

CITY OF COOS BAY PARKS COMMISSION

Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
January 15, 2026	d

TO: Chair Lyons & Commissioners
FROM: Greg Hamblet, Operations Administrator
THROUGH: Jennifer Wirsing, Public Works Director
ISSUE: Park Related Projects and Grant 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.
- Action, Implementation & Mitigation (AIM) Program by Coalitions & Collaboratives Inc. (CoCo): Application submitted October 16, 2025 requesting \$225,000 to support vegetation removal and hazard-fuel mitigation efforts at John Topits Park. Status: Not selected.

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 one they remobilize. It is anticipated that the contractor will begin again in late February.

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. These funds will be used to fund a portion of the match requirements for the LGGP grant.

Restroom Project Update:

- Mingus Park Restroom: Installation has begun. Anticipate the restroom building to be completed in 30 days.

- Mingus Ball Park Restroom: All interior and exterior components have been completed. There are some small plumbing issues that will need to be addressed prior to the installation of the water heater. These will be remedied by the end of the month.

Rewilding Project Update:

- The interpretive sign is nearing completion with installation occurring in March.

TGM (Comprehensive Bike & Ped Plan)

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

Front Street:

- City of Coos Bay staff are working with David Evans and Associates to advance the project.
- Staff have been coordinating with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Fact-Finding Committee (BPFCC) to assist with outreach to area businesses regarding the project. BPFCC members Jamie Fereday and Carmen Mathews have been communicating with local businesses to inform them of the proposed removal of 14 parking stalls, which would allow for a continuous multimodal path on the east side of Front Street.
- Staff presented the proposal to remove 14 parking stalls at the January 6, 2026 Council meeting. Council received several public comments both in favor and not in favor of the loss of 14 spaces. Council has requested that the topic come back to Council on February 3, 2026 to further the conversation and make a decision at that time.

Operations & Maintenance

- Removal of Christmas trees & decorations.
- Park clean-ups after storms.
- Unhoused camp removal & Clean-up.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

None

ATTACHMENT(S):