



Garfield Park Improvements

# 2025-2031 ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION CAPITAL PLAN



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This document represents the efforts and cooperation of Ashland Parks & Recreation Department staff, the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission and the City of Ashland community members. Thank you to all who participated in the development of this plan.

### **Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission**

Commissioner Jim Bachman, Chair  
Commissioner Rick Landt, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Jim Lewis  
Commissioner Justin Adams  
Commissioner Stef Seffinger

### **Ashland Parks & Recreation Staff**

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# Introduction

## Ashland Parks & Recreation Department

The Ashland Parks & Recreation Department (Parks) administers all parks and open space lands for the City of Ashland. Parks has a five member Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) that has responsible for management of all park lands. The parks are located primarily within city limits, with some being adjacent to the City's urban growth boundary. Parks manages a portfolio of 36 properties. These properties include 20 developed parks and 53 miles of trail over 811 acres. As the City's population continues to increase, Parks is committed to meet the needs for outdoor recreation.

Parks has existed since being established in 1909, with several new parks developed over the last century. Many park assets are reaching the end of their useful life and routine maintenance is beginning to tip into preventative maintenance and major maintenance tasks. Unfortunately, this trend will continue due to the age of the parks system, continued growth, and subsequent increased use levels of the park system facilities. This is a core focus of Park's capital plan: manage the current assets' integrity, while continuing to meet the recreational demand of the community.

This is the first year that Parks has developed a Capital Plan in this format, along with implementing the categories and projects identified later in this document. As such, future iterations of the Capital Plan will have more project information in all the categories as needs and priority planning evolve.

## What is in the Parks Capital Plan?

This document includes:

- Regulatory requirements summary
- Local framework for Parks capital planning
- Description of the process used to develop the Capital Plan
- Description of project types and strategies for implementation
- Six Year CIP Summary
- Six Year CIP by Project Type
- Capital Project Overviews
- APRC Adoption Resolution
- Public Comments

## Regulatory Requirements Summary

Parks selects projects for the Capital Plan based on a rubric incorporating our mission, goals, and the strategic directives found in the **P**arks, **R**ecreation, **O**pen space & **S**enior

Services (PROS) plan (upon completion in 2026). The PROS plan identifies a 20-year Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) to identify our current and future capital needs and resources. The CFP includes an inventory of existing publicly owned capital facilities, and a forecast for the future needs for new or expanded facilities necessary to accommodate growth during the next 20 years. It provides a forecast of projects and resources needed.

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a six-year implementation plan to meet the highest priority needs. It is financially limited to the resources available. It is updated bi-annually to reflect changes in capital needs and resources available.

### **Parks Capital Planning, Local Framework**

The APRC is authorized under the City Charter to maintain a parks system within its boundaries. This authority has been delegated to the Director of the Parks & Recreation Department, with oversight by the APRC.

Recognizing the reality of funding and staffing limitations, available opportunities, and overall capacity for the parks system each fiscal budget, it is the policy of Parks to utilize a transparent and systematic methodology for the prioritization of capital expenses. This methodology balances the needs and objectives of the parks system, the obligations of the City to the public, the impact to Parks' and City budgets, and the operational impact of adding to the Parks' portfolio. Parks works to be agile, flexible, and adaptable in the implementation of a CIP to pursue opportunities that meet the broader goals of department, City, and community as they arise.

Parks describes capital plan improvements in the following terms:

- **Preventative maintenance:** project to extend the useful life of an existing asset, with a contractor performing the work rather than Park operations staff. Preventative maintenance projects may include (but are not limited to) bench and table renovation, parking lot seal coating, structure painting or siding repair, playground fall protection repair, hazard tree removal, and turf or planting material replacement.
- **Major maintenance:** project renovating, restoring, or replacing an existing asset, with a contractor performing the work rather than Park operations staff. Major maintenance projects may include (but are not limited to) shelter replacement, playground fall surfacing replacement, parking lot or trail resurfacing, restroom replacement, and sports turf replacement.

- **Enhancements:** project creating a new park or park amenity that adds to existing park inventory. Projects may include construction of new or additional sport courts, playgrounds, shelters, restrooms, or new parks in their entirety.
- **Land acquisition:** project acquiring new lands, rights-of-way, or property rights to preserve land or enable future recreation improvements. Rights-of-way may be acquired to improve park access, and property rights can be acquired for habitat or agriculture preservation.
- **Vehicles & Equipment:** the acquisition of a new vehicle or equipment to meet an operational need. This is not the replacement of existing vehicles or equipment.

## CIP Development Process

The process of developing the CIP includes four stages:

1. Identification
2. Prioritization
3. Scoping
4. Budget

### Identification

Identification of projects by:

- Collating asset condition assessments, public comments, development needs identified in the PROS Plan, prior obligations, and staff observations. The City is in the process of implementing an electronic asset management system which will serve as the method for developing formal lists of items to address.
- Staff sorting of each proposed project into one of the following categories, as described in the previous section: preventative maintenance, major maintenance, development, land acquisition.
- Adding projects and project details to the list by project type.
- Adding notes from plans, community input, government input, etc. to the project spreadsheet to assist with prioritization.

### Prioritization

Prioritization of projects by:

- Performing an initial prioritization through the scoring of projects using the rubric applicable by project type, located in the appendices of this policy. The prioritization will be developed into a draft CIP.

- The Director presenting the draft CIP to the APRC bi-annually in the fourth quarter of the preceding year.
- The APRC reviewing and providing input on the draft CIP. Staff reviewing comments and adjusting the CIP as necessary based on the input received, and at a subsequent meeting the APRC considering the adoption of the CIP. The adopted CIP will be used as a part of the budgeting process.

Note: Projects that are funded and currently in development will not be subject to reprioritization, ensuring continual progress on projects already in development. This is consistent with a fiscally constrained capital program, as described in the budgeting section of this policy.

### Scoping

Scoping of projects by:

- Developing proposals to accomplish the projects in the prioritized list. This may include bundling projects that are similarly prioritized to take advantage of economic scaling (e.g., parking lot restoration projects in the west park zone that score within ten places of each other may be combined into a single, larger project).
- Estimating costs for proposed projects. Projects ranking higher on the prioritized list will have more accurate estimates completed based on current and projected economic conditions and available Parks resources.
- Evaluating the prioritized list considering current Parks' budgetary and staffing capacities, obligatory requirements, etc. When opportunities or challenges are identified, reorganization of the list may occur.
- Using the list of projects, including costs and any APRC comments, in developing the Parks' capital budget for presentation to City administration.

### Budgeting

Budgeting for the CIP will occur by:

- Forecasting each fund available to pay for capital improvements in the Parks' portfolio as part of the City's budgetary process, forming the basis of fiscal constraint considerations. While CIP projects may move around in response to conditions, the cumulative costs and impacts to the Parks' portfolio would need to be consistent with the constraints in the adopted capital budget.
- Parks will pursue funding from outside sources, such as grants for projects in the CIP as available and where staff capacity exists. Successful competition for

outside funding, such as grants, may result in adjustments to the CIP, as described below.

The adopted CIP will be posted on Parks' website.

### **Alteration**

The CIP process will occur bi-annually as part of the budgetary process. Projects that have been completed will be reported to the Finance Department for inclusion in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), as well as to the APRC as part of the bi-annual CIP update process. New projects will be added to the list per the process described above. Reprioritization may result in changes and should not be construed as being contrary to this policy.

The fiscal constraints mentioned above shall be applied to the overall project budget, subject to the limitations and restrictions upon the different funding sources or appropriations, except when new outside funding becomes available for a specific project(s).

The CIP is intended to be a guiding document for repair, acquisition, and development of Parks' assets. It is intended to provide a realistic, achievable set of goals. However, circumstantial changes may result in the need to amend the CIP. It will be the policy of Parks to make these amendments during the bi-annual update, as described above. If such a change occurs within a biennium budget, Parks will need to amend the capital budget.

### **Guiding principles**

In support of City policies and goals, the Parks' capital planning process strives to:

- Prioritize projects with the greatest potential to support multiple City programs and goals.
- Consider the impact of the project on people with barriers to recreational opportunities.
- Ensure reliable scientific and engineering assessments of projects.
- Ensure each project in the plan is feasible and the most cost-effective way to meet an identified need.
- Focus limited resources on cost-effective solutions to the most pressing concerns.
- Incorporate environmental benefits into infrastructure repair projects.
- Maintain a list of potential projects to help pursue funding opportunities.

# Project Classifications

## Preventative Maintenance Projects

### Description

Preventative maintenance projects extend the useful life of an existing asset. They generally cost over \$5,000 and are completed by a contractor.

### Strategy

Through routine maintenance activities and a semi-annual inventory of park assets and conditions, generate a list of potential projects. Follow the CIP policy and procedures to rank and prioritize preventative maintenance projects.



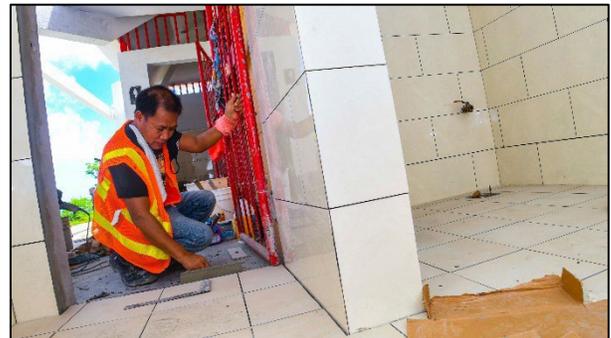
## Major Maintenance Projects

### Description

Major maintenance projects generally cost over \$100,000 and encompass the repair or replacement of an existing recreational asset.

### Strategy

Through a semi-annual inventory of park assets and conditions, generate a list of potential projects. Follow the CIP policy and procedures to rank and prioritize major maintenance projects.



## Enhancement Projects

### Description

Enhancement projects are when new recreational assets are added to an existing park, or a new park is developed.

### Strategy

The PROS plan reviews recreation needs, level of service requirements, and outlines a strategy to meet current and future recreational demands. The CIP reviews this plan as it ranks and prioritizes projects. Parks works to identify funding to develop new parks and recreational assets.



## Acquisition Projects

### Description

Acquisitions add property to the Parks' portfolio. Property is generally divided into acquisition for natural areas and park development.

### Strategy

Acquire properties from willing sellers to meet level of service and conservation goals as identified in the Natural Areas Acquisition Plan and the PROS plan. The CIP outlines annual and six-year strategies.



## Vehicle and Equipment

### Description

Review existing assets and Parks' needs to determine what equipment and vehicles are needed to meet operational needs.

### Strategy

Complete an annual review and identification of needs and develop a mechanism for the procurement of new vehicles and equipment. This assessment is generally constrained fiscally and assessed to ensure vehicles and equipment will add value for Parks. Vehicle replacement and procurement will be completed by the Fleet Services.



### Funding

This capital plan includes projects and ongoing programs totaling approximately \$24 million in Parks funding over the next six years. The first year's budget is an assessment, while the budgets for the subsequent five years are aspirational and actuals will be dependent on Parks' resources (personnel & funding), future budget approval, and direction from the City Budget Committee and the City Council. The capital plan is dependent on the funding programs outlined below.

### Food & Beverage Tax (FBT)

Parks receives 25% of the Food & Beverage Tax (FBT). A 5% sales tax is attributed to all prepared food and beverages (excluding alcohol) within the city limits of Ashland. These funds are dedicated to acquisition, planning, development, repair, and rehabilitation of City parks. The FBT is currently scheduled to sunset in 2030.

### System Development Charges (SDC)

These fees are collected when building permits are issued for single family homes, apartments, and other residential projects. The funds collected can be used for park enhancements or land acquisitions. The rate is \$486.76 to \$1,041.20, depending on the unit type being developed.

## **General Fund (GF)**

The General Fund is the property tax revenue generated from properties within City limits. These funds facilitate the operation of City services including Police, Fire, Administrative functions, and Parks.

## **Transient Lodging Tax (TLT)**

The City of Ashland has a transient lodging tax on all hotels and short-term rentals within City limits. The rate is currently at 10%. State laws require that 75% of these funds be directed towards tourism and 25% to other types of projects determined by the local municipality.

## **Grants and Donations (Other)**

Competition for Grants is high, and available sources change from year to year. When available, grant funds are aggressively pursued. The Ashland Parks Foundation has assisted Parks in raising funds for projects via donations and other sources. Volunteer contributions are a common source of donated value to leverage grant funding. Other donations can occur but are not a key source of funding for capital projects.

## Capital Plan Overview

Parks has identified over \$50 million in projects during the system review. These projects represent deferred maintenance, park enhancements, plans, and land acquisitions. There is an additional \$30 million identified in a park facilities condition assessment. This is representative of the buildings and facilities over the next 30 years. Only a portion of these identified projects are part of the CIP due to the six-year planning window.

The CIP is resource constrained. This means that the CIP is limited only to the capital and staffing resources forecasted over the six-year period. There are more needs than resources. The CIP is at \$25.4 million, with the Daniel Myer Memorial Pool replacement representing roughly 50% of the CIP budget.

The CIP currently has \$16.5 coming from other funds (65%). The other funds are a combination of grants (\$4.5 million) and \$12 million of funding yet determined for the major maintenance of Daniel Myer Memorial Pool. If this project is removed, then approximately 50% of the project funding would be from Food and Beverage Tax and 37% from other funds. Of the \$4.45 million, \$2.52 million has been secured already.

To ensure that the recreational needs of the community are met, the plan is primarily focused on major maintenance projects. This represents 64% of prioritized projects. Parks will continue to identify park system needs to ensure the assets we operate are safe and enjoyable for the park and recreation patrons. The planned strategic plan in 2025-2026 will assist in setting priorities that will influence future capital projects.

## Ashland Parks & Recreation Department - Capital Improvement Program Prioritized List

The FY 26 through FY 31 Parks Capital Improvement Program is based on the assumption that projects will be completed as scheduled even if funding is uncertain. The program projects are scheduled based on relative priority derived from criteria such as critical infrastructure need, return on investment, public safety and secured funding. Parks, with citizen input, recommends this program to assist with meeting the Park's Capital Improvements needs and assist in budget development for Parks.

Category	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	FY 31	6 YR Total
Annual Totals by Category							
Preventative Maintenance	\$ 275,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 1,800,000
Major Maintenance	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 525,000	\$ 6,200,000	\$ 6,200,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 16,275,000
Park Enhancements	\$ 1,900,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 5,350,000
Planning	\$ 75,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 375,000
Acquisitions	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000
Vehicles / Equipment	\$ 118,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 118,000
<b>Annual CIP</b>	<b>\$ 4,418,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,810,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,490,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,075,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,175,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,450,000</b>	<b>\$ 25,418,000</b>
						<b>Other Funds</b>	\$ 16,445,000
						<b>Food &amp; Beverage Tax</b>	\$ 6,635,000
						<b>System Development Charges</b>	\$ 980,000
						<b>General Fund</b>	\$ 858,000

Total by Category - Identified Need	
Preventative Maintenance	\$ 1,465,040
Major Maintenance	\$ 21,050,310
Park Enhancements	\$ 13,186,000
Planning	\$ 407,000
Acquisitions	\$ 14,339,920
Vehicles / Equipment	\$ 303,000
<b>Total Deferred/Capital Need</b>	<b>\$ 50,751,270</b>

# Six Year CIP by Project Type

## Ashland Parks & Recreation Department - Capital Improvement Program

### Prioritized List

The FY 26 through FY 31 Parks Capital Improvement Program is based on the assumption that projects will be completed as scheduled even if funding is uncertain. The program projects are scheduled based on relative priority derived from criteria such as critical infrastructure need, return on investment, public safety and secured funding. Parks, with citizen input, recommends this program to assist with meeting the Department's Capital Improvements needs and assist in budget development for Parks.

Category	Total Project Cost	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	FY 31	6YR Total
<b>Preventative Maintenance</b>								
Pavement Preservation Projects (multiple parks)	\$900,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 900,000
Hazard Trees (multiple parks)	\$200,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 300,000
Building & Facilities (multiple parks)	\$600,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 600,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 275,000</b>	<b>\$ 275,000</b>	<b>\$ 350,000</b>	<b>\$ 275,000</b>	<b>\$ 350,000</b>	<b>\$ 275,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,800,000</b>
<b>Major Maintenance</b>								
Hunter Park - Tennis Court Rehabilitation	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000						\$1,200,000
Lithia - Butler Perozzi Fountain Restoration	\$600,000	\$450,000	\$150,000					\$600,000
Irrigation Controllers (multiple parks)	\$100,000	\$100,000						\$100,000
ADA Improvements	\$300,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$300,000
Siskiyou Mtn - Trail Re-route	\$75,000		\$75,000					\$75,000
Lithia - Masterplan Work Plan	\$250,000		\$250,000					\$250,000
Sherwood - Playground & Bocce Replacement	\$100,000			\$100,000				\$100,000
Railroad - Playground Replacement	\$100,000				\$100,000			\$100,000
Trail Restoration - TBD	\$200,000			\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$200,000
Clay - Playground Replacement	\$350,000					\$350,000		\$350,000
Hunter - Pool	\$12,000,000			\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000			\$12,000,000
Lithia - Restroom Replacement(s) & ADA upgrade	\$1,000,000						\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,275,000</b>	<b>\$1,800,000</b>	<b>\$525,000</b>	<b>\$6,200,000</b>	<b>\$6,200,000</b>	<b>\$450,000</b>	<b>\$1,100,000</b>	<b>\$16,275,000</b>
<b>Park Enhancements</b>								
East Main - Phase I	\$2,150,000	\$1,900,000	\$750,000					\$ 2,650,000
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	\$400,000			\$400,000				\$ 400,000
East Main - Phase II	\$500,000				\$500,000			\$ 500,000
Clay - Parking Lot Improvements	\$300,000					\$300,000		\$ 300,000
Park Enhancement - TBD	\$1,500,000					\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$ 1,500,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,900,000</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$5,350,000</b>
<b>Planning</b>								
PROS Plan	\$85,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 10,000					\$ 85,000
Park Standards	\$40,000			\$ 40,000				\$ 40,000
Park Master Plan - Chitwood	\$100,000				\$ 100,000			\$ 100,000
Park Master Plan - TBD	\$150,000					\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 150,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>\$ 40,000</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$ 375,000</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>								
Acquisition - TBD	\$250,000	\$250,000						\$250,000
Acquisition - TBD	\$250,000		\$250,000					\$250,000
Acquisition - TBD	\$500,000			\$500,000				\$500,000
Acquisition - TBD	\$500,000					\$500,000		\$500,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 250,000</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,500,000</b>
<b>Vehicles - Equipment</b>								
Trucks	\$100,000	\$ 100,000						\$ 100,000
Mowers & Trailers	\$18,000	\$ 18,000						\$ 18,000
Van								
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 118,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 118,000</b>				
		<b>FY 26</b>	<b>FY 27</b>	<b>FY 28</b>	<b>FY 29</b>	<b>FY 30</b>	<b>FY 31</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>\$ 4,418,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,810,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,490,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,075,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,175,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,450,000</b>	<b>\$ 25,418,000</b>

## FY 26-27 Capital Budget Project Overviews

This section will provide a brief overview of the projects identified in the CIP projects list. The projects in the FY26-27 budget will have a one-page project summary sheet. Projects for future fiscal years will be summarized in a table.

### Preventative Maintenance Projects

The preventative maintenance projects are part of the capital budget project to outline how Parks is investing in extending the useful life of park facilities to reduce major maintenance project costs and ensure safe use of park facilities. The projects are identified by three (3) categories. A summary of each project follows.

#### **Pavement Preservation Projects**

Pavement preservation projects are those that address roads, trails, parking lots, and sidewalks. They typically are paved but could include concrete or gravel surfaced areas. The projects will address extending the useful life by adding a surfacing, repairing a crack, or replacing a smaller section of the area. These projects are identified by conducting field assessments and prioritized to reduce capital costs by keeping the condition above average. Assets that fall below average may require more costly solutions becoming major maintenance projects.

#### **Hazard Tree Projects**

Hazard tree projects are typically dead or dying trees that create a safety issue by having a target (structure, high use area, etc.). They can also be trees or vegetation that create a fire risk or other risk to the community. This work is generally done by a contractor because it poses a higher risk to staff or staff is not able to do the work due to capacity or capability.

#### **Building & Facilities Projects**

Building and facilities projects include painting, roofing, siding, or other repairs to extend the useful life of the facility. They could include window replacements, conversion to LED lights, HVAC replacements, etc.

Project Name: **Hunter Park – Tennis Courts Rehabilitation**  
 Project Type: **Major Maintenance**  
 Total Project Cost: **\$1,200,000**

Proj #: **# Unassigned**

Duration: **1/2025 – 6/2026**



<u>Prior Years</u>	2025-26 FY26	2026-27 FY27	2027-28 FY28	2028-29 FY29	2029-30 FY30	2030-31 FY31
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Expenses:

Design	\$120,000					
Construction	\$1,080,000					
Land Acquisition						

Revenues:

Fees						
F&B Tax	\$230,000					
SDCs						
Grant	\$720,000					
Other	\$250,000					

Explain "Other": General Funds

**Operational Impact Statement:** *This major maintenance project will reduce annual maintenance costs by 50% over the next 5 years. At that time, preventative maintenance will be required for netting and any painted surfaces. It is anticipated that annual maintenance costs will remain 25% lower over the following 10 years. These savings are attributed to the reduction in crack sealing and other surfacing work. The routine maintenance for this site is not anticipated to change as a result of the project.*

**Description:** *This project will replace the courts, nets, and fencing at the Hunter Park tennis courts. There are currently eight (8) courts, with no planned expansion. The project is considering using a surfacing material that will extend the useful life of the courts reducing cracking and other preventative maintenance.*

Project Name: **Lithia – Butler Perozzi Fountain Restoration**  
 Project Type: **Major Maintenance**  
 Total Project Cost: **\$600,000**

Proj #: **# Unassigned**

Duration: **6/2024 – 6/2027**



<u>Prior Years</u>	2025-26 FY26	2026-27 FY27	2027-28 FY28	2028-29 FY29	2029-30 FY30	2030-31 FY31
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Expenses:

Design		\$70,000				
Construction		\$280,000	\$150,000			
Land Acquisition						

Revenues:

Fees						
F&B Tax						
SDCs						
Grant						
Other		\$450,000	\$150,000			

**Explain "Other":** Ashland Parks Foundation funding via fundraising.

**Operational Impact Statement:** *This major maintenance project is planned to extend the useful life by 30 to 50 years. The project will reduce unplanned maintenance for the fountain by updating many of the operational components and changing materials that increased fountain pumps failure. The routine maintenance should be reduced and no preventative maintenance for 10 years or longer.*

**Description:** *This project will restore the fountain. This will include the repair or replication of many of the fountain's features to ensure that they are functional and stable. The concrete work around the fountain will be restored to provide an accessible and functional asset. Additional work to reduce natural element impacts to the fountain will also be conducted.*

Project Name: **Irrigation Controllers**  
 Project Type: **Major Maintenance**  
 Total Project Cost: **\$100,000**

Proj #: # **Unassigned**

Duration: **7/2025 – 6/2027**



<u>Prior Years</u>	2025-26 FY26	2026-27 FY27	2027-28 FY28	2028-29 FY29	2029-30 FY30	2030-31 FY31
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Expenses:

Design						
Construction	\$100,000					
Land Acquisition						

Revenues:

Fees						
F&B Tax	\$100,000					
SDCs						
Grant						
Other						

**Explain "Other":**

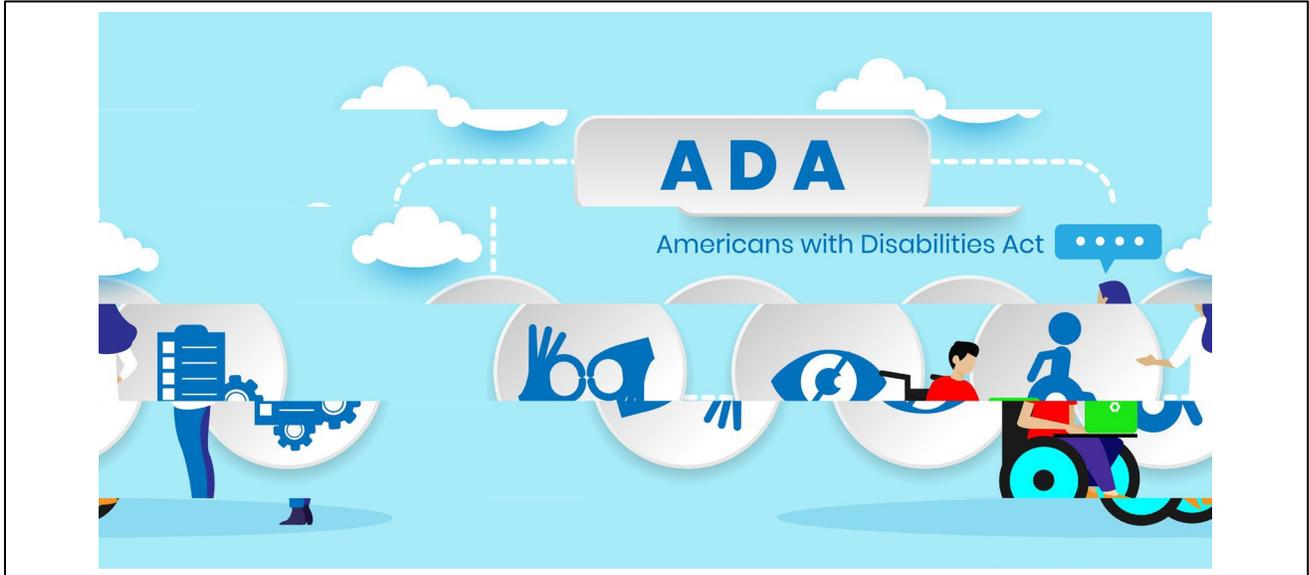
**Operational Impact Statement:** *This major maintenance project will reduce the time it takes staff to complete irrigation tasks by allowing multiple sites to be managed via a computer or smartphone.*

**Description:** *This major maintenance project is the third phase of replacing older irrigation controllers with new 5G WIFI controllers. The controllers allow staff to manage all connected irrigation systems via their computer or smartphone. In addition, the system utilizes local weather data to reduce water usage.*

Project Name: **ADA Improvements**  
 Project Type: **Major Maintenance**  
 Total Project Cost: **\$100,000**

Proj #: # **Unassigned**

Duration: **7/2025 – 6/2027**



<u>Prior Years</u>	2025-26 FY26	2026-27 FY27	2027-28 FY28	2028-29 FY29	2029-30 FY30	2030-31 FY31
--------------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

Expenses:

Design						
Construction	\$100,000					
Land Acquisition						

Revenues:

Fees						
F&B Tax	\$100,000					
SDCs						
Grant						
Other						

Explain "Other":

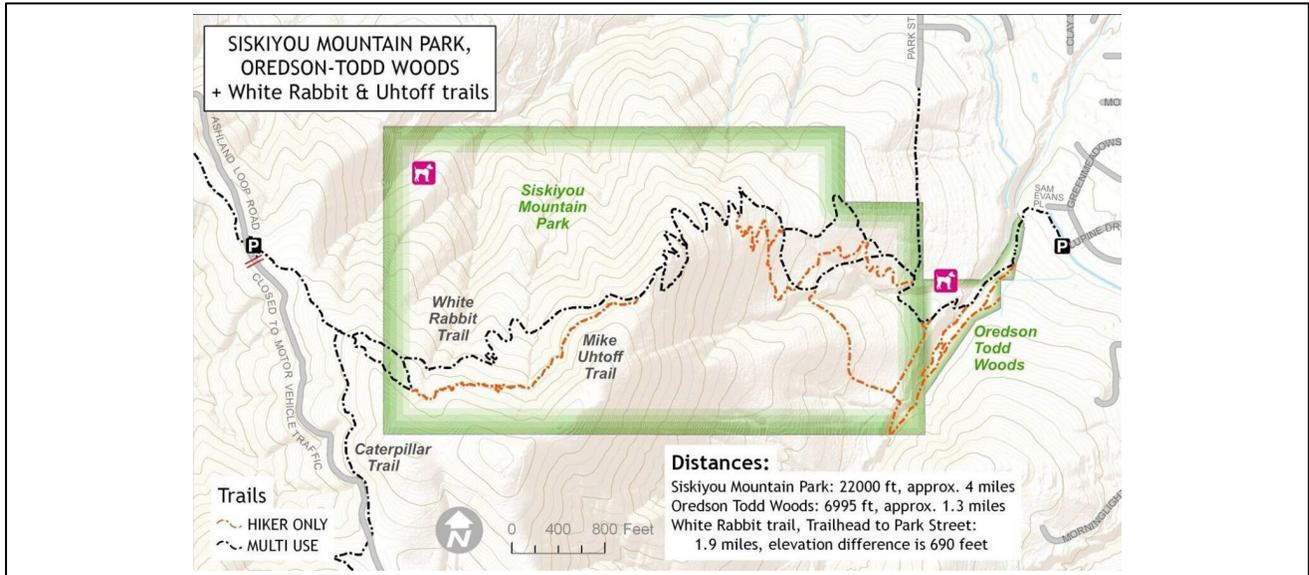
**Operational Impact Statement:** *This major maintenance project will not have an impact on operational staffing levels.*

**Description:** *This project will conduct repairs to bring buildings and facilities into ADA compliance. This will include restroom remodeling, door handle replacements, signage updating, access route improvements, etc.*

Project Name: **Siskiyou Mountain Trail re-route**  
 Project Type: **Major Maintenance**  
 Total Project Cost: **\$75,000**

Proj #: **# Unassigned**

Duration: **7/2025 – 6/2027**



<u>Prior Years</u>	2025-26 FY26	2026-27 FY27	2027-28 FY28	2028-29 FY29	2029-30 FY30	2030-31 FY31
--------------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

**Expenses:**

Design						
Construction	\$75,000					
Land Acquisition						

**Revenues:**

Fees						
F&B Tax	\$75,000					
SDCs						
Grant						
Other						

**Explain "Other":**

**Operational Impact Statement:** *This major maintenance project will be designed to reduce annual maintenance costs for repairs by using sustainable trail design that creates grade reversals, has the trail follow the contours of the land, and is out sloped to shed moisture.*

**Description:** *This project will re-route a portion of the trail system in Siskiyou Mountain Park. The objective will be to reduce the grade of the trail to provide a better recreational experience while minimizing erosion, trail maintenance, and keeping the micro-hydrology within the current boundaries by not collecting and moving water down a trail.*

Project Name: **East Main – Phase I**  
 Project Type: **Park Enhancement**  
 Total Project Cost: **\$2,838,000**

Proj #: **# Unassigned**

Duration: **1/2020 – 6/2027**



<u>Prior Years</u>	2025-26 FY26	2026-27 FY27	2027-28 FY28	2028-29 FY29	2029-30 FY30	2030-31 FY31
--------------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

Expenses:

Design	\$188,000					
Construction		\$2,650,000				
Land Acquisition						

Revenues:

Fees						
F&B Tax		\$1,300,000				
SDCs		\$200,000				
Grant		\$1,000,000				
Other		\$150,000				

**Explain "Other":** RVMBA funding via Ashland Parks Foundation

**Operational Impact Statement:** *The full project is estimated at 7,500 hours per year for routine maintenance. Phase I is estimated at 2,080 hours per year.*

**Description:** *This project will develop a new community park on 6.5 acres. Phase I includes the development of the parking lot, restroom, street improvements, dog park, and pump track.*

Project Name: **Parks, Recreation, Open space & Seniors Plan**  
 Project Type: **Planning**  
 Total Project Cost: **\$85,000**

Proj #: # **Unassigned**

Duration: **1/2025 – 6/2026**



<u>Prior Years</u>	2025-26 FY26	2026-27 FY27	2027-28 FY28	2028-29 FY29	2029-30 FY30	2030-31 FY31
--------------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

Expenses:

Design	\$85,000					
Construction						
Land Acquisition						

Revenues:

Fees	\$85,000					
F&B Tax						
SDCs						
Grant						
Other						

**Explain "Other":**

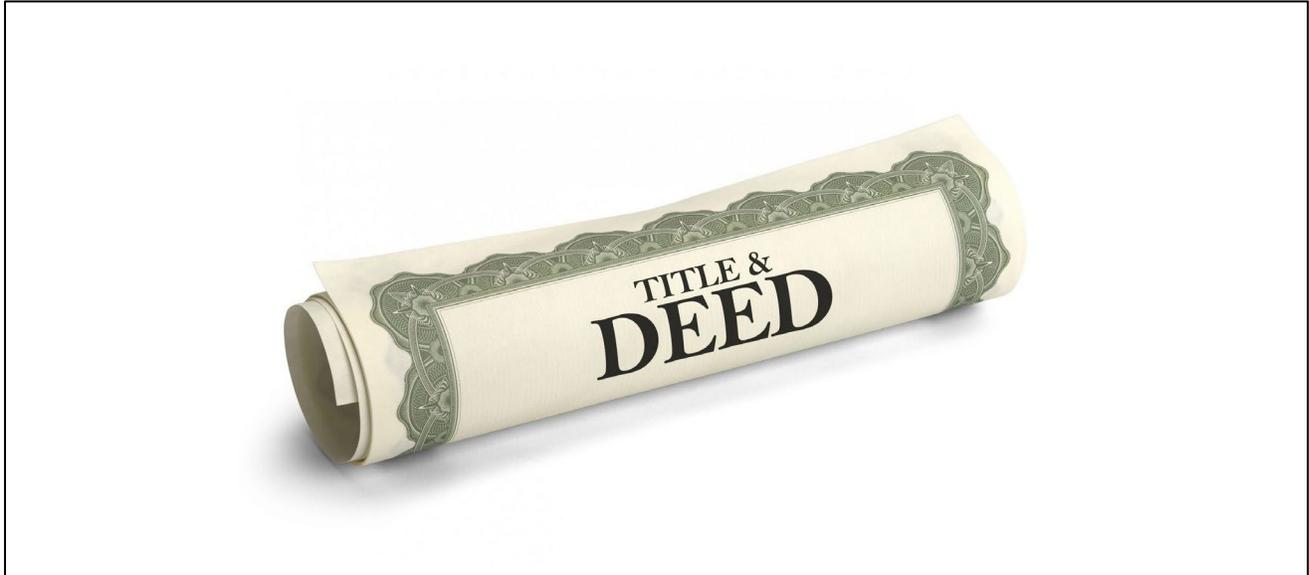
**Operational Impact Statement:** *This planning project will set forth the mission, vision, and goals for the organization. As a plan, there will be no operational impact. However, the goals of the plan will impact the operational needs of the department.*

**Description:** *This project will develop a 10-year strategic plan for the department. It will include robust community engagement on the deliverables of the department and the community's needs.*

Project Name: **Acquisition - TBD**  
 Project Type: **Land Acquisition**  
 Total Project Cost: **\$250,000**

Proj #: **# Unassigned**

Duration: **7/2025 – 6/2027**



<u>Prior Years</u>	2025-26 FY26	2026-27 FY27	2027-28 FY28	2028-29 FY29	2029-30 FY30	2030-31 FY31
--------------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

Expenses:

Design						
Construction						
Land Acquisition	\$250,000					

Revenues:

Fees						
F&B Tax	\$125,000					
SDCs	\$125,000					
Grant						
Other						

Explain "Other":

**Operational Impact Statement:** *Any acquisition will create additional operational staffing needs, be it fallow land or land developed into a recreational asset.*

**Description:** *This project will acquire property pursuant to the acquisition plan updated by the APRC in 2024. Acquisitions are opportunity based, i.e. based on willing sellers and a willing buyer.*

Project Name: **Acquisition - TBD**  
 Project Type: **Land Acquisition**  
 Total Project Cost: **\$250,000**

Proj #: **# Unassigned**

Duration: **7/2025 – 6/2027**



<u>Prior Years</u>	2025-26 FY26	2026-27 FY27	2027-28 FY28	2028-29 FY29	2029-30 FY30	2030-31 FY31
--------------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

Expenses:

Design		\$50,000				
Construction		\$200,000				
Land Acquisition						

Revenues:

Fees						
F&B Tax		\$250,000				
SDCs						
Grant						
Other						

**Explain "Other":**

**Operational Impact Statement:** *This project would address park needs that should not have an impact on operations.*

**Description:** *This project is a placeholder for any Lithia Park Master Plan workplan project that may be considered a capital project.*

## FY28 to FY31 Projects

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
ADA Improvements	Major Maintenance	Misc. ADA improvements at parks
Sherwood Playground	Major Maintenance	Replace playground
Railroad Playground	Major Maintenance	Replace playground
Trail Restoration	Major Maintenance	Repair trails throughout system
Clay Playground	Major Maintenance	Replace playground
Hunter Pool	Major Maintenance	Replace pool and pool house
Lithia Restrooms	Major Maintenance	Replace restroom(s) and complete ADA upgrades
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	Park Enhancements	Install electrical infrastructure to facilitate electric vehicle charging at park shops
East Main Phase II	Park Enhancements	Develop phase II of park
Clay – Parking Lot	Park Enhancements	Improve parking area
TBD	Park Enhancements	Park enhancement yet to be identified
Park Standards	Planning	Develop park standards for signs, amenities, plants and associated elements
Chitwood Master Plan	Planning	Develop master plan for Chitwood Park
Park Master Plan	Planning	Develop master plan for park yet to be identified
Acquisition	Land Acquisition	Acquire property per acquisition plan
Acquisition	Land Acquisition	Acquire property per acquisition plan
Acquisition	Land Acquisition	Acquire property per acquisition plan

# APRC Adoption Resolution

To be updated upon adoption.

## Public Comments

The public comment period was open from November 15, 2024, to December 15, 2024. In addition, there was a public testimony opportunity at the December 4, 2024, APRC regular business meeting.

## Public Testimony

Public testimony was filmed and can be viewed at this link: [Watch a Meeting | Ashland, OR](#). There was (2) people who provided public testimony. Their testimony will be summarized below.

A: Rebecca Kay commented most favorably on the \$12 million earmarked in the CIP for a new pool in 2028-29.

B: John Maurer strongly expressed concern that the Oak Knoll Golf Course was not included in the CIP.

## Emails/Letters:

1

Greetings,

I didn't see mention of Riverwalk Park (I may have missed it?)

I would love to see further development of this park, particularly the creekside trail. Mainly, keeping the brush down a bit.

It would be wonderful if the park could be landscaped and all the invasive stuff taken out. If that's not possible at this time, I would really appreciate it if the trails at least kept passable, and some grooming done on the meadows.

The star thistle and burdock are really getting out of hand.

Thank you,

Amy Titus

2

APRC - As an 18 year resident of Ashland, where we have raised our family of 5, I am writing on behalf of my wife, Dr. Molly Gramley and myself to express our enthusiastic support for keeping the Daniel Meyer Pool renovation funds in the near and long term budget of APRC.

I am a lifelong swimmer and water polo player having competed at the international level in water polo and having been named a 2 time all-american water polo player at Brown University. My wife and I currently swim 5-6 days a week with the Rogue Valley Masters swim team at Daniel Meyer. Our kids learned how to swim at Daniel Meyer swim lessons and our daughter went on to play water polo at Brown as well. I have volunteered my time to head coach the Ashland boys and girls water polo teams in the Spring and Fall for the last 7 years, coaching approximately 30 local kids in the Spring in grades 6-12 and ~30 high school boys and girls in the Fall. I also volunteer weekly for the APRC at Daniel Meyer in the summertime to offer drop-in water polo instruction in the evenings. Suffice it to say, a swimming pool is central to our family's life and a deeply meaningful connection point for many local middle school and high school kids that I have the pleasure of coaching.

As a swimmer and water polo player I have benefited from pool access all of my life and have in fact chosen where I live based on access to a pool. I have seen the incredible, immediate impact that a facility like Rogue X can have on the aquatics community, but I also know that to truly build such a vibrant aquatics community in Ashland, we need a multi-purpose pool here. Simply put, Medford pool access isn't local pool access for Ashland and a new pool in Ashland would catalyze the aquatics community specifically and the community at large.

There is no question that a multipurpose public pool promotes fitness, water safety, general recreation, rehabilitation, and great employment/volunteer opportunities. For me and my family it is about the community, quality of life, and especially about building opportunities for local youth to build fitness, friendships, water skills, life skills, and most importantly connection that drives mental and physical health.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out as I would be more than happy to share first hand examples of how I have seen our local pool impact our lives and the lives of so many high school kids.

Thank you for all that you do for the community,

Andrew and Molly Gramley

3

The CIP as of now, has ZERO dollars devoted to Oak Knoll Golf course. This is hard to understand ! The course needs a serious upgrade for its aging and poorly functioning irrigation system. It also could improve its water storage capacity.

Oak Knoll is a gem, but neglect, underfunding and questionable management decisions ( such as allowing the complete deterioration of the greens a few years back leading to an expensive renovation ) has resulted in a serious compromise of the facility's potential to provide a quality golf experience.

Ashland is a destination town. People visit for OSF, for the great outdoors experiences offered in the Rogue Valley, and for the high quality culture of our community. Oak Knoll can be another feature for civic pride. But it cannot withstand consistent neglect.

PLEASE show that you value this civic asset by directing some CIP funds to its needs. It will repay that attention with increased patronage and appreciation for its beauty.

Avram Chetron

Dear Members of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the inclusion of the \$12 million for Daniel Meyer Pool in the CIP for 2028-2029.

As a lifelong resident of Ashland, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) has had on our community, and I believe this investment will continue that legacy of providing high-quality recreational opportunities for all.

The mission of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission is to provide and promote recreational opportunities and to preserve and maintain public lands. I've personally enjoyed and benefited from the parks, trails, and recreational spaces APRC has developed over the years. When the mission remains in focus, it's clear that APRC's work has contributed greatly to the well-being of our residents.

A high quality, multi-use swimming facility aligns perfectly with APRC's mission, as well as the broader goals of the community. Swimming is a versatile activity that offers numerous benefits, including improved physical health, fun, and safety. It is an inclusive form of exercise that can be enjoyed by people of all ages—from children learning to swim, to adults seeking fitness, to seniors benefiting from low-impact activity. A community pool would not only provide a safe and accessible space for fitness and recreation but also offer opportunities for rehabilitation, wellness, and community engagement.

Recent upgrades to the current Daniel Meyer pool, such as the new lining, which prevents injury and improves safety, and the new covers that help maintain pool warmth, are much appreciated. These improvements demonstrate APRC's ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving our community's recreational facilities.

Renovating the pool, for multiple users, would be a tremendous asset, providing ongoing opportunities for health and wellness. It would encourage community engagement, further enriching the lives of Ashland residents.

Investing in the future of Daniel Meyer Pool is an important step toward fostering fitness, longevity, and equity for all ages. I believe this project will help create a healthier, more vibrant community for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I strongly encourage the Commission to include the \$12 million for Daniel Meyer Pool in the CIP for 2028-2029, and I look forward to seeing how this investment will enhance the well-being of Ashland residents for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Celeste Marokus

5

Hello, please consider constructing an indoor walking track! Jackson County needs a good safe place to walk indoors when the weather is too cold and rainy during the winters and hot and smokey in the summers, thank you!

Christine Evenson

6

Hello,

I was just reviewing the plan for future parks and rec expenditures. I appreciate all of the work and planning that have gone into developing this and regularly use Ashland's parks and trails with family and friends. My feedback is to focus on the maintenance of the things we have before acquiring any more land or improvements. If we are having trouble budgeting for the properties that already exist, I am not sure why we would be spending more money to buy more land, and incurring an even higher maintenance cost.

When I walk through Lithia park and see so many things that need to be maintained, I question the wisdom of acquiring more. I am sure that there is a rationale for this, but I would encourage the city to defer that part of the plan until all planned and deferred maintenance is taken care of. Ashland already has more parks and trails than any other community that I am aware of, which is awesome. Let's not create an unsustainable system.

Thank you for soliciting feedback! If there is a place that shows the land acquisition rationale, I would read it :)

Sincerely,

Christine McCollom

7

Commissioners:

I hope that in the ensuing years before the Daniel Meyer Pool is rebuilt, you will consider designing a smaller pool that will provide community recreation/skills instruction opportunities.

The proposed 25 yd. by 25 meter caters to a specific group. The proposed cost of operating, maintaining and staffing the bigger pool will be a further drain on parks' already limited budget.

On page 14 of 27 of the report, there are two graphs. The first one shows \$1.5 million in the acquisitions category. However, the smaller one notes almost \$15 million for acquisitions. Please explain the difference.

Sincerely,

Chuck and Pat Turner

8

Rocky is Pickleball going to be added to the Capital plan? Thank you Cori

John & Cori Frank

9

Contact the Parks & Recreation Commissioners

This form provides the opportunity for citizens to submit comments to Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners. Your comment will become part of APRC's public record.

Full Name Corinne Lombardi

SubjectPickle Ball noise reduction at Lithia Park courts

Message Additional project for Draft Capital plan regarding Pickle Ball. Install sound panels along the road side fence at Lithia park to reduce noise impact on area residents.

10

Greetings:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft APRC Capital Improvement Plan.

In 2024 the APRC acquired a 17+ acre piece of unimproved property at the top of Liberty Street. It is incumbent on the APRC to maintain and manage its unimproved properties and I see no funds allocated in the CIP for this purpose. Specifically, funds should be allocated for the following:

- Annual weed abatement - In 2024 APRC neglected to cut the weeds on the property in accordance with the Ashland Municipal Code (properties greater than one acre). Frankly, I don't see how you can get away with this.

Erosion control—There is a heavily used trail connector that connects the trails at the elevation of the TID ditch with the trails at the elevation of Waterline. This trail suffers bad erosion during rain events, which could easily be mitigated by the installation of a couple of water bars. There are other trails on the property which could benefit from improvement.

Vegetation management - Although a few dead trees were taken down in 2024 the property poses a distinct threat to nearby neighborhood due to the dense and and highly flammable fuels. A fuel management plan should be developed and adhered to.

Hazard tree removal - In the above mentioned tree removal many dead trees were left. One snapped off on November 19, 2024 and landed directly on a heavily used trail. If someone had been passing at that moment they would have been killed. These hazard trees must be removed.

Invasive plants - There is a lot of invasive Scotch Broom on the property. It is invading the nearby residential areas. It is a prohibited plant under the Municipal code and must be removed. Much of the work mentioned above could be accomplished using volunteers who would be easy to recruit from the nearby residential areas. I have suggested this to APR staff and offered to recruit and organize the volunteer effort but I have not received an enthusiastic response.

There is \$1.5 million in the draft CIP for land acquisition. According to the text, most of this would be targeted toward natural areas acquisition, lands like the property I am describing. I suggest the APRC add no additional lands if they can't properly manage the lands they already own. Please allocate some or all of this acquisition money to natural areas management. Thank you.

Dan Dawson

Thank you.

11

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank-you for inviting public comment on this budget. I was very pleased to see that \$12,000,000 has been allocated to the Daniel Meyer pool rebuild! Daniel Meyer pool needs to be rebuilt to accommodate people with varying needs and abilities. Children in Ashland have a limited ability to enjoy the water, it is imperative for young children to learn to swim as part of their educational experience and for water sports to be incorporated into this community. Swimming and other water activities provide individuals with special needs to be able to exercise. Pools provide therapy for the injured and disabled.

Thank-you!!!

Sincerely,

Erin Coke

12

Dear APRC

Re: Capital Plan Draft 2026-2031

Project Name: Hunter Park – Tennis Courts Rehabilitation Project Type: Major Maintenance

Total Project Cost: \$1,200,000 Proj. #: # Unassigned Duration: 1/2025 – 6/2026

I'm Franklin Valle, live in Main St.. self employed and newly retired.

I joined the YMCA-Ashland, and found an awesome game "Pickleball", I was not familiar with the game but hear so many good comments, that I decided to give it a try, so I enrolled in the classes, to my surprise I found it very community friendly for people of all ages, I am very pleased with the game.

I truly believe playing pickleball will help me and my community peers to stay in good health, enjoy the game and the time together, which is an evident small touch of having a good quality life in our community.

I am definitely in "PRO" of the Tennis/Pickleball courts rehabilitation, and more over in the "EXPANSION" of them. I believe we must plan for the future of all of us TODAY, so tomorrow we will be proud of ourselves and our leaders.

I understand, the needs of the community might surpass the current financial possibilities; however, most of "US" the tennis and PickleBall players have already paid, and many of us continue paying our taxes on time; therefore we will be very happy with a token of "real attention" to our health needs.

I choose to believe that we will be heard from our leaders. Thank you for your attention.

Franklin Valle

Hello Parks and Rec: Firstly, we are loving and appreciate our new liner for as long as it last. But as we have said for so many years, it is so vital for our community to have a public pool. We have been wanting to see this for the entire community ever since the SOU pool closed back in 2015, I believe. We are well aware that it is a large (or extra large) expense, but we have discovered if managed correctly and used in the many ways it can be, that successful pool management is possible. We are encouraging that the community pool be used in so many ways. We are encouraging you all to direct the CIP towards the building of a new pool.

Just to name a few activities:

-I'm sure that you are all aware of the drowning statistics of children and there is a relatively new technique to teach toddlers to prevent them from drowning and actually rescue themselves if they accidentally fall in. (ISR-Infant Swimming Resource)

-The many swimming activities to offer to our Junior and Senior high school kids: Swim team, water polo, water safety classes which can offer our local kids summer job opportunities.

-Rental opportunities for kids Birthdays, as well as swim meets for the all age groups.

-Rehab opportunities for injured individuals and for our Seniors and our handicap citizens.

There are many other ways to keep the pool active and profitable. This pool would not be "just for a few elite swimmers"; it would be used by a large part of our community if run properly. In the summer I walk by the pool and hear the laughter and excitement of the families that are using the pool as one of their favorite activities, families who do not even realize that if the pool is not rebuilt as soon as possible, this activity may not exist in Ashland.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these facts,

Geri Mathewson

Dear Members of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Committee,

I am writing in support of the development of a municipal pool in Ashland, highlighting its critical role in promoting safety, health, and community connection. Public swimming pools are more than recreation spaces— they are hubs for wellness, lifetime skill development, and social inclusion.

Swimming lessons and water safety programs offered at public pools play a vital role in preventing drownings, especially in a state like Oregon with abundant natural waterways. A municipal pool

ensures access to these life- saving resources for all residents, including underserved communities. Moreover, trained lifeguards and structured safety initiatives further enhance public safety and provide valuable workforce development opportunities.

Pools also provide opportunities for fitness and rehabilitation through aqua aerobics, therapeutic programs, and recreational swimming. They promote physical and mental well-being across all ages, fostering inclusive spaces for diverse groups, from children learning to swim to seniors staying active. Public pools serve as vital gathering places, hosting social events, sports, and volunteer opportunities that strengthen community bonds.

Additionally, a municipal pool in Ashland would align with broader community goals by creating equitable access to fitness, safety education, and career pathways in aquatics. By supporting this project, Ashland can enhance its reputation as a forward-thinking community committed to public health and inclusivity.

Thank you for considering this important initiative. I hope you will prioritize making a municipal pool a reality for the benefit of all Ashland residents.

Sincerely,

Hailey Kuhn

15

Greetings Parks staff and Commissioners,

I am writing with my support for the CIP, particularly the inclusion of the pool replacement. Our community pool supports swim lessons for kids that help prevent drowning, fitness classes for adults, and competitive swimming for teens and adults. This community resource is a huge benefit to the town and it's aging infrastructure needs to be addressed. The pool liner repaired the short term problem but has a five year life. We need to invest in a new pool to continue to support our children, adults and seniors in fitness and outdoor activities.

Thank you for including the pool in your budget planning.

Janice Tacconi

16

Hello,

Just wanted to send a comment on the proposed budget.

I strongly encourage the fixing up of the Daniel Meyer pool. In my opinion, Ashland is really lacking in having a proper pool. Water competency, for our kids especially, is so important and it would be really great to have a proper pool so Ashland can start to have a swim team. Seems pretty essential in a town!

Thanks for hearing!

And thanks for all you do to improve our beautiful and beloved town!

Jill Berman

17

November 29,2024

I am disappointed, saddened and frankly suspicious at the omission of any mention of the Oak Knoll Golf Course on the CIP draft. This points to a flaw in the CIP process or the possibility that

some kind of nonpublic agreement was made about the golf course (though I may have missed the meeting where this omission was discussed). In that case, the omission should have been

explicitly included in the draft.

My understanding is that the new golf manager has been directed to develop a business plan. Was he explicitly told to not consider any capital expenditures? If not, provision for this possibility should be made in the CIP. I keep waiting for a definitive golf course grounds improvement plan. I have seen the commission spend tens of thousands of dollars on consultants for the new park.

Why hasn't the commission spent a few thousands for a golf agronomy expert (hopefully local) to structure and manage what needs to be done to bring the course up to standard? The CIP definition of terms provides (rightly) plenty of wiggle room in its definitions of the terms: preventative and

major maintenance. Since the course has been under-resourced for many years, most course improvements fit these categories.

I have watched the board spend hours listening to and debating the minutiae of the plans for the new park, yet when suggestions on how to improve the water situation at the golf course are raised, they are perfunctorily dismissed using no definite data. I have been told that public swimming

pools do not pay for themselves. There is 12 million dollars allocated toward the pool. I would like to see a comparison of usage rates and fees between the course and the pool, so we have a proper perspective.

In conclusion, please include a substantial amount of money for capital improvements to the golf course in the CIP.

Notes:

If you do include money for the golf course in the CIP as I hope you do, some other category will have to decrease. This will have the effect of making it seem that the course is competing for money from another specific entity. Of course, this is what the CIP is for – allocating capital monies best done however in generality. This points to a flaw in the CIP process.

I may have my information wrong, but I believe the department has 3 or 4 levels of managers for as few as 40 employees. Seems too many. Given the state of the golf course and its recent history of problems, I think the golf course manager should be a direct report to the director. This would make it less likely that Oak Knoll Golf Course needs would be subsumed in a welter of bureaucratic protocols.

Jim Hatton

18

Jocelyn Sanford

December 12, 2024

Rocky Houston, Parks and Recreation Director APRC Commissioners

What park is a part of your daily or weekly routine?

Do you enjoy Ashland park facilities or trails? Taking your dog to the dog park? Playing tennis or pickleball? Playing golf or going ice skating? Using the Nature Center or playing soccer at North Mountain Park? Attending activities or meetings at the Senior Center? Playing basketball or enjoying the water feature at Garfield Park? Walking/jogging/biking along the numerous trails throughout Ashland?

My park happens to be Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool. I have seen it limp along for many years. I have seen the aquatic culture in Ashland decline. I have seen the ability of our youth to move through the water efficiently decline.

You can provide possibility and hope for our community by supporting a new public swimming pool in Ashland. Water safety skills and knowing how to swim are important lifesaving and lifelong skills.

There are numerous research articles regarding the physical, mental, spiritual, and cognitive health benefits of water and aquatic activities. Look at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control Healthy Swimming page (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-swimming/>), the American Heart Association has numerous articles on the benefits of swimming and aquatic exercise, the National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA) works to educate and prevent drownings, the

American Academy of Pediatrics has information about the benefits of aquatic exercise, there have been numerous articles in The New York Times about the benefits of swimming and water activities, Diversity In Aquatics mission is "to educate, promote, and support swimming, water safety, and healthy aquatics activities for underserved, marginalized, and vulnerable populations" (<https://www.diversityinaquatics.org/>), and the term Blue Mind, as written by Dr Wallace J. Nichols refers to "a mildly meditative state characterized by calm, peacefulness, unity, and a sense of general happiness and satisfaction with life in the moment."

*(Blue Mind: The Surprising Science That Shows How Being Near, In, On, or Under Water Can Make You Happier, Healthier, More Connected, and Better at What You Do. 2014 Little Brown and Company).*

Aquatics has been a part of my entire life, having learned how to swim as a young child. I have been a member of various swim teams throughout my lifetime (youth, high school, masters). I have been a swim instructor and am a current certified lifeguard. I have been a member of the USA Women's National Water Polo Team, competing nationally and internationally. I work as a Physical Therapist and have worked with clients in the aquatic setting. I have been a coach of water polo for many years having volunteered with the Ashland High School boys/girls teams for the past 22 years, as well as working for USA Water Polo as a coach for the Olympic Development Program for the Pacific Northwest Zone for the past 15 years. For me, being involved in aquatics and knowing how to swim has led to many professional and athletic opportunities.

A swimming pool provides much more than lap swim or competitive high school sports.

A community public pool provides numerous activities for a variety of age groups. Learning to swim can provide a sense of pride and accomplishment regardless of age. A community public

pool provides a location for exercise, fun, camaraderie, and connection. Our community will benefit from an aquatic facility that can accommodate numerous activities that serve various age groups, such as water safety lessons, swim lessons, aqua aerobics, lap swimming, water polo, lifeguard training, SCUBA, water walking, recreational swim, small water craft safety skills to name a few.

Since the closure and destruction of the pool at SOU (Nov 2014-June 2015), Ashland has not had an indoor facility that can accommodate a variety of activities in varying water depth, nor host swim meets and water polo games/tournaments. Of note, I would like to express gratitude to the Ashland YMCA for their support of AHS water polo and swim teams in the past few years, however, they are not the subject of this writing.

APRC developed a Pool Ad-Hoc Subcommittee, of which I was a community member. I refer you to the recommendations that were made during the September 23, 2019 meeting.

<http://records.ashland.or.us/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=138613&dbid=0&repo=CITY-RECORDS>

I encourage you to fund a new public swim pool in Ashland. A pool that can be multifunctional and multigenerational. A pool that is indoors so that it can be used year-round would be beneficial with our smokey summers and cold winters. A pool with a ramp entry at one end to accommodate a variety of mobility challenges. A pool with a shallow end/alcove. A pool that is at minimum 25 meters by 25 yards. A pool that has a usable section with a minimum depth of 8ft for diving, scuba, water polo, deep water aqua aerobics.

Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool was built in 1983 and is at/near the end of its lifespan. A new liner was placed in the fall of 2023 which has limited capability. Our region has many types of water ways from rivers to lakes and knowing how to swim and knowing water safety skills is

an important part of what APRC can provide the citizens of Ashland. I hope that one day we can get swimming back into the school curriculum and grow our aquatic culture once again. The community members of Ashland should not have to "just go to Rogue X." The City of Ashland needs a new public swimming pool.

Thank you for your service to the City of Ashland, Jocelyn Sanford, M.S. Physical Therapy

C.P.O., Honorary Life member USA Water Polo, Lifeguard, CPR certified

Commissioners, I applaud the initiative you've taken to create a strategic plan for the next 6 years. Without a doubt the sundowning of your golden goose in 2031 makes APRC's access to capital much more difficult knowing full well that City Council will control the narrative if the Meals Tax is reinstated.

My concern in reading the 27 page draft wish list of proposed projects for those six years is that the word golf is nowhere to be found. As a tax payer I'm dumbfounded that Oak Knoll is not being treated as a potential revenue center to offset its cost as a city amenity by investing money to make money. As a golfer, living in Ashland for fifty years where excellence abounds in all its endeavors, I'm embarrassed that my course is the laughing stock of the other courses in the Rogue Valley and virtually unknown in the remainder of the state. During these next six years Oak Knoll turns 100 years old. Its architect, Sam Whiting, is every bit as famous as John McLaren who redesigned Lithia Park. The former designed the Olympic Club and Harding Park in San Francisco known for regular PGA tour play and the latter well known for Golden Gate Park. The time has come for Oak Knoll to be treated as the business it is.

Investing in a long term plan to secure water as well as a redesign that would reduce water needs is a logical place to start. Investing in marketing is essential to recapture the golfers that were lost via the managing debacle of the Great Brownout of the past few years. Simply setting green fees a few bucks below the competition is not effective marketing and certainly won't generate the cash flow the tax payer is expecting.

Hopefully, I will present my case in person at your scheduled business meeting 4 December 6:00 PM in City Council Chambers

John Maurer, MD

Dear APRC,

I have been a part of the Ashland swimming community since my move to Ashland in 1979. I am very supportive of the APRC proposed 2028/29 budget supporting the building of a new pool for the Ashland community. I appreciate the history of support APRC has provided for our Daniel Myer pool. Daniel Myer has served us well, and the recent installation of a new pool liner has extended the use of Daniel Myer. Unfortunately, after forty years, Daniel Myer is near its end. A new pool design accommodating ADA access, swim lessons during lap swims, water polo competition and training, swim teams, and affordable public recreation would serve our community well. I am hoping that this renovation project will come to fruition this time around.

Thanks for what you do for our community,

John Weston

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Julie Kay Norman  
596 Helman Street  
Ashland, OR 97520  
julie@juliekaynorman.com  
541-488-9474

DT: Dec. 6, 2024

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Department

RE: Comments on Draft Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Dear Director Houston,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on your 2025-2031 *Draft Capital Improvement Plan*. Today I will address one component of the Draft CIP: the "acquisitions projects for natural areas and park development."

**BACKGROUND:**

The Draft CIP states that **\$500,000 would be spent on acquisition projects** over the two-year period of 2025-2026. However, the **Draft CIP does not describe any specific priority projects.**

The *2024 Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map* identifies acquisition area # 5 (in yellow) along the Ashland Creek riparian zone between Hersey and Nevada Streets. This "Ashland Creek Corridor" is described as "year-round stream" with "significant wildlife habitat." It is now primarily used by numerous deer, small mammals, fish, ducks, and birds.

The Map key indicates that future acquisitions in area #5 would be used to create a **"potential pedestrian and bicycle corridor."**

The eastern boundary of my property is adjacent to Acquisition Area # 5 for a distance of 80 feet. The City has already acquired the riparian area adjacent to my backyard property line.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

**1. GET PUBLIC INPUT ON FUTURE ACQUISITIONS IN AREA #5:**

Before allocating funds for future acquisitions in Area #5, host another public input meeting to discuss the specifics. Decades ago, the City hosted a public meeting to solicit feedback about the City's plan to create a new trail for along this stretch of Ashland Creek. As I remember, there were many concerns about **long-term City expenses to monitor and assure public safety and security.**

**2. REASSESS THE NEED TO INVEST IN AN ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR PARALLEL TO HELMAN STREET:**

Bicyclists and pedestrians traveling between Hersey and Nevada Streets are now served quite well by Helman Street and the continuous sidewalk on the west side. It draws many people, pets, and riders headed for the Dog Park and Greenway. This street route is especially scenic, due to the long stretch of open space next to the Reynolds Farm.

Thanks for listening,

Julie Norman



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Contact the Parks & Recreation Commissioners

This form provides the opportunity for citizens to submit comments to Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners. Your comment will become part of APRC's public record.

Full Name June Mather

Subject Six-year CIP Budget--Hunter Park Pool

Message Greetings! As a life-long swimmer and a founding member of Rogue Valley Masters I live to swim and I swim to live. I cannot overstate how important it is to me and the entire Ashland aquatic community that the Hunter Park pool receive the entire \$12,000,000 budgeted for FY28-29. I'm sure you've heard all the positive and encouraging comments from fellow swimmers regarding an upgraded pool so I'll be brief: PLEASE JUST DO IT!!

Many thanks and Happy Holidays, June Mather

Dear APRC,

I am writing to express my support for the Daniel Meyer Pool maintenance and upgrades. I grew up in Ashland and learned to swim at Daniel Meyer. I also participated in summer camps there. I then swam competitively for 10 years and was a member of the high school swim and water polo teams. I also served as a lifeguard. Now, when I am home from college on winter and summer breaks, I swim with the Rogue Valley Masters at Daniel Meyer daily.

Water polo and swimming have been a huge part of my life especially in high school and have opened up a lot of opportunities for me including being able to play D1 water polo in college. I have been fortunate to find aquatic communities everywhere I go but the aquatic community at Daniel Meyer will always be my favorite.

I hope that Daniel Meyer can receive the maintenance and renovations it needs to serve the community for years to come. Daniel Meyer has so many benefits including teaching people how to swim, providing a home for sports teams to practice and compete, providing accessible exercise for people in the elderly and handicapped communities, and giving young adults the opportunity to have a meaningful job to name a few.

I hope that the design can help serve all of the above needs including a deep end for diving, water polo, and water aerobics, a shallow end to facilitate swim lessons, and an overall space large enough to support multiple activities at once (such as lap swimming and swim lessons occurring simultaneously). I also hope that the sports teams can have a place to host home meets and tournaments for the first time.

Thank you for your time and for accepting feedback.

Kind regards and Happy Holidays,

Lucy Gramley

To whom it may concern,

I have read through the proposal for park funding. Everything looks to be in decent order.

My comment is about the Butler Perozzi fountain and possible removal of the dam for the swimming reservoir. We all know and all feel that the citizens of Ashland do NOT want to pay for the fountain's repair and assume you will be collecting private funding for this. It is an eye sore and no one wants a \$600,000 fountain repair. Tear it down and install a new one for much cheaper. We are absolutely in opposition to it.

I didn't see a plan for actual removal of the dam below the swimming reservoir. But if this is truly a plan, I will make sure I get a petition going for it to stay. The swimming pond is a well-loved place for young families to use all summer. After the removal of the waterslides at the lake, families have so few places within Ashland to enjoy swimming activities during our hot summers. Removal of that dam would be devastating for all the families that use it. I would suggest installing a fish ladder if that is the concern, for all of the 3 fish that would actually come up the creek. Keep the swimming reservoir!

Thank you for your time,

Ashland resident with children

Dear Ashland Parks and Rec:

I am glad that you have proposed significant funding for replacing/replenishing the Meyer Pool.

The pool has served Ashland well, but it is aging, and nearly done.

Our community absolutely needs a pool, both for kids to learn to swim, for adult recreation, and for the swim and water polo teams, both high school and Masters.

It is a long-term project, obviously, and has been put off several times, including recently due to the pandemic.

I hope you will follow through, and replace the pool, and hopefully, improve the pool.

Thanks,

From a swimmer for the last 44 years in Ashland,

Marc Heller

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I write to express my continued support for the Daniel Meyer Pool. The pool was nearing the end of its useful life when--following the work of an ad-hoc committee--APRC and the City approved the project to move forward. Of course, then the pandemic happened. Now, with the pool over 40 years old, we are dangerously close to the point where we will have no public pool whatsoever.

Frankly, it is shocking to me that we don't have more swimming facilities in the area. I grew up in a suburb of Detroit where all four of the middle schools and both high schools in my district had swimming pools. Swimming was recognized for what it is: an essential skill for ALL, whether or not those who used those facilities endeavored to participate in swimming-related activities later in life. Unlike mountain biking, everyone should develop basic swimming proficiency. It is a shame that our local schools haven't prioritized this life skill, especially when you contrast the tame suburban environment where I grew up with southern Oregon's prevalence of wild and unpredictable rivers.

It behooves us to have a swimming pool in our community - one that isn't based on an archaic design (at substantial cost itself), but one that is multi-purpose and multi-generational, just like our community.

I do not envy the difficult choices that you have to make and I do wish to express my sincere gratitude for your continued service and the challenging work ahead. I do hope that you will reaffirm the pool project as a top priority, recognizing that your decision should take into consideration the utility/importance of the activities provided to the community at large and the safe future of our community.

Thanks,

Mike Hitsky

Hello Nancy,

I have served as an Assistant Swim Coach for Ashland High School (AHS) for the past six years and previously coached for a swim team in Medford for two years. Additionally, I teach swim lessons at the Ashland YMCA, also known as "The Y."

The AHS Swim Team practices at the Daniel Meyer Pool from November through February, while the Masters Swim Team utilizes the pool year-round. However, there are several issues with the Daniel Meyer Pool that may warrant attention. The pool's design does not meet current universal standards, such as ADA accessibility, and lacks features commonly found in modern pools, such as a shallow end, an alcove, and a deep end suitable for diving, water polo, water jogging, rehabilitation, and other activities. The gutter system is outdated and poses potential safety hazards for feet and ankles. Additionally, the tank is slightly too deep for toddler swim lessons and does not sufficiently engage older children. The pool also struggles to accommodate multiple uses simultaneously, such as swim lessons alongside lap swimming or recreational activities.

Built in 1984, the pool has served the community well, thanks in large part to the efforts of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) to maintain its functionality. Efforts such as repairing the heater, thermostats, and chemical feed, adding building heating, replacing the pump, liner, and vacuum, have been invaluable.

Looking ahead to the \$12 million allocated for a new pool in 2028-2029, APRC and the Southern Oregon Aquatics Community (SOAC) have an opportunity to bring significant benefits to the community. A new facility could promote water safety, host fitness classes, and support swim and water polo club teams.

Including a pool cover in the new design would enable year-round use and create additional employment opportunities. The facility could also provide swim lessons and fitness classes for Ashland School District students, Southern Oregon University students, and community members as part of elective programs. Furthermore, an Aquatic Rehabilitation program could be established to serve local athletes and residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if I can be of assistance in any way.

Pam Downs

Ashland Parks & Recreation Commissioners,

Thank you for all your past and ongoing work with the Ashland Parks and most specifically, your development of the draft 2026-2031 Capital Plan, which I have had an opportunity to review.

As you budget for and prioritize funding for the next 6 years Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), I ask that you please place high priority on the Major Maintenance project of the swimming pool at Hunter Park. Yes, it is a large and expensive project, as are many or most projects that can provide Ashland citizens and visitors such great benefits. A well-designed swimming facility can allow for a multitude of uses to many different age groups:

Swimming lessons to promote essential lifelong water safety for people of all ages, especially children and young adults

Swim and water polo team practice and competition for high school students

Summertime employment for high school students as lifeguards, which can promote and develop a beneficial work ethic

Rehabilitation opportunities for those recovering from injuries or illnesses

Physical conditioning (such as the current Master's Swimmers) for lifelong health maintenance

Low-stress conditioning for the elderly

Summertime recreation and relaxation with family and friends throughout the community

The current Daniel Meyer pool is half a century old and showing its age. Thank you for funding the recent relining of the pool, which is anticipated to extend the life of the pool for 5-10 years at most so additional work will be needed soon.

Please help ensure that future Ashland residents and visitors will have similar access to local aquatic activities by prioritizing the major maintenance needed for the community pool.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Rostykus

OK, thanks Nancy. My only comment is to keep the bikes and dogs and campers out of Lithia Park. Peter Currer

Ashland, OR

Good Morning APRC!

I am very pleased to see that the new CIP Plan includes \$12M for a new DM Pool in 2028-2029. This reflects hard work and good decisions from all of you, recognizing the great need for Ashland to have its own pool, as well as the dire condition of the existing DM Pool (let us keep fingers crossed that there are no major equipment failures between now and then).

As many of you remember, the Pool AdHoc Committee (2020) and Southern Oregon Aquatic Commission (SOAC) showed that Ashland residents young and old are very eager to have a pool that meets the needs of all:

a pool of regulation size and depth for youth swim competitions, such as AHS Water Polo team and AHS Swim Team, a pool that offers all residents recreational swimming all year round, a pool that offers swim therapy classes to seniors all year round, and a pool that offers swim lessons for all ages all year round.

The previous \$3M plan for a new pool was "put on the shelf" so to speak when covid hit and it was deemed not economically feasible to obligate the City with a revenue bond at that time. Additionally, some time ago, I officially dismantled SOAC and donated its assets to Rogue Valley Swim Team.

However, the need for a new pool has only become more and more apparent, and more and more residents are expressing concerns about the condition of the DM Pool. I will help spread the word that this new budget has earmarked \$\$ for a new pool, and I will help further that project in whatever ways seem best.

I wished to include Daniel Weiner, new Commissioner, and Rocky Houston, APRC Director, in this email, but could not find their email addresses on the City webpages (which still show Leslie as Interim Director, and Jim Lewis and Stef Seffinger as Commissioners). Kindly forward this email on to them for me.

Much thanks,

Rebecca Kay

Hello APRC

I am writing to express my support for the capital improvement draft budget for 2026 -2031 and the proposed earmark of \$12M for a new /refurbished swimming pool at Hunter Park.

As a lifetime swimmer I can attest to the benefits of swimming. My family and I have been involved in aquatics since I was a young child. I still swim multiple days every week as part of the Master's program. Both my children grew up here in Ashland and participated in water polo and swimming and both played water polo beyond the high school level and still swim with the Master's team. I know firsthand how involvement in sports can help with raising a well-rounded young person; a swimming pool like a basketball court, a soccer field, a baseball-softball field, or a tennis court is a valuable necessity for programs to inspire young people. I now have young grandchildren of my own who are becoming comfortable in the water and have benefited from learning to swim at Danial Meyer Pool (DMP) summer swim lessons. The city of Ashland has done a great job keeping DMP usable for the community.

Despite this, the pool is inadequate for the needs of our city and requires serious updating. This isn't news to anyone at Ashland Parks. DMP has become critical to the community in part due to misguided and short-sighted choice SOU made several years ago to forgo Aquatics in their curriculum and not replace the McNeal Pavilion pool. We need a pool that can support the next generation of swimmers and existing users. DMP is simply unsuitable for high school swim meets, lessons for our youngest children, water polo matches and in-adequate for persons with disabilities. It is past the time for an update to our pool, therefore my family and I wholeheartedly support plans and a budget that includes funding for the pool.

Thank you for soliciting feedback for the budget and allowing input.

Robert Del Carlo

Dear APRC commissioners,

I am writing in support of the inclusion of the \$12 million for Daniel Meyer Pool in the CIP in 2028-2029.

I am the head coach of Ashland High School Swim Team and a masters swimmer with Rogue Valley Masters Swim Team, so Daniel Meyer is our home pool. We are thankful to APRC for leasing the pool to us when it is not the public swimming season; without Daniel Meyer, the AHS swim team would have a significant struggle to find pool space, and may not exist; RVM would not

be the great group of 30+ adult swimmers that is is, since they would be dispersed among the few pools we have in the valley.

AHS swim team is a no-cut sport and accepts experienced and brand-new swimmers. RVM has swimmers of all ages and abilities from 18 to 80, and could accept more (there really isn't a maximum age for swimming!). Swimming welcomes all.

I am also a Red Cross certified lifeguard, and Certified Pool Operator. I spend several hours each week at the pool, and am very familiar with it, both swimming in it, and from a mechanical standpoint.

I appreciate the installation of the new liner a year ago, and while it has helped improve the conditions at the pool (no more sharp, broken tile or fiberglass cracks and edges!), we know it is not a permanent solution, and is only one component of the pool system. The liner's 5 year warranty will run out in 2028, so the proposed timeframe of

2028-2029 is perfect for getting the most out of the new liner, while being able to plan for the Daniel Meyer renovation, so it can kick off as soon as possible. We need to remember that as of this year, Daniel Meyer Pool is 40 years old, and the piping, heater, pump, chemical controls, filter, and more are that age, or nearly as old. I hope the current components will last until the renovation project starts.

As a member of the Pool Ad Hoc Committee in 2019, there was a good plan and design for an upgraded pool that will serve everyone in Ashland and the region, and I hope the work that was done at that time will be utilized. It is an excellent pool design that promotes multiple concurrent uses and accessibility. It was clear that Ashland aquatics are underserved, and a public, multi-use pool provides the citizens of the region an option for aquatic activity that is open to everyone, without the necessity of a membership. I see the success of Rogue X pool in Medford, and know that Ashland can be as successful, and not compete with Rogue X -- there is sufficient population to support both facilities, and they serve different geographic areas.

Additionally, I hope the renovation considers enclosing the pool in some kind of building that can keep out the smoke and make the pool more reliably open in the late summer. It could allow extension of the open season, as well as help AHS build a more proficient team that can use the deck in the winter, spending time working on racing dives and relay starts without getting cold or worrying about ice. We could also do dry land exercises on the deck if it was out of the weather, and more AHS students might consider swim team if it wasn't outdoors in the winter.

Lastly, APRC provides both parks AND recreation, and the pool is a part of both of those aspects of the mission. It is a place for recreational activities, but also a place to relax and provide play-space for children. The pool is an amenity that an active, thriving city like ours must provide as part of its parks and recreation system. When someone can no longer run or mountain bike, the pool provides another option for exercise, rehab, or relaxation, as part of the ecosystem of activities available in Ashland's parks and recreation spaces. Having an accessible, functioning, fully programmed pool is a part of a healthy, vibrant municipal parks and recreation system. In addition

to exercise, it supports swim lessons for children and adults, water safety, play, teams, rehab, and gentle activity for everyone.

Aquatic activities are truly lifelong.

Thank you for reading, and continuing to prioritize the renovation of Daniel Meyer Pool in the capital improvement planning and funding.

Todd Lantry

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In reviewing the CIP and understanding the costs associated with maintenance, etc. I feel it is important to also place urgency and focus on the new park projects (east main st. Park and pump track, hunter park tennis courts) and other projects for which the city was just awarded grants.

These projects have been in the works for several years and are critical to modernizing and diversifying our city's park experience. There have been countless meetings and public forums where the community has rallied around these projects. Let's finally make these a reality.

I also feel that Daniel Meyer pool is a public asset and should not be ignored.

Lastly, I strongly support the updated trails plan which includes lower mountain trails through the upper lithia park/ glenview area. Again, this project is long overdue for the safety and development of youth cycling, etc. It would also utilize the beautiful park we all have in a way that is conducive to modern recreation.

I love our city and parks and look forward to seeing them develop along with our community.

Best,

Trevin