

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

BUDGET BYTE

Your City spends money on three primary things: 1) people, 2) equipment, and 3) capital infrastructure. This month's vignette is how the City plans for capital infrastructure. Capital infrastructure is defined as land and equipment that has a life of over one year and costs over \$5,000. Capital infrastructure will make up 18 percent of the City's budget in fiscal year 2019-2020 and 27 percent in fiscal year 2020-2021. This is what you might call the "big ticket" items in the budget.

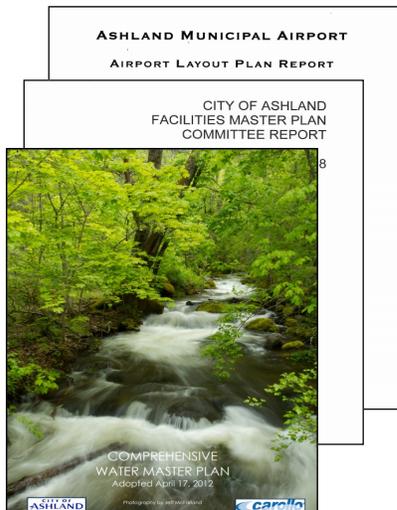
Included are:

- Streets
- Stormwater and Drainage system
- Water Treatment and Distribution System
- Wastewater Treatment and Collection System
- Electric System Including Poles, Lines, and Transformers
- City Buildings (e.g. City Hall, the Community Center, and Pioneer Hall)

The City has to plan for meeting its capital infrastructure needs much like a homeowner anticipates repairs and replacements of household systems and fixtures. You map out the life of your roof, your plumbing system both water and sewer, your appliances, your carpet, your electrical system, etc. You then identify when those things would need

either major repairs or need to be replaced. Finally, you estimate how much it would cost for those major repairs or new systems and figure out a plan to acquire the funds to pay for them. The document you would create would look very similar to a "Master Plan" that the City produces for each capital infrastructure category. A Master Plan is usually prepared every five to seven years and identifies needed projects 10 to 20 years into the future. Typical components of a Master Plan include evaluation of the existing system, identification of the future system goals and future anticipated demand, and assessment of the applicable regulatory changes that are anticipated to occur in the future.

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ASHLAND LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The City of Ashland's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (ALIEAP) assists low income residents with electric bill costs during the winter months.

Eligible Ashland residents include those whose income is at or below 65 percent of Oregon's median income based on household income and size. Qualified recipients receive a credit on their electric utility charges. Credits of up to 50 percent are given to seniors and disabled persons for up to six months and credits of 50 percent to other qualified residents for up to three months. The maximum allowed credit for either group is \$300. Beginning October 1, applications are available at the Utility Billing Counter at City Hall or by calling (541) 552-2038. The Ashland Parks and Recreation Department Senior Services Division can assist seniors in the process. For senior assistance, call (541) 488-5342.

Over 500 Ashland residents were helped with these programs last year. If you know of someone who might qualify and needs assistance, please let them know about this program. The deadline to submit the application is January 31, 2020.

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Budget Bytes

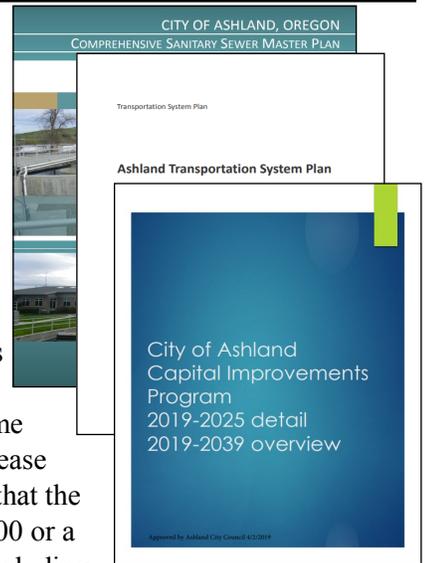
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A Master Plan then typically lists the projects that are necessary for the City to continue to provide services at current levels, identifies a future year in which it is estimated to be done, and the cost for implementation. After this process, the City Council formally adopts Master Plans.

There was a well-publicized statement during the last budget process that nothing really had changed in Ashland in the last 10 or so years. While that may be true for the look of your neighborhood or the consistency of turning on your tap and getting clean water, it has not been true of the cost of capital infrastructure. For example, a truck the City uses to help with cleaning excavation projects, would have cost \$133,260 in 2005. In 2018 the same truck with additional federally required emissions upgrades cost \$273,529. This is an increase of 51 percent in 13 years. Another example of increases in cost of capital infrastructure is that the least expensive new Ford F-150 was \$18,207 in 2005. In 2018, the base model was \$28,000 or a 35 percent increase over the 2005 model. The City's costs increase for multiple reasons, including ever-changing Federal and State regulations and aging structures now recognized as earthquake-vulnerable.

The City Council adopts Master Plans with the goal of keeping our infrastructure systems safe and fully operational. And here is where the comparison we've used breaks down, because unlike the systems in your house, the City's systems must operate very, very close to 100 percent of the time. If you can't flush your toilet, that is an inconvenience. If the City can't treat wastewater there could be serious environmental and public health issues, as well as potential fines. Finally, the City amalgamates all of its Master Plans into a 20-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which shows all of the capital infrastructure projects planned out for 20 years. This was just accomplished in 2018 and is a level of planning not normally done by most Cities. It can be found at ashland.or.us/CIP.

So now you know how the City plans for capital infrastructure. How the City develops funding for these projects will be the subject of the next vignette. And as always if you have any questions or comments about what you've read please don't hesitate to contact City Administrator Kelly Madding at (541) 488-6002 or email at administration@ashland.or.us.



Giveaways

The Water Conservation Department is offering **FREE** showerheads, bathroom aerators, kitchen aerators, and moisture meters. Come see us in the Public Works Building!



51 Winburn Way Ashland, Oregon 97520

Conservation Staff: (541) 552-2062 • Email: julie.smitherman@ashland.or.us • Website: www.ashlandsaveswater.org

FireMed Program Changes

Our FireMed Program will be getting a facelift come January 2020! In the meantime, CURRENT ground memberships will be valid through December 31, 2019 at no additional cost. However, if you have FireMed Plus (ground plus air), you might want to renew your air membership through Mercy Flights to avoid any lapse in coverage. Please visit this link mercyflights.com/sign-up-renew/ to renew online or call (541) 858-2646.

Details of the new ambulance membership program will be posted soon. Information about the program will be posted on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ashlandfirerescue/?ref=bookmarks>, in the Ashland City Source and the City Website when available. We appreciate your patience as we transition to the new program!

Compostable Leaf Bags Available for Purchase

Compostable bags for the collection and disposal of leaves are available for purchase from Recology Ashland at 170 Oak Street. The biodegradable bags cost \$14.50 for a set of five, which include curbside pickup of the bags by Recology. Each bag is nearly three feet tall and can hold up to 35 pounds of leaves. For a limited time, the City of Ashland is offering a discount on the bags. From October 21st through November 1st a set of five bags may be purchased at Recology for \$10.00. The City is subsidizing only a limited number of bags. During this time, bags will be available at a discount with a limit of two sets per household. Please be prepared to show identification. The program is sponsored by the City of Ashland and Recology.

The compostable bags, for leaves only, will be picked up on regular recycling days. Customers who do not pay for Green Debris service, will need to call Recology Ashland to schedule the pickup of their bags. Any leftover bags can be used at any point in the year.

Street sweeping is not a community wide leaf pick-up program. Property owners are responsible for removing and disposing of fallen leaves on their property and adjacent sidewalks and should not blow or rake leaves into the street or right of way. The prepaid leaf bag program is an opportunity for those who are unable to take advantage of the free leaf collection days on November 3rd and December 8th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ashland Recycle Center on 220 Water Street. Please be prepared to empty your bags of leaves yourself and take your bags back home with you.

Keeping leaves out of the street is a simple, but important action we can all take to help improve water quality in our streams. The distance between your yard and the water's edge is as close as the nearest storm drain or ditch. Everyone can help maintain the health of our streams by keeping the leaves out of the street and storm drains. For more information on these programs, please call Recology at (541) 482-1471 or visit www.recology.com/recology-ashland.



STAY CONNECTED WITH APRC

Let us list the ways you can stay connected with us...

Online at AshlandParksandRec.org | Facebook & Instagram
@AshlandParksandRec #AshlandParksandRec #APRC

Email Notification-Subscribe online at AshlandParksandRec.org

In-Person at The Grove, North Mountain Park,
Ashland Senior Center, Oak Knoll Golf Course

Direct Contact-Call us at 541.488.5340 | Email us at
ParksInfo@ashland.or.us | Contact the Commission with our
online form at AshlandParksandRec.org

ASHLANDPARKSANDREC.ORG

ELECTRIC UTILITY GETS HYBRID-ELECTRIC BUCKET TRUCKS

Keep an eye out for Ashland Electric Utility's two new hybrid-electric bucket trucks. The new trucks use an electric bucket arm which means less engine idling during operations. Besides being much quieter, they are safer to operate, and emit fewer pollutants than conventional bucket trucks.



EVENTS

Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink

It's that time of year again... so lace up your skates and hit the ice! Our programming and schedule will be available online beginning November 1, 2019 at ashland.or.us/icerink. You can call the ice rink directly at (541) 488-9189 (after November 21). Our skate rentals accommodate toddler size 9 up to men's size 15. Please come prepared to skate, as changing rooms are not available. Hot chocolate, coffee and a variety of snacks will be available for purchase.
DATE November 21, 2019 through February 17, 2020
PLACE 95 Winburn Way

Volunteer at the Ice Rink!

Non-skaters welcome to help with school groups and weekend open skate. High school students will earn community service hours. Email lori.ainsworth@ashland.or.us or call or text (541) 499-8798.

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City offices will be closed on Monday, November 11 for Veteran's Day and on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for Thanksgiving.

Check out how Ashland connects at www.ashlandfiber.net



EVENTS (continued)

Learn to Skate Programs

Learn to Skate programs at the Ice Rink include basic and figure skating classes and hockey skate classes starting on November 25. Information and registration is available beginning November 1 at ashland.or.us/icerink.



DATE Basic & Figure: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30 or 5:45 PM
Hockey Skate: Tuesdays at 4 PM or 4:45 PM
COST \$65 for 6 classes

Project FeederWatch Annual Survey

Help count birds that visit the feeders at North Mountain Park, while learning to identify species with expert birders. The information collected will be submitted to Cornell University's FeederWatch project, a nationwide citizen science bird monitoring effort. Pre-registration is not required.

AGES 10 & up
DATE Alternating Saturdays November 9 & 23, December 7 & 21 (and continuing through March 2020)
TIME 9 to 10 AM
PLACE North Mountain Park Pavilion, 620 N. Mountain Avenue

Low Cost Bokashi Composting

Bokashi Composting is a Japanese method of culturing food waste. Bokashi makes it possible to compost without the YUCK and without attracting pests. Cultivating your own cultures is affordable, only takes up a small amount of space, and is a great way to recycle food waste. Register at ashland.or.us/register or call the Nature Center at (541) 488-6606.

AGES 12 & up (with adult)
DATE Sunday, November 3
TIME 2 to 3:15 PM
PLACE North Mountain Park Nature Center, 620 N. Mountain Avenue
COST \$10

World Dance

This class will study and celebrate a multitude of dance styles from around the world. With a focus on interconnectedness, students will learn about many diverse cultures who share not only a common ancestry, but also a common humanity and equanimity. Students will gain a greater understanding of their bodies and safe ways of moving them. In addition, emphasis of instruction will be placed on ways of dancing safely with mobility issues or physical limitations

AGES 18 & up
DATE Wednesdays, November 6 through 20, Session 3 Carnival Samba, Samba Reggae
TIME 8:30 to 9:30 AM
PLACE The Grove Gym
COST \$34 per session (3 classes)

NOVEMBER CITY CALENDAR

City Council
Business Meeting: Nov. 5 & 19 | 6 p.m.
Study Sessions: Nov. 4 & 18 | 5:30 p.m.

Airport Commission
November 5 | 9:30 a.m.

Conservation Commission
November 13 | 6 p.m.

Forest Lands Commission
November 12 | 5:30 p.m.
Fire Station #2, 1860 Ashland Street

Historic Commission
November 6 | 6 p.m.

Housing and Human Services Commission
November 25 | 4 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission
Business Meeting: November 25 | 7 p.m.
Study Session: November 18 | 5:30 p.m.
The Grove, 1195 E Main Street

Planning Commission
Business Meeting: November 12 | 7 p.m.
Study Session: November 26 | 7 p.m.

Public Art Commission
November 15 | 8:30 a.m.

Transportation Commission
November 21 | 6 p.m.

Tree Commission
November 7 | 6 p.m.

Wildfire Safety Commission
November 20 | 11 a.m.
Fire Station #1, 455 Siskiyou Boulevard

▲ TTY 1-800-735-2900 ▲ Meetings are held in the Council Chambers (1175 E Main Street) or the Siskiyou Room (51 Winburn Way) unless otherwise noted. ▲ 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 select channel RVTV Prime.

