



CITY OF
ASHLAND

City Source

April 2019

Train Your Landscape to be Water Wise

Spring is the perfect time to prepare your landscape for the summer watering season. Did you know that in Ashland about 50 percent of our total water usage is used on our lawns and gardens? That's a lot of water! Fortunately, there are ways you can improve the efficiency of your landscape watering by completing a few simple tasks in the spring before the heat of the summer sets in. To promote a drought-tolerant landscape with a healthy root system, consider the following practices:

- **Pruning and cleaning** - is a simple way to start up positive and healthy growth for the year. Cleaning any dead debris away will allow the new growth to flourish and water to reach the roots effectively.
- **Avoid excess watering** - During the months of April and May and sometimes June, spring rains can provide water for our landscapes. Watering in addition to the spring rain can "spoil" your landscape and it can learn to expect excess water going into the summer. Pay attention to the weather and don't water if there is rain in the forecast.
- **Test your system** - Testing your irrigation system will help you assess if you may need to replace or repair any parts of your irrigation system. Getting this task done now will help ensure that your system is up and running efficiently before the hot summer months.
- **Add mulch & aerate** - Completing tasks such as aerating, amending soil, and adding mulch will sustain healthy soils that cycle nutrients, minimize runoff and retain water.
- **Reduce nitrogen fertilizer** - (can cause shallow rooting) and **increase potassium fertilizer** (enhances drought tolerance).
- **Add a pop of color** - If you are confident that Mr. Frost is retired for the year, this can be a great time to add new plants to your landscape. Plant native plants or plants adapted to drought and add mulch to your landscape to help lock in moisture and minimize evaporation.

Check out the City of Ashland's Water Wise Landscaping website for more ideas on how to create a landscape that is healthy, attractive and uses less water. Visit the site at www.ashland.or.us/wwl or for more information on the City's Water Conservation Programs please call (541) 552-2062.

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Celebrate Historic Preservation Week with Us!

Join the City of Ashland Historic Commission in celebrating Historic Preservation Week "PastForward" during May 19 through 25. Events for the week include:

Ashland Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony held on Wednesday, May 22 at 12:30 PM in the Community Center, 59 Winburn Way. Mayor Stromberg will be hosting this event.

Ashland Memorial Mausoleum "self-guided" tours at Mountain View Cemetery, (located on the east side of Ashland Street and Normal Avenue) will occur on Thursday, May 23, 2019 from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. A special guided tour by Ellen Babin will be provided at 2 PM (no registration is needed).

Walking tour of the Railroad District. Hosted on Friday, May 24, 2019 at 2 PM. Terry Skibby will lead the tour that will last approximately one and a half hours. Please meet at the gazebo at Railroad Park at 2 PM.

Visit the City's website at www.ashland.or.us/historicpreservationweek for the full event brochure. Brochures will also be available at City Hall and the Ashland Community Development Department at 51 Winburn Way. You may also call (541) 488-5305 for event details.



More Mildfire, Less Wildfire

Controlled burns, or prescribed fires, are proven to reduce community wildfire risk and restore fire-adapted forests like ours. To do this important work, the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project (AFR) is funded in part by a small assessment on your water bill to protect and restore our city and municipal watershed. This assessment amounts to \$175,000 a year. Since 2013, your investment not only paid for hundreds of acres of work (including controlled burns) and created living wage jobs, but it also leveraged over \$11 million in state and federal grants!

You will continue to see more controlled burns close to town this spring... because that's when it matters most. Burns are planned to keep as much smoke away from the community as possible, but sometimes weather forecasts don't pan out, or transient smoke settles into town overnight. State rules governing burning now allow low levels of smoke for short periods of time for critical work to protect communities like Ashland. For those of you who are smoke sensitive, avoid smoke exposure by closing windows, running air purifiers, staying indoors, and wearing an N95 mask if you must be outside. See smokewiseashland.org for smoke and health information. Anyone can register for burn day text alerts or email notifications at ashlandwatershed.org.

Lend Me A Plate (LMAP) Program

Most residents would agree that Ashlanders tend to care more about the climate, including what we can collectively do to reduce our imprint on the earth. One of the more unique, and completely free, resources available to residents interested in preventing waste is "Lend Me A Plate", or "LMAP" for short. Very few programs of this nature exist in other communities.

LMAP is volunteer-maintained by the Southern Oregon Master Recyclers in Action (SOMRA), and run out of the Ashland Recycle Center on Water Street. This program was launched in response to members of the community noticing the seemingly needless and wasteful overuse of disposable dishes, cups, plates, cutlery, and napkins thrown away at big events such as weddings, BBQs, and various event gatherings.

LMAP offers borrowers an alternative to using disposable items at events by offering durable, reusable options instead. To find out more, or to submit a request to borrow, go to <https://somra.org/lend-me-a-plate/>. This month, or Earth Month as it's called, please consider using LMAP for your next event or gathering where food will be served, and please remember to tell people about it.

Call 811 Before You Dig

Before beginning any outdoor digging project, call 811 at least two business days before you dig. Calling 811 will get a professional locator to your site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines. There is a two-foot tolerance zone on each side of the line, and it is required to hand dig to determine the precise location of the utility in this tolerance zone. This service is free for homeowners. Remember, you may have your own utilities that require a Private Locate request at 811.

Knowing where underground utility lines are buried before you dig will help protect you from injury, prevent damage to utilities and service disruptions, and avoid potential fines and repair costs. Underground utility lines can be just about anywhere, so keeping your shovel in the shed or garage and calling 811 first is a smart move (and it's the law).

Every digging job requires a call — even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Here are just a few examples of when to call:

- Installing a rural mailbox
- Putting in a fence
- Planting a tree or shrubbery
- Building a patio or deck
- Excavating a new garden area



For more information about calling 811, visit myavista.com/811 or call 811.

New Fence Construction and the Wildfire Safety Ordinance

With the increasing loss of homes and lives due to wildfires, and with a history of fires and home loss in our own town, Ashland adopted stronger wildfire protection codes in late 2018. One of the new requirements addresses the construction of fences within the city. If any portion of a new fence connects to a structure, that portion of fence is required to be made largely of noncombustible materials within 5 feet of the connection to the structure. Fire science and unfortunate experiences have taught us that using noncombustible fencing where it attaches to a building or deck reduces the opportunity of a burning fence to ignite the exterior of the structure. What kind of fencing is considered non-combustible?

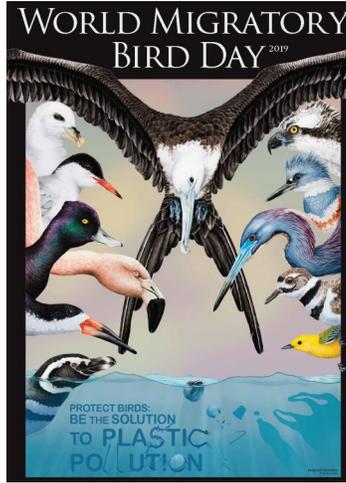
- A fence with wood framing and steel mesh or other noncombustible infill panels.
- A metal gate, a minimum of three feet in width, installed within a wood-framed fence immediately adjacent to a building or deck

Existing wood fences that are to be retrofitted to attach to a new building, addition, or deck, shall be retrofitted so the fence ends with a noncombustible material to keep fire from spreading to the building or deck. Combustible fencing materials may be permitted within five feet of a building or deck when the City staff and the Fire Department have determined the portion of the structure adjoining the combustible material is constructed with ignition-resistant building materials sufficient enough to reduce the spread of fire from combustible fencing materials. Please help reduce our wildfire exposure by following this new code and informing contractors of these requirements when beginning a project.

Events

Rogue Valley Bird Day

Rogue Valley Bird Day is the local observance of World Migratory Bird Day, which celebrates one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird—its journey between wintering and breeding grounds. Enjoy Wildlife Images exhibits where you can meet some magnificent birds of prey. Join the experts for guided bird walks and compete in a bird-calling contest for all ages. This outdoor event is admission-free. Visit RogueValleyBirdDay.net for more information. This event is made possible with the generous help of sponsors. If you are interested in sponsoring the 2019 event, please contact APRC Nature Center Coordinator, Jennifer Aguayo, at jennifer.aguayo@ashland.or.us or (541) 488-6606.



DATE May 11
 TIME 8 AM to 12 PM
 PLACE North Mountain Park, 620 North Mountain Avenue

Ashland World Music Festival

Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission (APRC) and Rogue World Music are pleased to bring you the 4th Annual Ashland World Music Festival, where our community celebrates the world! This festival is a multi-day cultural celebration filled with music, dance, storytelling, food and fun for the whole family. In addition to music and dance, enjoy a variety of global cuisine and beverages available from local vendors. Stay tuned for the release of this year's exciting line-up. Please visit rogueworldmusic.org/concerts/awmf for complete details.



Are you interested in sponsoring the 2019 events? Join Rogue World Music and APRC in creating cultural connections through this community celebration of world music. Learn more at www.rogueworldmusic.org/support-us/donate-3/.

DATE May 18
 TIME 12 PM to 6 PM
 PLACE Butler Band Shell, 150 Winburn Way

Free Lithia Park Nature Walks

Trained volunteer naturalists lead an easy and interesting one and a half hour nature walk through Lithia Park. Topics include: trees, flowers, birds, climate, water, geology and the history of the park.

DAYS Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
 DATES May 1 to September 29
 TIME 10 AM
 PLACE Entrance to Lithia Park at the Plaza

PGA Junior League Golf (PGA JLG)

Save your Summer for Team Golf! Oak Knoll Golf Course is the newest location for a PGA Junior League Golf co-ed team. This league is a developmental golf instruction program for kids coached by Certified PGA, Patrick Oropallo.



Tryouts and practices will be held on Monday, May 13. After that 60 minute practices will be held twice during the week with matches typically on Saturday or Sunday afternoons. The final league match is expected to be held on June 22 or 23 with an All-Star team assembled after. There is a \$150 fee to sign up which includes ten team practice sessions, three team matches, official team PGA JLG jerseys, backpack, T-shirt, bag tag, and "flag stickers" for captured flags.

For more information and to sign up, please contact Patrick Oropallo at (541) 482-4311 or patrick.oropallo@ashland.or.us.

AGES 7 to 13
 DATES May 13 through June 23
 PLACE Oak Knoll Golf Course, 3070 Hwy 66
 COST \$150 per junior golfer

Free Lesson Friday



The Oak Knoll Golf Course is holding free lessons every other Friday for children and teens starting from January 25. You can learn new golf skills and have some fun. Parents are encouraged to

join in the lesson. Contact Patrick Oropallo at (541) 482-4311 or patrick.oropallo@ashland.or.us for more information.

AGES 7 to 17
 DATES April 5, 19 May 3, 17, 31
 (continues for the rest of the year)
 PLACE Oak Knoll Golf Course, 3070 Hwy 66

Summer Youth Conservation Corps

Ashland Parks Summer Youth Conservation Corps is now accepting applications! Eighth through twelfth graders can earn 25 hours of community service in just four days working on Ashland trails and parks. Visit ashland.or.us/youthcorps or call (541) 552-2264 for more information.

The City of Ashland will be closed Monday, May 27, 2019 in observance of Memorial Day.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Events

Join a Great Garden Community!

Join the volunteers at North Mountain Park for weekly work parties in the garden. Share your skills or gain new ones and enjoy the company of other garden lovers. Work parties are held every Wednesday, 9am to Noon, March to November. Drop in to do a little work or adopt a demonstration plot and let your work bloom. No registration necessary.

DAY Every Wednesday
DATE March through November
TIME 9 AM to 12 PM
PLACE North Mountain Park Gardens,
620 N Mountain Avenue

Working Together to Revive Bear Creek

Learn about the efforts of non-profit organizations, as well as local, state and federal agencies, working together to improve the habitats of Bear Creek and its tributary streams. Learn about the plants and animals associated with streams and how improvement projects benefit the stream and riparian ecosystem. Methods and techniques for stream restoration will be discussed, with local examples to compare. Opportunities for community involvement will be offered. Pre-registration is required at ashland.or.us/register for this free event.

DATE May 4
TIME 11 AM to 12 PM
PLACE North Mountain Park,
620 North Mountain Avenue

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Great news for all customers: Our speeds just **doubled**—at no extra charge to you!

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May City Calendar

City Council

Business Meeting: May 7 & 21 | 7 p.m.
Study Sessions: May 6 & 20 | 5:30 p.m.
Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street

Airport Commission

Apr. 7 | 9:30 a.m.
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

Conservation Commission

May 22 | 6 p.m.
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

Forest Lands Commission

May 14 | 5:30 p.m.
Fire Station #2, 1860 Ashland Street

Historic Commission

May 8 | 6 p.m.
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

Housing and Human Services Commission

May 23 | 4:30 p.m.
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: May 20 | 7 p.m.
Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street
Study Session: May 13 | 5:30 p.m.
The Grove, 1195 E Main St.

Planning Commission

Business Meeting: May 14 | 7 p.m.
Study Session: May 28 | 7 p.m.
Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street

Public Art Commission

May 17 | 8 a.m.
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

Transportation Commission

May 16 | 6 p.m.
Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street

Tree Commission

May 9 | 6 p.m.
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

Wildfire Mitigation Commission

May 22 | 11 a.m.
Fire Station #1, 455 Siskiyou Boulevard

▲ TTY 1-800-735-2900. ▲ City Council and many other city meetings are broadcast live on channel 9. Charter Communications customers will find city meetings on channels 180 and 181. Meetings also stream live on the internet at rvtv.sou.edu.

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

