



Bend Park & Recreation District

July 21, 2026

Board of Directors

Agenda and Reports

www.bendparksandrec.org



play for life



Our Vision

To be a leader in building a community connected to nature, active lifestyles and one another.

Our Mission

To strengthen community vitality and foster healthy, enriched lifestyles through parks, trails and recreation.

Our Community Pledge

To reflect our community, welcome and serve equitably, and operate with transparency and accountability.

We Value

COMMUNITY by interacting in a responsive, considerate and efficient manner to create positive patron experiences and impact in the community.

INCLUSION by reducing physical, social and financial barriers to our programs, facilities and services, and making them more equitable for all.

SAFETY by promoting a safe and healthy environment for all who work and play in our parks, trails, facilities and programs.

STAFF by honoring the diverse contributions of each employee and volunteer, and recognizing them as essential to accomplishing our mission.

SUSTAINABILITY by fostering a balanced approach to fiscal, environmental and social assets to support the health and longevity of the district, the environment and our community.



District Office

799 SW Columbia St., Bend, Oregon 97702 | www.bendparksandrec.org | (541) 389-7275

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
MEETING SUMMARY – 7/7/26
BOARD MEETINGS CALENDAR
GOOD OF THE ORDER
ADJOURN

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Accessible Meeting/Alternate Format Notification

This meeting location is accessible. Sign and other language interpreter services, assistive listening devices, materials in alternate format or other accommodations are available upon advance request. Please contact the Executive Assistant no later than 24 hours in advance of the meeting at nataliem@bendparksandrec.org or 541-706-6151. Providing at least 2 business days' notice prior to the meeting will help ensure availability.

BOARD AGENDA COMMUNICATION

AGENDA DATE:	July 21, 2026
SUBJECT:	Bend Whitewater Park Maintenance Project Update
STAFF RESOURCE:	Ian Isaacson, Landscape Architect
PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:	June 17, 2025 - Project Update; August 19, 2025 - Approved Professional Services Contract Amendment #2 with Recreation Engineering and Planning
ACTION PROPOSED:	None
STRATEGIC PLAN:	
Priority:	Service
Goal:	Maintain quality, clean and safe parks, trails and facilities
Strategy:	Take care of what we have by prioritizing investment in existing assets

BACKGROUND

The Bend Whitewater Park (BWP), now in its' tenth year of operations, is located within one of the district's most dynamic environments. In response to observed existing conditions, anticipated general maintenance and forthcoming changing river conditions, the district added the Bend Whitewater Park Maintenance Project to its Capital Improvement Plan in 2023. In January 2024, the district retained the Recreation Engineering and Planning (REP) team to assess the park's condition. The REP team completed underwater inspections, topographic and bathymetric surveys, aerial imaging, hydraulic analysis and infrastructure assessments of the park's three channels, 26 pneumatic gates and adjacent lands. A second survey in March 2025 evaluated changes over the previous year.

The resulting Bend Whitewater Park Condition Assessment Report documented scour, erosion, operational and maintenance issues, potential user-safety hazards, ecological considerations and recommended improvements. Primary project goals include adapting the park to changing flows associated with the Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan, improving the ability to temporarily redirect water for maintenance and emergencies, reducing safety hazards, enhancing recreation and accessibility, and maintaining and improving ecological benefits.

Based on the project's primary goals, its' magnitude and complexity and the team's experience of designing, permitting and constructing in-river projects, the team updated the project timeline:

- Fall 2026: Complete initial conceptual designs, renderings and cost estimates
- Winter 2027: Hold public outreach process
- Spring 2027: Complete preferred conceptual design, renderings and cost estimate

- Spring2027: Complete 30% design (will finish current contracted scope with REP)
- Fall 2027: Complete 60% design and submit local, state and federal permit applications
- Winter 2028 - Winter 2029: Complete final design and permitting processes
- Spring 2029: Bid project for construction
- Summer 2029 – Spring 2030: Construction

During the work session staff will update the board on the project's progress since the last work session in June 2025 and review the anticipated next steps and anticipated schedule.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

The FY 2027-31 Capital Improvement Plan allocates \$15,300,000 in property taxes and system development charge reimbursement funds for this project. To date, the district has spent approximately \$215,650 on site surveys, data collection and analysis, agency coordination and preliminary design, leaving \$15,084,350 remaining for design, permitting and construction.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None – the purpose of the work session is to update the board on the status of the project.

MOTION

None

ATTACHMENT

None

BOARD AGENDA COMMUNICATION

AGENDA DATE:	July 21, 2026
SUBJECT:	City of Bend and Bend Park and Recreation District Shared Framework for Advancing Affordable Housing, Recreation Access, Interagency Collaboration, and Community Vitality
STAFF RESOURCE:	Michelle Healy, Executive Director Natalie Macsalka, Executive Assistant and Board Liaison
PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:	None
ACTION PROPOSED:	None
STRATEGIC PLAN:	
Priority:	Community
Goal:	Expand and leverage collaborations to increase impact
Strategy:	Strategically align with partners that enhance the district's efforts

BACKGROUND

Recently, leadership from the city approached the district's board chair and vice-chair to discuss how both organizations could collaborate on addressing community challenges related to housing affordability while continuing to fulfill their respective core missions. Early conversations focused on developing a shared vision that acknowledged the importance of housing affordability, its impact on the community, and each agency's commitment to doing its part to support a healthy and livable Bend.

Through a series of meetings, the discussions expanded beyond housing to include parks, trails, recreation access, environmental stewardship, transportation connections, and long-term community vitality. The resulting framework reflects a shared commitment to collaboration and coordination where interests align, while recognizing the unique missions, governance responsibilities, financial constraints, and operational needs of each organization (see attachment A). The framework is intended to identify potential areas for partnership and future exploration and does not commit either agency to any specific financial obligation, policy change, or implementation strategy.

During development of the framework district leadership emphasized the importance of protecting the district's long-term financial sustainability and operational responsibilities. As a result, the framework includes language encouraging the evaluation of mitigation and offset strategies including Tax Increment Financing (TIF), joint grant opportunities, revenue sharing mechanisms, transient lodging taxes, fee waivers and other sources that might help offset potential impacts associated with affordable housing initiatives and related infrastructure needs.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

Potential budgetary impacts could be modest to significant depending on how the framework is ultimately implemented. The framework itself does not commit the district or city to specific expenditures, policy changes or financial obligations. However, it identifies several strategies that could affect revenues, operating costs, capital costs, and long-term maintenance obligations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Review and discuss the proposed framework and provide feedback to staff and board leadership. If the board supports moving forward, direct staff to place the framework on a future business agenda for consideration and potential adoption through resolution.

MOTION

N/A

ATTACHMENT

- A. COB & BPRD Shared Framework for Advancing Affordable Housing, Recreation Access, Interagency Collaboration, and Community Vitality

City of Bend & Bend Park and Recreation District

Shared Framework for Advancing Affordable Housing, Recreation Access, Interagency Collaboration, and Community Vitality

Purpose

To reflect the City and Park District's shared commitment to collaboration and coordination, recognizing that with limited resources and a growing community, intentional partnership is needed to ensure community members have access to housing, essential services, and parks and trails that support a thriving community.

Shared Vision

A Bend where people can live, work, and play in connected, healthy neighborhoods with access to parks, nature, and essential services. The City and BPRD recognize that housing affordability and high-quality parks, trails and recreation services are desired and foundational to community well-being and long-term sustainability.

High-Level Goals

1. Expand and Sustain Affordable Housing Across the Continuum

Ensure Bend has a range of housing options—from deeply affordable to workforce housing—so residents regardless of income levels can live in the community.

2. Preserve and Enhance Access to Parks, Trails, Natural Spaces and Recreation programming

Recognize park and recreation are essential for our entire community. Ensure equitable access to high-quality recreational and environmental amenities as parks serve as the “front and back yards” for many residents, especially as Bend becomes denser.

3. Strengthen Interagency Collaboration to Meet Community Priorities

Create predictable, transparent, and coordinated processes that allow the City and BPRD to jointly address growth pressures, rising costs, and structural revenue challenges.

4. Support a Healthy, Connected, and Thriving Community

Integrate housing, transportation, parks, trails, climate and environmental planning to ensure Bend remains livable, resilient, and economically vibrant.

Strategic Goals & Joint Strategies

GOAL 1: Coordinated Planning

Objective: Align long-range plans, development policies, and capital investments to support both affordable housing and park, trail and recreation services and access.

Strategies

- Identify areas where increased density and park/trail access can be co-planned.
- Use shared data (housing needs, park access gaps, transportation patterns, park usage data – such as Placer Ai) to inform and guide decisions.
- Align Council and BPRD goals to establish and reinforce shared priorities.

GOAL 2: Environmental Health & Community Well-Being

Objective: Recognize parks, trails and natural areas as essential environmental and public health infrastructure.

Strategies

- Highlight the role of parks in urban heat mitigation, stormwater benefits, mental health, and community cohesion.
- Ensure that as density increases, parks remain accessible, high-quality, and equitably distributed.
- Collaborate on urban forestry, wildfire mitigation, green infrastructure, and climate adaptation initiatives.
- Establish programmatic process improvements to optimize and streamline efficiencies for parks, trails, natural areas development and maintenance.

GOAL 3: Collaborative, Efficient Development Pathways for Affordable Housing

Objective: Work collaboratively to create more predictable, efficient, and programmatic processes that accelerate projects serving lower-income households.

Strategies

- Establish more programmatic and efficient approval pathways for housing projects serving <60% AMI.
- Explore a streamlined, tiered park SDC waiver program that aligns exemptions or reductions with affordability levels and duration.

- Evaluate in-kind contributions, incentives and policy approaches that support both housing and parks and trails development.
- Prioritize housing tools that have a lower impact on BPRD's finances, operations or long-term maintenance obligations.

GOAL 4: Shared Financial Sustainability & Revenue Innovation

Objective: Address structural revenue challenges while enabling affordable housing production and parks and trails development.

Strategies

- Explore revenue-sharing models where appropriate (e.g., tax increment, URA-based offsets, joint grant pursuits, transient lodging taxes).
- Identify opportunities for state or federal funding that support both housing and parks/trails.
- Evaluate long-term financial impacts of SDC waivers, exemptions or adjustments and develop mitigation strategies.
- Consider joint advocacy for state-level structural reforms that support both agencies.
- Explore Urban Renewal as a mechanism to offset impacts or fund shared infrastructure for parks and trails.

GOAL 5: Transportation, Mobility, and Connected Communities

Objective: Ensure residents of all income levels can safely and easily access parks, trails, schools, jobs, and services.

Strategies

- Coordinate on transportation and mobility improvements that serve both housing and park access.
- Prioritize walkable, bikeable, transit-connected neighborhoods with integrated green space.
- Use shared impact assessments to evaluate how new housing affects park access and mobility networks.

Guiding Principles for “How We Work Together”

- **Transparency:** Share information early and consistently.
- **Predictability:** Establish clear processes and timelines for decision-making.
- **Equity:** Prioritize actions that improve access and outcomes for lower-income and underserved residents.
- **Mutual Benefit:** Seek solutions that support both affordable housing and park system sustainability within the means and resources of each agency.
- **Operational Stewardship:** Avoid tools that compromise either agency’s ability to maintain essential services.
- **Flexibility:** Adapt approaches as community needs and financial conditions evolve.
- **Community-Centered:** Keep the focus on long-term livability, health, and resilience for Bend residents.

Potential Tools for Implementation

- Tiered SDC exemptions, waivers or reductions
- Programmatic approvals for deeply affordable housing
- Urban Renewal participation or mitigation
- Joint infrastructure planning (parks, trails and mobility, utilities)
- Land swaps or co-location opportunities
- Revenue-sharing and/or cost offset mechanisms
- Grant partnerships, support and advocacy of alternative or additional funding
- Shared policy collaboration (e.g., density bonuses tied to park access improvements)
- Permitting and approval efficiencies for park and trail needs
- Development Code changes that facilitate shared goals
- In-kind Park and trail contributions, including maintenance of trails, sidewalks and roadway connections within the City’s low-stress network
- Parking management
- Law enforcement coordination

BOARD AGENDA COMMUNICATION

AGENDA DATE:	July 21, 2026
SUBJECT:	Approve Preferred Concept Design for Coulter Grove Park
STAFF RESOURCE:	Bronwen Mastro, Landscape Architect
PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:	Oct. 17, 2023, Approved property purchase; Oct. 21, 2025, Reed Lane Neighborhood Park Site Naming; Oct. 21, 2025 Reed Lane Neighborhood Park Site Professional Services Contract Award
ACTION PROPOSED:	Approve the preferred concept design for Coulter Grove Park
STRATEGIC PLAN:	
Priority:	Service
Goal:	Support the recreational needs of an evolving community through programming, parks, trails and facilities
Strategy:	Maintain adopted levels of service targets for parks, trails and facilities

BACKGROUND

The district has been actively pursuing neighborhood park properties in underserved areas to meet the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Midterm Update goal of providing a park within one-half mile of most residents. The district purchased a 4.3-acre property in 2023 to fulfill Search Area 18. In 2025 the property was partitioned into two parcels. Parcel 1 was designated as a future park site; Parcel 2 is surplus property. Parcel 1 is 3.17-acres and will provide a neighborhood park for residents in Park Search Area 18. The existing site condition is undeveloped but disturbed. The property had a residence that was removed. On October 21, 2025, the board approved Coulter Grove as the park name.

Through the course of two rounds of outreach, staff hosted five public open house style meetings and two online surveys to provide information about the project, answer community questions and solicit feedback. Initial notice of the project was shared with residents within the search area via mailed postcards. It was also shared through the Southern Crossing and Southwest Bend Neighborhood Associations. Subsequent notifications have been shared via email and through Neighborhood Associations, HOAs and community managers.

Staff used information received from the meetings and surveys to develop three conceptual designs and then refined the designs into the Preferred Conceptual Design. A summary of the outreach results from the previous round have been shared with the community. The proposed

Preferred Concept Design for Coulter Grove Park is attached to this board agenda report (Attachment A).

During the board meeting presentation, staff will share details about the concept design and the anticipated project schedule moving forward.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

The 2027-31 Capital Improvement Plan includes \$2,000,000 in system development charges for the design and construction of Colter Grove Park. To date, \$195,883 has been spent on planning efforts, concept design and demolition of existing structures. This leaves \$1,804,117 available for the remainder of design, permitting and construction of the park.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the board approve the Coulter Grove Park Preferred Concept Design.

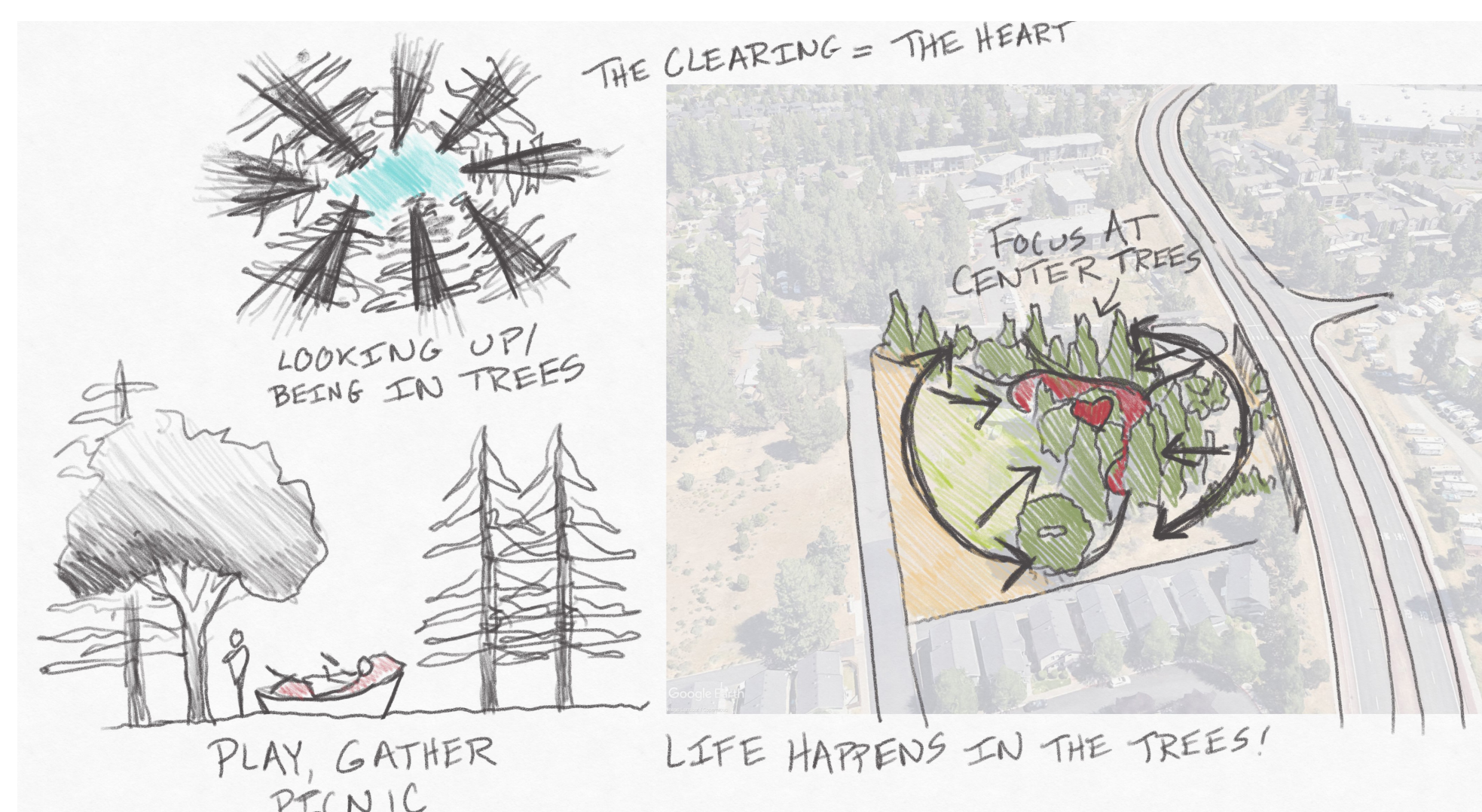
MOTION

I move to approve the Coulter Grove Park Preferred Concept Design.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A – Coulter Grove Park Preferred Concept Design

Preferred Design Concept: The Grove

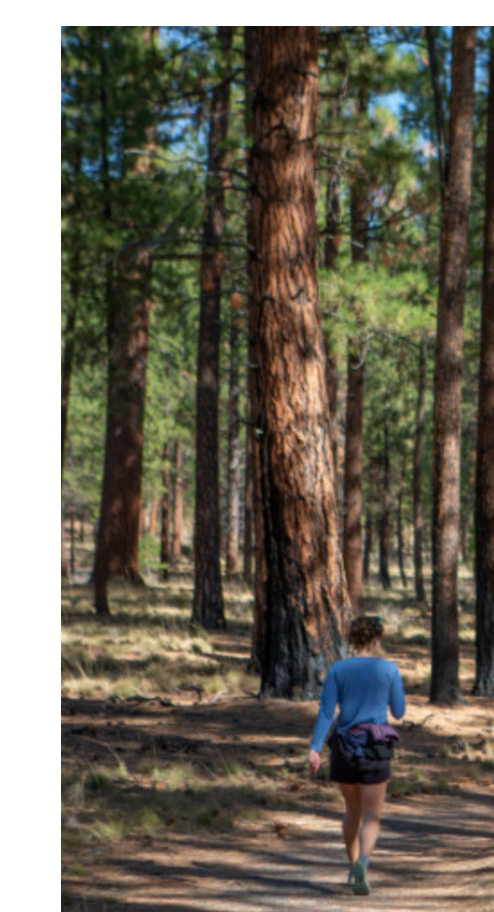
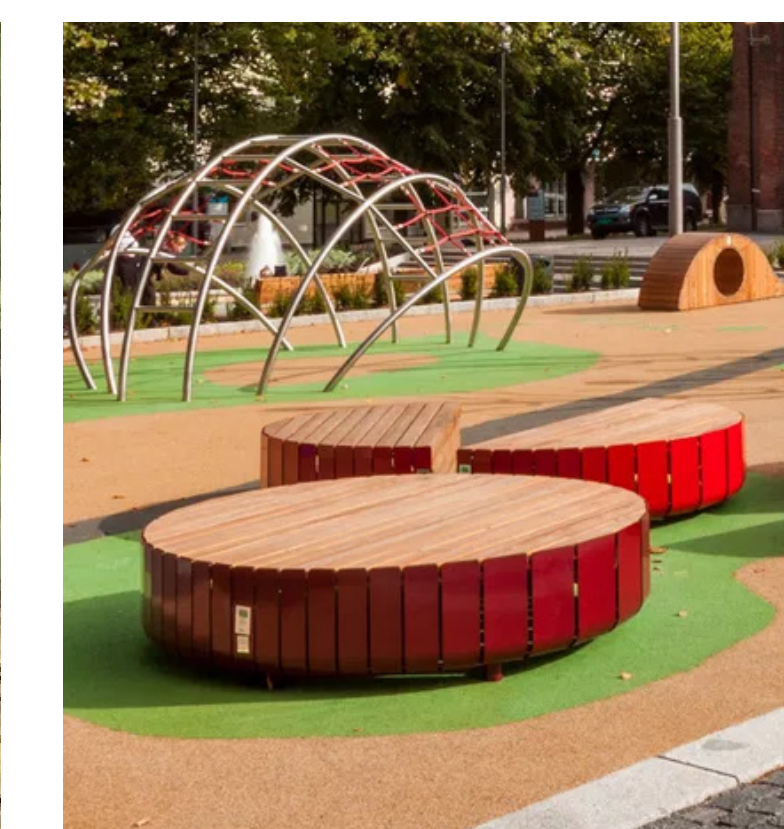
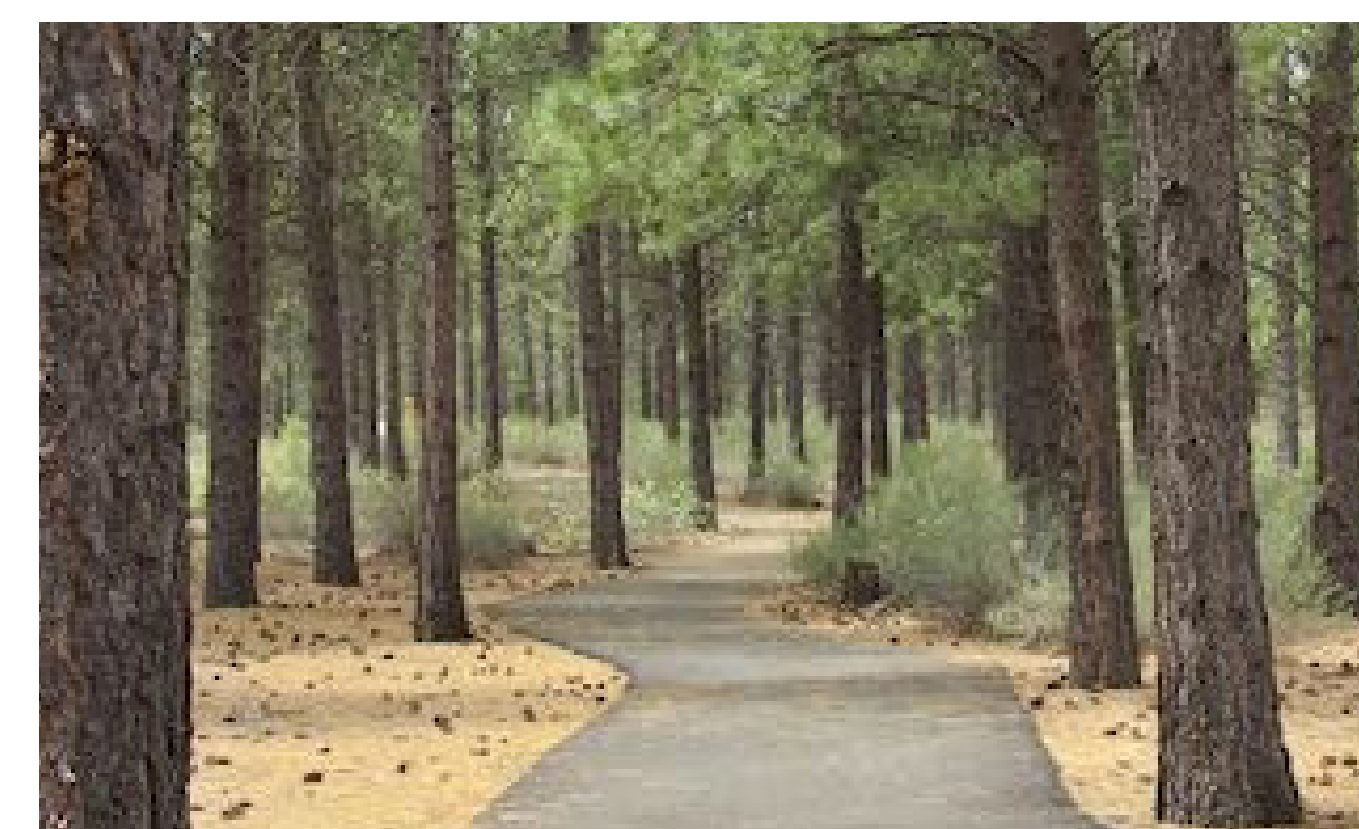


The design concept is rooted in the existing grove of mature trees, preserving and celebrating this defining feature of the site. The heart of the park is at the center of the grove of trees, where the former Coulter family home was located. This honors the site's history as a neighborhood gathering space within the trees.

The circulation consists of a wide main park pathway and a network of gravel loop trails. The 8' wide primary park pathway intersects a central gathering space with playful round wood seats that recollect the shape of large stumps for flexible group seating.

Play areas are nestled into the clearings north and south of the central gathering space. The play references nature with wood climbing structures, swings, a climbing boulder, and natural-colored synthetic turf surfacing. Informal nature play with reclaimed logs and rocks flank the northern play area.

Along the gravel loop trail active recreation elements - including a flexible lawn, half-court basketball, and exercise stations - create energy at the park's edges while maintaining a calm, shaded core. A shelter with picnic tables faces the lawn, in the location of the previous family barn.





Board Meeting Summary

July 7, 2026

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon

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BOARD PRESENT

Cary Schneider	Nathan Hovekamp
Donna Owens	Deb Schoen
Jodie Schiffman	

The official minutes of the July 7, 2027 Bend Park and Recreation District Board of Directors meeting are captured via video recording and are available for viewing online at:

<https://www.bendparksandrec.org/about/board-meetings/>.

VISITORS

There were no visitor comments.

Staff Introduction

Trail Supervisor Andy Somerville introduced Justin Cravens, who joined the Trails Division as a Park Maintenance Worker II on June 23, 2026.

Somerville shared that Cravens began his parks career with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, where he worked on year-round maintenance and repair of hiking, biking, equestrian and cross-country ski trails. Cravens later moved to Central Oregon and worked for Oregon State Parks at Cove Palisades State Park, where he gained experience in trail repair, heavy equipment operation, maintenance, mechanics and construction-related work.

Cravens responded to board questions about differences between trail work in Wisconsin and Central Oregon, noting the drier soil conditions in Central Oregon compared with the heavy rain events and water-control needs in Wisconsin. He also shared that he is looking forward to focusing full-time on trail work and related maintenance. Board members welcomed Cravens to the district.

Work Session

There were no work session items.

Business Session

1. Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair

Outgoing Chair Donna Owens reflected on her year serving as chair and thanked Vice Chair Cary Schneider, former board leadership, fellow directors, district staff and senior leadership for their support and service. Owens expressed appreciation for the district's work, resiliency, and continued service to the community.

Director Hovekamp nominated Director Schneider to serve as Chair of the Bend Park and Recreation District Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2026–27. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Director Schneider was elected Chair by a unanimous 5-0 roll call vote. (Owens, Schneider, Schoen, Schiffman, Hovekamp)

Director Schneider assumed responsibility for conducting the meeting as the newly elected Board Chair.

Director Owens nominated Director Schoen to serve as Vice Chair of the Bend Park and Recreation District Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2026–27. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Director Schoen was elected Vice Chair by a unanimous 5-0 roll call vote. (Owens, Schneider, Schoen, Schiffman, Hovekamp)

2. Approval of Board Meeting Dates and Times

The Board considered the annual approval of regular meeting dates and times. Staff recommended continuing the district's long-standing schedule of regular meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m., with a work session followed by a business session unless otherwise noticed.

Director Owens made a motion that the Bend Park and Recreation District Board of Directors hold regular public meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m., with a work session followed by a business session unless otherwise noticed. Director Schiffman seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0, with a roll call vote. (Owens, Schneider, Schoen, Schiffman, Hovekamp)

3. Park Operations and Development Campus Additional Construction Contingency

BPRD Landscape Architect Bronwen Mastro presented a request to increase the construction contingency for the Park Operations and Development Campus renovation project from 10% to 15%, due to unforeseen conditions encountered during renovation and several improvements intended to enhance long-term functionality. The additional contingency would be funded within the existing project budget and would not increase overall project costs. She reported that the project remains on budget and progressing as planned. Board members discussed project savings, long-term efficiencies, and the proposed contingency increase before taking action.

Director Owens made a motion to approve an additional 5% contingency in the amount of \$144,925 for a total construction budget not to exceed \$3,333,275 for the Park Operations and Development Campus project. Director Schoen seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0, with a roll call vote. (Owens, Schneider, Schoen, Schiffman, Hovekamp)

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Michelle Healy provided updates on the Park Operations and Development Campus move-in, upcoming fundraising and staff appreciation events, the Fourth of July Pet Parade, the closure and evaluation of the boat structure at Harmon Park, repairs at the Old Bend Gym, and progress on the Columbia Park and Gilchrist Bridge projects. Board members discussed the Harmon Park boat feature and acknowledged the importance of addressing its long-term condition.

Good Of the Order

Directors thanked Donna Owens for her service as Board Chair and congratulated Cary Schneider and Deb Schoen on their election as Chair and Vice Chair.

Director Hovekamp expressed appreciation for the collaborative language in the draft City of Bend and BPRD Framework for Advancing Community Livability and Affordable Housing and emphasized opportunities for continued coordination between agencies, including potential future improvements near the Archie Briggs Road crossing of the Deschutes River Trail.

Director Schiffman expressed appreciation for the Board's respectful working relationship. Schiffman provided staff shout-outs for virtual and in-person fitness instructors and shared positive observations from recent visits to district parks and facilities

Director Schoen highlighted fundraising efforts by the Bend Park and Recreation Foundation, shared positive feedback regarding scooter camp and the Fourth of July Pet Parade.

Director Owens discussed the importance of continued collaboration with the City of Bend through the proposed framework, emphasizing mutual understanding of each agency's mission, funding sources, and budgeting processes. She also complimented staff on Discovery Park's native plant management and educational efforts, noted concerns regarding parking impacts near Pine Nursery Park, and expressed appreciation for the Fourth of July Pet Parade.

Board members generally agreed that the framework represents a positive step toward strengthening interagency collaboration and recognizing the importance of parks, recreation, and healthy community infrastructure. Chair Schneider closed board comments by thanking staff and volunteers for the Pet Parade, recognizing national media coverage of the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m. The next board meeting is July 21, 2026. ###

Board Calendar 2026

**This working calendar of goals/projects is intended as a guide for the board and subject to change.*

August 4 Board Reports Due 7/24 – Nathan Out (Cancelled)

August 18 Board Reports Due 8/7 – Nathan Out

EXECUTIVE SESSION

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Cathi Ellis Rec (Art Station);

WORK SESSION

- Art Station Opening and Operating Plans Overview—*Jase Newton, Cathi Eliis (20 min)*
- School District Partnership - *Cathi Ellis, Jase Newton and David Kieffer (20 min)*

BUSINESS SESSION

- Approve Larkspur parking direction-*Bronwen Mastro (15 min)*
- Approve Columbia Park Access and Gilchrist Bridge Construction Contract – *Jason Powell (15 min)*
- Approve Resolution # 2026-0X for the purchase of the Bear Creek property– *Sara Anselment (15 min)*
- Resolution No. X Approving COB/BPRD Framework – *Michelle Healy (5 min)* – tent

REPORTS 4th Quarter Rec Report; 4th Quarter Admin update; Project updates

September 1 Board Reports Due 8/21 – Nathan Out; Jodi may miss or be late (Maybe Cancel)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WORK SESSION

BUSINESS SESSION

REPORTS

September 15 Board Reports Due 9/4 – Nathan Out

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WORK SESSION

BUSINESS SESSION

REPORTS

Future Topics

Future Topics

IGA with NUID for canal trail – *Henry Stroud*

DEI Update – *Bronwen Mastro*

South UGB Updates – *Henry Stroud*

Park Search Area 5 PSA – *Quinn Keever*

Therapeutic Recreation Update

Report on Historical Society for Hollinshead Museum – *Julie Brown (20 min)*

Girls in sports

Stewardship enforcement

Class and Comp

Fleet Leasing Update