     |                      |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>PROCEDURE:</b> 3.3.001 – Trail Proposals |                                                                   |                     |                      |
| <b>EFFECTIVE:</b>                           | DATE APPROVED                                                     | <b>CANCELS:</b>     | PRIOR EFFECTIVE DATE |
| <b>DIVISION(S):</b>                         | Park Operations                                                   | <b>NEXT REVIEW:</b> | 2 TO 5 YRS           |
| <b>KEY TERMS:</b>                           | Trails, New trails, Re-route of trails, Trails Advisory Committee |                     |                      |
| <b>APPROVED:</b>                            | Name, Director                                                    |                     | Name, City Attorney  |

**I. PURPOSE**

- A. The purpose of this procedure is to define the process the Parks and Recreation Department (Department) follows to assess trail proposals from trail proposers. A trail proposer is an individual or group who submits a proposal for a new trail or trail project. The goal is to ensure that all trail proposals are consistent with Department adopted plans such as the adopted trails master plan, that they address recreational needs, and that the community has an opportunity to review the proposal before action is taken by the Parks Commission. Trail proposals on City property outside of Parks managed property will require consultation with the City Manager (or their designee) and may require a separate process depending on the location.

**II. SCOPE**

- A. This procedure applies to trail proposers, Department staff, and the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC).

**III. REFERENCES**

- A. Forest Lands Management Advisory Committee, AMC



## B. TAC Charge/Formation

## IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. Demand or user created trail: a route that is not authorized or managed by the land manager.
- B. Forest Lands Management Advisory Committee (FLMAC): The FLMAC is a City management advisory committee that advises the Ashland City Council and the Parks Commission on the management of city-owned forest lands. They provide oversight for wildland-urban interface fire protection, wildfire mitigation and the municipal watershed.
- C. Proposal – A formal application for a new trail or trail project from a proposer from outside of the Department.
- D. Proposer – The individual or group who submits a proposal for a new trail or trail project on City of Ashland Property.
- E. Trail: a non-motorized route that is authorized, developed, and managed.
- F. Trail Advisory Committee (TAC): a seven-member advisory committee charged with making recommendations to the Park Commission on matters pertaining to trails.

## V. PROCEDURE

- A. Proposal Application
  - 1. Application will be considered complete when the following information is submitted.
    - a. Proposal Application Form
      - i. The Department's proposal application form is required to be used to be deemed complete.
    - b. Map
      - i. A USGS map or topographical map, with the proposed trail alignment, existing trails and/or roads, and a map legend is required to be deemed complete.
    - c. Additional information as requested
      - i. Additional information on construction details, property lines, onsite drone footage, other land manager approvals, or similar information may be required to assess the proposal.
- B. Proposal Submission
  - 1. External Proposals



- a. Proposals can be submitted in person or electronically.
      - i. In person: The Grove 1195 E. Main Street
      - ii. Electronically: Submit at [parksinfo@ashland.or.us](mailto:parksinfo@ashland.or.us) with title: Trail Proposal – Name of proposal in the subject line
  2. Department Proposals
    - a. Proposals will be routed through the TAC staff liaison.
    - b. Trail maintenance projects are exempt from the proposal process.
- C. Review Process
  1. Department Review
    - a. Staff liaison will complete a review to determine the completeness of the application.
      - i. Minimum eligibility standard:
        - (1) ☐ **Property Control:** The proposed trail must exist entirely within property legally owned and controlled by the City of Ashland (including established easements or rights-of-way).
        - (2) ☐ **Environmental Protection:** The trail alignment must not cross into, or negatively impact, any designated protected conservation areas or critical wildlife habitats.
        - (3) ☐ **Regulatory Compliance:** The proposed route must comply with all local zoning, environmental, and safety regulations.
      - ii.
    - b. If deemed complete, the proposal will be forwarded to the TAC for review.
  2. TAC Review
    - a. TAC will review the proposal based upon the criteria established in section D.
    - b. The proposal will be reviewed by TAC at a regular business meeting if the proposal has been submitted a minimum of 21 working days from the date of the submittal.
    - c. TAC will provide one of the following recommendations:
      - i. Resubmit
        - (1) TAC will provide what would need to be addressed in the proposal prior to any resubmittal
        - (2) The proposal will not move forward in the process and will need to be resubmitted
        - (3) The proposal must be submitted to the Department 21 working days prior to the next TAC meeting to be considered at the next TAC meeting.
      - ii. Deny
        - (1) TAC will outline the reasons that the proposal is denied
        - (2) The proposal will not move forward in the review process
      - iii. Recommend
        - (1) TAC will outline the reasons that the proposal is recommended.



- (2) If there are multiple proposals currently under consideration TAC will assign an order of priority to the proposals.
  - (3) The proposal will move forward to the FLMAC for review
- 3. FLMAC Review
  - a. FLMAC will review the proposal for wildfire risk and natural resource impacts.
  - b. FLMAC will provide Department staff a written opinion on the proposal that outlines the following:
    - i. Recommendation on proposal (recommend, deny, or resubmit)
    - ii. Identification of benefits or impacts of proposal
    - iii. Mitigation actions, if applicable, for the proposal
  - c. The proposal would move forward to the Park Commission review only if there is a favorable recommendation or if the proposer has addressed the mitigation actions in their proposal to FLMAC recommended level
- 4. Public Review
  - a. The Department will provide at least a 30-day comment period for all new trail proposals.
    - i. Public testimony on the proposal will be gathered at the Park Commission study session and at the Park Commission regular business meeting when the approval of the proposal is reviewed.
- 5. Park Commission Review
  - a. The Department will present the findings from TAC and FLMAC to the Park Commission
    - i. The proposal will first be presented at a study session to provide an overview of the proposal
      - (1) Staff will address any questions or identified revisions to the proposal and determine if the proposal should be returned to the TAC for review or be moved forward with staff making the revisions.
    - ii. The Park Commission will take action on a trail proposal at a regular business meeting.
- D. Review Criteria
  - a. Does the proposal address an identified need?
  - b. Does the proposal have support from trail users and a plan for funding (or otherwise address) construction costs and maintenance?
  - c. Does the proposal create a sustainable and pleasing user experience?
  - d. Does the route minimize impact on water quality, habitat, existing recreational uses, etc.?
  - e. Does the proposal address the closure of similar unauthorized trails?
  - f. Does the proposal address externalities such as impact on parking lot congestion, nearby traffic flow, impact on other user groups, larger City-wide economic impact, etc.?



# Council Business Meeting

Date: July 15, 2026

|             |                                                 |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Agenda Item | Alice in Wonderland/Mimsy Trail Proposal Update |
| Department  | Parks & Recreation                              |
| From        |                                                 |

## **TIME ESTIMATE**

## **CATEGORY**

Informational - this is to inform the body on a particular topic. No motion or direction needed.

## **SUMMARY**

## **POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED**

## **BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

## **FISCAL IMPACTS**

## **SUGGESTED ACTIONS, MOTIONS, AND/OR OPTIONS**

## **REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS**

1. VI2. Alice in Wonderland.MimsyTrail
2. Mimsy-Alice Bike-Ped Map





## TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

### AGENDA BRIEF

July 15, 2026

|             |                                                                                 |                                                |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Agenda Item | VI2. Alice in Wonderland/Mimsy Trail Proposal Review                            |                                                |
| Presenter   | Torsten Heycke                                                                  | President, Ashland Woodlands Trail Association |
| Item Type   | Action <input type="checkbox"/> Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                                |

### **SUMMARY**

This item is to update the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) members on the proposed Alice in Wonderland/Mimsy Trail proposal.

At the May 20, 2026 TAC meeting, Torsten Heycke representing the Ashland Woodlands Trail Association gave a presentation on the proposed trails.

*Proposal is for two new very short trails in the area of the Alice in Wonderland and Mimsy trails on the former Palen property. Mountain bike trail is .14 miles long downhill only averaging 8% grade. The pedestrian/equine trail is .11 miles uphill only averaging 9.5% grade. The trails are in concert with but not necessary for future Forest Service trails. The routes have been flagged.*

*The pedestrian/equine trail is already partially built and would only take two people about two hours to finish. The downhill only mt. bike trail would likely take a team of four to five people four days to build. Soil is not ideal right now so work could be done in the winter months.*

*Benefits: Increased safety due to separation of user groups, beginner level mt. bike trail from White Rabbit to Mimsy, affords various loops for user groups, improves overall experience for everyone.*

*The decommissioned section isn't necessary, but it is an erosive spot.*

Following discussion, questions, and a review of the proposal using the criteria from the draft trail proposal procedure, the TAC members voted to move the proposal to review by the Forest Lands Management Advisory Committee.

**POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED**

Trails Advisory Committee Bylaws/Charge

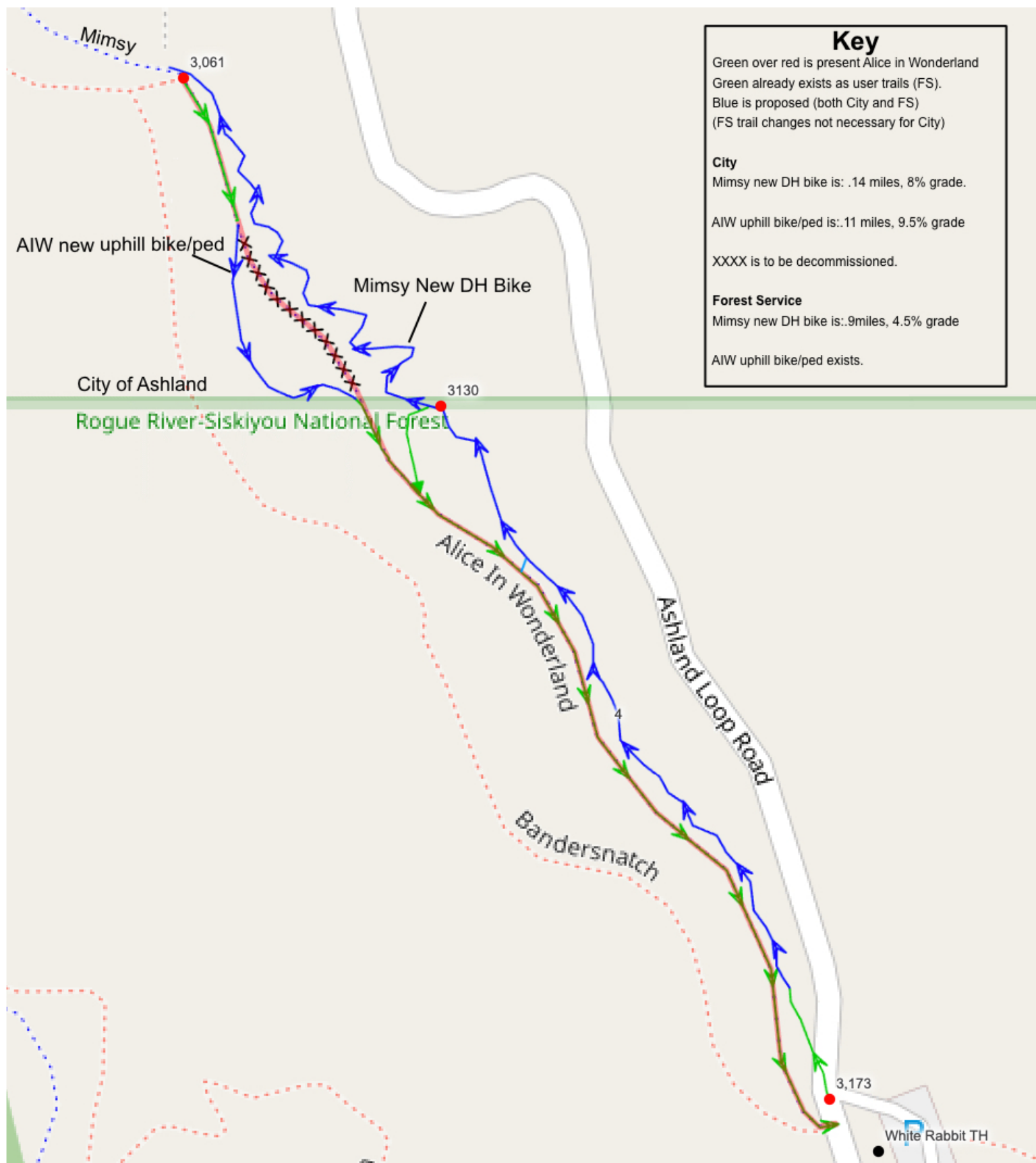
**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The Ashland Woodlands and Trail Association (AWTA) will be responsible for funding the proposal. The AWTA and the Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association could maintain the trails.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Map of proposed trail

**PREPARED BY:** Nancy A. Mero, Executive Assistant





# Council Business Meeting

Date: July 15, 2026

|             |                                                                            |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agenda Item | Update/Discussion on Lithia Park East Hillside Mountain Bike Trail Process |
| Department  | Parks & Recreation                                                         |
| From        |                                                                            |

## TIME ESTIMATE

## CATEGORY

Informational - this is to inform the body on a particular topic. No motion or direction needed.

## SUMMARY

## POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

## BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## FISCAL IMPACTS

## SUGGESTED ACTIONS, MOTIONS, AND/OR OPTIONS

## REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

1. VI3. Update.Hillside 7.10.26
2. Memo from Forestlands MAC





## TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

### AGENDA BRIEF

**July 15, 2026**

|                    |                                                                                 |                  |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Agenda Item</b> | VI3. Update on Lithia Park East Hillside Mountain Bike Trail Proposal Process   |                  |
| <b>Presenter</b>   | Rachel Dials                                                                    | Interim Director |
| <b>Item Type</b>   | Action <input type="checkbox"/> Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                  |

### **SUMMARY**

Originally submitted on September 17, 2025, the proposal for low angle uphill and downhill mountain bike trails on the hillside between Glenview Street and Lithia Park has been renamed for reasons of transparency. It is now being called the Lithia Park East Hillside Mountain Bike Trail Proposal.

At their November 19, 2025 meeting, the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended the proposal move forward in the approval process for review by the Forest Land Management Advisory Committee (FMLAC). The proposal was presented to the FMLAC. Included in the packet is the memo from Forestry Officer Chris Chambers with recommendations from the FMLAC.

Parks and Recreation Staff have initiated a public input process:

- A comment period opened on the website on June 15. Comments will be received through September 3, 2026. As of July 10, 2026, we have collected 92 public comments dating back to 2025. There is a direct link on the main Parks and Recreation homepage that highlights the public process, ways to give input, and includes a link to the trail proposal.
- The trail proposal will be presented for discussion and public comment *only* at the Park Commission Study Session on August 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM in Council Chamber.
- The trail proposal will come before the Park Commission for potential action at their regular business meeting September 9, 2026, at 6:00 PM in Council Chamber.
- The proposed trails are now marked with biodegradable paint. RED for the uphill section and ORANGE for the downhill section. The trail crossings are currently marked with two lines (=) on trees and on the ground. Specific signage for the trail

crossings and a notice of the proposed trail will go up by July 22<sup>nd</sup> or as soon as possible.

- Staff would like to coordinate with TAC to hold at least one public meeting on-site to view the trail.
- Staff have viewed the full trail site. The proposed trails traverse rough terrain which may make it difficult for some members of the public to see the full impact. It was suggested that TAC or the proposer put together some drone footage that could be shared.

At the TAC meeting staff will need recommendations on the last two items:

- Scheduling a potential on-site public meeting
- Discussion of potential drone footage

### **POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED**

Trails Advisory Committee Bylaws/Charge

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There is money budgeted for trail work in Siskiyou Mountain Park in the current CIP. If the proposed trail were approved the Park Commission could redirect that money to this project.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Memo of Recommendations from Chris Chambers, City of Ashland Forestry Officer

**PREPARED BY:** Nancy A. Mero, Executive Assistant

# Memo

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DATE: June 4, 2026

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Chris Chambers, Forestry Officer

DEPT: Fire & Rescue

RE: Dormouse Trail Application

The Ashland Forestlands Management Advisory Committee and City Staff discussed the proposed Dormouse Trail proposal at the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Parks Commissioners Weiner and Adams were present to answer questions about the proposal, approval process, and relation to existing Parks and Rec planning and budgets. The Forestlands MAC was requested to review the application for potential impacts to site ecology and sustainability, and some recommendations touch on public safety as well. Overall, the proposal can avoid direct impacts to soils and plants if planned, implemented, and monitored carefully. Having a well-used trail (mostly the downhill route) stands to have a positive impact on fire danger by increasing the number of people who can report illegal activities as well as the trail itself being a more formidable barrier to grass fires than the smaller existing trails that have not hindered recent fire spread on this hillside due to their narrow nature. The downhill route is located in a useful location for prescribed fire operations aimed at fortifying Glenview Drive just above by reducing fuels on the Lithia Park side of the road.

**ASHLAND FIRE & RESCUE**

455 Siskiyou Blvd  
Ashland, Oregon 97520  
[ashland.or.us](http://ashland.or.us)

Tel: 541.488.5313  
TTY: 800.735.2900

# Memo

Specific recommendations and mitigations are as follows:

1. Sign pedestrian trail crossings with downhill bike route for public safety. Consider public safety on Pioneer Street if bikes are exiting Dormouse toward OSF and downtown.
2. Decommission trails that cross proposed Dormouse routes that are not mapped trails. If possible, achieve a net-zero trail impact by removing as much mileage as proposed.
3. Use steps on mapped crossings of pedestrian trails with proposed Dormouse downhill trail to help call out the crossing to pedestrians as they enter the intersection.
4. Avoid populations of locally rare plants: Milkweed and California Lomatium (*Asclepias* and *Lomatium* species). See maps below.
5. Avoid the rare shrub called silk tassel (*Garrya fremontii*). Take care not to confuse it with birch-leaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*), which are numerous.
6. Use guidance from the Ashland Municipal Code (AMC) for tree protections (AMC 18.4.5.030) when considering layout and excavation of the downhill trail. Unlike many surface trails dug by hand, machine trails have more potential to disrupt root zones and drainage patterns of adjacent trees. Pay close attention to larger trees of all species, as defined in AMC.
7. Monitor disturbed areas where bare dirt will likely attract invasive species. Invasive plant establishment can be minimized by pre-treating known populations that the trail will intersect and by seeding bare dirt with native species after construction (on side-cast dirt below the trail).
8. Avoid wood cribbing as much as possible to reduce damage during prescribed fire operations.
9. Remove dead and/or dying trees along the trail route for public safety.

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## Memo

10. Make trail users aware that periodic closures for forest and fire management activities will take place and precedence over trail use while providing for organized event and training days where trails have to be open.
11. Consult with the City's Forestry Officer during trail layout and construction to avoid specific sensitive species and trees of concern listed above.
12. While difficult to quantify or mitigate, it is nonetheless important to acknowledge that consistent bike and human presence has an impact on wildlife species and habitat by altering movement patterns and removing/altering certain habitat structures like dead trees and fallen logs. This location is already inside the city's urban core and likely has less wildlife use than forests connected to the broader landscape.
13. Ground disturbing activities in forestry operations permitted through the Oregon Department of Forestry (this trail proposal is not subject to these rules) strongly suggest a review for cultural and historical resources through the [State Historic Preservation Office, or SHPO](#). Given longstanding human use and occupation of sites in the core area of Ashland, there could be archaeological sites in the area of the proposed trail.
14. Specify maintenance schedules, conditions to be remedied, and responsibility. Major storms or fires should trigger immediate monitoring and maintenance as needed for safety and integrity of the trail, trail users, and soils.

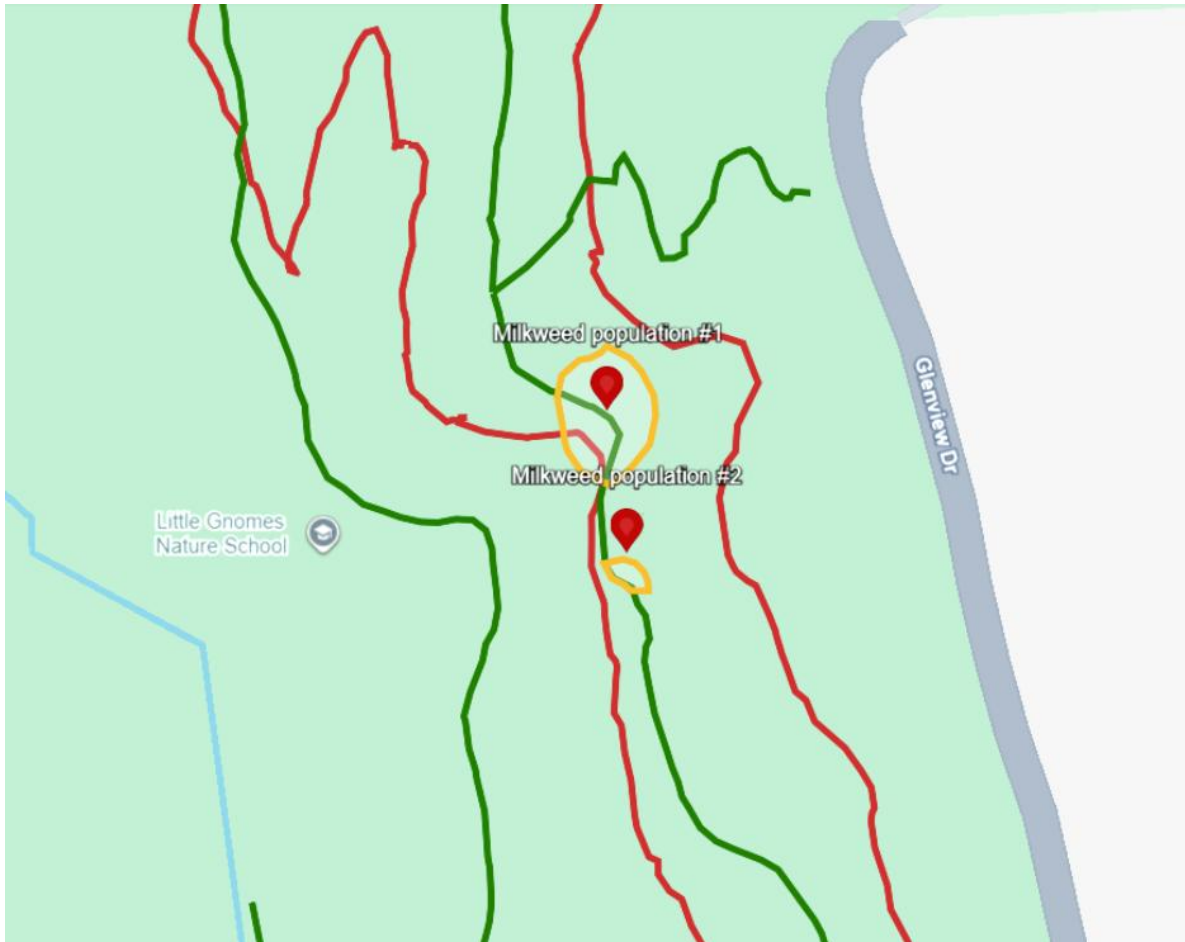
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# Memo

## MAPS



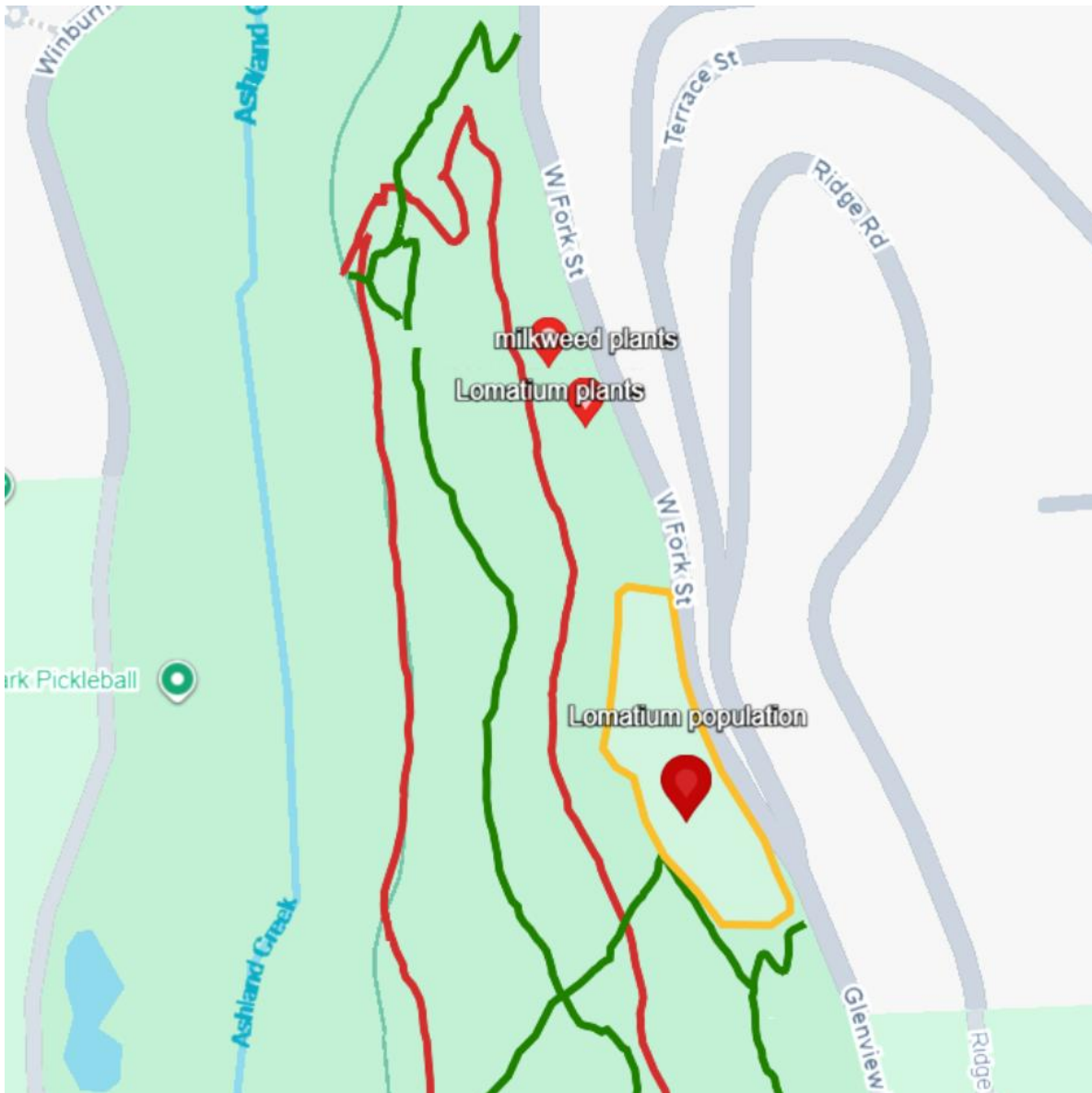
Milkweed populations (yellow circles) along proposed Dormouse (red lines) and existing trails (green lines). Overlap appears to only be with proposed uphill trail in this section.

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# Memo



Populations of California lomatium (yellow circle and red symbols) and a small milkweed plant (red dot) on northern section of proposed trail area. Keeping the downhill proposed trail below plant populations appears feasible.

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# Council Business Meeting

Date: July 15, 2026

|             |                                                     |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Agenda Item | Trails Advisory Committee Member Recruitment Update |
| Department  | Parks & Recreation                                  |
| From        |                                                     |

## **TIME ESTIMATE**

## **CATEGORY**

Informational - this is to inform the body on a particular topic. No motion or direction needed.

## **SUMMARY**

## **POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED**

## **BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

## **FISCAL IMPACTS**

## **SUGGESTED ACTIONS, MOTIONS, AND/OR OPTIONS**

## **REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS**

1. VI4. TAC Member Recruitment Update



**TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING****AGENDA BRIEF****July 15, 2026**

|                    |                                                                                 |                  |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Agenda Item</b> | VI4. Trails Advisory Committee Member Recruitment Update                        |                  |
| <b>Presenter</b>   | Rachel Dials                                                                    | Interim Director |
| <b>Item Type</b>   | Action <input type="checkbox"/> Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                  |

**SUMMARY**

There are two (2) vacant positions on the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC). One (1) at-large position and one (1) pedestrian position.

Five (5) applications have been received.

Staff will be working with Park Commission Chair Jim Bachman to conduct interviews with all candidates and make final selections. More information will be available at the September TAC meeting.

**POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED**

Trails Advisory Committee Bylaws

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Not applicable

**PROPOSED ACTIONS OR MOTION(S)**

Not applicable – information only

**ATTACHMENTS**

None

**PREPARED BY:** Rachel Dials, Interim Director