



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, September 9, 2026
Forest Grove City Hall, Forest Room
1924 Council Street, 2nd Floor
7:00am

Joe Offer, Chairperson
Mallory Hiefield, Vice Chairperson

Tom Robinson
Mackenzie Johnston Carey
Glenn VanBlarcom
Lauren Miller
Ben Burns

Kylie Thompson
Linda Harrington, FGSD Liaison
Julian Garfias, Student Advisor
Mike Marshall, Council Liaison

Zoom Webinar:

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89866893885?pwd=I73XJ2oZkk5qdCDHuBcDHp65TsnlhH.1>

Meeting ID: 898 6689 3885

Passcode: 694314

A. Call to Order

1. Welcome guest(s)

B. Public Comment Time provided for anyone wishing to speak to the Commission. In the interest of time, please limit comments to two minutes.

C. Consent Agenda: Items under the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will all be adopted with a single motion, without separate discussion. Councilors who wish to remove an item from the Consent Agenda may do so prior to the motion. Any item(s) removed will be discussed and acted upon following the approval of the remaining item(s).

1. Approve Parks & Recreation Commission meeting minutes from August 12, 2026.

D. Additions/Deletions

E. Guest

1. Forest Grove Veteran Action Network & PLACE - Veterans Military & Tribute Park Presentation

F. Discussion/Decision Items

G. Parks, Recreation, Open Spaces & Trails (PROST!) Master Plan Project Report

1. Update

H. Council Liaison Report (Councilor Marshall)

I. School District Representative Report (Linda Harrington)

J. Student Advisor Report (Julian Garfias)

K. Commission Communications (Mallory Hiefield)

L. Staff Communications

1. Department Report

M. Announcement of Next Meeting

1. Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 7:00am in the Forest Room, Forest Grove City Hall, second floor, 1924 Council St., Forest Grove, OR.

N. Adjournment

O. Post Meeting Optional Police Facility Tour

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Notice: The City of Forest Grove will make reasonable accommodations for participation in the meeting. Requests for assistance can be made by contacting the City Recorder's Office, 503-992-3235, mwoods@forestgrove-or.gov, at least 48-hours in advance of the meeting.



A place where families and businesses thrive.

**Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, August 12, 2026
Forest Grove City Hall Forest Room, 1924 Council St.**

Minutes are unofficial until approved by the B/C.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. by Joe Offer, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Linda Harrington introduced herself as the newly appointed FGSD Liaison, replacing Peter Truax. Welcome Linda!

ROLL CALL: Joe Offer, Chairperson; Mallory Hiefield, Vice-Chairperson; Tom Robinson; Lauren Miller; Ben Burns; Kylie Thompson; Mackenzie Johnston Carey; Glenn VanBlarcom; Linda Harrington, FGSD Liaison; Julian Garfias, Student Advisor; Mike Marshall, Council Liaison

ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: Anne Lane, Parks & Recreation Director; Cody Jeffers, Recreation Coordinator; Sherri Mead, Aquatics Supervisor; Tom Martin, Parks Supervisor; Melissa Williams, Administrative Specialist II

ABSENT: none

B. PUBLIC COMMENT: none

C. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approve Parks & Recreation Commission meeting minutes of May 13, 2026.

MOTION: Lauren Miller moved to approve minutes from May 13, 2026, meeting. Mallory Hiefield seconded. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

D. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: none

E. DISCUSSION/DECISION ITEMS:

1. 2026 remaining meeting schedule – September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9: discussion was held surrounding upcoming meetings and what members were going to be available. After discussion, Joe Offer moved, and Glenn VanBlarcom seconded to keep all meetings except November 11 as that is a staff holiday. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

F. PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACES & TRAILS (PROST!) MASTER PLAN PROJECT REPORT (CODY JEFFERS):

Virtual presentation by consultant: Megan Young with Matrix Consulting Group lead a virtual presentation on the Master Plan Project (PROST!). She will provide the members with a copy of the presentation from today as well as all members are being encouraged to participate in outreach opportunities as well as they will be emailed links to all the mini polls after the meeting. Megan discussion what has been accomplished thus far and additional information about the upcoming timeline. She expects the project to wrap up by June 30, 2027. A copy of the presentation has been attached to the agenda packets online, as well as being emailed to members after the meeting.

G. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT (COUNCILOR MARSHALL): Mike Marshall reported that Centro Cultural has given notice to the City of Forest Grove that effective December 31, 2026, they will no longer be operating the Forest Grove Senior & Community Center. More will be discussed on this topic during the Department Reports by staff. Councilor Marshall also mentioned that he has heard some great reports about Recreation programs this summer, both by participants as well as young staff working for the department.

H. SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT (LINDA HARRINGTON): no report for this meeting, she's focused on listening.

I. STUDENT ADVISOR REPORT (JULIAN GARFIAS): Julian reiterated some of the positive feedback he's heard from high school staff on summer programming.

J. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS (JOE OFFER, CHAIRPERSON):

1. Recap Parks Tour from June 10th: Joe suggested that conducting an annual tour might be a good option.

2. Recap Boards & Commissions Annual Dinner from June 18th: Great event! Highly recommends attendance when you can, great opportunity to meet other community members.

3. Recap Annual Awards and Annual Report from June 22nd: great turnout by our two volunteer recipient groups, pictures attached in packet. Council had positive response to our report.

4. Policy facility tour – next meeting: it was suggested that potentially the next commission meeting be held at the police station to give members an opportunity to see facility with a tour as well. There was a discussion about optics on having commissions do this. Joe will work on figuring out the best option and let members know before the next meeting.

K. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Department Report (July & August):

1. More information provided by Anne Lane regarding the announcement by Centro Cultural that they will no longer be operating the FGSCC. There are three potential options that will be discussed during a work session of City Council on August 24th at 5:45pm.

2. Taxlot map: Anne reported about a recent acquisition of property near Kyle Park. These parcels were purchased through an auction and will expand the final footprint of the park. She also mentioned that through a program with Metro, the city will be receiving \$200,000 in reimbursement for the purchase of these properties.

L. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 7:00am in the Forest Room, City Hall, second floor, 1924 Council St., Forest Grove. After this meeting, there may be an opportunity, for those interested, in touring the police department facility. More information will be coming as the meeting gets closer.

M. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:07am.

Forest Grove Military and Veteran Tribute Park

SITE SELECTION & DESIGN CONCEPTS

Two locations. Two concepts. One shared purpose.



*Help us create a place that honors service, strengthens community,
and builds a legacy for future generations.*

OUR MISSION, VISION, PURPOSE & GOALS

MISSION

Honor service. Strengthen community. Build a legacy for future generations.

VISION

A welcoming, accessible, and enduring community space where stories of service are preserved, shared and carried forward.

PURPOSE

To honor the full Journey of Service through remembrance, education, reflection, gathering, and continuing service.

GOALS

Acknowledge all branches of the military: Honor service and sacrifice; Ensure accessibility, comfort and visibility; Provide a small area for gathering.

THE JOURNEY OF SERVICE

*Military service begins in community,
is supported by community, and returns to community.*



Service is not a single moment in time.
It is a lifelong journey shaped by people, strengthened
by relationships, and sustained by community.

The Forest Grove Military & Veterans Tribute Park
honors this journey—past, present, and future.



COMMUNITY

Every journey of service begins long before the uniform is worn. Families, schools, mentors, coaches, neighbors, and communities help shape character, build values, and inspire a desire to serve.

- Family
- Schools & Educators
- Faith Communities
- Neighbors & Friends
- Coaches & Mentors
- Community Organizations



SERVICE

The decision to serve is a promise to something larger than self. It is an act of courage, commitment, and hope for a better future.

- Commitment
- Courage
- Honor
- Duty
- Hope
- A Promise to Serve



MILITARY LIFE

Military life is filled with challenges, training, growth, and sacrifice. Service members rely on the support of their unit, their families, and their community.

- Training & Readiness
- Camaraderie & Unit
- Sacrifice & Resilience
- Missions & Deployments
- Letters, Calls & Care Packages
- Family Strength at Home



HOMECOMING

Homecoming is a moment of joy, relief, and adjustment. Reconnecting with family, friends, and community begins a new chapter.

- Welcome Home
- Reconnection
- Healing
- Understanding
- Transition
- Community Support



CONTINUING SERVICE

Service continues in many ways. Veterans and military families bring leadership, skills, and experience that strengthen our community every day.

- Employment & Careers
- Volunteerism
- Mentorship
- Civic Engagement
- Leadership
- Giving Back



LEGACY

The legacy of service lives on in stories, values, traditions, and the places we create together. It inspires future generations to serve and strengthens our community for years to come.

- Remember
- Educate
- Inspire
- Preserve
- Build a Legacy
- Strengthen Community



ONE JOURNEY. MANY STORIES. STRONGER TOGETHER.



“We do not walk this
journey alone.
We walk it together.”



The process is a stewardship decision:
mission before preference, people before construction, long-term purpose before form.

GUIDING WORDS:

AWARENESS - RECOGNITION - REMEMBER - CONNECTION - HONOR - REFLECTION
SERVICE TRUTH - EDUCATION - GRATITUDE - SACRIFICE - CELEBRATION - COUNTRY
COMMUNITY - BELONGING - FAMILY DUTY - CONNECTION

GUIDING QUESTION:

“Which site and concept best fulfill the purpose of the Tribute Park while serving future generations?”

HONOR

Does it respectfully
recognize service?

EDUCATE

Does it invite curiosity
and learning?

WELCOME

Can people
participate with
dignity?

GATHER

Does it support
community use?

STEWARD

Can it be sustained
over time?

We are evaluating possibilities—not presenting a finished plan.

LOCATION OPTIONS

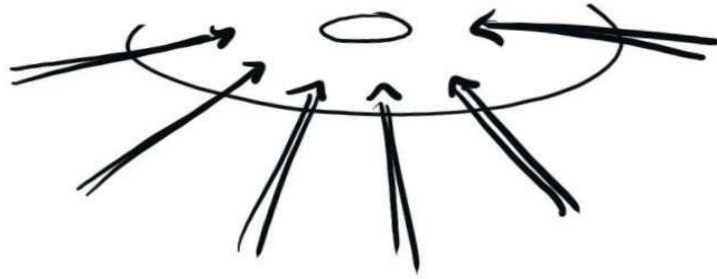
THATCHER PARK

LINCOLN PARK

VETERANS TRIBUTE PARK
AUGUST 25, 2026

PLACE

Common Ground creates a flexible place to gather, learn, and connect.



COMMON GROUND

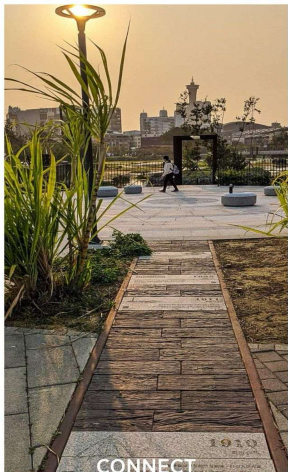
COMMON GROUND

SHARED EXPERIENCE • EDUCATION • FLEXIBILITY

- Centers community gathering, storytelling, education, and connection.
- Supports ceremonies, school visits, public programs, volunteer activities, and everyday use.
- Can be thoughtfully adapted to either Lincoln Park or Thatcher Park.
- Allows programming and future opportunities to grow with the community.

THE VISITOR'S EXPERIENCE

Welcoming • Connected • Active • Adaptable



VETERANS TRIBUTE PARK
AUGUST 25, 2019



GATHER



ACKNOWLEDGE

PLACE

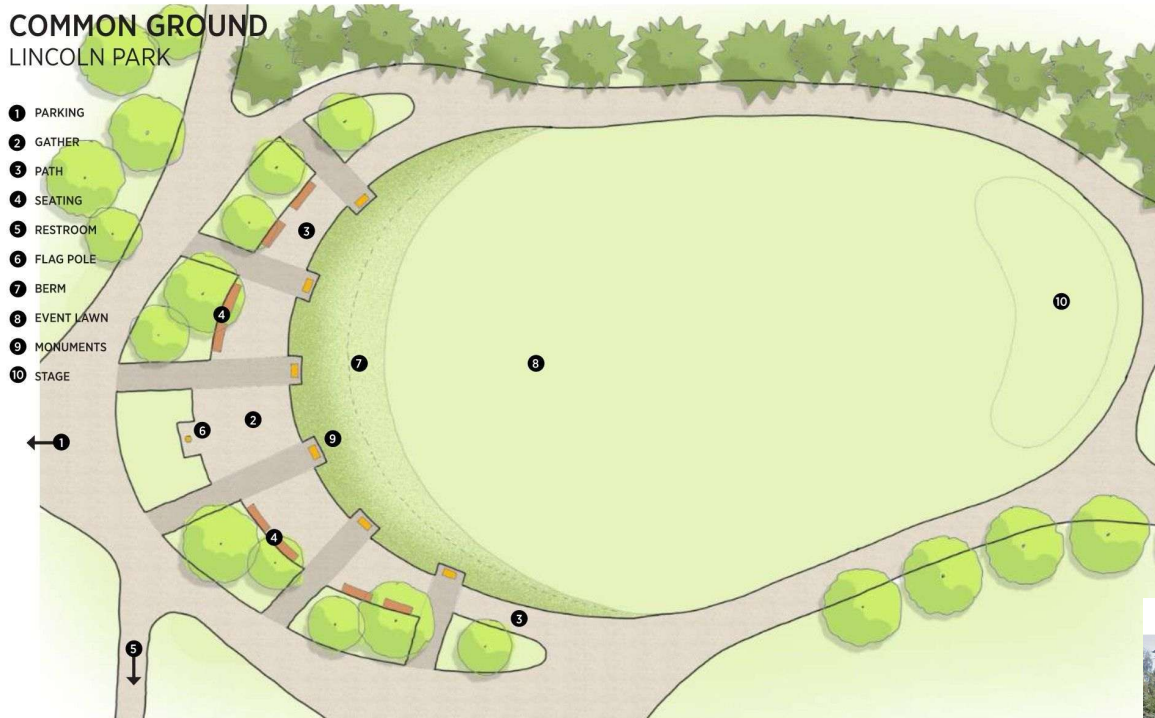
The strength of Common Ground is versatility: it can hold both quiet meaning and active community life.

The design firm's Common Ground plan connects gathering, movement, and recognition.

THATCHER PARK (~.25 acres)

COMMON GROUND LINCOLN PARK

- 1 PARKING
- 2 GATHER
- 3 PATH
- 4 SEATING
- 5 RESTROOM
- 6 FLAG POLE
- 7 BERM
- 8 EVENT LAWN
- 9 MONUMENTS
- 10 STAGE



VETERANS TRIBUTE PARK
AUGUST 25, 2026

PLAN INTENT

- Flexible gathering area
- Accessible circulation path
- Seating and flagpole
- Integration with Lincoln Park

The concept uses an open, adaptable landscape to support both everyday community use and meaningful public gatherings.

LINCOLN PARK

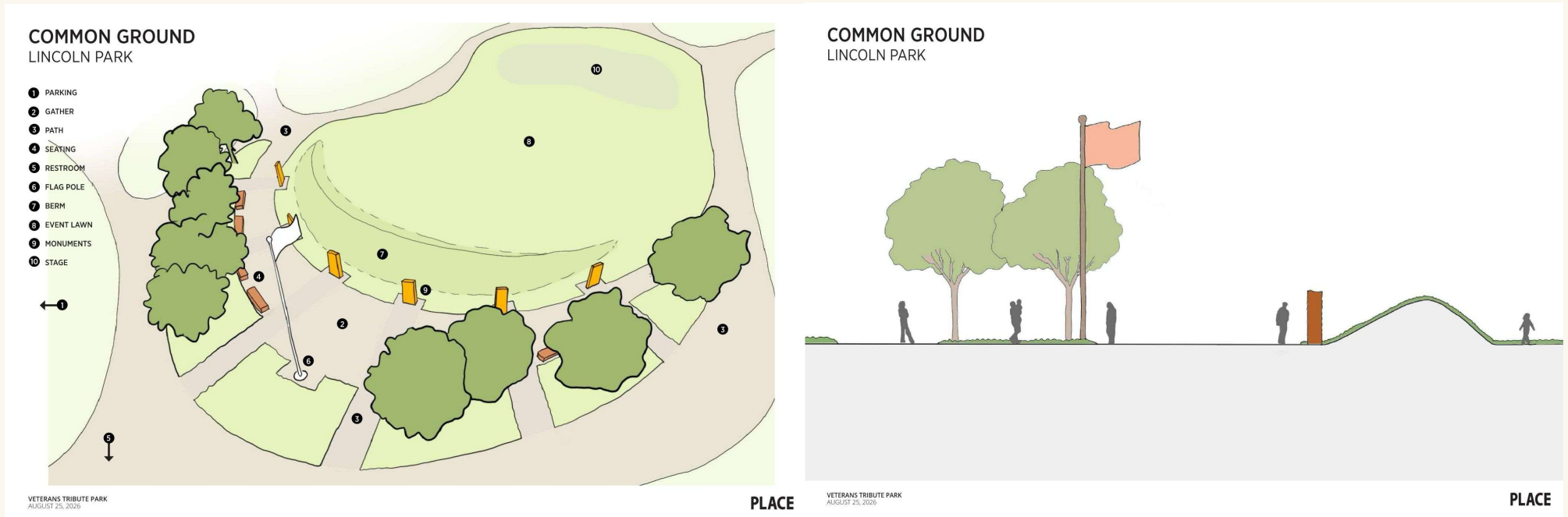


VETERANS TRIBUTE PARK
AUGUST 25, 2026

PLACE

The design firm's Common Ground plan connects gathering, movement, and recognition.

LINCOLN PARK (CENTRAL)



The concept uses an open, adaptable landscape to support both everyday community use and meaningful public gatherings.

The design firm's Common Ground plan connects gathering, movement, and recognition.

THATCHER PARK

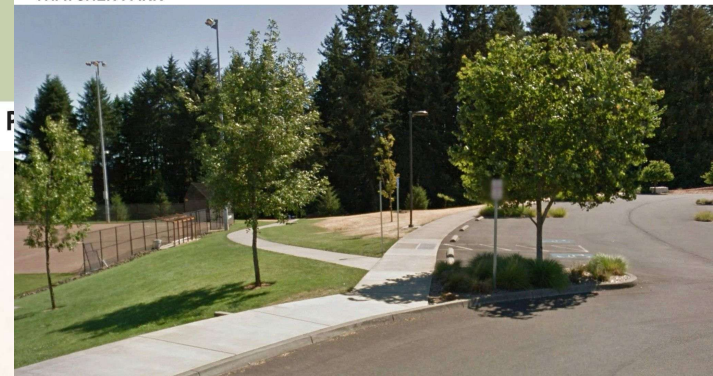


PLAN INTENT

- Flexible gathering area
- Accessible circulation path
- Seating and flagpole
- Integration with Lincoln Park

The concept uses an open, adaptable landscape to support both everyday community use and meaningful public gatherings.

THATCHER PARK

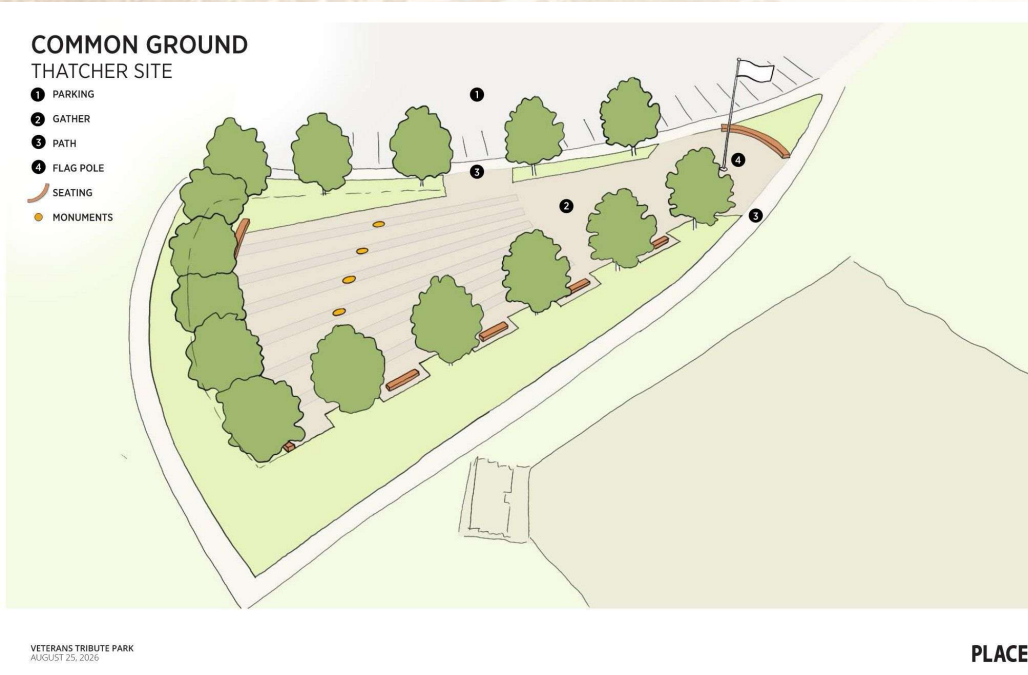


VETERANS TRIBUTE PARK
AUGUST 25, 2026

PLACE

The design firm's Common Ground plan connects gathering, movement, and recognition.

THATCHER PARK



The concept uses an open, adaptable landscape to support both everyday community use and meaningful public gatherings.

Garden of Light creates a contemplative place centered on remembrance

GARDEN OF LIGHT

REMEMBRANCE • REFLECTION • MEANING

- Uses landscape, light, and symbolism to create a quiet, reflective environment.
- Offers room for remembrance, personal reflection, interpretation, and individual stories.
- Is especially compelling at Lincoln Park, where the concept can be more fully expressed.
- Is more site-specific and less easily adapted to other locations.

THE VISITOR'S EXPERIENCE

Reflective • Peaceful • Meaningful
• Enduring



GARDEN OF LIGHT

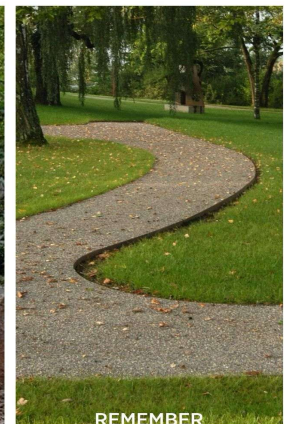


ACKNOWLEDGE

VETERANS TRIBUTE PARK
AUGUST 25, 2015



REFLECT



REMEMBER

PLACE

The strength of Garden of Light is atmosphere: remembrance is experienced through the entire place.

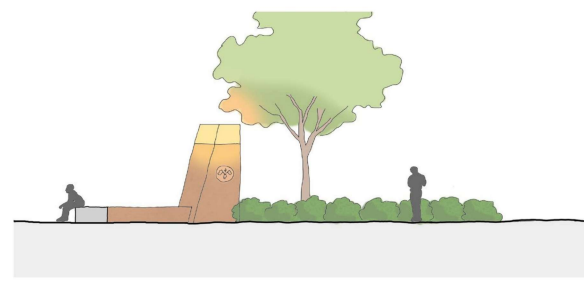
The design firm's Garden of Light plan creates a sequence of reflection and remembrance.

THATCHER PARK (~.5 acres)



PLAN INTENT

- Garden rooms and planting
- Curving accessible path
- Seating and monuments
- A contemplative sequence



The concept uses planting, light, movement, and a central monument to shape a reflective experience throughout the site.

Each location offers a different path for expressing the vision

LINCOLN PARK

Greater flexibility for the full vision

- Can support either design concept.
- Offers flexibility for community programming and gathering.
- May provide room for future expansion and evolving recognition opportunities.
- Garden of Light is especially compelling here.

THATCHER PARK

Integration with an active community park

- Builds upon existing recreational amenities.
- May enhance seating and community gathering.
- Can support current park and ballfield uses.
- Common Ground can be adapted to this setting.

Site selection must also consider accessibility, visibility, surrounding uses, sustainability, maintenance, cost, City requirements, and future generations.

HELP US CREATE IT TOGETHER.



WE HONOR SERVICE

We honor the service, sacrifice, and continued contributions of military members, veterans, military families, and all those whose lives have been shaped by military service.



WE STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY

Military service begins in community, is supported by community, and returns to community. We build relationships, understanding, and connections that make us stronger together.



WE BUILD A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Every decision we make today is guided by those who will visit, learn from, and care for the Tribute Park in the years ahead.

*Building a Legacy
for Future Generations.*

HONOR * EDUCATE * CONNECT

EST. 2026 * FOREST GROVE, OREGON

*We are considering two locations and two design concepts.
Nothing has been finalized.*

We are sharing what is being explored—and to understand what matters most to you.

**Reflect on the experience you want the park to
create for you and the community.**

1

What should people feel?

Welcomed, reflective, connected, inspired, peaceful?

2

How should the park be used?

Gathering, education, ceremonies, everyday visits, quiet remembrance?

3

What matters about the location?

Access, visibility, beauty, flexibility, neighborhood fit, future growth?

4

Why does that matter to you?

Listen for the story and values behind the preference.

Listen for the why behind a preference—not only the choice.

HELP US *Create It Together.*



Every great community begins with a shared vision.

Every lasting legacy begins with people willing to steward that vision together.



Give us input -

Take the Survey

www.cmvalliance.org/FGTributePark/

HONOR SERVICE

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY

BUILD A LEGACY

September PROST Update

PROST Steering Committee:

MATRIX is assembling a **PROST Steering Committee** made up of key community partners consisting of local organizations and community representatives to help develop recommendations and discuss long-term goals and objectives for recreation and leisure opportunities in Forest Grove.

Community Survey, City Council & Senior Center Update:

MATRIX presented a PROST update to City Council during the August 24 work session, similar to the presentation provided to the Parks & Recreation Commission on August 12. The presentation reviewed initial community survey findings, emerging recommendations, and next steps in the planning process, along with proposed operating options for the Forest Grove Senior & Community Center following Centro Cultural's departure at the end of the year. City Council unanimously supported Option 2, moving forward with a hybrid model in which Forest Grove Parks & Recreation operates the facility in partnership with nonprofit organizations.

September Community Engagement:

The next phase of the PROST process will focus heavily on more community outreach. MATRIX and City staff are coordinating opportunities throughout September to meet residents at existing events and gather additional input. **Parks & Recreation Commissioners may have opportunities to participate in some of these outreaches as details are finalized.** Potential outreach opportunities currently being coordinated include:

Date	Time	Event / Opportunity	Location / Partner
Wed., Sept. 16	3–9 PM	Farmers Market	Adelante Mujeres
Wed., Sept. 16	Evening	High School Parent Night	Forest Grove High School
Wed., Sept. 16	Evening	Civics Academy	City of Forest Grove
Thurs., Sept. 17	10:30 AM–1 PM	Taste & See Local	19th & Birch
Thurs., Sept. 17	11 AM–2 PM	Senior & Community Center Lunch	Meals on Wheels / Centro Cultural
Thurs., Sept. 17	6 PM	Bingo Night	Zesti Food Carts
Thurs., Sept. 17	7 PM	High School Soccer Game	Forest Grove High School
Fri., Sept. 18	12–2 PM	Senior & Community Center Food Pantry	FGSCC
Fri., Sept. 18	2–4 PM	ESL Class & Library Outreach	Goodwill Industries / Library
Fri., Sept. 18	4–5 PM	After-School Artists	Library
Fri., Sept. 18	4–8 PM	FGCSS Monte Carlo Dinner	Centro Cultural
Sat., Sept. 19	9 AM–5 PM	Harvest Festival	Forest Grove/Cornelius Chamber
Sat., Sept. 19	5–7 PM	Sidewalk Chalk Art Festival	Valley Art Gallery

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Parks & Recreation Director – Anne Lane

1. Eastside Park – Construction continues. Goal is to have the park open by mid-September.
2. PROST! Master Plan – community outreach ramping up.
3. Forest Grove Senior & Community Center – Council reached consensus that Parks & Recreation would take over operations and management effective January 1, 2027. Centro Cultural staff and City staff have begun meeting to coordinate details of a transition plan.
4. Properties adjacent to Kyle Park that were purchased by auction in July have received \$200,000 in acquisition reimbursement funding from Metro. After all fees were calculated, the total final purchase price for both parcels was \$223,265.74.

Parks Supervisor – Tom Martin

1. Washington County Sheriff's Office, Adults in Custody will be working with us on four dates in September. On one of those dates, they will pressure wash at the Police Station. They will be working with us on the 14th, 22nd, 23rd, and 29th.
2. Volunteers from the Geocaching group will be assisting us by picking up litter on the Hwy 47 trail in mid-September.
3. Marble Tree Service will be removing three potentially hazardous trees in Thatcher Park.

Aquatics Supervisor – Sherri Mead

1. We have hired three more new lifeguards/potential swim instructors. We're also excited to have several of our college student staff returning from summer breaks.
2. The Aquatic Center has now transitioned to our Fall pool & aerobics scheduled as of August 31st. It was early this year due to FGSD starting the school year off early.
3. Fall Registration went well and there is limited availability remaining. That's a curse and a blessing. We continue to look for opportunities to add a few additional classes.

Recreation Coordinator – Cody Jeffers

1. Camp Grove wrapped up its **biggest summer on record**, with **274 weekly registrations** and

93 individual campers served. Registrations increased from 267 in 2025 and are now **66% higher than 2023**, reflecting the continued growth of the program and families returning for multiple weeks.

2. Park Flix wrapped up another successful series of free outdoor movies, averaging approximately **100 attendees each week**, with around **150 attending our kickoff at the Aquatic Center** alongside a free community swim.
3. Our first Dash Paddle Bash pickleball tournament brought together **20 players across two divisions**. The event received great community support, and we look forward to continuing to grow and develop the tournament into a unique annual recreation event.
4. A huge **THANK YOU** to our summer sponsors and community partners! **Wauna Credit Union** sponsored Park Flix, with the **Forest Grove Library** providing free popcorn. Dash Paddle Bash was supported by **The Elms Retirement Center, Forest Grove Ace Hardware, and First Community Credit Union**, with additional prize donations from **Frye's Action Athletics, David Hill Vineyards & Winery, and Dauntless Wine Company**.
5. Fall registration is open, including a new approach to our school closure programming. **No School Day Adventures** will center each session around a unique field trip, with destinations such as the Tillamook Creamery, Portland Japanese Garden, and other regional attractions.

Administrative Specialist II – Melissa Williams

1. City website has been updated with all the Fall schedule changes but if you ever run across something on the website that doesn't look accurate or you have a question about, don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.