

## Ashland Water Treatment Plant Fully Funded MOVING FORWARD DESPITE GRANT PROGRAM CHANGES

Ashland's new Water Treatment Plant is moving ahead, with full funding secured—even as FEMA grant program changes have impacted many projects across Oregon. While FEMA canceled all 2024 BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) grant applications, the core funding for the project remains intact. Additional grants are being pursued to help minimize future water rate increases.



### PROJECT & FINANCING BENEFITS

- ✓ **RELIABLE SYSTEM**—Replacing an aging facility, ensuring a reliable water supply for Ashland residents.
- ✓ **SAFER LOCATION**—Plant will be relocated to a safer location, reducing the risk of damage from natural disasters.
- ✓ **ALGAL & TURBIDITY SOLUTIONS**—Project includes technology to address algal toxins & significant changes in turbidity due to storm events.
- ✓ **WIFIA LOAN**—A \$73 million loan from the EPA's WIFIA program provides core funding for the project, ensuring its completion.
- ✓ **RATEPAYER SAVINGS**—Flexible repayment terms of the WIFIA loan will help save \$, minimizing the impact on water rates.

### Federal Loan Secures the Project

A \$73 million loan from the EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) is covering the majority of the project. The loan supports the Water System Resiliency Improvement Project, which includes relocating the current treatment plant from a flood- and fire-prone canyon to a safer location, adding new pipelines and implementing advanced treatment technology to handle harmful algal blooms.

WIFIA's flexible terms are expected to save around \$11 million over the loan's 35-year span. Total repayment is estimated at \$113 million, over those 35 years.

### FEMA Grant Update: Shift to Flood Mitigation Assistance

Ashland had originally applied for a BRIC grant, but FEMA canceled all pending 2024 applications in April, impacting multiple cities, including Medford and Grants Pass. In response, Ashland quickly pivoted to the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program, which remains active. Most of the original BRIC application materials were reused for the FMA submission, which is currently under review.

The project is not at risk—this shift in grant strategy is focused on reducing future costs to ratepayers, not filling a funding gap.

### More Grants and Fair Rate Structure Underway

Up to \$9.8 million in additional support may come through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Emerging Contaminants program, with funding expected in 2026–2027.

To keep rates fair and sustainable, the Public Works Department is working with HDR Engineering on a Water Cost of Service Study. This ensures each customer group pays its fair share and helps protect long-term affordability. Rates are reviewed every two years.

### Construction Starts This Summer

Pipeline work and culvert replacement on Glenview and Granite Streets begins this summer. Expect some traffic impacts, but trail access will remain safe.

Full story and more available at [ashlandoregon.gov/WaterPlant](https://ashlandoregon.gov/WaterPlant), or scan the code.



## What's Inside...

- City Council
- Office Hours
- Coffee & Conversation
- Wildfire Series
- City Fees
- Recology
- 4th of July
- Community Updates
- Mayor's Contest





Tonya Graham  
Mayor



Dylan Bloom  
Councilor



Jeff Dahle  
Councilor



Gina DuQuenne  
Councilor



Eric Hansen  
Councilor



Bob Kaplan  
Councilor



A new Councilor will be appointed at the June 3 City Council Meeting.

## CITY COUNCIL May 2025 outcomes/highlights

- Unanimously approved the Second Reading of Ordinance 3258, amending AMC (Ashland Municipal Code) Chapter 10.30 to prohibit hazardous fire use.
- Directed staff to develop a 1-year contract with Travel Ashland for \$450K for the provision of destination marketing services.
- Approved the Water Cost of Service Study utilizing the Alternative 3A rate structure as presented. This alternative will increase the usage threshold, or rate tier, from 300 to 500 CF (cubic feet).
- Approved a new monthly fee of \$5 for Parks and Recreation for a 24-month period, effective July 1.
- Unanimously approved funding of the “Hearts of Guanajuato,” public art installation project.

For more information on meetings, agendas, minutes and how to contact our elected officials, visit [ashlandoregon.gov/PublicMeetings](http://ashlandoregon.gov/PublicMeetings).

## Council Office Hours

All City Councilors meet with their constituents from time to time. In addition to impromptu meetings, some have opted for regular meetings or **office hours in City Hall**.

- Councilor **Jeff Dahle**: 3rd Monday of each month from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
- Councilor **Bob Kaplan**: 1st Monday of each month from 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Councilor **Gina DuQuenne**: 1st Thursday of each month from Noon to 1:30 p.m.

These office hours provide an additional opportunity for residents to voice concerns, ask questions and engage with their City Councilors on important issues. City Hall is located at 20 E Main St in Ashland. The front door to City Hall will be open during the times listed above.

Your City Manager, **Sabrina Cotta**, is also available for office hours each week on Thursday, from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

## COFFEE & CONVERSATION Connect with City Elected Officials & Staff

Join us for an informal gathering with City elected officials and staff! There’s no set agenda – just an opportunity to get to know each other, ask questions and enjoy a cup of coffee on us! Here’s the upcoming schedule:

- July 16, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Garfield Park
- Aug 12, 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Hunter Park
- Sep 10, 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Enders Shelter (Lithia Park)
- Oct 14, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at North Mountain Park Pavilion

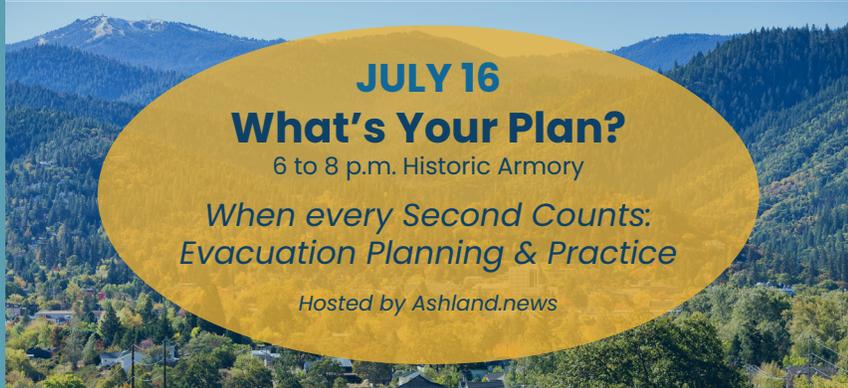


# Take Action to be Better Prepared!

**Community Partners**  
City of Ashland  
Ashland.news  
Ashland Climate Collaborative  
Ashland Together

More info  
@ ashlandoregon.gov/  
BetterPreparedSeries

# Better Prepared Wildfire Series



**JULY 16**

## What's Your Plan?

6 to 8 p.m. Historic Armory

*When every Second Counts:  
Evacuation Planning & Practice*

Hosted by Ashland.news



## Changes Coming to Your Utility Bill Starting July 1, 2025

Beginning July 1, Ashland residents will see a few updates to their monthly utility bills. These changes are designed to support essential services like public safety, wildfire prevention and our City parks. Here's what to expect:

- ✓ **Public Safety Fee** will increase from \$1.50 to \$5.00 per electric meter to help maintain reliable emergency response services.
- ✓ **Wildfire Risk Reduction Fee** (formerly the AFR Fee) will go from \$3.00 to \$7.00 on standard ¾-inch water meters, with proportional increases for larger meter sizes. This supports ongoing efforts to reduce wildfire risk across our community.
- ✓ **A new Parks Fee** of \$5.00 per electric meter is being added to help fund maintenance and improvements in Ashland's beloved parks and green spaces.

In addition, the **City's Miscellaneous Fees and Charges Book** will be updated on July 1, 2025, as part of the annual review—generally reflecting modest, inflation-based adjustments.

We appreciate your support as we continue investing in the safety, beauty and sustainability of Ashland! More at [ashlandoregon.gov/UtilityRatesOtherFees](https://ashlandoregon.gov/UtilityRatesOtherFees).



### Early summer start times begin June 2nd for Ashland and Talent residential collections

Residential collection routes begin at

**6 AM**

These early summer start times will run **June – September** each year

This is a safety measure to keep our employees and trucks from operating during the hottest part of the day and to align with new OSHA operating rules.

Please have your carts set to the curb by 6AM.  
Thank you for your cooperation!

# 4th of July Run & Festivities

Ashland Parks and Recreation presents the annual 4th of July Run!



A beloved Ashland tradition since 1976, this event continues to bring the community together in celebration. Choose from two race options: a 2-mile fun run or a 10K that draws both local athletes and competitive runners from across the U.S. Both routes offer scenic views on closed roadways, with a portion of the 10K winding through the beautiful, tree-lined Bear Creek Greenway.

## New start time this year:

To accommodate the earlier start of the annual parade, both races will begin at 7:30 a.m. The start/finish line is located near the Ashland Library at 410 Siskiyou Boulevard, at the corner of 3rd and Gresham Streets.

## More details:

Visit [ashlandoregon.gov/JulyRun](http://ashlandoregon.gov/JulyRun) for race information.

For **parade and full-day festivities**,

visit the Ashland Chamber of Commerce website at

[ashlandchamber.com/4thofJuly](http://ashlandchamber.com/4thofJuly). *“Celebrating the Magic of Community.”*



Register for the 2025

## 4th of July Run

Choose from a 2-mile fun run or a competitive 10K featuring scenic, closed-road routes, including a stretch along the tree-lined Bear Creek Greenway.

YOUTH (12 & under) 2-Mile Fun Run or 10K .....	\$15
ADULTS (13 & up) 2-Mile Fun Run or 10K	
On-Time Registration: April 7 – June 15 .....	\$25
Late Registration: June 16 – 29 .....	\$30
Last Chance Registration: June 30 – July 4 .....	\$35
T-SHIRTS with 2025 logo .....	\$20

(The deadline to order shirts is June 16, orders will not be accepted past that date.)

Scan QR code for more info on how to register and to view the course map.

[ashlandoregon.gov/JulyRun](http://ashlandoregon.gov/JulyRun)

Run, cheer, or volunteer — your participation supports local youth runners!

# Ashland Community Updates:

## Resources, Safety Alerts and More!

- The **2024 CCR (Consumer Confidence Report) on water quality** in Ashland is now available at [ashlandoregon.gov/Water](http://ashlandoregon.gov/Water).
- Are you signed up for **emergency alerts with JACKSON ALERTS**? The City partners with Jackson County under one alert messaging system called JACKSON ALERTS. Sign up your whole family and learn more about EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS at [ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPrepared](http://ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPrepared).
- Sign up for **non-emergency notifications about controlled burns and wildfire smoke**. Join our Watershed group by texting WATERSHED to 888777.
- **Rebates for EVs** (electric vehicle) are back! Information is available at [ashlandoregon.gov/Electric](http://ashlandoregon.gov/Electric).
- The **Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool is OPEN** for the season! Complete info at [ashlandoregon.gov/Swim](http://ashlandoregon.gov/Swim).
- Check out the **Ashland Parks and Rec Summer PlayGuide** at [AshlandParksandRec.org](http://AshlandParksandRec.org) and register for a program TODAY—there’s something for everyone! Don’t miss Summer Concerts in Lithia Park, including your very own **Ashland City Band**. Catch them Thursday evenings at the Bandshell.
- **Stay Connected** at [ashlandoregon.gov/StayConnected](http://ashlandoregon.gov/StayConnected) (Newsletters, Q&As and much more!).



## “If I Were Mayor” Contest—2025 Winners!

Congrats to the winners of this year’s “If I were Mayor,” Contest: **NADIA** (local & statewide), **HARPER, NORA, FENNA & PERI**—*You are all amazing!* Check out their entries at [ashlandoregon.gov/MayorsContest](http://ashlandoregon.gov/MayorsContest).