



## **AGENDA FOR STUDY SESSION**

### **ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION October 7, 2020 Electronic Meeting**

This meeting will be held electronically. The public can view on Channel 9 or Channels 180 and 181 (for Charter Communications customers) or live stream via [rvtv.sou.edu](http://rvtv.sou.edu) - select RVTV Prime.

Written testimony is encouraged and will be accepted via email sent to [sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us](mailto:sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us). Please include "**Public Testimony for October 7, 2020 Study Session**" in the subject line. Written testimony submitted before Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 11:00 am will be made available to the Parks Commissioners before the meeting. All testimony will be included in the meetings minutes.

Oral Testimony will be taken during the electronic public meeting. If you wish to provide oral testimony, send an email to [sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us](mailto:sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us) before Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 11:00 am. Please provide the following information: 1) make the subject line of the email "**October 7 Speaker Request**", 2) include your name, 3) the agenda item on which you wish to speak on, 4) specify if you will be participating by computer or telephone, and 5) the name you will use if participating by computer or the telephone number you will use if participating by telephone. Staff will provide information necessary to join the meeting upon request.

#### **6:30 p.m.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PUBLIC INPUT
- III. OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE DISCUSSION
- IV. RAILROAD PARK BLACK LIVES MATTER DISPLAY DISCUSSION
- V. ADJOURNMENT

The Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission will hold an **Executive Session** immediately following the Study Session to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions, pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) and to review and evaluate the performance of an officer, pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i).

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number 1-800-735-2900). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).*

# ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Mike Gardiner  
Joel Heller  
Rick Landt  
Jim Lewis  
Julian Bell



Michael A. Black, AICP  
Director

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parksinfo@ashland.or.us

## PARKS COMMISSIONER STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners  
**FROM:** Michael Black  
**DATE:** October 1, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Open Space Maintenance Discussion

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APRC is directly responsible for the maintenance of nearly 600 acres of open space and an additional 200-plus acres of manicured park space. Open space features areas that include natural creeks, trails and other features that set them apart from manicured park spaces. Open Space areas include the Acid Castles, Ashland Creek, Siskiyou Mountain Park and Bear Creek. The recent acquisition of the Mace property, which was recently opened to the public with natural trails and access to over ten-acres of open space along Bear Creek. The reception by the public to the Mace Property was overwhelming and thousands of people enjoyed that open space the first weekend it was opened.

In order to maintain the 600 acres of open space, APRC has an Open Space, Trails and Forestry Division that is tasked with year-round maintenance. That division is staffed with four full-time employees, who are led by Jason Minica. The level of maintenance is dictated by several factors, including:

1. How the property is used;
2. The terrain of the property;
3. Its proximity to residential neighborhoods/structures;
4. The natural resources present at the property including creeks, drainages, native vegetation, etc.; and,
5. The requirements of the City, County, State and Federal Governments.

The requirements that typically have the most impact on maintenance requirements are related to the use of the property and the requirements of the City of Ashland. This September the Almeda Fire started in an open space area and destroyed more than ten-acres of APRC property and thousands of private residences and business. Since then, we have experienced a constant appeal from the public to ensure that our open spaces meet the City requirements. In fact, our properties do meet the requirements of the City of Ashland. This has led some people to question whether the requirements that Ashland has on the books are adequate to protect the public from wildfire.

The meeting on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> will focus solely on a report from our Open Space Division Supervisor, Jason Minica, on current maintenance practices. We will discuss whether there are

deficiencies in our practices or not. The results of the conversation with the Parks Commissioners will ultimately be used to guide APRC staff in our discussion with the City regarding modification of the maintenance standards for open space.

On the next page is a list of all of the properties that APRC has control over. The properties are categorized as;

1. Developed – meaning they are manicured and designated as a neighborhood or city-wide park
2. Undeveloped – meaning they are currently not developed, but there are plans to improve those areas to manicured parks
3. Natural – meaning these are designated open spaces where there are no plans for major development

We look forward to discussing this matter further with you on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October.

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Developed</i>	<i>Undeveloped</i>	<i>Natural</i>
1	ACID CASTLE ROCKS (225 Hitt Rd, 391E08DB200)	45.79			45.79
2	ASHLAND CREEK GREENWAY	2.75			2.75
3	<b>ASHLAND CREEK PARK</b>	7.16	7.16		
4	ASHLAND PONDS	22.05			22.05
5	BEAR CREEK FLOODPLAIN	5.94			5.94
6	BEAR CREEK GREENWAY	10.85			10.85
7	<b>BLUEBIRD PARK</b>	0.14	0.14		
8	BMX PARK	1.00			1.00
9	<b>BRISCOE GEOLOGY PARK</b>	0.08	0.08		
10	<b>BRISCOE PARK</b>	1.76	1.76		
11	BURNSON PROPERTY	12.13			12.13
12	<b>CALLE GUANAJUATO</b>	1.33	1.33		
13	CHITWOOD PROPERTY (Basketball Court)	2.41	2.41		
14	<b>CLAY ST PARK</b>	3.54	3.54		
15	CLAY ST WETLANDS (Snowberry)	1.20			1.20
16	COTTLE-PHILLIPS PROPERTY	3.96			3.96
17	<b>DOG PARK</b>	3.72	3.72		
18	EAST MAIN (2228 E Main St - in the county)	5.52		5.52	
19	EVERGREEN	0.57			0.57
20	<b>GARDEN WAY PARK</b>	1.74	1.74		
21	<b>GARFIELD PARK</b>	2.92	2.92		
22	<b>GLENWOOD PARK</b>	2.24	2.24		
23	GRANDVIEW DR PROPERTY	0.76		0.76	
24	GRANITE ST PROPERTY	6.26			6.26
25	HALD STRAWBERRY PARK	31.55			31.55
26	<b>HUNTER PARK</b>	9.37	9.37		
27	KEENER PROPERTY	2.03			2.03
28	KESTREL PROPERTY (E Nevada)	2.22			2.22
29	<b>KESTREL PROPERTY (Kestrel Pkwy)</b>	2.25	2.25		
30	LAUREL ST. ROW	0.17			0.17
31	LAWRENCE PROPERTY	31.79			31.79
32	LIBERTY ST PROPERTY	0.99	0.99		
33	LITHIA PARK	53.00			53.00
34	<b>LITHIA PARK</b>	46.83	46.83		
35	LITHIA SPRINGS GUN CLUB (COA park)	25.84		25.84	
36	MICHELLE AV FIELDS AND WETLAND	5.37			5.37
37	LORD FAMILY DONATION (in progress)	6.02			6.02
38	NORTH MOUNTAIN PARK	10.33			10.33
39	<b>NORTH MOUNTAIN PARK</b>	27.56	27.56		
40	<b>OAK KNOLL GOLF COURSE</b>	71.99	71.99		
41	OREDSON TODD WOODS	10.19			10.19
42	PIEDMONT PROPERTY	1.43			1.43
43	<b>RAILROAD PARK</b>	1.71	1.71		
44	RIVERWALK (Mace was added this property)	28.34			28.34
45	<b>SCENIC PARK</b>	1.55	1.55		
46	<b>SHERWOOD PARK</b>	0.88	0.88		
47	SISKIYOU MTN PARK	271.20			271.20
48	<b>SKATEBOARD PARK</b>	0.56	0.56		
49	SNOWBERRY WETLAND (conserve)	1.21			1.21
50	<b>TRIANGLE PARK</b>	0.67	0.67		
51	UNDEVELOPED PARK (Terrace St.)	2.14			2.14
52	WESTWOOD PROPERTY (53 Westood St, 391E08BD100)	9.57			9.57
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>802.58</b>	<b>191.40</b>	<b>32.12</b>	<b>579.06</b>