

CITY OF COOS BAY PARKS COMMISSION

Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
April 16, 2026	3.c

TO: Chair Lyons & Commissioners
FROM: Greg Hamblet, Operations Administrator
THROUGH: Jennifer Wirsing, Public Works Director
ISSUE: Parks and Grants Updates

SUMMARY:

Monthly update on park-related grants and projects provided by city staff.

ACTION REQUESTED:

No action requested at this time.

BACKGROUND:

City staff will provide a monthly update report to the Parks Commission to highlight progress on grants, capital improvements, and operations related to parks. These updates are designed to keep the

Commission fully informed, support proactive decision-making, and outline both recent accomplishments and the work anticipated in the coming months.

John Topits Park – Wildfire Mitigation:

- The City of Coos Bay was awarded the Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant for \$75,000 from the Oregon State Fire Marshals Office. The purpose of this grant is to reduce wildfire risk by removing hazardous vegetation around the perimeter of the park adjacent to residential structures.
 - Project Update:
 - The project is approximately two-thirds complete. Project was approved to move forward by council. The fire chief will be providing direction for the contractor once they remobilize.

Mingus Park Restrooms and Rewilding:

- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (LGGP): \$343,464 awarded; total project cost \$572,441 with \$228,977 City match.
- Reser Family Foundation: the City of Coos Bay was awarded a grant for \$55,000. Big Thank you again to the Reser Family Foundation!
 - **Restroom Project Update:**
 - Mingus Park Restroom: Restroom installation is complete. Site lighting has been installed and paths to and around the restroom have been paved. Working on close-out process.
 - Mingus Ball Park Restroom: All interior and exterior components have been completed.
 - **Rewilding Project Update:**
 - The interpretive sign has been delivered, with installation occurring in April/May.

TGM (Comprehensive Bike & Ped Plan):

- ODOT Planning is moving forward with the consultant solicitation process. ODOT anticipates award of contract summer 2026.

Mingus Park Community Building – Historic Preservation & Interpretation:

- **Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant – OPRD:**
 - Submitted February 27, 2026; awarded March 17, 2026 in the total amount of \$16,000.
 - The award supports two complementary projects
 - **Historic Structure Assessment (HSA):** Funding will support a professional assessment of the Mingus Park Community Building (Scout Cabin) to evaluate structural conditions and identify priority preservation and stabilization needs.
 - **“Spectres Past from the Conundrum House Experience”:** Funding will support the development of interpretive programming and storytelling elements that enhance public education and bring the site’s history to life.
- **Rotary Coos Foundation:** A \$10,000 grant application will be submitted, to support CLG grant application match requirement. Due May 5, 2026
- **Kinsman Foundation:** A \$4,000 grant application will be submitted to complete the CLG grant application match requirement.

Front Street:

- City of Coos Bay staff has reengaged with David Evans and Associates to advance the project.
- Staff is working with individual business owners, regarding access.

League of Oregon Cities – Award for Excellence (2026):

- Application currently in development for “Mingus Park Renewal: Leveraged Funding, Sustainable Design, Lasting Impact” award of excellence nomination.
 - Status: Drafting; materials are being compiled.
 - Deadline: March 20, 2026.
 - The nomination highlights the Mingus Park Restroom Revitalization and Rewilding Project, emphasizing leveraged funding, sustainability, and lasting community impact.

Empire Boat Ramp – Debris Boom:

- **2025-2027 Boating Facility Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB):** Submitted January 5, 2026 requesting \$595,193 to replace the debris boom and pilings at the Empire Boat Ramp.
- **Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) Submerged Lands Enhancement Fund:** Application submitted April 2, 2026 requesting \$128,302 to support OSMB grant application match requirement.
- **Bay Area Sportsmen’s Association Inc. (BASA):** Application submitted April 7, 2026 requesting \$5,000 to support OSMB grant application match requirement.

Operations & Maintenance:

Cleaned up 12 abandoned camps in the Empire area.

Mowing and maintenance of Parks

Worked with Coos Forrest Patrol and AYA to remove hazardous/dangerous trees in John Topit’s Park

Added a new Storage shed for a side by side at the Mingus Park Community Building

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

None

ATTACHMENT(S):