Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes October 8, 2026

Committee Members	City Representatives:	Youth Advisors:
Position #1 ☑ Jay Ego	☑ Jackie Myers, *Council Representative*	☐ No attendance from Youth Advisors
Position #2 ☐ Mary Mejia-Weaver	☑ Maria Duron, *Council Representative*	
Position #3 ☑ Hunter Tibbals	☑ Brandon Artz, *P&R, Director*	
Position #4 ☐ Carlisle Harrison	☑ Kasia Robbins, *P&R, Rec Manager*	
Position #5 ☑ Stephanie Hughes	☑ Telisha Goodwin, *P&R, Operations Coord.*	
Position #6 ☑ Helen Nevin		
Position #7 ☐ Doug Minton		

Members of the Public:

None

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Hunter Tibbals at 5:31 pm. A quorum was not present at the start of the meeting, so staff proceeded with reports and discussion until an additional committee member arrived.

Minutes

• After a quorum was established, a motion was made by Stephanie Hughes at 6:57 pm and seconded by Helen Nevin to approve the June 11, 2026, Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee minutes.

• After quorum was established, a motion was made by Helen Nevin at 6:57 pm and seconded by Stephanie Hughes to approve the TRT-Rec Projects Committee Member Minutes.

Reports & Business

Introduction

Director's Report

Staff Introduction

- Mya Moreno and Andrew Guerrero were introduced as full-time Recreation Coordinators. Staff reported that the recreation team is now fully staffed and has moved beyond the recent recruiting and onboarding period. Mya is working on pool closeout, HEROS programming, youth sports and special events.

- Andrew is working across recreation programs with an increasing focus on adult sports.

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Harkenrider Activity Center / Senior Center

- The Harkenrider Senior Activity Center has officially been renamed the Harkenrider Activity Center. Signage will also identify the facility as the home of the Hermiston Senior Center to reduce confusion and make the building feel more inclusive for rentals and community use.
- Staff reported that the new City/Senior agreement is working well and is helping clarify the responsibilities of the City and the Senior Center.
- The Senior Center is transitioning leadership following Judy Fordice's retirement from day-to-day operations. Staff have spent significant time supporting the transition, reviewing records and bylaws, and helping the group establish a stronger working relationship with the City.
- The Senior Center is working toward a new executive director structure and additional membership/leadership support. Staff will continue providing assistance as requested while allowing the Senior Center to retain responsibility for its own operations and budget.
- Committee members discussed the value of increased City representation and support for the Senior Center as trust and communication continue to improve.

Recognition of Willard & Judy Fordice

- Staff recognized Willard and Judy Fordice for approximately 32 years of unpaid volunteer service to the Senior Center, including more than 13 years of board/member service and approximately eight years of day-to-day leadership at the Harkenrider facility.
    - A motion was made by Stephanie Huges at 6:09 pm and seconded by Jay E to recommend renaming the current Harkenrider meeting/board room as the Fordice Meeting Hall in honor of their service.
    - Motion carried unanimously. The naming recommendation will be forwarded to City Council for final consideration, with recognition planned for the October 26 City Council meeting.

Programs & Events

- Fall coed softball launched with four teams, allowing the department to run its first fall softball league after a few years absence.
- Adult volleyball, youth volleyball, youth flag football and HYSO fall soccer are currently underway.
- A new HYSO tournament is attracting teams from outside the area, including teams traveling from the Seattle region, creating an opportunity to bring additional visitors into Hermiston.
- The Hermiston Community Yard Sale at Butte Park received positive feedback.
- Family Magic Night was scheduled for October 9 with returning magician Cecil.
- Treats on Main will be held Friday, October 30 because Halloween falls on Saturday and the event is intended to support downtown businesses during operating hours.
- The new Haunted Hustle 5K walk/run will be held October 31 at the Riverfront/Oxbow Trail. Costumes are encouraged but not required.
- A summer and pool season recap is planned for the next committee meeting.

Parks & Projects

Sherman Park

- Construction bids came in approximately $200,000 higher than anticipated. Staff are working with Silver Creek Contracting, the low bidder, and Anderson Perry to value engineer the project and reduce costs.
- The City plans to purchase playground equipment directly and have it installed by the same contractor that installed the Horizon Park playground. Parks staff will also complete selected work in-house where practical.

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- Staff are exploring a swing-set area on the south side of the park. Construction is expected to begin during the winter, with the park anticipated to open in May 2027.

Horizon Park

- The playground and basketball court were completed in late July. Park usage has increased following the improvements.
- A park sign has been installed, and final entry landscaping is being completed.
- A Horizon Park dedication/ribbon cutting is scheduled for October 22 at 4:30 pm. Staff plan to canvas the surrounding neighborhood with door hangers to encourage attendance.

Funland Playground

- New perimeter fencing was completed by Freedom Temp Fence at a cost of approximately $11,800.
- The fencing was installed primarily to improve child safety and reduce bikes and scooters traveling through the playground. Existing gates remain functional and bilingual gate signage is being developed.
- Staff reported positive community and social media feedback on the project.

Forestry Grant / Community Forest Plan

- The public tree inventory, tree condition assessment, hazardous tree assessment, maintenance identification, tree planting plan and arboretum plan are complete. Community engagement, education and tree plantings remain in progress, and the Urban Forest Management Plan is being finalized.

Downtown Tree Revitalization

- GreenWorks and Anderson Perry are finalizing construction documents for downtown tree improvements between 1st and 4th Streets.
- The plan calls for replacement of declining trees on the 1st-2nd and 2nd-3rd Street blocks with Greenspire Linden trees. Existing healthy trees on the 3rd-4th Street block will remain, with new trees added in vacant locations as an alternate bid item.
- Expanded 4 x 12-foot tree-pit openings and Silva Cells are proposed to provide additional root space beneath sidewalks. Irrigation and electrical infrastructure will also be coordinated to reduce conflicts and improve long-term tree health.
- The preliminary construction estimate is approximately $363,000, including contingency and the 3rd-4th Street alternate. Approximately $500,000 remains in the urban forestry grant. Potential bid advertisement is planned for November 2026.
- Staff will present the project to downtown merchants in early November and will require construction phasing that maintains safe business access.

Splash Pad

- The City received a cease-and-desist letter from Hermiston Irrigation District regarding discharge from the splash pad into the irrigation canal. The current system has discharged one-time-use water to the canal since the splash pad was constructed in 2001, but staff have not located documentation authorizing the discharge.
- The splash pad uses a high volume of water, and staff are evaluating alternative discharge options with Anderson Perry. Options discussed include underground storage and reuse for irrigation, pumping to another irrigation area, an above-ground lagoon, or conversion to a recirculating system.
- Staff and engineers plan to meet with Hermiston Irrigation District to discuss the issue. If an acceptable solution is not identified, splash pad operations could be affected next summer.

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Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes October 8, 2026

2026 Project Status

- Completed projects include Community Center door/access improvements, Funland Playground fencing, park signage, Harkenrider landscaping, Community Center lighting upgrades, Belt Park bridge replacement, the Senior/City agreement and replacement of eight lights at Theater Sports Park.
- Current work includes final Horizon Park landscaping, urban forestry projects, HEROS tree plantings and irrigation, Sherman Park, an Arbor Day/Amazon tree planting event, Harkenrider key-fob access, splash pad discharge planning and HAWC planning.
- The Arbor Day/Amazon planting event is planned for November 3 and is expected to add approximately 65-70 trees around the first EOTEC RV park area.

HAWC / Upcoming City Council

- A HAWC presentation is scheduled for the October 26 City Council meeting. Council will consider whether to proceed into the validation phase, which would further refine design, scope and project cost before a final construction decision.
- The October 26 meeting will also include recognition of aquatic center staff involved in a lifesaving response and recognition of Willard and Judy Fordice.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Committee members were invited to volunteer for Treats on Main, the Veterans Day event and the community tree lighting.
- Staff also discussed future opportunities to support the Senior Center as its leadership structure develops.

Open Discussion

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm

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PARKS & RECREATION

COMMITTEE MEETING | Oct 2026



HERMISTON
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Staff Intros











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Harkenrider/Senior Center



Big Changes at the Senior Center

- **New Sign**
- **City/Senior Agreement**
- **New Executive Director**
- **Staff Time with the Senior Center**

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Harkenrider/Senior Center





Honoring Years of Service

- **Willard & Judy Fordice**
- **~32 years of service to the Senior Center**
- **13+ years on the board**
- **8 years as the Director of the Harkenrider/Senior Center**

32+ years of unpaid, volunteer service to our Community



+ Proposed Naming Action:

Harkenrider Board Room →

- Recognition at Oct 26 City Council Mtng

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Harkenrider/Senior Center



Senior Center Board Opportunity

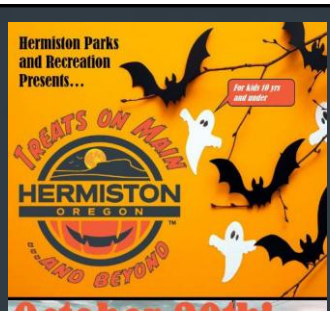
- **1 hour a month**
- **Help preserve the work this group has done**
- **Build the Senior / City relationship**
- **Connect with the "Senior" Community**

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Programs & Events



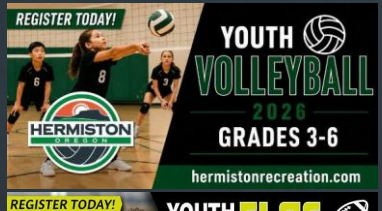


















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Sherman Park



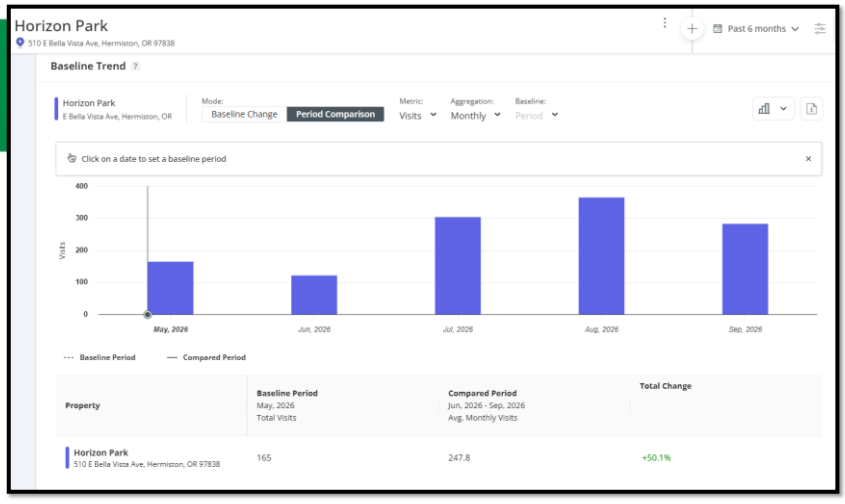
Project Update

- Construction bids came in higher than anticipated, requiring the City to value engineer the project.
- The City will purchase the playground equipment separately and have it installed by the same contractor that constructed the Horizon Park playground.
- Staff exploring the addition of a swing-set area on the south side of the park.
- The City is finalizing a formal agreement with Silver Creek Contracting, the lowest bidder. Silver Creek has accepted several scope and pricing changes that reduce the construction cost.
- Sherman Park is anticipated to open in **May 2027**.

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Horizon Park





- ✓ Basketball Court
- ✓ Playground
- ❑ Entry Way Landscaping

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Horizon Park

- ✓ Basketball Court
- ✓ Playground
- ❑ Entry Way Landscaping

❑ **Dedication Event:**
October 22 – 4:30pm





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Funland Playground

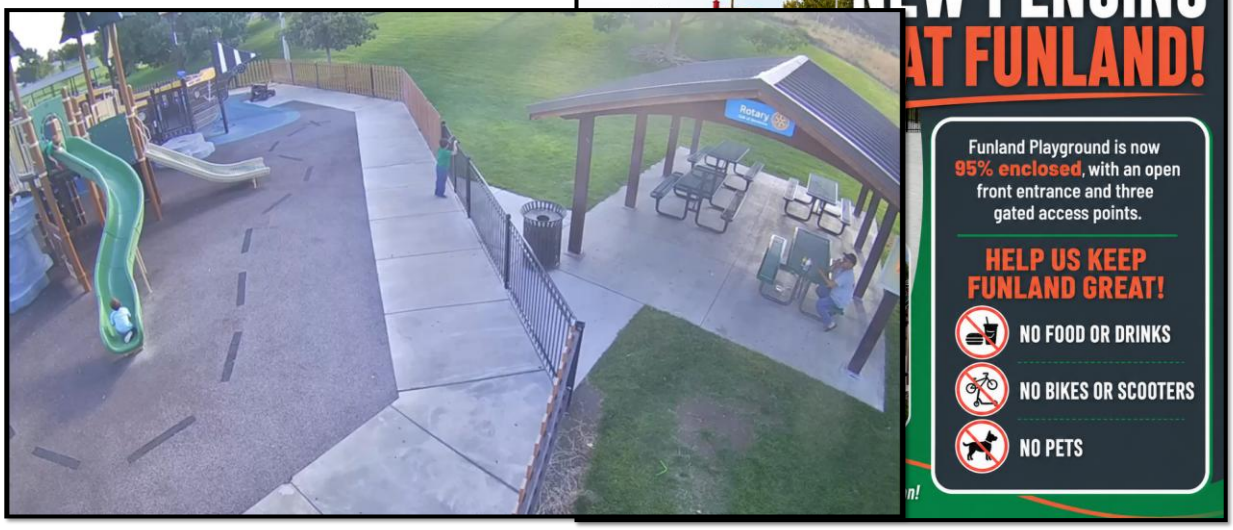
Completed Project

- Freedom Temp Fence did great work
- Gates are still functional
- Great feedback from Social Media world
- $11,800



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Funland Playground



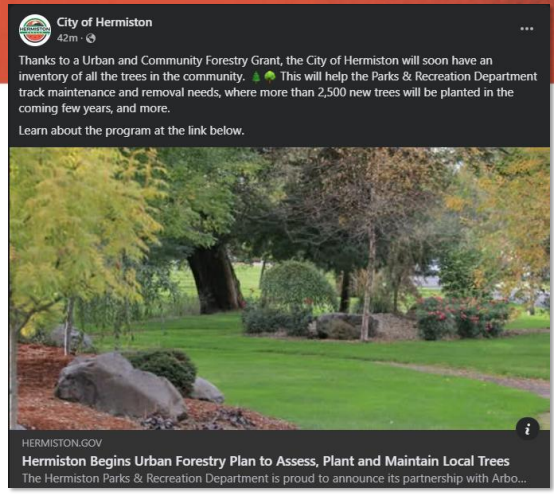
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Forestry Grant

Hermiston Community Forest Plan

Primary Objectives Update

1. Public tree inventory and data base – **Completed**
2. Tree condition assessment - **Completed**
3. Hazardous tree assessment - **Completed**
4. Tree maintenance identification - **Completed**
5. Tree planting plan - **Completed**
6. Main Street tree plan – **In Progress**
7. Arboretum plan - **Completed**
8. Community engagement and education – **In Progress**
9. Urban Forest Management Plan – **Finalizing**
10. Tree Plantings – **In Progress**



https://www.hermiston.gov/parksrec/page/hermiston-community-forest-project

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Downtown Tree Revitalization

Project Update



Renewing the downtown canopy

The June site review identified declining trees, irrigation issues and sidewalk heaving. The project improves growing conditions and downtown appearance.

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Downtown Tree Revitalization

Planting scope



1st–2nd and 2nd–3rd Street blocks
Remove existing trees and replace them with Greenspire Linden.

3rd–4th Street block
Retain existing trees and plant Greenspire Linden in vacant locations.

One cultivar for all new trees
Greenspire Linden (Tilia cordata 'Greenspire') provides a consistent planting selection across the project.



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Downtown Tree Revitalization

More room for healthy tree growth

4 × 12 ft

Expanded tree-pit openings

Silva Cells provide rooting space beneath the sidewalk.

Design coordination includes irrigation, electrical outlets and conflicts with awnings, lighting and utilities.



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Downtown Tree Revitalization

Preliminary budget and next steps

$363,000

Estimated construction cost

Base scope with contingency: $331,470
3rd–4th Street alternate: $31,737

Includes 15% contingency. Final scope and contractor bids will determine cost.

Construction documents
GreenWorks is finalizing the documents.

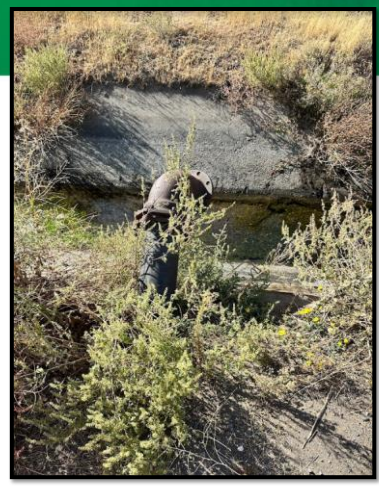
Potential bid advertisement
November 2026

Construction timing remains to be confirmed.

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Splash Pad



Cease & Desist Letter from Hermiston Irrigation District

- Discharging water into irrigation line since 2001
- System is a 1 time use of water, then discharge
- Anderson-Perry and staff will meet with HID and will be looking at alternative discharge solutions

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2026 P&R Projects:

HERMISTON OREGON
Parks & Recreation

--- IN PROGRESS ---

- ❑ Horizon Park – Playground, Basketball Court, Signage
- ❑ Urban Forestry Tree Grant
  - ❑ Main Street Tree Revitalization
  - ❑ HEROS Sportsplex Tree Plantings/Irrigation
  - ❑ Parks Plantings
- ❑ Sherman Park
- ❑ Arbor Day/Amazon Tree Planting – Nov 3rd
- ❑ Harkenrider Center – Door Access
- ❑ HEROS - Irrigation
- ❑ Splash Pad – Discharge Water
- ❑ HAWC

--- COMPLETED ---

- ✓ Community Center – Doors/Access
- ✓ Funland Playground – Fencing
- ✓ Park Signs – Butte, Theater, Horizon, Hark
- ✓ Harkenrider – Landscaping
- ✓ Community Center – Lighting Upgrades
- ✓ Belt Park – Bridge Replacement
- ✓ Senior/City Agreement
- ✓ Theater Sports Park – Replaced 8 bulbs

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Opportunities

Coming Up

- Oct 26 – City Council
  - HAWC Presentation to City Council
    - Decision on whether to proceed to Validation phase
  - Recognitions for HFAC Save and Fordice's
- Treats on Main – Volunteer Opportunity
- Veteran's Day – Volunteer Opportunity
- Tree Lighting – Volunteer Opportunity

Boards & Committees

- Senior Center Board

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Parks & Rec Committee

Future Discussion Topics/Ideas

Next Meeting: Summer/Pool Recap

Where Life is Sweet™

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