

CITY NEWS

Better Together

JULY 2024
ISSUE 16

Discover Ways to Beat the Heat this Summer without Air Conditioning!

As temperatures soar, find respite in Ashland's 19 parks and over 600 acres of open space. Our parks provide ample shady spots to escape the heat. Explore our City parks at AshlandParksandRec.org.

Take it to the Next Level with Water Fun!



Swim Reservoir in Lithia Park

- **Swim Reservoir in Lithia Park:** Enjoy a refreshing dip in this reservoir fed by Ashland Creek.
- **Wading Area near the children's playground in Lithia Park:** Perfect for cooling off with the little ones.
- **Splash Pad at Garfield Park:** Open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., ideal for playful water activities for kids of all ages.
- **Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool in Hunter Park:** Check the schedule at ashlandoregon.gov/Swim for open hours.

Most parks have functional water fountains, except Briscoe and Scenic Park. During heat waves, the Ashland Police Department will provide bottled water upon request. The Ashland Fire Department, Station No. 1 at 455 Siskiyou Blvd, also offers water bottles outside their station. Cooling centers will open if temperatures reach 95°F and above for extended periods, provided there is space and volunteers available.

Whether it's a picnic in a shady park, a stroll along a cool creek-side trail, or a swim at Daniel Meyer Pool, find comfort and stay cool this summer. Remember, **"We are Better Together!"**

Note: If water quality in any of our waterways is deemed unsafe, we will post notices on our website, ashlandoregon.gov.

What's Inside...

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Better Together

ashlandoregon.gov

541.488.6002



Tonya Graham
Mayor



Paula Hyatt
Councilor
Position No. 1



Dylan Bloom
Councilor
Position No. 2



Jeff Dahle
Councilor
Position No. 3



Bob Kaplan
Councilor
Position No. 4



Gina DuQuenne
Councilor
Position No. 5



Eric Hansen
Councilor
Position No. 6

COUNCIL OUTCOMES **JUNE 2024 highlights**

- Approved a \$1.7 million construction contract for the renovation of the Community Center and Pioneer Hall.
- Unanimously approved amending Ordinance #3237 in the Ashland Municipal Code to add the Department of Innovations and Technology (DoIT).
- Approved a pay step increase for Acting City Manager Sabrina Cotta based on a successful performance review.

For more information, including meetings, agendas, minutes and how to contact Council, visit ashlandoregon.gov/Council.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Are you passionate about shaping the future of our city?



Here's your chance to get involved! Applications are being accepted for the following volunteer committee positions:

- Historic Preservation Advisory Committee
- Housing & Human Services Advisory Committee Meeting
- Municipal Audit Committee
- Public Arts Advisory Committee (student reps)
- Social Equity & Racial Justice Advisory Committee
- Ad hoc Committee on Affordable Childcare & Early Childhood Development

More information and apply online at ashlandoregon.gov/CouncilCommissionsCommittees. Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive community.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION WITH CITY COUNCIL & STAFF



Join us for Coffee & Conversation with the City Council and Staff! This spring through early fall, we'll be hosting informal gatherings for a chance to get acquainted, chat and enjoy a cup of coffee together. Mark your calendar for our next Coffee & Conversation:

- **Wednesday, September 25, 3 to 4:30 p.m.**
Railroad Park on "A" Street between 6th and 8th Streets

These gatherings will be casual with no agenda. We look forward to connecting with you because in Ashland, "**We are better together!**"

NEW CITY WEBSITE ashlandoregon.gov

Revolutionize Your Connection:

Say farewell to outdated web experiences! Ashland's cutting-edge website is here to transform how you engage with your community, offering a sleek interface designed for intuitive exploration that is responsive on any device.



Explore Ashland's Hidden Treasures: Dive into a world of discovery with our Mapping Hub. Whether you're a local or a visitor, uncover the city's secrets, navigate its streets, and unearth its gems with ease.

Your Personalized Digital Oasis: **Create your own account** and tailor your online experience with a personalized dashboard. Bookmark your favorites, save progress on forms effortlessly, and receive notifications tailored to your interests, ensuring you never miss a beat in Ashland's vibrant community life! If creating an account doesn't interest you, you can still **subscribe to receive updates!**

Please Note: All public meeting documents prior to the launch date of our new website, May 22, 2024, are now in Laserfiche and most are accessible at ashlandoregon.gov/ArchivedCityRecords. Thank you for your patience as we move these files over.

*Keep an eye out for pages under construction during this initial phase, and don't hesitate to share your feedback with us. **Email** our Communications Officer or call 541.880.8052. It's appreciated!*

A MESSAGE FROM UTILITY BILLING

Utility Billing continues delinquent processing. We'll reach out multiple times to help you bring your account up to date. Act now – Contact utilitybilling@ashlandoregon.gov today to establish a payment plan and avoid service interruption. Don't delay – *Let's resolve this together!*

ARE YOU BEHIND ON UTILITY PAYMENTS?

Apply for a PAYMENT PLAN at ashlandoregon.gov/Utilities, or at utilitybilling@ashlandoregon.gov.

Payment Plan Durations are available for past due balances, detailed below:

\$500-\$1000 – 6 months	\$2000-\$4000 – 18 months
\$1000-\$2000 – 12 months	\$4000 & up – 24 months

WAYS TO INTERACT WITH UTILITY BILLING

Need help?

- Email utilitybilling@ashlandoregon.gov
- Call 541.488.6004, Mon through Fri, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- In person at The Grove, 1195 E Main St, Fri, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- In person at Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave, Mon or Wed, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Need Disconnect or Connect Services? Go to ashlandoregon.gov/Utilities.

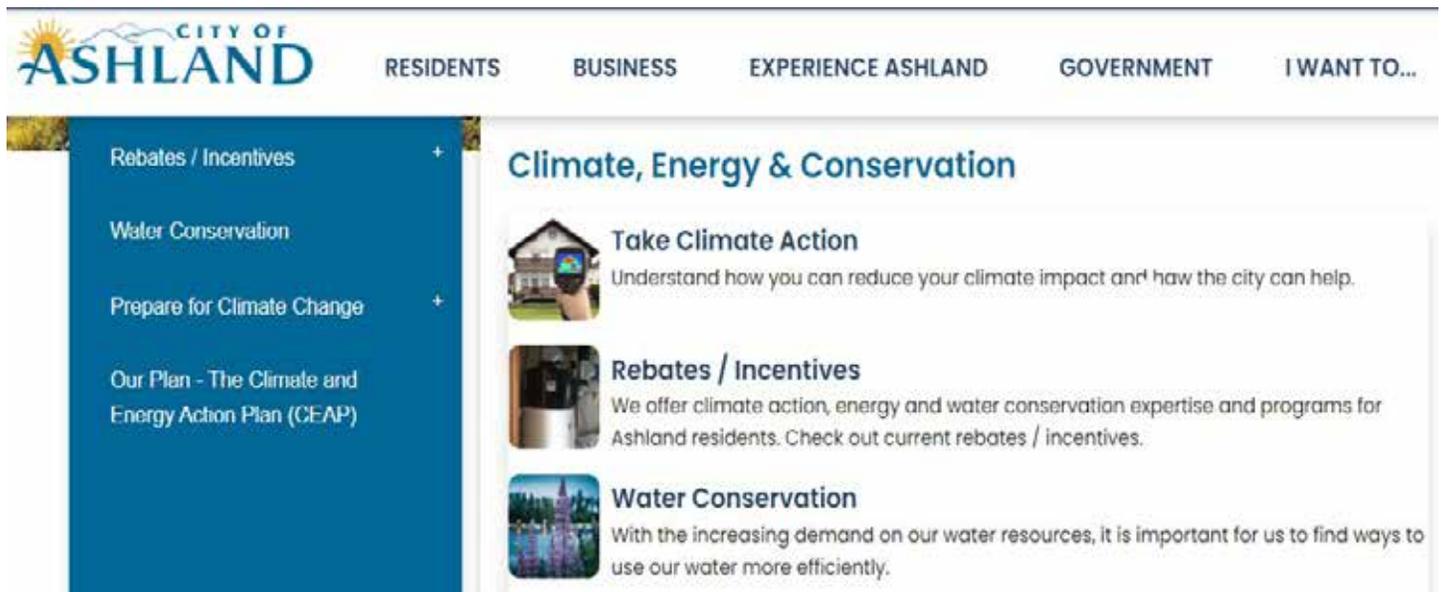


CLIMATE, ENERGY & CONSERVATION

Ashland has a long history of offering energy efficiency, water conservation and renewable energy programs to reduce our energy and water consumption. These programs have been changed over the years while responding to local funding, climate change and state and federal offerings. Incentives and rebates have been the backbone of our offerings; however, the City has long offered assessments of energy and water usage along with advice on reducing wildfire risk.

Just looking at our incentives for reducing energy consumption, we are on pace for approximately 500 incentives to be paid out in fiscal year 2024! These incentives cover such areas as heating, weatherization, electric vehicles, electric bikes and solar amongst others. If you are looking to decarbonize, we have incentives that can help. If you are looking to install solar, our net metering program helps maximize the value of your generation. Should you need assistance with your water consumption, take advantage of our sprinkler system evaluation and indoor water analysis service. Not sure where to start saving energy? Get a home energy review to help evaluate your situation.

Our offerings have not always been as easy to locate when searching our website, but that all changed last month when we launched our new website on May 22, 2024. It is now much easier to find our offerings and fill out our online application. Still have questions? Our contact information is readily available at ashlandoregon.gov/ClimateEnergyConservation.



As mentioned above, we have seasonal offerings such as a sprinkler system evaluation. Maybe you don't want to water your lawn anymore; we also have a lawn replacement rebate! Weatherizing and sealing your house are important for both hot summer days and cold winter nights. When autumn rolls around, you may need a new heating system, so remember our heat pump incentives then!

We are looking forward to launching a new On-Bill Financing loan program once the paperwork has been completed. This program will offer low interest loans to electric account holders in good standing to help finance energy efficiency improvements. The application process will be easy with no credit checks that may affect your credit score. This exciting program can be used in conjunction with local, state and federal incentives.

Ashland will continue to look for opportunities to increase our conservation efforts and reduce our consumption to better help us as we confront climate change. Remember, **"We are better together!"**

Utility Billing Assistance

Two City Departments are collaborating to offer support for your utility billing needs. Let's work together!



Our Finance Department and Parks & Recreation Senior Services Division have joined together to assist our residents with their online Utility Accounts and Utility Discount Applications at the Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Utility Billing phone lines are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and in-person service is available at The Grove on Fridays at 1195 E Main Street from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ashland Senior Services provides a variety of free or low-cost recreation, fitness, social and education opportunities as well as social events and other resources for older adults. For more information, visit us at ashland seniorservices.org, call 541.488.5342 or seniorinfo@ashlandoregon.gov.

FIRE SEASON IS UNDERWAY

Be AWARE & PREPARED!

As of July 1, 2024, our fire danger increased to High. Restrictions are in place. To stay abreast visit ashlandoregon.gov/FireSeasonInfo.

For information about air quality in our region, please visit ashlandoregon.gov/SmokewiseAshland. Smokewise Ashland is a local collaborative working group in Southwest Oregon dedicated to protecting public health and creating community resiliency in the face of increasing summer wildfire smoke and the overwhelming need to reduce community wildfire risk through proactive, safely conducted controlled burning.



**SMOKEWISE
ASHLAND**

Learn more about EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS at ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPrepared and on page 7...

- Know evacuation zone
- Know evacuation levels
- Sign up for alerts
- Pack a Go Bag
- and more!

Learn about COMMUNITY CONNECT on page 8... Community Connect is a free, secure, and easy to use platform that allows you to share critical information about your household that will aid first responders and emergency response personnel when responding to your residence!

PWSID# 4100047

Water Quality Report

CITY OF ASHLAND, OREGON
REPORTING YEAR 2023

En Español : Este Informe contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

You can help conserve water.
Call 541-552-2062 for tips and information.

Paper copies available upon request

Water Quality Report for Ashland

The Consumer Confidence Report on drinking water in Ashland, mandated by the state, is released annually at the end of June. This report, available at ashlandoregon.gov/WaterQualityReport, informs consumers about the contents of our drinking water. It includes details on any violations or exceeded limits that must be reported by municipal water suppliers. For a paper copy, contact 541.488.6016, or visit one of these locations:

- Ashland Public Library
- Ashland Senior Center
- Ashland Community Development
- Council Chambers
- The Grove
- Southern Oregon University Library



This picture of Reeder Reservoir and the Hosler Dam was taken recently by our GIS Team! Our primary water source is Ashland Creek, collected in Reeder Reservoir. Check out our dashboard for Reeder Reservoir and view real-time data, visit our website at ashlandoregon.gov/ReederDashboard.

BASECAMP ASHLAND Live Like a Local



Southern Oregon abounds with outdoor recreation and Ashland makes a great basecamp to do and see it all!

Prospect State Scenic Viewpoint: Barr Creek Falls & Avenue of the Boulders — Check out this outdoor adventure with waterfalls and boulders. The trails are wide, smooth and accessible for most fitness levels/ages.

TravelAshland.com, @TravelAshlandOregon on social media and use the hashtags #Basecamp #BasecampAshland #LiveLikeaLocal.

ATTENTION ASHLAND! Don't wait for the next emergency – prepare now

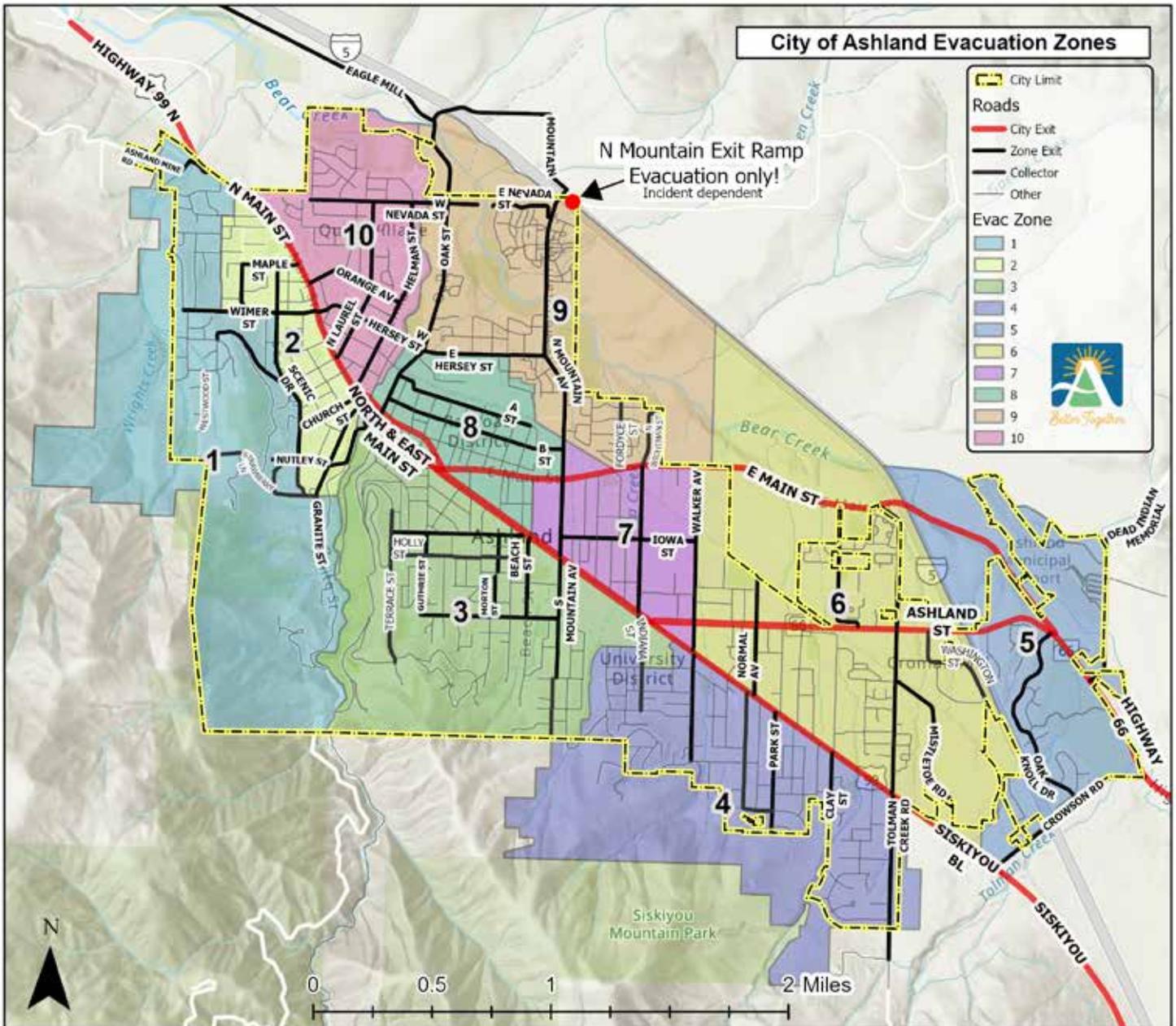
With the threat of wildfires and natural disasters in our region, it's crucial to be ready. Here's how:

- Sign up your whole family for emergency alerts with Everbridge Citizen Alert.
- Know your evacuation zones and understand evacuation levels.
- Pack a "GO!" bag with essentials.

Visit ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPrepared to learn more. Stay safe, stay prepared!

Ashland Evacuation Map—Print it, Post it, Save it!

This map is on the City website and it is interactive! Click on a zone to zoom in on your area, view street names to orient yourself and download/print YOUR zone map! We recommend putting the map on your refrigerator (for example) and on the top of your to-go bag. View map directly online at ashlandoregon.gov/KnowYourZone. Note: The evacuation map was expanded in May 2024.





CREATE YOUR HOUSEHOLD LIFE SAFETY PROFILE TODAY

Building a safer community through prevention, preparedness & response.

Scan the QR code to sign up for Ashland's community connect.



- 1 Create an Account**
Sign in for free and get started doing your part. It just takes your email phone number and address.
- 2 Enter the Info That Matters Most**
Enter valuable information that can help us assist more effectively during an emergency.
- 3 Help Your First Responders When Seconds Count**
That's it. Just keep us updated when things change over time so we can always be prepared.

communityconnect.io/info/or-ashland



Check it out!

You can now watch public meetings for City Council, Planning Commission and Parks & Recreation Commission on the new RVTV APP! Stream live from your phone or favorite device, including Android, iOS, AppleTV, Amazon Fire or Roku. Plus, access VOD (video on demand) content from various organizations, including the City of Ashland and more. It's all free and filled with valuable community information. Download "RVTV" from your app store today!

CITY CALENDAR Public Meetings

CITY COUNCIL

Business Meeting: Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday | 6 p.m.
Study Session: Meets 1st & 3rd Monday | 5:30 p.m.

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Business Meeting: Meets 2nd Wednesday | 6 p.m.
Study Session: Meets 1st Wednesday | 6 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesday | 7 p.m.

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Thursday | 5:30 p.m.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets the Wednesday following the 1st Tue Council meeting | 4 p.m.

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Thursday | 4 p.m.

SOCIAL EQUITY & RACIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets 1st Thursday | 5 p.m.

PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets 3rd Thursday | 4 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets 3rd Thursday | 6 p.m.

See the City Meeting calendar for additional details. Information on attending or viewing meetings, and providing written or oral public testimony can be found at ashlandoregon.gov/PublicMeetings.

For questions or information on our Ad-hoc or Management Advisory Committees, not listed, email citymanageroffice@ashlandoregon.gov or call 541.488.6002.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

August Events with Parks & Recreation

There are so many ways for all ages to have fun this summer. Through swim lessons at the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool, birdwatching at North Mountain Park, line dancing at The Grove, to lunch at the Ashland Senior Center! View our current PlayGuide at AshlandParksandRec.org.



Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool—Open for the Season!

Dive into fun at your local outdoor pool! This season, we offer a variety of activities for all ages and fitness levels:

- **Recreation Swimming:** Perfect for families and friends. Be sure to check the online schedule before you visit.
- **Lap and Senior Swimming:** Dedicated times for focused swimming and senior-friendly sessions.
- **Water Aerobics:** A great way to stay fit and have fun in the water.
- **Water Polo:** Join a team or watch the action.

For more information and the latest schedule, visit us at ashlandoregon.gov/Swim.
Come and make a splash at the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool!

Guided Walks in Lithia Park

Lithia Park Guided Walks are back for 2024! Led by passionate volunteers, these walks are free and open to all. Walks run May–September. Learn about the history, flora and fauna of Ashland’s “crown jewel.”. For schedule and more, visit AshlandParksandRec.org.



Photo Bob Palermi

Morning Bird Walk – Aug 17, 9–10 a.m., FREE, register [online](#)

See and hear a variety of birds that spend the summer in the Rogue Valley, on this easy walk through North Mountain Park. Binoculars and field guides will be available for check-out.

Preschool Puppet Show – Aug 8, 10–11 a.m., \$8, register [online](#)

Preschoolers can enjoy a nature-themed puppet show at the North Mountain Park Nature Center. the shows are followed by a craft activity!

LET CURIOSITY BE YOUR GUIDE

Are you curious about something in Ashland? Get your questions answered and see what others in the community are asking about. Questions like:

- How can I pay my utility bill?
- What time does the annual 4th of July Parade start?
- Does the City offer trash and recycling services?

All of this and more at ashlandoregon.gov/curious.



COUNCIL ADOPTED VISION & VALUES STATEMENTS FOR THE CITY

Vision

Ashland is a resilient, sustainable community that maintains the distinctive quality of place for which it is known.

We will continue to be a unique and caring city that stresses environmental conservation, fosters artistic expression and is open to new ideas and innovation.

We will plan and direct our efforts to fulfill this Vision for the long term with a constant view toward being an open, welcoming community for all with a positive economic future.

Values

Community

COMMUNITY AFFORDABILITY, including available housing and childcare

BELONGING through mutual respect and openness, inclusion and equity

QUALITY OF LIFE that underpins the City's economic vibrancy

ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE, including addressing climate change and ecosystem conservation

REGIONAL COOPERATION, including in support for public safety and homelessness

Organization

RESPECT for the citizens we serve, for each other and for the work we do

EXCELLENCE in governance and City services

SUSTAINABILITY through creativity, affordability and rightsized service delivery

PUBLIC SAFETY, including emergency preparedness for climate change risk

QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES through timely maintenance and community investment

STAY CONNECTED

Stay informed at ashlandoregon.gov/StayConnected, where you can:

- View the monthly *City News*
- View live streams
- Sign up for emergency alerts
- Ask a question

Receive daily updates by visiting and subscribing at ashlandoregon.gov.

Follow us on social media

- Facebook [@CityofAshlandOregon](https://www.facebook.com/CityofAshlandOregon)
- Instagram [@CityofAshlandOregon](https://www.instagram.com/CityofAshlandOregon)
- X/Twitter [@CityofAshland](https://twitter.com/CityofAshland)
- YouTube [@CityofAshlandOr](https://www.youtube.com/CityofAshlandOr)
- [Nextdoor](https://www.nextdoor.com)

Use the hashtags #BetterTogether #CityofAshlandOregon

How to contact us:

- ashlandoregon.gov
- citymanageroffice@ashlandoregon.gov
- 541.488.6002

