

The citizen's source of information about the City of Ashland

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

Communities throughout Oregon and across the United States and Canada struggle with managing wildlife in urban settings. Ashland is no different and we have our fair share of deer, mountain lions, and bears. In Oregon, the management of wildlife populations are the exclusive purview of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). ODFW has been very responsive to Ashland's concerns and here are some reminders of best practices when encountering wildlife.

The most common deer in Ashland are black-tailed deer. With mating season from November to early December, most fawns are born in late May into June. During this time, does become very protective of their fawns and view humans and animals as predators. It is important to be aware of this and take the following precautions:

- Don't ever approach deer or their fawns
- Deer always move forward. Be sure to give them enough space and a clear path forward.
- If a deer responds to your appearance by raising its ears, scratching the ground, or changing its stance, you are too close.
- Most, but not all, encounters involve dogs. Be sure not to pass a deer when they may feel enclosed upon as they will likely feel threatened.
- Always walk your dog on a leash and be ready to let go of the leash if a deer attacks.

Other encounters with deer can occur in your yard. Homeowners can protect yards and gardens by installing deer fencing and using deer resistant plants. Deer fences must meet the standards set by the Ashland Municipal Code (AMC) 18.08.175. You can also contact our Community Development Department at (541) 488-5305 for fence permits and clarifications. For information on deer resistant plants, see <http://ashlandsaveswater.org/plants.php>.

It is important not to feed deer and Ashland has a City ordinance against feeding deer within the City limits. The ordinance details can be found by going to AMC 9.08.280 and states that it is a violation for a person who knowingly places, deposits, distributes, stores or scatters food, garbage or any other attractant so as to knowingly constitute a lure, attraction or enticement for deer, raccoon, or potentially habituated wildlife. If found in violation of the ordinance fines can exceed \$500.

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STAY UPDATED ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Staff are still available to provide assistance over the phone and email. Go to the City Directory at www.ashland.or.us/contactus.asp to find contact information for each Department.

To help ease concern over the COVID-19 pandemic and spread correct information, the City has created a webpage ashland.or.us/coronavirus with the most up-to-date information from the Federal, State, County, and City governments.



ABATE WEEDS AND OTHER VEGETATION BY JUNE 15

Fire season quickly approaches once again. Though these incredible spring days are a welcome respite to a very, very long year, early indicators strongly suggest a challenging fire season rapidly approaching. The historically low levels of water in our region's reservoirs and handful of small wildfires that have already happened in southwestern Oregon are stark reminders of the challenges ahead that we must be prepared for. Ashland Fire & Rescue encourages the early cutting of weeds and long grasses and the removal of excess leaf, needle, and branch accumulations on your property to keep homes and neighborhoods safe from wildfire. This also helps reduce the spread of unwanted invasive weeds, like Scotch Broom and thistles, by keeping them from going to seed.

As the weather heats up, the use of gas-powered landscaping equipment like lawn mowers, tractors, weed eaters, trimmers, chain saws, etc. becomes restricted due to increasing Fire Danger Levels (www.ashland.or.us/fireseason). These equipment restrictions are typically enacted by mid-June and can severely limit the time available to safely create effective defensible space against wildfire once 'summer' season begins. The **June 15th deadline** for Ashland's Weeds and Noxious Vegetation ordinance (commonly referred to as 'weed abatement') is designed to ensure that wildfire fuels, including drying grass, weeds, and other unmanaged combustible vegetation, are safely eliminated before the hotter and dryer days of wildfire season. If you have not already begun, start preparing your home, vacant lots, or business for wildfire season now, **before the dry weather of summer limits the ability to do this important work as safely as possible.** Visit www.ashland.or.us/weedabatement for more info.

We appreciate every effort of our community to bring properties into compliance with Ashland's Weeds and Noxious Vegetation ordinance as soon as possible during this challenging time. Please contact the Weed Abatement Coordinator at cutweeds@ashland.or.us or (541) 552-2246 with any questions or issues meeting code requirements. Thank you for all you do to keep Ashland wildfire safe.



Fire is Everyone's Fight. We're in this together.

BE READY for FIRE SEASON

Know your responsibilities. Do your part to help keep Ashland fire safe.

Cutting grass and weeds reduces the ability for fire to start or spread quickly and decreases the fire risk in our city. Additionally, removing flammable plants and debris in proximity to a home increases the chances of that home's survival in a wildfire event.

Find answers to questions, learn more about ordinance requirements, file a complaint, get links to recommendations and more information about wildfire safety. Visit www.ashland.or.us/weedabatement



Lots 1 Acre or Smaller
Cut and maintain grass and weeds to no more than 4" in height:

- On the entire property
- On abutting park rows, sidewalks, alleys and other rights-of-way
- Keep 3-foot clearance radius around hydrants.



Lots Larger Than 1 Acre
Cut and maintain grass and weeds to no more than 4" in height:

- On abutting park rows, sidewalks, alleys and other rights-of-way
- Within 30 feet of every structure
- In a 15 foot wide fire break around your property
- In a 15 foot wide fire break next to access roads and along driveways on the property
- Keep 3-foot clearance radius around hydrants.



Cut grass & weeds short by June and keep them short throughout fire season. Maintain vacant lots and rental properties. Remove noxious weeds and branch piles. Keep it debris free around your home and business.

*The minimum abatement shall include the cutting and/or removal of ALL Scotch Broom and thistles on the entire property and any Himalayan blackberry bushes, Poison hemlock, or Tree of heaven within required areas to abate. Debris shall comply with [AMC 9.08.110](#) or be removed.

Do not plant flammable plants within 30-feet of a structure:

www.ashland.or.us/prohibitedplants



Ashland Municipal Code section 9.04 requires weed abatement on all lots within city limits, including noxious weeds like blackberry, brooms and thistles. Failure to abate and maintain weeds and grass throughout fire season can result in fines for each day the violation exists, plus abatement and staff costs.

Contact us: 541-552-2246 cutweeds@ashland.or.us

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

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In addition to deer in the Spring, residents usually see an increase in bear and occasionally mountain lion activity, especially in the areas above Siskiyou Boulevard and North Main Street.

Again, it is important not to feed or leave food accessible to any wildlife. Residents who live above Siskiyou Boulevard and North Main Street are encouraged to contact Recology at (541) 482-1471 and get a bear-proof trash can. Allowing animals free or easy access to food encourages them to stay in town or close to town. This leads to them getting accustomed to being around people and houses, which increases the chance that they will have to be lethally removed. For more well-established protocols, go to ashland.or.us/deer&wildlife.

Residents are also encouraged to report wildlife encounters via the city's mapping tool, which can be found at ashland.or.us/wildlifemap. Residents can also use this tool to monitor where bear and cougar sightings have occurred to be better informed about taking walks or hikes in the area. Any emergency situations should still be reported directly to the police department by calling dispatch at (541) 770-4784 or 911 as appropriate.

EVENTS

2021 Ashland World Music Festival

This Memorial Day Weekend walk, listen, look, and connect with music and visual arts! The 2021 Ashland World Music Festival will feature a streaming mainstage event, HeartBeat Stories, and self-guided SoundWalks through Ashland's beautiful parks and cityscapes. This community cultural event supports the Unete Farm Workers and Immigrant Families Fire Relief Fund. The event is presented by Rogue World Music and Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission. Learn more at rogueworldmusic.org/awmf.



DATE May 28 through 31
PLACES Downtown Ashland, Ashland Railroad District,
North Mountain Park and online

Gentle Yoga for Adults 50 & Better | Online Class

The focus of this one-hour hatha yoga class is to increase strength, flexibility and balance while simultaneously alleviating stress and fatigue. Additional benefits of regular yoga practice include an overall sense of well-being and an increase in self-awareness and self-acceptance. Participants must be aware of their own capabilities in order to participate safely. Ability to get up and down from the floor is encouraged. Each class will conclude with deep relaxation. Please have a mat, two blankets and a light-weight portable chair for each Zoom class. Taught by Linda-Grace Wilhelm. Register for one or both sessions at ashland.or.us/register or call the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342. Please note that online registration closes at noon the day before the start of a session, at which time the Zoom link will be emailed.

DATES Session 3: Wednesdays, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (\$25)
Session 4: Fridays, June 4, 11, 18, 25 (\$20)
TIME 10:30 to 11:30 AM
PLACE Online (Zoom)

RVTD Travel Training: New programs and services to help riders | Online presentation

Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD) has rolled out some exciting new programs and services to help serve local bus riders! Come learn about these options, including the new UMO pass, which can help save you money and expand your transportation opportunities. Co-presented by Mike Bowman, RVTD Travel Trainer and Edem Gomez, RVTD Transportation Demand Management Planner. Register at ashland.or.us/register or call the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342. Please note that online registration closes at noon the day before the event, at which time the Zoom link will be emailed.

DATE: Wednesday, June 16
TIME: 1 to 3 PM
PLACE: Online (Zoom)
COST: Free

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CLIMATE ACTION STORIES

Building a sustainable Ashland requires action at home and in the community. The Climate Action Stories project is focused on sharing empowering stories to inspire and connect with your neighbors. This is open to individuals and businesses that reside in Ashland. Our goal is to have a collection of local stories that highlight positive climate action. To share how you take climate action, fill out [this form](#) or scan the QR code to visit ashland.or.us/climate. We will be sharing these stories on our website and social media.

EVENTS

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Adapt Your Home Campaign Renewable Energy | Online Event

The word this month is RENEW! Supporting renewable energy reduces fossil fuel reliance and helps supports a green economy. There will be a webinar on renewable energy during the month of June. Visit www.ashland.or.us/climate to learn about what climate actions you can take and to find up to date information on the event.

DATE Thursday, June 17
TIME 1 to 2 PM

Rogue Valley Bike Swap

The Rogue Valley Bike Swap, which historically takes place in April at The Grove, will take on a different form this year. We are collaborating with the *Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD)* to facilitate a bike donation drive.

During the pandemic, we have seen a rise in demand for outdoor recreation equipment, and affordable bikes are hard to come by. Donated bikes will be distributed to local organizations with the aim of getting bikes in the hands of those affected by the Alameda Fire, veterans, and low-income community members.

If you have a bike that you are able to donate, we will be accepting donations for bikes in working order and those in need of minor repairs. If you have a question, please reach out to Sulaiman Shelton, Volunteer and Special Event Coordinator for APRC, (541) 552-2264, Sulaiman.shelton@ashland.or.us.

DONATION

DATES & TIMES Friday, June 18 from 1 PM to 4 PM
& Saturday, June 19 from 9 AM to 12 PM
PLACE The Grove, 1195 E. Main Street



Check out this and past versions of the City Source online anytime at ashland.or.us/citysource.

For more information on different ways to “Connect with Us” go to ashland.or.us/connect.



20 East Main St., Ashland, OR 97520 | www.ashland.or.us

Check out how Ashland connects at www.ashlandfiber.net



JUNE CITY CALENDAR

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures in place, many meetings might be canceled or held electronically. Please check ashland.or.us/calendar.asp for updates.

- City Council
 - Business Meeting: June 1 & 15 | 6 p.m.
 - Study Session: June 14 | 5:30 p.m.
- Airport Commission
 - June 1 | 9:30 a.m.
- Conservation & Climate Outreach Commission
 - June 23 | 3 p.m.
- Climate Policy Commission
 - June 10 | 4 p.m.
- Forest Lands Commission
 - June 8 | 5:30 p.m.
- Historic Commission
 - June 2 | 6 p.m.
- Housing and Human Services Commission
 - June 24 | 4 p.m.
- Parks and Recreation Commission
 - Business Meeting: June 9 | 6:00 p.m.
 - Study Session: June 2 | 6 p.m.
- Planning Commission
 - Business Meeting: June 8 | 7 p.m.
 - Study Session: June 22 | 7 p.m.
- Public Art Commission
 - June 18 | 8:30 a.m.
- Transportation Commission
 - June 17 | 6 p.m.
- Tree Commission
 - June 3 | 6 p.m.
- Wildfire Safety Commission
 - June 16 | 11 a.m.

▲ TTY 1-800-735-2900 ▲ Meetings are held electronically until further notice. Please check ashland.or.us/calendar.asp for information on how to view the meetings live or watch a recorded version. ▲ City Council, Parks, and Planning meetings are broadcast live on Ashland Home Net channel 9, Charter Spectrum channel 180, and rvtv.sou.edu by clicking the RVTV Prime button. Meetings are replayed on Ashland Home Net Channel 9, Charter Spectrum RVTV 180 and 181. Replay schedules are available at rvtv.sou.edu.

