

CITY OF COOS BAY PARKS COMMISSION

Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
November 20, 2025	3.e

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.

GRANTS AND GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS

John Topits Park – Wildfire Mitigation

- **Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant (OSFM):** \$75,000 awarded to reduce wildfire risk by removing hazardous vegetation and addressing diseased or dying trees that could serve as fuel.
- **CIS Wildfire Risk Management Grant 25–26:** Not successful.
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – DR-4854-OR (OEM):** Not successful.
- **Action, Implementation & Mitigation (AIM) Program (CoCo):** Application submitted October 16, 2025 requesting \$225,000 to support vegetation removal and hazard-fuel mitigation efforts at John Topits Park.
 - **Project Update:** Work is ongoing, with current vegetation and fuels reduction occurring behind the Ackerman Apartments. Staff continue to monitor progress and ensure all work remains compliant with the grant scope.

Mingus Park Restrooms and Rewilding

- **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (LGPP):** \$343,464 awarded; total project cost \$572,441 with \$228,977 City match.
- **Reser Family Foundation:** Application submitted August 1, 2025 requesting \$55,000; site visit completed October 15; decisions expected December 2025.
- **CIS Security Enhancement Grant 25–26:** Submitted October 13, 2025 requesting \$10,000 for exterior security cameras.
 - **Mingus Playground Restroom:** All submittals have been approved. Permit has been issued. Site work—including pad prep and utility extensions—is complete. Pad and precast restroom installation remains scheduled for late March 2026.

- **Mingus Ball Park Restroom:** All interior and exterior components have been completed. Hot water heater installation is anticipated by the end of November, with reopening forecast for December 2025.
- **Rewilding:** Planting was completed by Coos Watershed Association on October 14, 2025. The interpretive signs are currently being reviewed and edited by City staff, with installation estimated for December, following final content confirmation and Commission recommendation.
- **Project Update – Restrooms and Rewilding**

Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

- **TGM:** Awarded October 1, 2025 to support the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and update the TSP's Pedestrian and Bicycle Modal Plans. The preferred Safe Routes to School (SRTS) alternative will be evaluated as part of this effort.
 - **Project Update:** Staff presented options to develop the Scope of Work (SOW) at the October 16, 2025 Parks Commission meeting. ODOT has since prepared a First Draft SOW and distributed it to Public Works staff for review. Staff will provide City and Commission comments to ODOT to incorporate into the final SOW. Once the final SOW is complete ODOT will solicit proposals from preselected qualifying consultants.

Mingus Park Community Building

- Staff continue to pursue additional grant funding for structural stabilization, including the roof and chimney, as the next phase of the restoration effort.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- **Coos Bay Boardwalk:** Staff has developed the design and technical specifications for approximately 940 feet of fencing to be replaced with ornamental railing. Re-roof the three pavilion structures and construct a retaining wall near the boardwalk entrance. These projects are anticipated to bid soon, with construction targeted for spring 2026. These projects will be bid with the Gordian Group, a cooperative purchasing group that will aid the city in getting cost effective projects pricing while delivering a great product. Staff is also preparing Requests for Quotes to remove glass from the pavilion, install new handrails to the center pavilion.
- **Front Street Blueprint Project:** Staff presented the proposal from David Evans and Associate's (DEA) to Council on October 7, 2025 to advance the 30% design to 100% design of the Front Street Blueprint. Council approved, staff has finalized the contract with DEA and is working on scheduling a kick-off meeting. Staff has provided the 30% drawings to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Fact-finding Committee for review and comment. This effort will be funded by Urban Renewal dollars.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

- **Visitor Information Center Christmas Tree:** Staff has set up the Christmas tree at the Visitor Information Center in anticipation of Santa's arrival and the annual tree lighting to kick off the holiday season.
- **Empire Christmas Tree Setup:** Staff installed the community Christmas tree in Empire to celebrate the holiday season. Santa will visit and help light the tree in front of the Empire mural.
- **Christmas Decorations:** Staff is actively preparing and installing holiday decorations throughout the city to create a festive and welcoming atmosphere for the community.
- Mowing operations at each of the Parks.
- Trail brush clean-up at John Topits Park
- New entrance sign at John Topits Park

NEW INFORMATION

- New Marina Host (Eric Sharman)
- New Moorage Agreements (In Process)
- New Camp Host Eastside Park (Warren Tharp)
- New Camp Host Empire Boat Launch (John Burch)
- Advertising for new Camp Host at John Topits Park.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

None

ATTACHMENT(S):