

City News

August 2022

To Surplus or Not to Surplus? A Tough Call on Funding Park Improvements

The 2020 Veneta Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan asked the Veneta Community a hard question: With little money available to upgrade park equipment, should the City sell—"surplus"—Ralph Johnson Park and/or 5th Street Park and use the sale proceeds to upgrade park equipment? Both parks were identified in the Master Plan as "small, underutilized, and close to other parks."

"We have a lot of needs when it comes to outfitting parks," said City Administrator Matt Michel. If the parks in question are surplused, then proceeds from Ralph Johnson Park (appraised at \$100,000) and 5th

Street Park (appraised at \$75,000) could be put into new or existing city parks—the result totaling at least a \$175,000 investment into city parks.

As part of the Parks Master Plan development process, the Veneta community responded to this tough question at in-person events and an online survey in 2019 and 2020. The results were close: About 40% in favor of selling both parks to raise funds, about 30% opposed, and about 20% with no preference. The final Master Plan recommended that the City Council evaluate this funding option, and in

(See "Parks" on page 2)

Communications Survey Available Now

As part of the Communication Strategic Plan, the City of Veneta is once again asking for citizen participation in a Communications Survey! This year marks the third time residents have had the opportunity to complete a survey measuring City performance as it relates to communications. The survey was first conducted in 2019, and then again in 2021. Moving forward the Communications Survey will be conducted annually.

"The overall goal of the Communications Survey is to get feedback on our performance and how well or

not well the City is communicating with the public," explained Management Analyst Cole Haselip.

In addition to assessing the City's performance with regards to communications, the questionnaire is designed to collect information such as what type of topics residents want to hear about, the methods of communication that are preferred (social media, website, newspaper, email, etc.), desired frequency, and general demographic information. The Communications Survey is the foundation for the

(See "Survey" on page 2)

New Public Restroom at City Park

City Park located on East Broadway Ave. just got a brand-new restroom and it's the first of its kind in the entire Veneta park system! The restroom has two toilets, concrete walls and ceilings, automatic locks, and a drinking fountain affixed to the outside. The concrete structure was purchased from and installed by CXT Concrete Products, with help from the Veneta Public Works Department, who connected the utilities.

Public Works Director Kyle Schauer said the new restroom was made possible thanks to a \$75,000 grant from Oregon Parks and Recreation. The total cost of the restroom and installation was approximately \$125,000.

"Surveys indicated a need for actual restrooms, as opposed to portable toilets, so this was a response to that," explained Schauer, who said that the end result will be a "nice, fully functional city park."

City Park is 5.9 acres in size and features playground equipment, workout equipment, covered

(See "Restroom" on page 2)

CIVIC CALENDAR		
August 2022		
All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted		
1	City Council Meeting - Special Session	5:00 p.m.
2	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
	National Night Out - City Park	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
3	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
6	Family Fun Night at Veneta Community Pool - 25192 E Broadway	5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
8	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
10	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
18	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
22	City Council Meeting	Cancelled
25	Business Assistance Committee Meeting	3:00 p.m.

Parks, continued

February 2021 the Council started that evaluation process.

Over the last 18 months City staff, the Park Board, and the Planning Commission studied the parks. The Park Board recommended selling both parks to fund park equipment needs that are identified in the 2020 Parks Master Plan. The Planning Commission approved the potential re-zoning of the parks to match the surrounding area.

At the upcoming August 8th City Council meeting the public will have an opportunity to provide com-



ment on the parks surplus question as the last piece of information gathering for the City Council to then decide whether to sell both, one, or neither of the parks to fund park system improvements.

Residents can submit comments on the matter at the City Council meeting on Monday, August 8th at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Those comments can be delivered in person, over the telephone, via mail, or by emailing Cole Haselip at chaselip@ci.veneta.or.us. Mail and emails must be received no later than August 8th at 3:00 p.m.



Survey, continued

City's overall Communication Strategic Plan.

"We use the survey information to budget for our next year of communication," explained Haselip. "We had over 139 survey respondents last year and are hoping to improve."

The short survey contains thirteen questions and is not expected to take much time to complete. All participating residents will be automatically entered into a raffle for a \$50 gift card that can be redeemed at a number of local businesses. The Communications Survey will be distributed in print as well as online. To complete the survey online, visit www.venetaoregon.gov, click the "Survey" link under the "What's New" tab, located within the drop down menu titled "Community."

If you have any questions, please contact Cole Haselip at chaselip@ci.veneta.or.us.

A screenshot of the 2022 Communication Survey. The top section is a header with the title "CITY OF VENETA 2022 COMMUNICATION SURVEY" and a "Please Return Your Survey by Friday 8/2/2022" note. It includes a "Enter to Win!" button. The middle section is titled "COMMUNICATION CONTENT AREAS" and lists several questions for respondents to check off. The bottom section is titled "CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION" and lists more questions. A small note at the bottom says "Page 1 of 4".

Restroom, continued

picnic tables, a large green space, an amphitheater, and is adjacent to the Veneta Community Pool and Community Center. The new public restroom should prove to be a welcomed and utilized addition to the park. "It's a nice facility and we hope people will take care of it!" Schauer said.



CITY OF VENETA

2022 COMMUNICATION SURVEY

All completed surveys that get returned will be entered into a raffle for a \$50 Shop Veneta gift card.

Enter
to Win!

PLEASE RETURN YOUR SURVEY BY FRIDAY 9/2/2022

How to return your survey: Drop off at City Hall 88184 8th St. or Mail to PO Box 458, Veneta, Oregon 97487

To fill out the survey electronically: www.venetaoregon.gov, click the survey link under "What's New"

COMMUNICATION CONTENT AREAS

The City of Veneta wants to know what you would like to know about the City.

1. What information would you like the City to share? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Works (Sewer, Streets, Water, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings & Opportunities for Public Involvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety & Law Enforcement | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance & Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & City Pool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Preparedness | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility Billing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Laws & Regulations | |

2. What are some of the other types of information that you would like the City to share? _____

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

The City of Veneta wants to know which communications channels you currently use, prefer to use, and would like us to use to share City of Veneta information and news.

3. In the last 12 months, which of the following, if any, have you used to get information about the City of Veneta government? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Veneta Website | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Veneta Newsletter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Veneta Facebook | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fern Ridge Tribune News | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify) _____ | |

4. How would you most like to receive information from the City of Veneta? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Veneta Website | <input type="checkbox"/> City Notifications Texted to Your Phone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Veneta Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> New City Instagram Account |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Veneta Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> New City Twitter Account |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fern Ridge Tribune News | <input type="checkbox"/> Other New Social Media Accounts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Notifications Sent to Your Email | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify) _____ | |
-

GRADE OUR PERFORMANCE

The City of Veneta would like to learn about your satisfaction with City communication channels and activities.

5. Grade the City of Veneta's performance on the following communication channels:

	Very Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
City of Veneta Facebook Page	<input type="checkbox"/>				
City of Veneta Monthly Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/>				
City of Veneta Website	<input type="checkbox"/>				

6. Grade the City of Veneta's performance on the following communications content:

	Very Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Providing Opportunities for Public Comment	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sharing How the Public can Participate in City Decision Making	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Promoting City Participation in Community Events (Harvest Festival, National Night Out, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Promoting City Business Meetings (City Council, Planning Commission, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Promoting Public Works Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Promoting Economic Development Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Promoting Current & Planned Development Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other (Please Specify): _____					

Community Engagement

The City of Veneta would like to know how to better engage the community in the City's decision-making process.

7. How informed do you feel about issues affecting the City of Veneta? (choose one)



Not at all informed on any issues.

I know a little about major issues. I don't know anything about minor issues.

I am well informed on major issues. I know a little about minor issues.

I am well informed on major issues and minor issues.

I am very well informed on all City issues, major and minor.

8. How important is it for you to provide public input on City decision-making? (choose one)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very, I want to provide public input | <input type="checkbox"/> I am too busy to provide public input |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I don't need to provide public input because things are fine | <input type="checkbox"/> It wouldn't make a difference if I did |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It is only important to provide public input if there is an issue being discussed that I care about | <input type="checkbox"/> I have no interest in ever providing public input |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify) _____ | |

9. How could the City of Veneta increase public input on City decision making? (check all that apply)

- | |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increased Advertisement of City Business Meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Video summaries of City issues/meetings posted on the City's website & Facebook page. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual City Council Meetings (Ex: Zoom) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual "Town Hall" Style Meetings Where City Staff & Elected Officials Answer Community Questions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use an Annual City Performance Survey to inform City planning & initiatives. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create a "City Academy" Course to Educate Residents on the City of Veneta's Local Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify) _____ |

DEMOGRAPHICS INFORMATION AND OTHER COMMENTS

The City of Veneta would like to know a little bit about who you are and give you a chance to leave any final comments on our communications.

10. Are you a City of Veneta resident? Yes No

11. Do you commute to work outside of the City of Veneta? No
 Yes, less than 10 minutes
 Yes, 10 - 20 minutes
 Yes, more than 20 minutes

12. What is your age group? Under 18 45-54
 18-24 55-64
 25-34 65+
 35-44

13. Do you have any other feedback to help improve the City of Veneta's Communications?

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All completed & returned surveys will be entered into a raffle for a \$50 Shop Veneta gift card.



Provide your email address for gift card raffle entry: _____

Look for Survey results in December of 2022



City of Veneta * 88184 8th St, PO Box 458, Veneta, OR 97487
541-935-2191 * www.venetaoregon.gov