



PARKS COMMITTEE

March 5, 2026

City Hall • 411 SW 9th Street • Conference Room 207

Virtual Meeting Option: [Join the meeting](#)

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PURPOSE STATEMENT: To plan, develop, and provide stewardship for City of Redmond’s parks and open spaces while preserving natural areas and maximizing public enjoyment.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alan Ewert
Chair

Erin Trimble
Vice Chair

Jeannie Cote-Lashonse
Member

Peter Gassner
Member

Shawna Hicks
Member

Eve Ponder
Member

Brad Porterfield
Member

Alison Aguilar
Youth Ex-Officio

Katie Hammer
RAPRD Ex-Officio

MARCH 5, 2026

MEETING AGENDA

3:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

II. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS AT THE MEETING

Citizen comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person and will be accepted for a period of 30 minutes. Comments should be focused on City of Redmond business. Attendees are asked to refrain from interrupting, calling-out, or cheering during citizen comments.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of February 5, 2026, meeting minutes

V. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- A. Public Outreach Expectations (All — 10 minutes)
- B. Community Event Opportunities (Maria — 15 minutes)
- C. Chapter 5 - Code Discussion (Eve — 10 minutes)

VI. UPDATES

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES / COMMENTS

VIII. ADJOURN

IX. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Meeting documents are available on the City’s web site at redmondoregon.gov

PARKS COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2026

City Hall Executive Conference Room 141

Present: Alan Ewert (Chair), Erin Trimble, Peter Gassner, Eve Ponder, Brad Porterfield, Jeannie Cote-Lashonse
Council Liaison: Shannon Wedding (Absent)
Absent: Shawna Hicks
RAPRD Ex Officio: Katie Hammer
Youth Ex Officio: Alison Aguilar (Absent)
Staff Present: PW Operations Manager Josh Wedding, Special Projects and Natural Resource Manager Maria Ramirez, Avery McChristian City Arborist, Recorder Brenda Pelly.

CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

Chair Alan Ewert called the meeting to order at 3:35PM. A quorum was established.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- December 4, 2025, minutes. Erin motioned to approve, Brad 2nd the motion, Unanimously approved.

DISCUSSIONS/ ACTION ITEMS

Code Review:

- Maria presented the annual review of City Code Chapter 2 Parks Committee roles & responsibilities. She also referenced Chapter 3 (Tree Board) and Chapter 5 (Park violations) as FYIs.
- Purpose, Plan, develop, and provide stewardship of City parks and open spaces, preserving natural areas and maximizing public enjoyment.
- Committee makeup, chair/co-chair roles, and reporting requirements were briefly reviewed.
- While this is a routine review, members may propose changes; formal amendments must be considered and approved by City Council.

Election of Chair & Co-Chair

- Erin was nominated to be the chair, and Pete Gassner was nominated to be the Co-Chair.
- Vote was unanimously approved.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

- Parks, Maria presented Parks' portion of the city's CIP.
- 5-Year Overview:
 - Projects identified: ~\$15.1M
 - Resources available: ~\$16.4M
 - Balance after planned projects: ~\$1.3M
- Key Near-Term Projects:
 - Elkhorn Park Development: Land use, concept planning, design; major focus beginning this year.
 - Parks Master Plan: Ongoing work.
 - Dry Canyon (Plan & Projects): Plan work included; future phases to be funded beyond the 2-year highlight window.
- Discussion:
 - Request to see the full five-year CIP snapshot (not just the first two years).
 - Interest in ensuring previously discussed items (e.g., skills course) are captured—potentially as part of Elkhorn concept planning.
 - Maria will follow up with Jessica (CIP) and circulate a consolidated view and notes.
- Action:
 - Maria to share the full 5-year Parks CIP snapshot and relevant slides/documents with the entire Committee ahead of Council's discussion.

Dry Canyon Firewise Plan - Josh presented the plan

- Partners/Consultation: Fire Chief, State Fire Marshal, Deschutes County Natural Resources & Forester, OSU Extension, COCC, Soil & Water Conservation District, East Cascades Audubon Society, and Native Plant Society (local president assisting with plant ID).
 - Recommendations (consensus across agencies):

- Thin trees/seedlings < 8" diameter.
- Limb remaining trees to 6 ft to reduce ladder fuels.
- Mow fire breaks on canyon floor (Council approved ~65 ft width; agencies preferred ~100 ft).
- Execution:
 - Internal resources this season (grant funding pending).
- Schedule:
 - Fire breaks mowing to begin next week (goal: complete in ~2 days, prior to cheatgrass seeding).
 - Thinning/limbing continues through late winter; pause during hot/dry months; resume in fall.
 - Focus area: North Dry Canyon, prioritizing the west side from the treatment plant south to Maple Bridge.
 - Materials handling: Chip and haul off-site.
 - Seeding: Apply pre-emergent native seed in fire break areas (fall), seeking long-term suppression of cheat grass and promotion of native grasses.
- Homeowner Coordination:
 - Fire Department will conduct defensible space assessments and connect eligible homeowners to grant funds for mitigation.
- Discussion & Mitigation Notes:
 - Concerns about fragile slopes and increased social trails as sightlines open.
- Staff will:
 - Mark work zones clearly and maintain field presence to educate/correct issues.
 - Coordinate with Code Enforcement, Fire, and Police for consistent public messaging and support.
 - Pursue a Dry Canyon Management Plan to formalize mitigations (e.g., signage, trail guidance, habitat protection).
- Actions:
 - Maria/Joshua/Avery to provide the Firewise slide deck and supporting agency recommendations to the Committee.
 - City Communications to issue a press release, update the website, and run a social media campaign explaining scope, timing, and community role.

Operations & Maintenance Report – Josh presented on behalf of Parks Operations

- Sports Fields: Upgrades to baseball/softball fields (diamond dust on infields, chain-link replacements, dugout painting, bench & helmet cubby rebuilds) in preparation for Little League season (~1 month out).
- Irrigation: Ongoing repairs and mitigation (Highland & Glacier corridors) related to ADA project impacts.
- Floral Program: Flower baskets/pots scheduled for planting (McMinnville). Theme: Red, White, & Blue for the national anniversary year.
- Skate Park: Camera installation underway (new pole & equipment on Antler).
- Facilities: Painting of flush restrooms (interior and exterior) nearing completion.

Additional Comments:

- Interpretive Display: A previously shared cross-section went viral on social media and renewed library interest. Staff will explore a permanent interpretive display and potential traveling exhibit across county library sites.
- Oldest Tree in Dry Canyon: Still under identification; staff have candidate areas.

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:

- March –TBD

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 4:50PM.

APPROVED by and SIGNED by me this _____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

 Alan Ewert
 Parks Committee Chair

 Maria Ramirez
 Special Projects and Natural Resource Program Manager

*Minutes created with assistance from CoPilot AI software.