



CITY OF SWEET HOME PARKS & TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 21, 2026, 8:30 AM
3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, OR 97386

WIFI Passcode: guestwifi

PLEASE silence all cell phones – Anyone who wishes to speak, please sign in.

Mission Statement

The City of Sweet Home will work to build an economically strong community with an efficient and effective local government that will provide infrastructure and essential services to the citizens we serve. As efficient stewards of the valuable assets available, we will be responsive to the community while planning and preparing for the future.

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 AM

Roll Call of Park and Tree Committee Members:

PRESENT

Member Matthew Bechtel
Vice Chair Lena Tucker
Member Nancy Patton
Member Melanie Jones
Member Scott Swanson
Councilor Aaron Hegge
Member Debra Northern (8:39)

STAFF

Angela Clegg, Planning & Building Manager
Dominic Valloni, Public Works Operations Manager
Sean Hegge, Crew Lead: Facilities and Parks
Adam Leisinger, Special Projects Manager

GUESTS

Candy Snyder, Beautification Committee

Time Reports None

Meeting Minutes

2025-11-19 Park & Tree Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the 2025-11-19 Park & Tree Committee Meeting Minutes was made by Member Jones and seconded by Member Bechtel. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: Member Bechtel, Vice Chair Tucker, Member Patton, Member Jones, Member Swanson

NAY: None

ABSENT: Member Northern (arrived at 8:39 AM)

The location of the meeting is accessible to the disabled. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, advanced notice is requested by notifying the City Manager's Office at 541-367-8969.

Public Comment. None

Beautification Committee Update

Candy Snyder provided a report to the Committee. Candy highlighted the lollipop planter project and those involved making it happen. Candy turned her volunteer hours sheet to Manager Clegg.

Manager Valloni provided additional information on the metal fish being made by the high school that will be installed in the median.

Committee Member Bechtel stated that he thought the lollipop planters looked great. He suggested that they be painted with metallic paint next year.

Vice Chair Tucker stated that she was pleased that there was very little damage to the lollipops. She then asked Candy if the beautification committee needed any help in the next month. Candy stated that the Committee will start meeting and weeding again in March. Candy's priority is to get the flowers order for the median and the hanging planters.

Member Patton asked if the pots that were used for the lollipops could be used again and put flowers in them. Candy stated that it will be difficult because the lollipops are secured with concrete and have pea gravel on top. Manager Clegg stated that the difficulty having flowers in them is the watering through the summer. Having businesses assistance has not been successful in the past. Vice Chair suggested an 'adopt a flower pot' program in the future.

Old Business

Arbor Day / Bloom & Brews: April 25th at Sankey Park

Manager Clegg provided a copy of the flyer to the Park & Tree Committee members. Clegg stated that the Committee will still oversee their Arbor Day booth and will still give the proclamation as required by Tree City USA program. The Arbor Day booth will be a part of the full celebration, but City Staff will coordinate the remainder of the event.

Vice Chair Tucker reminded the Committee that they will be planting the trees in the winter and not on the day of the celebration. Manager Clegg confirmed that the Tree City USA committee approved of that.

Sankey Park Phase III

Manager Clegg stated that the grant extension has been approved, and the completion date goal is June 30th. Clegg informed the committee that they are currently working on the construction contracts, and as soon as those are approved and signed construction activity should start.

Vice Chair Tucker asked which section will start first, the trail or the bandstand. Manager Clegg stated that she is unsure, it will depend on weather and which section is ready to move forward. Vice Chair Tucker asked about doing a celebration for the project. Manager Clegg stated that the goal is to combine the completion celebration with the 4th of July celebration that is being planned. Vice Chair Tucker asked about doing a groundbreaking for the project. Manager Clegg said she can suggest that to Management. A groundbreaking was done when the playground was constructed.

Member Bechtel asked if the bridge would remain closed during construction. Member Clegg stated that the bridge will remain closed unless there are events in the park that require the bridge to be open. Because of vandalism staff decided to keep the bridge closed permanently.

New Business

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Project Priorities

The Park and Tree Committee was tasked with making a list of their fiscal year 2026-2027 priority projects and then narrowing down their list for recommendations to City Council. The Committee discussed each item on the list prior to making their recommendations. Staff will then forward their

recommendations for consideration by the City Council. The priorities and recommendations are as follows:

FY26-27 Project Priorities

- Brainstorming Session:
 - Strawberry Park
 - Weddle Bridge
 - Park Maintenance
 - Quarry Park
 - Splash Pad
 - Trail System Connectivity
 - Northside Park ADA Access
 - Northside Park sport courts and playground
 - Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)
 - Skate Park
 - Hobart Park

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 priorities to recommend to City Council:

- Northside Park sport courts and playground
- Strawberry Park
- Weddle Bridge
- Trails
- Quarry Park
- Upper Sankey Park
- Creating a park on the east side of Sweet Home

Tree Planting

Manager Clegg informed the Committee that there will be a planting on February 5th and 6th for the project on the north side of Ames Creek behind the Boys & Girls Club. This project is in partnership with the South Santiam Watershed Council (SSWC) and they could use volunteers for the planting. Vice Chair Tucker asked what type of plants would be going in. Crew Lead Hegge stated that they will be planting native shrubs along the creek outside of the covered weed barrier area. Manager Valloni stated that they are planting approximately 2,500 shrubs. Manager Clegg will inform the committee when a start time has been chosen. Manager Valloni stated that there will be students from the high school that will be assisting with the planting. Member Patton asked if there would be shovels available. Manager Valloni stated that members would need to bring their own shovels if they chose to volunteer.

Round Table Discussions

Member Patton discussed photographs she had provided to staff of a bridge in Stayton. Manager Clegg explained that the Stayton bridge is a different bridge type than Weddle Bridge, and therefore the City would not be able to replicate Stayton's approach. She also noted that if Weddle Bridge receives a historic designation, the City may be limited in the type of construction allowed. Manager Clegg stated that staff can further review the process as the designation effort moves forward. Manager Leisinger reported that he contacted Lincoln County and learned that many of their bridges remain open to traffic, which allows them to receive assistance from ODOT. He added that many of those bridges are modern structures with a historic-style façade, an option that would not be permitted if Weddle Bridge is designated as historic. Manager Leisinger also described the specific bridge type classification of Weddle Bridge. Manager Clegg explained that the purpose of pursuing historic designation is to help identify potential funding sources. Because Weddle Bridge is no longer used for transportation, it does not qualify for ODOT funding, and staff will need to research alternative funding options.

Manager Clegg informed the Committee that Sweet Home was awarded Tree City USA designation again. It is the 39th year of being awarded.

Member Bechtel asked if the budget and finance committee came up with extra funding could they move forward with the 42nd and Osage park. Manager Clegg explained the reasons why that project was put on hold. She explained that besides playground equipment, infrastructure for bathrooms, sidewalks, and parking will need to be constructed. The infrastructure costs are what the City can't afford at this time.

Vice Chair Tucker asked if they could still have plant and tree giveaways at their Arbor Day booth. Manager Clegg said they could.

Member Patton asked how the Blooms and Brews Festival came about. Manager Leisinger described the process for deciding on events in the City. With the conclusion of the Jamboree the City is looking at events to bring people to Sweet Home. There were further discussions about past events.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM