



# ST HELENS PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION

2024 ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

*August 2024*

*Prepared by: Lynne Pettit*


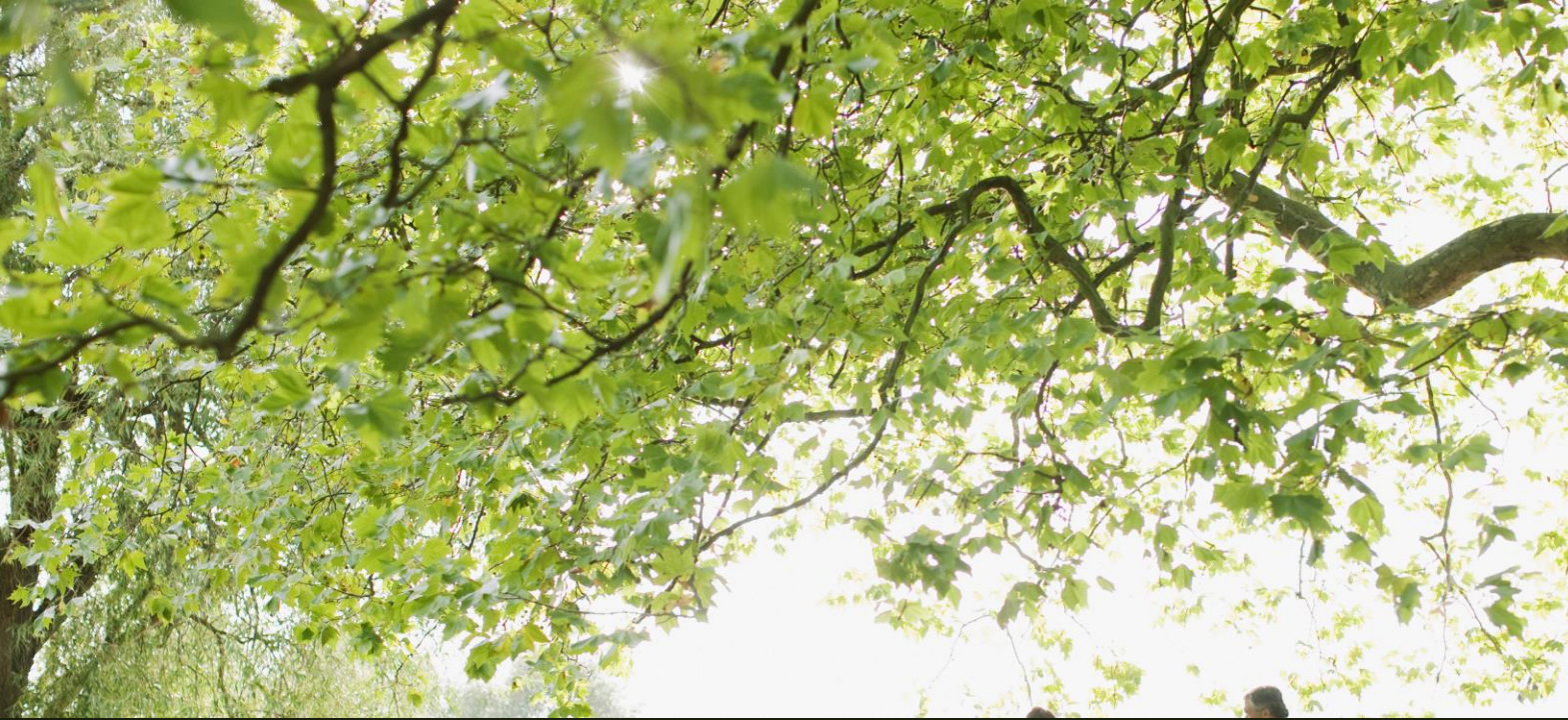


## 2024 COMMISSION MEMBERS AND PARKS ASSIGNED

- ▶ Lynne Pettit - Dalton Lake Nature Preserve, Walnut Tree Park, Japanese Garden
- ▶ Scott Jacobson, Chair - Heinie Heumann Park, Columbia View Park, Columbia Botanical Gardens
- ▶ Jerry Belcher - Godfrey Park, Columbia Botanical Gardens, Japanese Gardens
- ▶ Jacob Woodruff - McCormick Park, 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park, Sand Island
- ▶ Howard Blumenthal - Nob Hill Nature Park, Sand Island
- ▶ Paul Barlow - McCormick Park, BMX Track and Skate Park
- ▶ Dana Lathrope, Vice Chair - Grey Cliffs Park, Japanese Garden
  
- ▶ NEW MEMBERS THIS YEAR:

NICK HELLMICH

REID HERMAN



GODFREY PARK  
COLUMBIA VIEW PARK  
GREY CLIFFS PARK  
WALNUT TREE PARK  
HEINIE HEUMANN PARK  
CAMPBELL PARK  
6<sup>th</sup> STREET PARK  
CIVIC PRIDE PARK

**NO NEW IMPROVEMENTS DURING THE LAST YEAR**



## DISCUSSION ON CHANGES WANTED FOR THESE PARKS

- ▶ **COLUMBIA BOTANICAL GARDENS:** Working on a new name for the area. There is need for a small historical kiosk.
- ▶ **GREY CLIFFS PARK:** A barrier of some type at the cliff for safety, and handrail at the steps.
- ▶ **BMX/SKATE PARK:** Because of a theft, there is need for a replacement sign, and one is on order.
- ▶ **COLUMBIA VIEW PARK:** On hold until Waterfront Development is finished in that area scheduled for May 2025.
- ▶ **CIVIC PRIDE PARK:** Plant native trees and shrubs, install picnic table, and historical kiosk. Water is not available in the Park at this time, but water lines are available in the area. New signs were ordered.



# DISCUSSION ON CHANGES WANTED FOR THESE PARKS - CONTINUED

## HEINIE HEUMANN PARK (Submitted by Scott Jacobson)

### Explored possibility of building an ADA Trail

- An ADA trail at Heinie Heumann Park had previously been identified in the 2015 Parks and Trails Master Plan.
- Met with Melissa Watson, Executive Director of Senior Center, in December 2023 to discuss the possibility of building an ADA trail connecting the Senior Center to Heinie Heumann Park.
- Consulted with Jennifer Dimsho in the Planning Department regarding funding options and design.
- Contacted the Local Government Grant Program regarding the possibility of a grant and how this project would score and attended a webinar on grant application and scoring.
- Contacted Executive Director of Columbia County Habitat for Humanity regarding possibility of volunteer labor for matching grants.
- Contacted potential landscape designers.
- Site meeting with Public Works, members of the Parks and Trails Commission, and Melissa Watson to consider design and scope.
- At the March 2024 Parks and Trails Commission meeting, discussed feasibility of the ADA trail and decided not to proceed at this time due to utilization concerns versus cost.
- **Native plants protection**
  - In the process of identifying an area with native plants that will be set aside and protected.

# DISCUSSION ON CHANGES WANTED FOR THESE PARKS - CONTINUED

## **COLUMBIA VIEW PARK** (submitted by Scott Jacobson)

- Discussion with John Walsh and Jennifer Dimsho at November 2023 Parks & Trails Commission meeting regarding park redesign.
- Revised plan and design of park presented by Jennifer Dimsho at January 2024 Parks & Trails Commission meeting.
- Park is currently closed until May 2025 due to construction.





# McCORMICK PARK

All abilities Playground equipment, Disc Golf, Exercise trail, BMX track and Skate Park, Picnic tables, walking trails, the Veterans Memorial Wall, and Milton Creek meanders through the Park.



# McCORMICK PARK UPDATES



- Disc Golf group has work parties to clean the area and report any damage.
- A new area next to the Veterans Memorial Wall was completed that includes flags to honor every Branch of our Military.
- **JAPANESE GARDEN**
- Taylor Theel of the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council discussed with Brandon and Buck an Invasive Specie Study for spraying in the Fall.
- April 20<sup>th</sup> from 9-12:00 there was a work party at the site. Cutting dead trees and bushes, weeding, cutting back brush and hauling our debris. Brandon Sundeen, Lynne Pettit, and Greg Pettit attended.





April 30<sup>th</sup> – after the work party

APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> – After the Work Party at the Japanese Garden



# BMX TRACK AND SKATE PARK

- Parks Department cut down dead trees at the track.
- More than once the Parks Department painted over graffiti at the track, and it was much appreciated.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)







# NOB HILL NATURE PARK

- Earned 5<sup>th</sup> TRENCH bench for Nob Hill
- Re-graveled several portions of the Park Trails
- Held 3 volunteer work parties in September, November and April
- Recruited 2 new volunteers that help weekly since January
- Led 2 native plant ID walks jointly with the Native Plant Society of Oregon
- Weed-eating along trails, with 2 people over 4 weekends

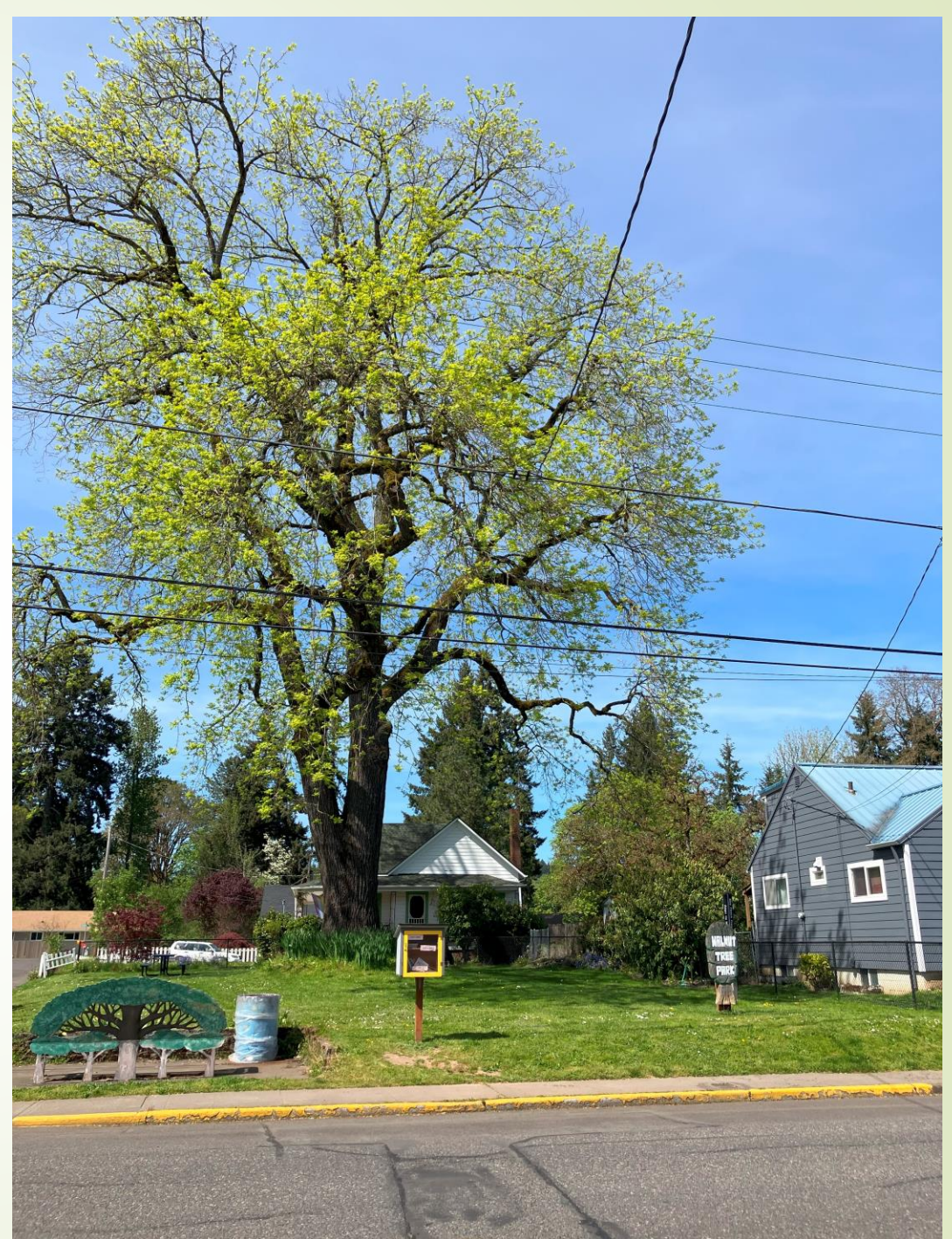


# WALNUT TREE PARK

## ➤ Walnut Tree Park:

The weeding, trimming and mowing is maintained by citizen volunteers on a monthly basis.

The St. Helens Little Library is used extensively by members of the community.







One of our local engineers at the Preserve.

# DALTON LAKE NATURE PRESERVE

## DALTON PRESERVE UPDATES

- ▶ The 3<sup>rd</sup> kiosk, 6<sup>th</sup> TREX bench and a Mason Bee house was installed on the Main entrance trail, near the bridge that goes over Harrie Creek. The Historical kiosk will have signs from the Museum Association soon.
- ▶ A private donation has provided an opportunity to order signs that were stolen.
- ▶ The St Helens Police Department continues to patrol the Preserve, resulting in a significant absence of garbage, and camps.
- ▶ Work is ongoing for specie signs to be made for plants and trees. QR codes will be added to show the specie in bloom with a description, on your phone.
- ▶ Brochures are made and available on the kiosks of Bird species found in the Preserve and a list of plant species.
- ▶ Parks maintenance cleared downed trees and debris from the main trails.
- ▶ New gravel was added for parking off Oregon St., South Entrance by the Kiosk.
- ▶ Volunteer works days, in Summer months, are conducted for invasive specie removal.





# THANK YOU AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Public Works staff and Director for being committed to their work, prepared, and professional always, with any of our requests.
- Members of the public who come forward with suggestions and improvements for our parks.
- City and Park staff who help keep us running and provide us with regular updates, are always prepared, and knowledgeable.
- All the volunteers, including the Garden Club, Kiwanis, and Lions Club who support and weed our City parks, and other public spaces. We couldn't do it without you!
- The Parks and Trails Commissioners who donate their time to enhance the livability of this City, and for all who visit here.



A scenic view of a lake with a rainbow in the sky, a picnic table, and a fence in the foreground. The rainbow is positioned in the upper center of the image, arching over the lake. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright patch of light where the rainbow is visible. The lake is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding landscape. In the foreground, there is a green lawn with a wooden picnic table and a tall, dark brown post with a white top. A chain-link fence runs across the middle ground. In the background, there are trees with yellow and orange foliage, suggesting autumn. A white railing is visible in the bottom left corner.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
TIME!

ANY QUESTIONS?