



Mayor Bell's End of Summer Updates



September 2024

What a busy and fun summer it has been here in Coburg! Summer seems to have flown by and now we're getting ready for the start of school and the beginning of Fall. Can you believe it?!

Based on feedback from several of you, I want to use this opportunity to provide an update about the happenings in and some unique aspects of living in Coburg.

Our Streets: If you live on North Willamette, Macy or Harrison it is not news that significant work is being done. For the rest of you, take a walk around and appreciate the progress made. The sidewalk is nearly complete, and the streets are being prepped for paving. This will not only connect our neighborhoods but will create a safer route to school for children, all pedestrians and other modes of traffic on those streets. You may see public works doing work near the shoulders of certain streets in the public right of ways to rebuild older infiltration areas that currently have standing water near the roadside or at intersections on local streets due to failures. This is to help preserve and protect the street surfaces to prolong their life. Also to help prevent accidents from happening with standing water and pedestrian traffic.



Managing Storm Water: The City of Coburg uses many very unique ways to manage and treat the stormwater that is generated inside the City. You have probably noticed the more modern type of stormwater collection on Willamette & Pearl St. Those streets utilize curbs and catch basin systems that send water to bioswales to the North & South ends of the City. Those swales use infiltration into the ground to help filter out pollutants like oil, chemicals, and roadway silt from getting into the groundwater, rivers and streams located near our City. Altogether, bioswales help protect the surrounding environment. We can help preserve these bioswales by keeping them free of trash, yard debris and avoiding use of herbicides or other chemicals.

The City also uses other methods such as rain gardens, used in a very similar way as a bioswale. Rain or water runs into a rain garden and goes into the ground to help filter and recharge the groundwater. The new subdivisions use a combination of infiltration and retention cells. The stormwater then runs off the streets into the infiltration areas located just off the streets, and once those are full it runs into a pipe that runs into the retention cells. Those cells are designed for a 100-year storm event. Newly reconstructed streets also have infiltration ditches that will take those rain events and treat the water as it goes back into the ground. These systems are the most environmentally friendly and aesthetically pleasing way to improve the cleanliness of local water systems and reduce the stress placed on stormwater management systems.



Our Parks are continuously being maintained and improved. I hope you have enjoyed the summer events in both Pavilion and Norma Pfeiffer and have noticed the improvements made to Jacob Spores and Johnny Diamond parks (as seen to the left) and on-going maintenance at Trails End and Booth Kelly trail. It takes a lot of time for both our Public Works staff and our Park and Tree volunteers to keep things looking great. Stop and tell them thanks or join the fun and volunteer at a park maintenance event. The volunteer opportunities are posted on Facebook, and all are welcome to join after completing a volunteer waiver form.

Coburg Facts:

- **Growth:** Coburg has grown but maybe less than you think. Between 2000 and 2023, Coburg grew by 435 people. The current population is 1539.
- **2032 people are employed in Coburg**, but only 2% of those employed here live in Coburg. Coburg has many businesses that most of us maybe unaware of that are in our industrial park and truck stop areas. These businesses are vital to our economy and financial stability and are part of our community. Other services you use every day, but may not recognize as a business, are our drinkable water and wastewater management services. Though these are services provided by the city, they function as separate self-supporting departments. That means that the bills we pay every month are used the keep our systems running.
- **Mail delivery in Coburg** is sometimes frustrating for many citizens when home addresses are not recognized by USPS. Based in large part on the efforts of Mike Watson, former City Council President, and emails of concerned citizens, we have started conversations with the goal of improving mail service in Coburg. There are still hurdles to jump but I hope to be able to give you updates in the coming months.

Thanks for keeping Coburg such a great place to live and work. I hope you find this information useful and don't hesitate to continue to contact me or City staff with concerns, questions or positive feedback. Let's bring on the Fall season and be on the lookout for local fall festivities!



Nancy Bell

Nancy Bell, Mayor of Coburg