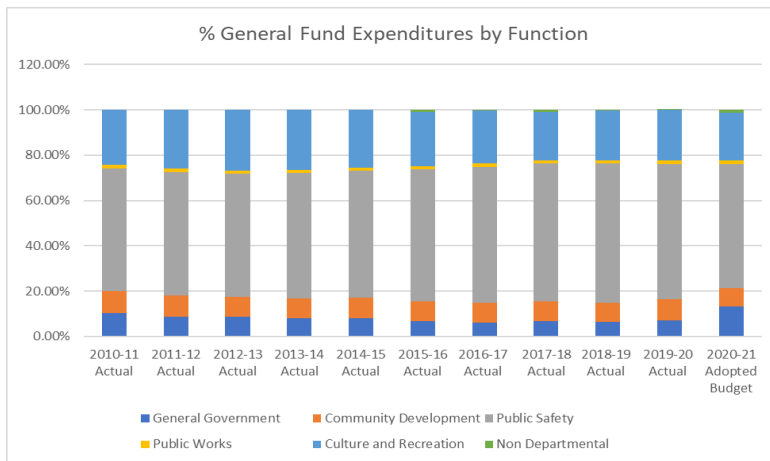


The citizen's source of information about the City of Ashland

RECOMMENDED BUDGET AND THE GENERAL FUND

The City's Manager Recommended Budget for biennium (BN) 2021-2023 was presented to the Ashland Citizens Budget Committee on March 30, 2021. This biennial budget begins on July 1, 2021 and goes through June 30, 2023. Over the next three months, the Budget Committee and the City Council will consider the revenues and expenditures by function and as a whole to determine the best balance of services to provide for Ashland residents, businesses, and visitors.

As the largest fund and home to the majority of traditional municipal services, the General Fund receives a great deal of scrutiny. For the City of Ashland, the largest portions of the City's General Fund budget are the Police and Fire services and the Parks Department.



Staffing grew between fiscal year (FY) 2013 and FY2018 then began to be reduced with a large drop in the current biennium, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of staff are in Public Works, Public Safety, and Parks.

As part of the City's focus on informing and engaging the community in the budget, a series of questions will be posted at ashland.or.us/engage throughout the budget process. These questions ask about residents' views on community and budget issues, funding priorities, and City services. The intent is to complement an overall information campaign designed to promote understanding and involvement in the City's 2021-2023 Biennial Budget. Staff looks forward to continuing to evolve the budget process including the communication strategy over the next few biennium. Be sure to check out the regular updates and new polling questions each week.

STAY UPDATED ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Please note that City offices are still physically closed to the public. Staff is available to provide assistance over the phone, email and with limited appointments as needed. 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. The webpage includes information on:

Prevention and Health—links to the CDC, Oregon Health Authority, and Jackson County Health and Human Services.

City Government Updates—including current City closures and how to attend virtual meetings and events.

Current Restrictions—offering a timeline of the Governor's orders including mandated closures.

Local & Business Resources—where affected businesses and locals can go for help and information on how to support local businesses and organizations.

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AVISTA REMINDS YOU SAFE DIGGING IS NO ACCIDENT—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. 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 damages 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, and/or excavating a new garden area. Call 811 or go to www.digsafetyoregon.com.



KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES, HELP KEEP ASHLAND FIRE 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.

Visit www.ashland.or.us/weedabatement to learn about requirements and get recommendations

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.



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

Do Not Plant Flammable Plants within 30-feet of a structure. Info@ www.ashland.or.us/prohibitedplants.

Cut grass & weeds short by June and keep them short throughout fire season. Remove piles. Keep it debris free around your home.

****The minimum requirements include the cutting and/or removal of ALL Scotch Broom and thistles on the entire property and any Himalayan blackberry bushes, Poison hemlock, and/or Tree of heaven within the required areas to abate. Debris shall comply with AMC9.08.110 or be removed.**

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

Utilizing inspection data from the past four fire seasons combined with our city-wide risk assessments, over 1,000 properties were issued a warning letter in December 2020 to remind property owners of their responsibilities regarding weeds and noxious vegetation. If you received a letter last December from Ashland Fire & Rescue titled - Notice of Warning, or Notice of Violation and Order to Abate, it is because there is or was a known issue of this property violating one or more aspects of AMC 9.04.

Because of limited staffing and resources, we are not able to notify all violators every season

and a generalized list of all requirements and potential penalties was sent. This warning letter was issued over the winter to give property owners and/or tenants extra time to prepare for next year's fire season before the dry weather of summer makes it difficult to abate hazards and legal actions may need to occur to bring a property into compliance with this ordinance.

The "Notice of Warning" letter is not stating that you will be fined or your property forcibly abated, it is a warning regarding legal responsibility that a property owner and/or tenant may be fined if the violation(s) are, or become, a significant risk if not properly abated. Please visit www.ashland.or.us/weedabatement for more information on requirements. If you have left a voicemail requesting more information, calls are still being returned as staff time is available.

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.



APRC 2021 SUMMER COMMUNITY PLAYGUIDE



The digital summer guide will be accessible at AshlandParksandRec.org after April 10. We hope to be part of your summer plans and you can self-register for a recreation program soon. Wondering how you can experience the outdoors this summer?

- Go golfing at Oak Knoll Golf Course.
- Swim at the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool in Hunter Park or at the reservoir in Lithia Park.
- Take the kids to the splash pad at Garfield Park.
- Enjoy a picnic in Lithia Park.
- Walk the Demonstration Gardens at North Mountain Park.
- Check out the dog friendly walk in downtown Ashland that takes you on a nice 5K loop *around* Lithia Park.
- Take a self-guided walk through time at Briscoe Geology Park where you can learn the history of Earth and Ashland's geology place in that history.
- Go on a hike – we offer 53 miles of trails.
- Look for recreation programs in the 2021 Summer PlayGuide that are scheduled to take place in the great outdoors.

WHEN YOU SEE SMOKE, KNOW IT'S MAKING US SAFER

Using controlled burning to get rid of wildfire's fuel before a summer fire is perhaps our most important tool in the box for protecting our community and cherished forests. The closer to town we can proactively burn, the better the protection. We've seen the power of fire on frightening display and know the future is hotter and drier. We need more *good fire*.

To create the sense of safety we all want, we will have to tolerate occasional smoke this spring. To that end, we started the Smokewise Ashland (smokewiseashland.org) program four years ago to give you the tools to protect yourself during brief periods of smoke from burning. Just this year, we gave away 600 HEPA grade air purifiers, (thanks to Oregon DEQ!) to our most vulnerable residents, and we're working hard to protect thousands of others through community education and outreach.

How to stay healthy during times of smoke:

- Stay indoors and close windows when it's smoky
- Run a HEPA or other high efficiency air filter in your home
- Sign up for burn day notifications by texting WATERSHED to 888777 as the recipient or visit ashlandwatershed.org to sign up for emails
- Wear an N95 mask if you need to be outside when there's smoke

We can make our community safer through collective actions, including doing your part to make your home fire resistant by visiting fireadaptedashland.org and supporting sound forest stewardship, including controlled burns this spring. Learn more about fire in our forests at ashlandwatershed.org.

WILDFIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Join your Ashland neighbors in preparing for wildfire! You may be feeling that wildfires are unstoppable after seeing the Alameda Fire's impact. However, decades of research and experience from past fires say wildfire loss *is preventable*, yet fires are inevitable. By taking responsibility to fix flammable homes and landscaping, we can avoid a major fire in our town. We have to. You can take actions, many easy and low-cost, each month between April and July to reduce your home's risk and be prepared for fire and smoke.



This April, harden your home's exterior against embers. We must all do this work to protect the community!

It is easy to get started hardening your home to embers. Start NOW by completing these three highest-priority actions:

1. Clean your roof and gutters of leaves and needles. Can't do this yourself? Ask a neighbor for help or hire someone!
2. Sweep, rake or blow wood decks clear of leaf and needle litter, both above and below the deck's surface.
3. Relocate flammable materials (wood, cardboard, etc.) at least 30 feet from all structures and from under decks.

*If you can't move a woodpile 30 feet from homes or accessory buildings, place wood as far away from all structures as possible and cover with a fire-resistant tarp. Once you have completed these top three actions, visit fireadaptedashland.org/wildfireprep to learn what to do next! While you're on the website, look for details about this year's **Green Debris Drop Off Day, May 2**.

ADAPT YOUR HOME



The word this month is SWITCH! To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower your carbon footprint, we need to switch off fossil fuels. Manufacturing the goods we purchase, driving gasoline powered vehicles, and heating our home with gas are all examples of how we interact with fossil fuels on a daily basis. Try to swap out some of your errands you might normally drive to with biking or walking. Visit the ashland.or.us/climate to learn more and see what other actions you can take!

City offices will be closed on **Monday, May 31** in observance of Memorial Day. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Check out how Ashland connects at www.ashlandfiber.net



EVENTS

Green Debris Drop Off Day—Annual Firewise Event

Ashland residents (bring ID for proof of address) can bring their leaves, branches, and other green yard debris for FREE. This event is designed to help residents remove wildfire fuel from their yards and gutters. For more information on what is accepted and COVID-19 guidelines for the event, go to ashland.or.us/greendebris.

DATE May 2 TIME 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
PLACE Valley View Transfer Station, 3000 N Valley View Road

Annual Household Waste Event

This year's event will be FREE and allows households around the valley to drop off their household cleaning supplies, paint removers and garden chemicals. For a full list of what is accepted or not and COVID-19 guidelines for the event go to roguedisposal.com/transfer-station/hazardous-waste.

DATE May 8 TIME 8 AM to 4:30 PM
PLACE Rogue Transfer & Recycling, 8001 Table Rock Rd White City, 97503

Veterans' Benefits for Older Adults: Are You Missing Out? | Online

Did you or a loved one serve in the military? Veterans, their spouses, and their families may be eligible for benefits through the Federal Veterans' Administration. You or a loved one may also be eligible for other state and county benefits as well. Learn about the kinds of benefits available to help as you age and how to further explore your eligibility. Register at ashland.or.us/register or call the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342 to participate in this Zoom presentation.

DATE Wednesday, May 12 TIME 1 to 3 PM

Historic Preservation Week

From May 16 to 22 the Ashland Historic Commission invites you to celebrate Historic Preservation Week and this year's theme is "This Place Matters". The week will include a virtual awards ceremony and self guided tours of the Memorial Mausoleum at Mountain View Cemetery. Go to ashland.or.us/historicpreservationweek for more information.

Awards Ceremony Information

DATE May 20 TIME 12 PM

Conscious Recycling | Online

Recology will be holding a workshop for residents interested in how to be more conscious while recycling. To attend use this Zoom workshop use Webinar ID: 927 114 2397.

DATE May 18 TIME 7 PM

Purchasing an Electric Vehicle | Online

Interested in buying an electric vehicle? Join us as we go over everything you need to know, including navigating federal, state, and city incentives. Register for the free Zoom event through the City calendar at www.ashland.or.us/calendar.asp by selecting the Purchasing an Electric Vehicle workshop.

DATE May 20 TIME 1 to 2 PM

Home Energy Upgrades | Online

Are you interested in making home energy upgrades? Wondering what a heat pump water heater is? Join us as we go over this and other energy upgrades, as well as city incentives and energy saving tips. Register for the free Zoom event through the City calendar at www.ashland.or.us/calendar.asp by selecting the Home Energy Upgrades workshop.

DATE May 27 TIME 1 to 2 PM

MAY 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: May 4 & 18 | 6 p.m.

Study Session: May 3 & 17 | 5:30 p.m.

Airport Commission

May 4 | 9:30 a.m.

Conservation & Climate Outreach Commission

May 26 | 3 p.m.

Climate Policy Commission

May 13 | 4 p.m.

Forest Lands Commission

May 11 | 5:30 p.m.

Historic Commission

May 5 | 6 p.m.

Housing and Human Services Commission

May 27 | 4 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: May 12 | 6:00 p.m.

Study Session: May 5 | 6 p.m.

Planning Commission

Business Meeting: May 11 | 7 p.m.

Study Session: May 25 | 7 p.m.

Public Art Commission

May 21 | 8:30 a.m.

Transportation Commission

May 20 | 6 p.m.

Tree Commission

May 6 | 6 p.m.

Wildfire Safety Commission

May 19 | 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 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.

