

Parks Survey Says, Veneta Loves Parks!

Last year, the City of Veneta set out to craft a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to guide development of the City's park system for the next 20 years. To ensure that the Plan meets the character, needs, and desires of the community, the City asked for public input.

A Project Team was formed to ask residents what they think of local parks and what new features they would like to see. Over the past 10 months, the Team interviewed specific interest groups, including representatives of youth and

sports organizations and senior citizens. It gathered input at public events, such as the Veneta Downtown Farmers' Market, Veneta Pop-Up Retail District, and the 2019 Harvest Festival. The Team also conducted a virtual open house, which re-

placed a planned live event because of the pandemic. And, most recently, it concluded a Parks and Open Space Survey through the City's website. Veneta residents were eager to share their thoughts.

"We had great public

participation in this initiative," said Community Development Director Evan MacKenzie. "I believe we had more responses to the online survey and virtual open house than we would have in a live event." And all age groups responded. "We had extensive participation by young people, which is fantastic!"

The survey showed that more than 88 percent of respondents had used a City park in the past 12 months. A majority of them were "satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with the quality of facilities and

(See Survey page 2)



Pop-Up Retail District Launches Second Season

Beginning August 15, Broadway Ave. will once again be transformed into the Downtown Veneta Pop-Up Retail District where visitors of all ages can safely congregate, enjoy a meal or a drink, and shop in a unique outdoor space. Now in their second season, the Pop-Ups are another component of the City's economic development plan, designed to stimulate new and existing businesses and renew the downtown core.

"The Pop-Ups allow local entrepreneurs to operate a retail space on a trial basis and learn what might be possible if they had a permanent location," said Management

Analyst Jana Weaver. "And for visitors, it's an opportunity to mingle safely while shopping small and supporting the big dreams of hometown business owners."

Situated just east of 3rd street this year, the Pop-Ups will feature retail spaces in wooden structures to give the District a warm, small-town vibe and reflect the community's rural feel and timber heritage.

The Pop-Ups will run each Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in conjunction with Veneta Downtown Farmers' Market. The schedule will continue through Septem-

ber 19th.

"Please join us for a safe outdoor shopping experience," Weaver continued. "And, of course, please remember to wear

your masks and practice social distancing while supporting your neighbors."

CIVIC CALENDAR August 2020

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

4	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
5	Park Board Meeting	4:30 p.m.
10	City Council Meeting, Urban Renewal Agency meeting - immediately following	6:30 p.m.
12	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
20	Municipal Court	8:30 a.m.
24	City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.



Survey Continued...

structures in those parks. City Park received the most positive feedback, followed by Territorial and Fern Parks. Respondents ranked restrooms, play structures, parking and trails for walking, running and biking among the most important features.

While residents are generally happy with their existing parks, they had specific ideas about what amenities and upgrades

they would like to see.

Respondents identified playground equipment, a dog park, natural spaces, trails for walking and riding bikes, and covered play areas or shelters among the most important features for future investments. When asked to prioritize activities for the next 10 years, 36 percent want upgrades to existing facilities, 21 percent wish for new parks to

be built, and 18 percent seek improved security.

They expressed concern about illicit behavior in Territorial Park and shared a desire for improvements to the Bolton Hill Sports Complex. In the comments section many also asked for a disc golf course as well as an indoor pool.

The results of this public input, along with the draft "Parks, Recrea-

tion, and Open Space Master Plan" will be presented to the Veneta Park Board, Planning Commission, and City Council next month for consideration and final adoption.

"This is a comprehensive, long-term plan," said MacKenzie. "But everything requested and outlined could potentially be built, though some of the costlier items may need grant funding."

This month's utility bill will reflect a small rate increase in the Storm Water Drainage Fee. The residential rate will increase from \$2.54 to \$2.59. The commercial rate will increase from \$7.64 to \$7.79.

Pay Your Utility Bill



• **Set up Auto Pay!**

• **Go Paperless!**

Visit our website at www.venetaoregon.gov and click on "Pay Your Utility Bill", this will take you to Xpress Bill Pay where you can get set up today!

Fire Risk Sparks Concern About Vegetation Control

Fire season is now in effect, with the Oregon Department of Forestry declaring a Moderate Fire Danger, late last month. That means the general public is prohibited from using gas-powered or spark-emitting equipment, such as chainsaws and lawnmowers, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. For Veneta residents, it's a reminder to keep high grass under control.

"Above average temperatures make the need to control vegetation in City limits more important than ever," explained Code Enforcement Officer Teresa Warrick. "If warm weather persists, the vegetation will rapidly dry out

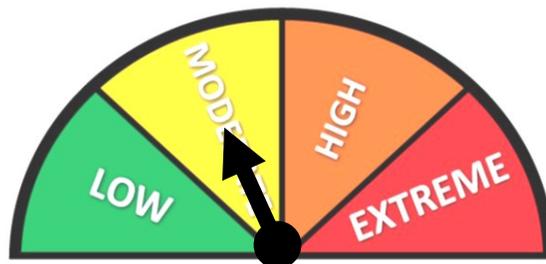
and, if not managed, could pose a severe fire hazard."

To help keep our community beautiful and safe, she reminds residents to 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 going to seed. Further, Warrick encourages residents to

be good neighbors.

"If you notice that your neighbor's yard needs help, perhaps you could offer to mow, particularly if they are elderly or have special needs," she said. "In addition to doing a good deed, you'll also keep weeds from spreading onto your lawn. Cutting the grass also helps reduce shelter for rodents and pollen dust that can collect in overgrown areas."

City of Veneta's Municipal Code (8.05.060) requires property owners, managers, or tenants to prevent vegetation from growing out of control on their property and from encroaching on the right-of-way of a public thoroughfare abutting the property. Failing to do so could result in a citation and possible fines through Veneta Municipal Court. The code defines noxious vegetation as weeds and grass more than 10 inches high, poison oak, poison ivy, and blackberry bushes growing into a public thoroughfare or across property lines. It also includes vegetation that presents a health, fire, or traffic hazard.



HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE CITY OF VENETA?

We're interested in hearing about your experience with the City of Veneta. Please complete and return to the drop box at City Hall or fill out online at www.venetaoregon.gov

Think of the last time you interacted with the City (paying a water bill, a phone call, or City staff within the community). With that experience in mind, please answer the following question:

Please circle up to five attributes you feel best describe your experience with the City.

<i>Thriving</i>	<i>Out-of-Touch</i>	<i>Stagnate</i>
<i>Responsive</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Difficult</i>
<i>Hard working</i>	<i>Lazy</i>	<i>Engaging</i>
<i>Confusing</i>	<i>Caring</i>	<i>Wasteful</i>
<i>Innovative</i>	<i>Unreliable</i>	<i>Rude</i>
<i>Accountable</i>	<i>Professional</i>	<i>Friendly</i>
<i>Stale</i>	<i>Ordinary</i>	<i>Prepared</i>
<i>Dishonest</i>	<i>Inviting</i>	<i>Declining</i>
<i>Impartial</i>	<i>Disengaged</i>	<i>Inconsistent</i>

Comments or context for what you circled?

What do you feel the City could do to improve your experience?

Please circle your age range:

Below 25 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-74 75 & Above

Please circle how long you have lived in Veneta:

0-1 years 2-5 years 6-10 year 11-15 years 16+ years

If you would like to be entered into a raffle for a \$10 gift card to a Veneta business of your choice, please provide us your email address: _____ @ _____ your answers will remain anonymous.

You will also be added to a mailing list to receive occasional emails about City information and activities. If you wish to opt out of this mailing list, please check this box.

We appreciate your feedback! Look for results this Fall.

