

City News

August 2023

Happy Trails!

Livability and outdoor recreation have taken center stage this year with the newly approved Paths and Trails Master Plan.

"We have heard back from the community that they like paths and trails and want to live in an area that has those amenities," said Community Development Director Matt Laird.

The Paths and Trails Master Plan was adopted at the July 10th city council meeting. Unlike the broader Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, this plan focuses specifically on paths and trails. It is the guiding document for Veneta's future paths and trails system.

The plan includes a detailed proposed paths and trails network map, addresses current challenges to ensure that trails are safe and accessible, and incorporates feedback solicited from the public throughout the spring.

Thanks to the volume of undeveloped land in Veneta, along with the rapid pace of development, there is plenty of opportunity to implement a robust trails system locally. But, as Director Laird pointed out, it unfortunately won't be happening overnight.

"These are long range plans that can take years to develop. The Plan breaks down the projects and the

(See "Happy Trails" on page 3)

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow at Zumwalt Campground

Yesterday

Zumwalt Campground has a long history hosting guest during the annual Oregon Country Fair. The campground is located within Zumwalt Park along the western edge of Fern Ridge Reservoir. Over thirty years ago, a partnership was made between the City, the County, and the Oregon Country Fair to establish Zumwalt Campground.

In the summer of 1993 Mindy Sandford volunteered during the campground's grand opening

season. In 1998 she became the Zumwalt Campground Coordinator. Although Sandford retired from the City in 2018, she still works as the seasonal Zumwalt Campground Coordinator. Sandford explained that back then people had to get out of their car to check-in and they sold some tickets on-site.

"Originally the bulk of our tickets were sold through the U of O ticket outlet. There were a few hundred held to sell on-site. It was pretty crazy, but it

(See "Zumwalt" on page 3)

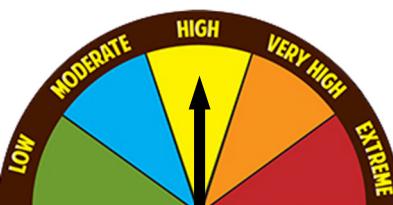
Vegetation Control & Compliance

Warm dry days make the need to control vegetation in Veneta city limits more important than ever.

The City's Municipal Code (8.05.060), states that property owners, managers, or tenants are required to prevent noxious weeds or vegetation from growing out of control on their property and from encroaching on the right-of-way of a public thoroughfare abutting the property. The code defines noxious vegetation as weeds and grass more than 10 inches high, poison oak, and blackberry bushes growing into a public thoroughfare or across property lines.

It also includes vegetation that presents a health, fire, or traffic hazard. That means property owners or residents must mow grass and trim or cut down shrubs, bushes, weeds, or other noxious vegetation as often as necessary

to prevent it from becoming unsightly or creating a fire hazard, or, in the case of noxious weeds, from



(See "Vegetation" on page 3)



CIVIC CALENDAR AUGUST 2023

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

1	National Night Out - City Park, 25190 E Broadway	 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
2	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
4	Family Fun Night - Veneta Community Pool	 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
8	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
9	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
14	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
17	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
25	Business Assistance Committee Meeting	9:00 a.m.
28	City Council Work Session - Bolton Hill Sports Complex Master Plan Update	 5:00 p.m.

Department Updates

ADMINISTRATION

- Mayor Keith Weiss and City Administrator Matt Michel met with Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) Area Manager Vidal Francis to talk about Veneta transportation projects that involve ODOT. They focused on three currently active projects: (1) The OR-126 Expansion from Huston Road to Terry Street in Eugene, (2) The failing intersection at Jeans Road & Territorial Highway, and (3) The Elmira-Veneta Multi-Use Path (MUP). ODOT hopes to pursue grants to get the OR-126 project started on the Veneta end. ODOT is also looking for state funding dedicated to bike and pedestrian projects like the Elmira-Veneta MUP. Finally, they talked about the need for a new intersection at Jeans Road & Territorial Highway because of proposed residential development on Jeans Road. Veneta's Transportation System Plan lists ODOT as a lead funding partner with the City, and they talked about that lead role in the context of Lane County taking control of Territorial Highway from ODOT. We hope to bring ODOT and Lane County together to make this project a high priority for everyone.
- Community feedback from recent surveys indicated an interest in having video summaries of City Council actions, so the City's Communications Team put out a request for monthly video production services. These videos would be produced and posted the week of a City Council meeting with a staff person presenting scripted information over 3-5 minutes. Follow the City on Facebook to find out when the first video gets posted.
- Congratulations to the Fern Ridge Library for a wildly successful first season of Movies in the Park! For two Fridays in June and again in July they hosted games and contests—with prizes!—starting at 7:30 PM before a family-friendly animated movie started at dusk. Kiwanis sold hot dogs and the Kona Ice truck was there, too. Events like this show you the community that you want to be a part of here in Veneta.
- The City received a \$15,000 grant from Oregon Emergency Management to do cybersecurity penetration testing. A request for proposals netted 20 proposals from companies across the country and beyond! We're working with our IT consulting team to pick the best proposal.
- The Veneta Celebration Run Committee continues to meet and further their journey towards a glorious Sunday, September 24th event. They're dialing in logistics, awards, course route, and sponsors. There's a lot of positive energy around the Run in the community. It's truly a community team effort with Craig Soderberg, Alexa Benson, and Administration Supervisor Ann Haxby keeping several hard-working volunteers focused on the goal.
- The City Council scheduled an August 28th work session on the updated Bolton Hill Sports Complex master plan with invited guests from Territorial Sports Program (TSP) who have been key partners in the use and upkeep of the fields. A critical pre-condition to renovating the fields is a

sustainable operation and maintenance plan. The City's consultants on the project are planning an informal drop-in gathering targeting TSP parents at the Bolton Hill Sports Complex on September 13th from 5-7 PM to view the new designs and enjoy refreshments.

- The City submitted a revised project list to Lane County for the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is part of Lane County's plan. The County suggested expanding on our single project to asses City facilities for hazards and mitigation projects to specify focusing on the Public Works Yard and the Community Center as critical facilities to be hardened for use in disaster scenarios.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- We've heard from families about their children not feeling safe in City Park and the Skate Park because of bullying behavior. Our Lane County Sheriff's Deputies have been active in addressing aggressive behaviors at the parks when it gets called in, and they'll look to be even more present. The August 1st National Night Out event will raise funds to improve security cameras at the parks to help the Sheriff's Office identify bullying behavior and emphasize the Golden Rule of treating others as you would have them treat you.
- During the Oregon Country Fair, City Hall turned into the operations center for several Lane County Sheriff's Office deputies and sergeants! It was nice to meet so many dedicated public servants in person and cheer them on.
- Public Safety partners led by Lane County Emergency Management have been working to setup a new system for public and internal alerting capabilities. Go to: www.LaneAlerts.org to register. An official media release will be sent out early next week asking people to sign up County wide.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- On July 10th the City Council adopted the Veneta Paths & Trails Master Plan. As land continues to be developed, this Plan will give the City a long-term vision of what public rights-of-way the City should acquire in those developments to connect our paths and trails together throughout our delightful city.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The State of Oregon renewed Veneta's Enterprise Zone for two years. Veneta's citizen-advisory Economic Development Committee recommended renewing this state-sponsored incentive program that provides a property tax incentive that's linked to job growth in the Jeans Road area.

PUBLIC WORKS

- A water leak on Luther Lane was an interesting puzzle to solve. If you've ever had a leak in your house, you know that water likes to trick you by making you think the leak is definitely in a location, when in fact, the water is running a distance and THEN showing up. Thankfully, this was not a major leak so the Public Works team doggedly pursued this mystery and solved it!

Happy Trails continued

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associated costs. Now that we know the costs, the next phase is applying for appropriate grants," Laird said.

The costs are pieced together by a variety of funding sources, including, but not limited to, grant funding. Optimistically, the Paths and Trails Master Plan will be added to the City Comprehensive Plan and the Veneta Parks System Development Charges (SDC) Capital Improvement Program. Although those details

remain yet to be determined, for now community members who expressed their desire for more connectivity and access to green space should feel good knowing their needs will be met with the newly adopted plan, and that the basic groundwork for a network of paths and trails has been carefully laid.

"We're growing and that's a good time to acquire trails. We want this to be an asset to our community," said Laird.

Zumwalt continued

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worked," Sandford said.

Today

The number of attendees has remained the same – roughly 1,500 people. Unlike in the past, tickets are now sold through the Lane County Parks reservation website and tickets are scanned on-site.

"People no longer have to get out of their car so it makes for a much smoother check-in," emphasized Sandford. "In a matter of hours it turns into a little tent city of its own. The people have created their own little communities within the park. There are other Oregon Country Fair campgrounds and people like them... but I believe the appealing thing about Zumwalt is the lake. Nobody else has that."



Tomorrow

An estimated 85 volunteers support the success of Zumwalt Campground every year. During the weekend, guests and volunteers can participate in a restoration project to support the natural ecosystem of Zumwalt Park—home to 56 acres of mixed woodland and meadow.

"It's a way for us to give back. That's an important piece to me, that the people who camp there appreciate that we are able to use the park," said Sandford.

Proceeds from Zumwalt Campground go back to the community including, but not limited to, the Veneta Community Pool and activities for youth and seniors.

Vegetation continued

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going to seed. Failing to do so could result in a citation and possible fines through Veneta Municipal Court. These restrictions are enforced June 1 through Sept. 30.

For updates on current fire restrictions you can visit Lane Fire Authority or LRAPA:



Lane Fire Authority

Website: www.lanefire.org/
Phone: 541-935-2226



Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority

Website: www.lrapa.org/
Phone: 541-736-1056

Volunteer Veneta



Current volunteer opportunities for the City of Veneta and local non-profit organizations.

The City currently has several vacancies. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these committees, you can contact the City of Veneta at 541-935-2191 or visit our website at www.venetaoregon.gov

City of Veneta

- ◆ Budget Committee - 1 vacancy
- ◆ Economic Development - 1 vacancy
- ◆ Park Board - there are 2 adult vacancies and 2 student vacancies

Mid Lane Cares

There are vacancies for their new shower and laundry program. You can volunteer as little as once a week or once a month. Contact Deanna at 541-935-4555 to find out more.

Senior Meals - We Need Your Help!

Senior & Disability Services relies on dedicated volunteers throughout Lane County to help deliver meals to seniors. You can volunteer as little as two (2) hours per week. YOU can make a DIFFERENCE in your community! For more information, contact a Senior and Disability Services **Volunteer Coordinator** at **541-682-1366**

Crosswalk Safety

Veneta is buzzing with activity this summer. People of all ages are walking or riding bikes to the Veneta Community Pool and enjoying the summer programs at City Park. City staff and law enforcement encourage residents to brush up on crosswalk rules and to remember that both drivers and pedestrians are expected to be courteous and follow local laws.

If you are walking or biking, you have the right of way in any crosswalk if you give sufficient time for drivers to stop. If you are at a signaled crosswalk, the walk sign must be displayed. Do not start crossing at a signaled crosswalk if the do-not-walk sign is flashing or displayed.



Drivers should slow down to watch for pedestrians and keep an eye out for children alongside the roads. If you are driving or riding a bicycle in a travel lane (not in a crosswalk), you are required to stop for any foot, wheel, crutch, stroller, or any other extension of a person who is in the crosswalk. If a person is attempting to cross, you should stop.

A driver who starts moving before the pedestrian is clear of the crosswalk is committing a Class B violation and subject to a base fine of \$265. Most importantly, following these rules helps keep our neighbors and children safe.

Soak Up the Rest of Summer at Veneta Community Pool

On June 17th the Veneta Community Pool opened for the summer. It's been a season to remember, but it's not over yet! From swimming lessons to swim team and lap swimming, the pool has seen a lot of action lately.

Public Works Director Kyle Schauer noted that this season's pool success depended on pool staffing and he commented on the "tremendous job" they've been doing.

"Everyone over there has just been superb this year. It's a great staff, starting with the pool management all the way down to the swim aids. This year it was difficult to get pool staff, but they were able to put it all together," said Schauer, who mentioned that they employ roughly twenty pool staff.

He said that nationwide it was a challenging time to hire lifeguards and pool personnel, given recruitment, training, and retainment.

"Our success rate of people going through the program and achieving the certificate is high. And we've had some wonderful returning staff who came back be-

cause they enjoy the job so much," Schauer said.

Schauer also recognized Steve Barreto and the rest of the Public Works Department for doing what he called a "phenomenal job" by ensuring the proper maintenance of the pool and grounds.

The swim team had their first swim meet on Saturday, July 22nd at Emerald Park Pool in the River Road Parks and Recreation District. "The swim team represented Veneta very well," said Schauer.

Family Fun Night is taking place on Saturday, August 4th from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. There will be games, water toys, and sprinklers. This is the third in a series of events, including the Night Waves Teen Party and the Summer Solstice Party.

The Veneta Community Pool officially closes for the season on Friday, September 1st so make a splash while you still can. And while you're at it, don't forget to thank the pool staff for another safe and successful pool season!



Public Safety Report - July 2023

Incident Type	Calls			Cases		
	Calls	Same Month/ Prior Year	5-Year Average	Cases	Same Month/ Prior Year	5-Year Average
Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, UUV, UEMV, Fraud)	33	41	31	12	13	16
Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassment, Viol. Restraining Order)	28	32	34	3	3	7
Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact, Suspicious activity)	105	51	54	2	1	0
Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks, Missing Persons, Overdose)	28	26	18	2	3	3
Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking/Vehicles, Traffic Hazard)	25	27	26	4	3	0
Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord)	5	2	6	3	4	1
Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process)	5	12	13	0	0	0
Traffic Stops	40					
Total	40	229	191	182	26	27