

Jamie Donaldson

From: Raymond Joseph
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 3:47 PM
To: Jamie Donaldson
Subject: FW: Bailey Ridge Comments, SPR-ADJ25-09

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I fixed the number typo...my bad

1. Question One: what are the other improvements than the restoration of the swale and the singular new pathway? That is not clear.
 - This project includes creek restoration and the construction of a north-south asphalt path with a bench, waste receptacle and a bicycle rack. No other improvements are planned at this time.
2. Question Two: the map provided does not show a legend showing the items marked as pathways, but I am assuming they are pathways given my familiarity with the park as I am in it multiple times a day, every day of the week. The proposal states "a" pathway, but there are several paths in the map.
 - This project includes the development of a single path.
3. Question Three: what material will the pathway be constructed of? Bark? Gravel? Concrete?
 - The path will have asphalt surface.

Parks Planning will engage with neighbors before constructing any additional amenities identified in the Bailey Ridge Master Plan. Additionally, the City's current five-year capital improvement plan does not allocate funding for any additional new park improvements.
4. Question Four: I have noticed several healthy trees in the park with orange marks on their trunks. Is there an intent to take down healthy trees? There are many dead or dying trees in the park that warrant removal before removing healthy trees for a pathway, that, in all honesty, already exists, and is already used regularly by the neighborhood on a daily basis.
 - The City adheres to Salem Revised Code Chapter 86, Trees on City Owned Property, and will only remove trees if they meet one of the specified removal criteria outlined in that chapter.
5. Question Five: What is the plan for the wildlife in the park? There are nesting chickadees and cowbirds in the ground currently and also birds getting ready to nest. There are breeding Great Horned Owls in the trees. Deer sleep up there. Rodents and snakes also

live up there. What is the plan for them? In the past, the City came up and mowed over existing nests in the spring and mowed over snakes as well. A mowed over baby bird is devastating to find and even a sliced-up snake is sad.

- To protect nesting birds, tree removal will be avoided to the extent feasible during nesting season.
6. Question six: For the swale, again, a great deal of wildlife feed around there and live in there. As I am up there every day, I know we have Black-capped and Chestnut-backed chickadees; Dark-eyed Juncos; Golden-crowned Kinglets; Orange-crowned warblers; House, Lesser, and Gold Finches; Anna's Hummingbirds; Mourning Doves; Spotted Towhees; Cowbirds; Song Sparrows; Blue and Scrub Jays; Pine Siskins; and even Bluebirds. I notice in the Sheet Notes the Chambers Swale is considered a wetland.
- Due to the presence of wetlands and a waterway with Bailey Ridge Park, the City will ensure full compliance with all permitting requirements from the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of State Lands, and other relevant agencies before commencing any work within these areas.
7. Seven: What is the timeline for this project? How long will it take? What kind of equipment will be used, and will it block the street in front of our homes on Tayside?
- Construction for this project is anticipated to commence in early 2026. The specific equipment to be utilized is not yet determined. All construction staging will occur within the park property or on the park side of the street, avoiding any obstruction of driveways or ADA accessible routes.
8. Eight: What is the maintenance budget for the pathway? As you can see from the gravel area with the picnic benches, weeds and grasses grow up quickly. And we have vast amounts of poison oak in the park. As a formal pathway is likely meant to encourage more people to walk through and use the park, is there going to be any action to remove the poison oak?
- Development of the maintenance budget is not within the scope of this project phase. Managing poison oak is not addressed by this project. The Parks Operations Team conducts ongoing removal of Poison Oak and other invasive species according to a prioritized schedule and chemical treatments have occurred within the park within the past year.

Your comments regarding park maintenance have been share with Parks Operations staff. To report future issues, please contact Salem Parks and Recreation at 503-588-6336 or City of Salem Public Works Dispatch at 503-588-6311.

Given the budget issues facing the City of Salem right now, I have grave concerns with spending time and money on this proposed pathway. I understand the swale may be a different concern for the homes downstream, yet also have concerns for the wildlife, and would like to see that mitigated. It does not make sense for the City to spend money on a pathway in a neighborhood park, when it will not take out the existing poison oak, dead trees or mow the grass that grows so tall and becomes so high it is a fire danger more than twice a summer. The City cannot maintain the park as it is, let alone with anything new. I do not see the

point in moving forward with the pathway. Frankly, I would much rather see money going towards keeping the library open more days than on a project that is of questionable benefit for such a small number of people I wanted to address your concerns about maintenance in Bailey Ridge and other parks, as it relates to the natural areas we are aiming to preserve.

- It is important to clarify that the project's funding, sourced from System Development Charges and utility fees, is legally designated for capital improvement projects and cannot be reallocated to other municipal services, such as library operations. Concerns pertaining to the swale's impact on wildlife, as well as existing park maintenance issues. The pathway project is intended to enhance public access to the park's natural areas while minimizing environmental impact. City Parks understands the desire to prioritize other municipal services, such as library operations, however, the project's funding is specifically restricted. The goal is to achieve a balanced approach between park accessibility and responsible environmental stewardship, within the parameters of the project's designated funding sources.

From: Jamie Donaldson <JDonaldson@cityofsalem.net>

Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 5:30 PM

To: Raymond Joseph <rjoseph@cityofsalem.net>

Cc: Laurel Christian <LChristian@cityofsalem.net>

Subject: Bailey Ridge Comments, SPR-ADJ25-09

Hi Ray,

All department and public comments have been uploaded to the file now for the subject case, 24-123957-PLN. I'm sending the public comments for your convenience. You are not required to respond, but any information you can provide would help me address any concerns in the decision. While most of the items are not relevant to the approval criteria, like wildlife relocation or even the budget, I could see some benefit in answering the budget questions given the climate of the City's finances.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Jamie Donaldson

Planner III

City of Salem | Community Planning and Development Department | Planning

555 Liberty St SE, RM 305

Salem, OR 97301

JDonaldson@cityofsalem.net | 503-540-2328

[Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Linkedin](#) | www.cityofsalem.net