



City of Rockaway Beach Spring/Summer 2024 Newsletter

City Manager's Update

It looks like summer is finally upon us, and what a busy and productive spring it's been! Although it feels as if I could fill several volumes with the City's activities recently, I think it most relevant to focus on capital improvement projects. Our dedicated staff has worked diligently to tackle major capital projects this spring, and I've included a detailed list below. As you'll see, many are now ready for all to enjoy, and some are still "in the works". I'm so very proud of our team, and it is an honor to serve this community as your City Manager.



Replacement of the Wayside Restrooms

The City demolished the old wayside restroom and replaced it with a new six-unit restroom from Romtec, Inc. This project was completed last month and has been a welcome improvement to our most popular beach access!

Anchor Street Park Project

Our Public Works department is wrapping up this beautiful new project near the intersection of S. Second Ave. and S. Anchor St. This project includes the installation of a new two-unit restroom facility, two new playgrounds, event space with utilities, and parking for 43 vehicles. Please believe me when I say that these facilities are absolutely amazing! A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Friday, June 21st at noon, and everyone is invited to attend! Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

S. Pacific St. Project

The City's first project from its newly adopted Streets Capital Improvement plan is now complete. The S. Pacific Street waterline, stormwater, and paving project was wrapped up on May 30th. Along S. Pacific Street between S. 3rd and S. 4th Ave., the watermain, stormwater system and road was replaced and improved. Our Public Works department did a great job of keeping this project on time and on budget.

Wayside Beach Access Project

This project will include replacement of the existing sand and rock beach access trail at the Wayside with concrete stairs and ramp access. Other features such as additional sidewalks, memorial plaques to replace the existing memorial bricks, and new fountain and foot washing stations will also be included. Project design and permitting is now complete. Planned for construction early this Fall, the City will solicit competitive bids for this project on June 19th, 2024.

Lake Lytle Accessible Restrooms

Earlier this year, the City applied for a grant through Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Land Water Conservation Fund, seeking over \$430,000 to construct new restroom

Contact Us:

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City Hall Hours:
Monday-Thursday
8 a.m.—5 p.m.

Join the City Email List
Visit <https://corb.us>

Meetings:

- **City Council Workshops**
2nd Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m.
- **City Council Regular Meetings**
2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meetings**
3rd Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m.
- **Emergency Preparedness Meetings**
1st Wednesday of each month at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. & Every Tuesday at the Fire Dept at 6:00 p.m.
- **Fire Department Drills**
Every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at the Fire Department

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City Recorder's Corner

2024 General Election: Candidate Filing Now Open

The City of Rockaway Beach will have the office of Mayor and all City Council Positions (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) on the ballot in the November 5, 2024 General Election.

All positions are non-partisan. Terms begin January 2025. City Council Positions 1, 2, 3 and 5 are for a 4-year term. Due to a vacancy appointment to fill an unexpired term, Position 4 is for a 2-year term.

Candidates must have been registered to vote and residing within Rockaway Beach city limits for 12 continuous months immediately preceding the election.

More information is available online at <https://corb.us/elections/>, or contact the City Elections Officer, Melissa Thompson, at City Hall.

Planning Commission Vacancies

The City of Rockaway Beach City Council is accepting applications for vacancies on the Planning Commission. Applicants must have continuously resided within the City of Rockaway Beach or the Rockaway Beach Urban Growth Boundary for 12 months prior to appointment.

Applications may be picked up at Rockaway Beach City Hall, 276 South Highway 101 or online at www.corb.us. Application deadline is July 9, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. Selection by the City Council is scheduled for the regular City Council meeting on July 17, 2024. Applications can be submitted in person at Rockaway Beach City Hall or by email at cityrecorder@corb.us.

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facilities at Lake Lytle. The City recently learned that this project will be funded in full and will allow the City to demolish the current vault restroom and construct two, new ADA accessible restrooms in its place. In addition to the restroom facilities, the grant will also help fund the water, sewer, and infrastructure improvements to the site, provide two paved ADA parking spaces and improve the access pathway from the parking spaces to the new restrooms. The project is currently under review with the State Historic Preservation Office. Project completion timelines will be provided once the application review is complete.

Later this month, staff from the Oregon Marine Board will also be conducting surveys at Lake Lytle. This survey data will help the Marine Board provide concepts for the site in planning for the addition of docks for launch motorized and nonmotorized boats, as well as fishing. The concept design work is anticipated to take several months to complete. Once a best functioning concept has been designed, the project will be brought to the public for comment.

Salmonberry Trail

As many remember, in 2023, the City hired Destination Management Advisors to engage the community in conversations about the trail in Rockaway Beach. Through this work, four trail alignment options were determined. While this work was taking place, the City worked with ODOT on a new agreement, reviving and revising the 2021 Community Grant Path award. In early 2024, the City entered into

the new agreement, allowing ODOT to take a phased approach to the trail's development and selected Alta Planning + Design, Inc. to serve as the consultants for the project. With Alta working as the consultants for the project and ODOT serving as the Project Manager, Phase 1: Planning is finally underway. To learn more about the project, visit the City's website, which has recently been updated to provide information on the Salmonberry Trail project in Rockaway Beach (<http://corb.us/salmonberry-trail/>) and is the online space where the City will be sharing progress on this project. Interested in learning more in person? Alta will be setting up tables at the Rockaway Beach July 4th Celebration and at the Second Annual Picnic at Phyllis Baker Park on July 27th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to share information and gather feedback from the public.

Sustainable Drinking Water Supply

The City Council prioritized the protection and/or acquisition of the Jetty Creek Watershed to help protect our municipal water supply for generations to come. Staff developed a multi-prong approach for this sizable and long-term project and have identified and applied for grant funding to move this project forward. These funds will be used to develop a Sourcewater Protection Plan and Forest Management Plan, as well as securing land acquisition funding and engaging the community in this work.

- Luke Shepard, City Manager



GRAND OPENING!

Join us in celebrating the opening of Anchor Street Playground! The new, accessible playground in Rockaway Beach!

**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY:
JUNE 21ST AT NOON**

**LOCATED AT:
220 S. ANCHOR ST.**

Bring your kids to play and enjoy refreshments at our opening ceremony.

LET THE FUN BEGIN!

The graphic features two cartoon children, a boy and a girl, holding balloons. The text is in a playful, bold font.



Mayor's Message

I want to take this opportunity to compliment our City Leaders, City Staff and Community Members for having such a welcoming and well-run city. Don't take my word for it; here are two observations from community members:

The first observation comes from a young parent who lives in the Lake Lytle area. She said her children love the City's playgrounds; and she praised the City for how clean and well-kept it is. She said her children have their eyes on the Anchor Street playground; excitedly awaiting its opening.

The second observation comes from a retired couple who moved here two years ago from Portland. They are also very excited about living in Rockaway. They liked Rockaway Beach so much that they took early retirement to move here. They also complimented the City on how clean and how well it is taken

care of. They mentioned that they are glad they live in a neighborhood that doesn't have many STRs so they have real neighbors. They feel safe here because they see the Fire Department's and the Sheriff's presence.

I will add the work our community members did under the leadership of the Rockaway Beach Volunteers to totally replace the landscaping at the east end of our Post Office. If you haven't seen the new landscaping at the Post Office, please check it out.

Let us, as a community, continue to work collaboratively and move forward to dream and chart the glory days ahead.

I am still listening so reach out to me with your ideas, concerns and suggestions at charlesforrockawaybeachmayor@gmail.com.

- Charles McNeilly, Mayor

Fire Department

Tillamook County Fire Defense Board

The Tillamook County Fire Defense Board has a new website to provide information to residents of Tillamook County. The website includes links to all 7 Fire Departments websites and Facebook pages. Please visit the site at tillamookcountyfiredefense.org

Summer Staffing

The Fire Department is currently in the process of hiring 2 seasonal firefighters. The seasonal firefighter program is funded through a grant from the Department of Oregon State Fire Marshals. The program is designed to increase staffing to respond to wildland fires locally, regionally, and statewide. Our role has been to bolster our local response to allow other Tillamook County agencies to respond to the statewide needs. The seasonal staff also responds to daily 911 calls and provides an educational component to our beach visitors, emphasizing fire and water safety.

Emergency Management

The Emergency management program continues to improve. Currently 47 Rockaway residents are volunteering in the CERT, Radio, and Preparedness programs. These programs are essential to the city in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Chief Hesse or Captain Grace and they will get you the information you need to join. A grant for supplies including food, water, shelter, and sanitation has been applied for and we should have notification this month of award or denial.

EMT Program

The EMT program in cooperation with TBCC continues to be successful. The current class of 20 students is finishing the classroom and clinicals and will be on to national testing at the end of the month. TBCC has worked with Rockaway to host the program for the last 4 years and has been very successful. The 40 plus EMTs and EMR's have been added to each of the Fire Departments in Tillamook County as well as additional staff for Adventist Health Ambulances.

- Todd Hesse, Fire Chief





Public Works staff with the new Anchor Street Playground

Public Works

Wayside Public Restrooms

We are excited to announce that the Wayside Public Restrooms are now open! Rockaway's new facilities feature six single-use stalls, ensuring convenience and privacy for all our visitors.

Anchor Street Park

Get ready for the grand opening on June 21 for the Anchor St. Park, a place where fun and adventure await at every turn. With brand new restrooms and two dynamic playgrounds packed with games and musical instruments, kids of all ages will find endless entertainment. Imagine the joy! Parents can relax in the shaded picnic area, complete with a fence to help keep things where they belong, drinking water fountain, benches, and tables. And don't forget your furry friends—there's a built-in watering bowl and a dedicated area to walk your dog!

We are proud to share that the entire park is ADA compliant and accessible for everyone. With parking spots and well-lit areas for safety, Anchor St. Park is designed to be fun and relaxing for the entire family. To top it all off, the city has gone to great lengths to enhance safety and enjoyment by installing over 37,000 lbs. of rubber tile mats for fall protection. This step above the norm underscores our commitment to creating a safe, fun environment. I am incredibly proud to be part of this fun and growing city. We can't wait for you to experience it!

N. Pacific St. Paving Project

N. Pacific St. Paving Project was completed on time and looks great. Thanks to the teamwork between the city, our Engineers and Advanced Excavation, Rockaway Beach has another successful project.

- Dan Emerson, Public Works Superintendent

Upcoming Events

- **Artisan Market** - Every Thursday Beginning June 6th at the Wayside
- **48th Annual Kite Festival** June 14, 15 And 16 at the Wayside
- **2nd Annual Summer Picnic** June 27th, from 11am-3pm; Phyllis Baker City Park. Come celebrate with the persons and families living with ID/DD in our Community.
- **4th of July Annual Festivities:** Parade, Weiner Dog Races and Professional Fireworks Show
- **47th Annual Arts & Crafts Fair** - August 2nd, 3rd and 4th At The Wayside

Job Opportunities

Seasonal Firefighter \$20/hour

Rockaway Beach Fire Rescue is seeking highly motivated individuals to apply for the positions of Seasonal Firefighter. Primary job functions will be to respond to emergent/non-emergent calls for service and maintain operational readiness. Please see the job description for specific job information. Positions will be open until filled.

Seasonal Utility Worker \$3,725 - \$4,318/month

The City of Rockaway Beach is seeking a motivated individual to join the Public Works team as a Utility Worker 1. This position performs a variety of technical duties involved in the construction, maintenance, and operation of the City's public infrastructure and equipment with an emphasis on the City's water and wastewater systems. This is an entry level position and requires a high school diploma or GED, and possession of a valid Oregon Driver's License.

Visit <https://corb.us/employment/> for application and more information.