

CITY OF COOS BAY PARKS COMMISSION

Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
May 21, 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 seventy-five percent (75) complete. Contractor has pulled off of the project due to prior commitments and is anticipated to return to work on the project in late July.

Mingus Park Restrooms and Rewilding:

- **Restroom Project Update:** Staff are currently working through the closeout process.
 - Mingus Park Restroom: Restroom installation is complete.
 - Mingus Ball Park Restroom: All interior and exterior components have been completed.
 - The interpretive sign installation has been completed. Native plant establishment continues throughout the project area.
 - 2024 Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (LGGP): \$343,464 awarded; total project cost \$572,441 with \$228,977 City match.
 - 2025 Reser Family Foundation: the City of Coos Bay was awarded a grant for \$55,000.
 - **Rewilding Project Update:**

TGM (Comprehensive Bike & Ped Plan):

- ODOT Planning has completed the consultant selection process for the City's Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and awarded the project to Parametrix. ODOT will begin negotiations related to the Scope of Work (SOW), schedule, and deliverables prior to issuance of the Notice to

Proceed (NTP). City staff will participate in the negotiation and coordination process with ODOT and Parametrix as the project advances toward kickoff.

Mingus Park Community Building – Historic Preservation & Interpretation:

- **Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant – OPRD:**

- 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.
- Submitted February 27, 2026; awarded March 17, 2026 in the total amount of \$16,000. The award supports two complementary projects:
- **Rotary Coos Foundation:** A \$6,350 grant application was submitted on April 27, 2026, to support CLG grant application match requirement. Application under review.
- **Kinsman Foundation:** A \$4,400 grant application was submitted May 13, 2026, to complete the CLG grant application match requirement. Application under review.

Mingus Park Playground:

- **2026 Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (LGGP):** Staff are currently preparing a 2026 Local Government Grant Program (LGGP) application through Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for the Mingus Park Inclusive Playground Revitalization Project. Large Grant applications due June 5, 2026.

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.

Empire Boat Ramp – Debris Boom:

- **2025-2027 Boating Facility Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB):** The City was awarded \$595,192.86 on May 6, 2026, through the Oregon State Marine Board Boating Facility Grant Program to replace the debris boom and associated pilings at the Empire Boat Ramp.
- **2026 Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) Submerged Lands Enhancement Fund:** Application submitted April 2, 2026 requesting \$128,302 to support the OSMB grant application match requirement. Application remains under review.
- **2026 Bay Area Sportsmen's Association Inc. (BASA):** The City was awarded \$2,000 on April 28, 2026, from BASA to support the debris boom replacement project match requirement.

Operations & Maintenance:

Cleaned up 21 abandoned camps in the Empire area and picked up 46 cubic yards of trash & debris.

Mowing and maintenance of Parks.

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

Removed 30 truckloads of brush debris out of John Topits.

Prepped trails for paving activities inside of John Topit on the Ackerman entrance trail.

Planted trees in Eastside, Mingus & John Topits Parks.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

None

ATTACHMENT(S):