



CITY OF
ASHLAND

City Source

February 2018

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

Public Works Capital Improvements Plan Storybook Now Online!

The Public Works Department has adopted master plans for each of its divisions; Street, Storm, Water, Wastewater, Facilities, and Airport. These master plans not only detail operational maintenance requirements but also improvement projects driven by numerous system needs.

Each master plan is developed independently from the others and, previously, projects were prioritized by system need without consideration for whole infrastructure coordination. Now though, Public Works staff has developed an improved structure for prioritizing maintenance projects and Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) that accounts for all system needs. The City's Geographic Information Systems division has documented project data from each adopted master plan and developed a "storybook" that provides a reference map, project narratives and timely updates on project status.

You can see the new CIP "storybook" and learn more about the projects at <http://gis.ashland.or.us/cipstorybook/>.

Lithia Park Master Plan

In November of 2017, APRC began an 18-month planning process to develop a guiding management plan for Lithia Park, Ashland's jewel.

The Lithia Park Master Plan will guide the management of the resources, facilities and visitor experiences over the next 100 years, ensuring that the park continues to shine as Ashland's jewel. APRC's team of consultants will be led by the Portland office of MIG, Inc. and include local landscape architect KenCairn Associates, among other team members. The team will evaluate the condition of Lithia Park currently, setting a foundation for the master plan and the future of Lithia Park.

Keep current on the APRC website, ashlandparksandrec.org, and look for hashtags #lithiaparkmasterplan, #lithiaparknext100years and #lithiapark in social media - [Facebook.com/AshlandParksandRec](https://www.facebook.com/AshlandParksandRec).

Early in 2018, look for an online map-based input opportunity to share how you experience Lithia Park. In late spring watch for details on DESIGN WEEK, (See, *Lithia Park*, Back Page)

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Recycling Plastic Bags

It's all too easy to accumulate a sizable plastic bag collection. It'd be great if there were a place you could confidently take your plastic bags to be recycled. In stark contrast to the ease with which curbside recycling is handled, the very few markets for these bags primarily operate in foreign countries where it's not clear how the material is recycled. In some cases, bags are recycled by impoverished people as highlighted in the recent documentary, *Plastic China*. This documentary gives a sobering glimpse into the lives of families who compromise their health every day to melt plastic films into plastic beads that can be resold. We probably wouldn't feel so good about dropping off our armfuls of plastic at a community collection point (like a local grocery store) if we understood the entire lifecycle of this process.

Here at home, bags that are mistakenly placed into curbside recycling bins have to be removed by hand in the material sorting process. Even with safeguards in place, bags continued to get tangled up in machine gears along the sorting line. This eventually grinds the

operation to a halt, increasing sorting costs while also creating a potentially dangerous situation as worker intervention is required.

One domestic company named Trex has found a niche in turning plastic bags into long-lasting composite decking, park benches, fencing and railings. While this is a noble example of domestic recycling, it doesn't address the over-consumption problem (and our society's social conditioning) that lands us with these bags in the first place. For instance, it is commonplace for a shopper to be offered a plastic bag at check-out when they are literally buying a bag that would hold their items.

As consumers, we should politely decline the plastic bags offered by cashiers and remember our own reusable bags or containers. We can find second uses for the bags we already have, such as garbage can liners, and not just throw them away. Fossil fuels are being used to generate these plastic films and we should be more aware and respectful of the roles we play in the conservation of our environment.

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Vote for the 2018 Tree of the Year!

Community members have nominated their favorite trees for Ashland's Tree of the Year and the Tree Commission has selected the top trees, which are now online for public for voting. You can participate by voting at <http://gis.ashland.or.us/treeofyear2018/>. Votes can also be submitted to Nathan Emerson, via email (nathan.emerson@ashland.or.us) or to 20 E Main St., Ashland, OR 97520. **Voting will be open for the month of February.** Thank you for participating in the Tree of the Year program!

Spread the Love With Water Savings



7 Steps to Having a Romantic Valentine's Day and Saving Water!

1. Make sure your outfit is laundered and ready to go; wash a full load of laundry while you're at it.
2. Shorten your shower, or turn off the water while you wash your hair. Your date will still think you look great!
3. Look and feel your best by shaving and only using a little water in the sink to rinse your razor.
4. Brush your teeth before your date! Don't forget to turn off the water while you brush.
5. Surprise your sweetie by switching out the showerheads and aerators in your home to low flow models. Come by the Public Works building and pick up showerheads, kitchen and bathroom aerators, and moisture meters for FREE!
6. Show your love with a drought tolerant plant or tree and plant it together to symbolize your relationship's strength. Check out our Water Wise Landscaping website at ashland.saveswater.org to look for a plant or tree with low water needs.
7. Making your honey a romantic dinner? Afterwards, scrape the dishes clean instead of rinsing them before loading the dishwasher.

You're all set! Now you can splurge on that extra dessert with peace of mind, knowing you've just taken measures to save water and money! Have a wonderful

time with your special someone, and continue to use water wisely. ♥

For more information on simple ways to save water or to learn about current giveaways and rebate programs visit www.ashland.saveswater.org or call 541-552-2421.

Ashland Community Bike Swap Now Accepting Bike Donations!

The 28th Annual Bike Swap, held on Saturday, April 14, will provide a community venue for buying and selling working-condition bicycles and related equipment. Proceeds from this event fund bike safety education in the Rogue Valley.

Bicycle and equipment donations are tax-deductible. All bicycles must be in very good condition and working order. Donations will be accepted at The Grove, 1195 E Main Street until April 6. Please call Lori Ainsworth for more information at 541-552-2264.

We couldn't hold the Bike Swap without help from our stellar volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lori Ainsworth by email at lori.ainsworth@ashland.or.us or by phone at 541-552-2264.



Sponsor the Ashland World Music Festival

The Ashland World Music Festival, *where our community celebrates the world*, is a family-friendly event full of music, dance, food and fun from cultures near and far. Taking place on May 19, from noon to 6:00 p.m., in beautiful Lithia Park. This free festival is produced by Rogue World Music and Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission with support from generous local sponsors. Are you interested in sponsoring the 2018 event? Learn more at ashland.or.us/AWMF. Join the party and get your global groove on at the Ashland World Music Festival!

Lithia Park

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as this will be your opportunity to share your ideas for Lithia Park and help with the planning process. You may also share your ideas by emailing ParksInfo@ashland.or.us.

Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers Certification

The Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers training is intended for healthcare providers and other students seeking training and certification in CPR*. This course teaches critical concepts of high quality CPR, use of an automated external defibrillator, and relief choking for victims of all ages.

The cost for this course is \$55, and all fees must be pre-paid prior to the class date to confirm reservation. Please register early to reserve your space.

Date: March 10, 2018
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Location: Fire Station 2 (1860 Ashland Street)
Cost: \$55

Registration is first-come, first-served according to when class fees are paid. Classes are typically limited to 9 people. Participants may register by mailing a check or by paying in person 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at Fire Station 1, located at 455 Siskiyou Blvd. Make checks payable to City of Ashland. Credit cards are also accepted in-person.

*Upon successful completion, students will receive an American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers Course Completion Card that is valid for two years.

Sign Up to Serve!

Volunteers on City boards and commissions are the lifeblood of City government. Whether your interest is in

planning, art, historic preservation, or conservation, there is a volunteer opportunity waiting for you.

For a complete list of City boards, and commissions visit the City's website (Ashland.or.us). To find current vacancies and an application form, go to ashland.or.us/vacancies.

March City Calendar

City Council

Business Meetings: Mar. 6 & 20 | 7:00 p.m.

Study Sessions: Mar. 5 | 5:30 p.m.

Airport Commission

Mar. 6 | 9:30 a.m.

Citizen's Budget Committee

Mar 19 | 5:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mar. 28 | 6:00 p.m.

Forest Lands Commission

Mar. 13 | 5:30 p.m.

Historic Commission

Mar. 7 | 6:00 p.m.

Housing and Human Services Comm.

Mar. 22 | 4:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: Mar. 26 | 7:00 p.m.

Study Session: Mar. 19 | 5:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

Business Meeting: Mar. 13 | 7:00 p.m.

Study Session: Canceled

Public Art Commission

Mar. 16 | 8:00 a.m.

Transportation Commission

Mar. 22 | 6:00 p.m.

Tree Commission

Mar. 8 | 6:00 p.m.

Wildfire Mitigation Commission

Mar. 21 | 11:00 a.m.

▲ Meetings are typically held at Council Chambers, 1175 East Main or at 51 Winburn Way and are open to the public. ▲ 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.

