

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

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STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Interim Director Eldridge

DATE: November 8, 2023

SUBJECT: East Main Park Plan (Action)
Goal # 3 Build East Main Street neighborhood park including the dog park, bike-skills, and pump track.

Situation

APRC is in the design phase for a new regional/neighborhood park at 2228 East Main Street. This 6.52-acre open space parcel will provide a park on the southeast end of town. Terrain Landscape Architects (TLA) will be presenting the design for East Main Park. There were minor changes to the design after it was presented to the Commission in January of 2023.

Background

For the 23-25 Biennium APRC adopted Goal #3 to build East Main Street neighborhood park including the dog park, bike-skills, and pump track.

This 5.52-acre open space was purchased in 2018 from the Shaffer family, a long-time Ashland family who acquired the property in the 1960s. In 2021 an additional 1.0-acre contiguous to the 5.52 parcel at 2290 E Main St was purchased, bringing the total acreage of the park to 6.52. This project will offer the citizens of Ashland a park on the south end of town. This is a replacement for the YMCA Park that was sold in 2017.

On October 30, 2020, APRC published a Request for Proposals- Qualification Based Selection (RFP) for the design of this new park. An evaluation team of six members completed a comprehensive review of the proposals. On March 4, 2021, APRC awarded the contract to Terrain Landscape Architects.

Public Involvement and Outreach

Working Group - A six-person work group comprised of Commissioners Landt and Bell, staff, and community stakeholders was created to evaluate the RFP for design and give input about project design.

October 24, 2019- A public input session was held, where design elements and neighbor concerns were gathered. Approximately 60 citizens took part in this charette style meeting and created site plans. The neighbors and stakeholders are generally in favor of a new park with several key elements.

August 18, 2021- An electronic public listening session was held. A conceptual design was presented, and the attendees gave feedback about desired usage and concerns. Approximately 80 citizens took part in this webinar.

Public Survey - September 2021 Terrain Landscape Architects conducted an online survey to gather more information about desired park elements. The survey yielded about 1000 responses.

March 3, 2022- A electronic public listening session was held. The public survey results were reviewed and the preliminary draft design for the park was presented. Approximately 100 citizens took part in this webinar.

May 4, 2022- Preliminary design presented to APRC.

Stakeholder meetings – In the fall of 2022, staff and TLA met with Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association (RVMB), Bee City USA, and Community Gardeners to review the preliminary design and receive input and comments regarding the design.

Project webpage – staff created a webpage in 2020 for the community to view project information and timeline. ashland.or.us/eastmainpark

Assessment:

Since the plan was last presented to the Commission following changes have been made:

1. Renamed loading zone at the community garden (not 'parking').
2. Changed orientation of two gates at the dog park.
3. Added Handwash Station and revised drinking fountain locations.
4. Changed community garden fence to black chain link
5. Eliminate the designated staging area for materials outside of the garden
6. Pathways that are not paved changed to DG, not gravel.
7. Details (specifications)
 8. L7.1,details 1 and 4 - Split rail fence details now note that they should follow APRC standards for footings
 9. L7.0, detail 1 – finish grade relative to concrete paving was clarified
10. Added EV charging and E-Bike charging
11. Added dashed rectangles for solar panels on structures, noted as "Future solar panels, typ. at structure roofs" (and photo added on L9.0)
12. Added screen walls in front of toilet structures
13. Adjusted the path connections to the existing sidewalk along Abbott Ave
14. Added solid wood 'good neighbor' fence at perimeter property lines (exception: Desmit property will still have split rail)
15. Removed donor pavers

Summary:

At the APRC Business Meeting on January 5, 2023, the final design was presented to the Commission. At that time the Commission approved the design on condition of East Main Park "Subcommittee" approval. The East Main Park group was actually an informal working group with a limited membership that was unable to meet again for the purposes requested. Alternatively, staff are presenting the East

Main Park final design to the Commission for formal approval and to update Commissioners on the project status.

TENTATIVE Project Timeline

(NOTE: Timeline is dependent on many factors outside of APRCs control. Timeline may change at any time)

TASK	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS	START	END
Construction Document Phase				
Review and Comment to DD Set	APR	100%	1/12/23	6/30/23
Research and Revisions	TLA	100%	7/1/23	9/1/23
50% CD + written findings	TLA	100%	7/1/23	9/1/23
Pre App Meeting (2nd)	ALL	100%	9/6/23	9/6/23
Parks Commission 2nd Presentation	TLA	0%	11/8/23	11/8/23
Jackson County Property Line Adjustment Submittal	RSA	0%	11/15/23	2/13/24
City of Ashland Annexation & Zone Change Submittal	RSA	0%	1/14/24	4/13/24
City of Ashland Site Design Review Submittal	TLA	0%	1/14/24	5/13/24
Planning Commission Presentation	TLA	0%	5/14/24	5/14/24
90% CD (internal review)	TLA	0%	1/14/24	3/30/24
100% CD	TLA	0%	4/5/24	5/7/24
Pricing	TLA	0%	5/10/24	6/11/24
Review of pricing	APR	0%	6/14/24	6/25/24
Building & Trade Permits	TBD	0%	6/28/24	8/27/24
Construction Begins Summer 2024				

***APR-** Ashland Parks & Recreation **TLA-** Terrain Landscape Architects **RSA –** Richard Stevens Associates

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission approve the East Main Park final design as presented.

Possible Motion:

Move to approve the East Main Park final design as presented.

Electronic Attachments:

[E. Main Park Design](#)

[E Main Park Civil Design](#)