

City of Poulsbo

City of Poulsbo September E-Newsletter

Please visit our website for the latest information and resources related to COVID-19.

Visit our Website

A message from Mayor Erickson



You may have seen some changes recently to the City of Poulsbo when you drive around in response to COVID-19 and keeping everyone safe.

First, there is new signage popping up from the “Poulsbo Safe” campaign spearheaded by our local businesses. [Click here](#) to watch a video and learn more about what our businesses are doing to keep you and their staff safe when you shop or dine in Poulsbo. Our local businesses really need your support right now during these difficult economic times. To learn who is open and what kinds of changes they have made, [click here](#).

Second, businesses have started taking part in the Summer Fair Program, which allows stores and restaurants to spill out into the sidewalks and parking spaces. This is in response to the need to create distance and the changes to Governor Inslee’s Safe Start plan. The Slippery Pig, Sons of Norway, Burrata Bistro/Paella Bar, Western Red, Green Light Diner, That’s a Some Italian, and State 42 Wines have all been issued permits to move outdoors for expanded dining spaces. I am happy to see businesses take advantage of this process and hopefully we will have warm weather through September and October to allow them to use these new spaces as long as possible.

Third, temporary changes are complete with the one-waying of Fjord Drive due to the high increase of foot traffic along the road. Pedestrians were walking in the road, jumping in the road without looking, and frequently crossing the road in order to maintain social distancing. The road is now one-way southbound from Hostmark to 6th Avenue. Temporary speed bumps were also installed on 6th Avenue to slow the re-routed traffic on that road and provide greater safety throughout Old Town.

Other efforts the City has been engaged in related to our response to COVID-19 include distributing PPEs to 77 local businesses, providing rental subsidies to Fishline to administer, supporting a day shelter and meals for vulnerable populations, and managing 40+ volunteers to deliver food and prescriptions to those who were house bound. This week I will be asking the City Council to adopt a grant program for small businesses and confirm a citizen committee who will help review and award the grant funds.

In other things related to COVID-19, the City is experiencing significant revenue shortages. City Hall must remain closed until Kitsap County reaches Phase 3 of the Governor's Safe Start plan. We are unable to run our programming in the Parks & Recreation department, and we are still closed for services such as passports, notaries, and other administrative permits. Other revenue shortfalls include various taxes such as sales tax and admission tax, as well as business licensing revenues. I am working with our Finance Department and City Council on changes that need to happen now to cut our expenditures and increase our revenues.

One of our hardest hit departments is our Parks & Recreation Department. We employ eight people in this department, with all but one who are totally dedicated to the recreation program. Due to the pandemic and the inability to gather in groups, we are unable to run our normally robust programs and preschool. In the beginning of the pandemic, we were hopeful that we would be able to get to Phase 3 of the Safe Start program and open our doors again to the public for our programming. Unfortunately, we still find ourselves in Phase 2, and Phase 3 has revised guidelines for the number of people who get together in a group. Four employees were recently laid off, as this department is funded by the revenues of the programs they offered (we have lost \$230,000 in our recreational programming). We are trying diligently to find new ways to offer recreational programs.

We are also offering a voluntary leave program to employees. If employees voluntarily leave, the position will not be rehired in order to reduce our expenditures. Our departments are working together to shift workloads and programs, and we expect to see changes in levels of services as our workforce becomes smaller.

And, finally some news not related to COVID-19. Police Chief Schoonmaker retired from the Poulsbo Police Department. His last day was August 31. It is an understatement when I say that filling his shoes will be tremendously difficult. It was an honor and privilege to have Chief Dan as part of our team here at the City. He plans to continue to live here in the City of Poulsbo, and we wish him well on the next chapter of his life!

We conducted a search for our new police chief and had our first-ever Police Chief Candidate Reception virtually. Normally the reception is a low-key event where we serve coffee and cookies and the public gets to come and have conversations with the candidates, but this year it took on a Q&A panel discussion format with our top five candidates. The following day and half included interviews with various panels of people. I feel any of the five candidates would have done an excellent job as a police chief, they all demonstrated impressive careers and strong desires to serve the public. We are nearing the finish line of the recruitment process and look forward to announcing a new Poulsbo Chief of Police soon.

With that, I want to acknowledge these last five months have been very difficult for everyone. Wear your mask, keep six feet apart, and wash your hands. Support each other, be kind, and be safe! We still have many months ahead of us on this path. Take it one day at a time. I know that we've got this, Poulsbo!

City Hall Closures



To help stop the spread of COVID-19, the City of Poulsbo customer service counters in City Hall have been closed since March 23, 2020 until Phase 3 of the Governor's Safe Start Plan. The Public Works office, Parks & Recreation office, Police Administration office, and Municipal Court office counters are currently closed, as well as restrooms in some City parks. City staff are still working and available by email or phone. To learn more on how to reach us, [click here](#).

Housing, Health, and Human Services Updates

Flu season is approaching, and, according to health experts, getting a flu vaccine is even more important while we are under threat from COVID-19. The CDC recommends that children and adults are immunized before flu season begins--so September is a great time to check this off your list. There may also be increased demand--another reason to act quickly. Many pharmacies have the vaccine in stock, and some insurance plans will cover the full amount. More information here: <https://khn.org/news/covid-influenza-this-is-a-good-year-to-get-a-flu-shot-experts-advise/>

Looking for a way to give back to the community during these challenging times? Fishline has several shifts available for volunteers willing to pack groceries, stock shelves, and distribute food. Cashiers are also needed at Second Season. High school students (16 and older) are welcome to apply; this is a great opportunity for community service. Email volunteer coordinator Lidia for more information at volunteer@fishlinehelps.org

The Gateway Fellowship Meal program will continue in the fall. Free, nutritious lunches will be available at the Church three days a week for people struggling to make ends meet during the economic downturn.

Starting September 9, meals will be served 11:30 a.m. to noon on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Homebound individuals who would like help with shopping or errands are encouraged to call the City's HELP line at 360-517-5037. The phone is staffed 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and volunteers can pick up groceries and prescriptions.

Please contact Kim Hendrickson at the City's Department of Housing, Health and Human Services with any questions at kimberlyh@cityofpoulsbo.com.

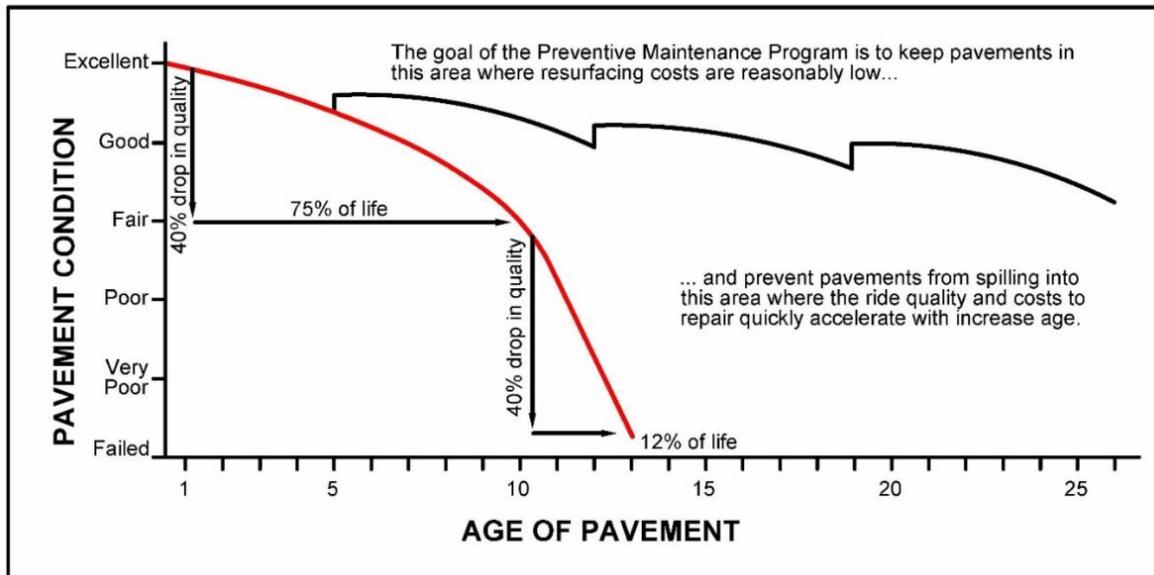
Finance Department Updates

The Finance Department would like to remind you the City is continuing to waive late penalties and has suspended shut offs while Kitsap County is in Phase 2 of the Governor's COVID-19 mandate.

Members of the Finance Department team are currently testing computer software enhancements that will allow us to better serve the citizens of Poulsbo. As part of these enhancements, we will be introducing a new website payment platform later this year. Citizens will find this improved portal more user-friendly in managing their utility accounts. It will come with some additional features not currently available, such as automatic payment set up. Watch for additional information coming soon.

2020 Pavement Maintenance Project

In 2017, the City of Poulsbo conducted a Pavement Maintenance Demonstration Project in an attempt to address deteriorating neighborhood streets within City limits. The project applied variations of chip seal to neighborhood streets with positive feedback from residents.



Beginning September 10, 2020, the City of Poulsbo will be conducting chip seal pavement maintenance on the following roads:

- Laurie Vei Loop
- Noll Meadows
- Finn Hill Terasse

The project is expected to take under a week to complete. Bids were opened on August 3, 2020, and the low bidder for base bid was Sierra Santa Fe Corp. The contract was awarded to Sierra Santa Fe for Base Bid and Additive A for \$117,901.95.

Development Review

Three development projects in the Olhava area are highlighted below.

The **Firestone Tire Facility** has moved efficiently through unforeseen challenges with the help of City



Fairfield Inn is a 101-unit hotel, and they are currently working on vertical framing.



Poulsbo Meadows has completed paving the entire plat as well as the dry utility trench for 45 new houses. Three model home permits have been submitted and the Final Plat application will be submitted in September.



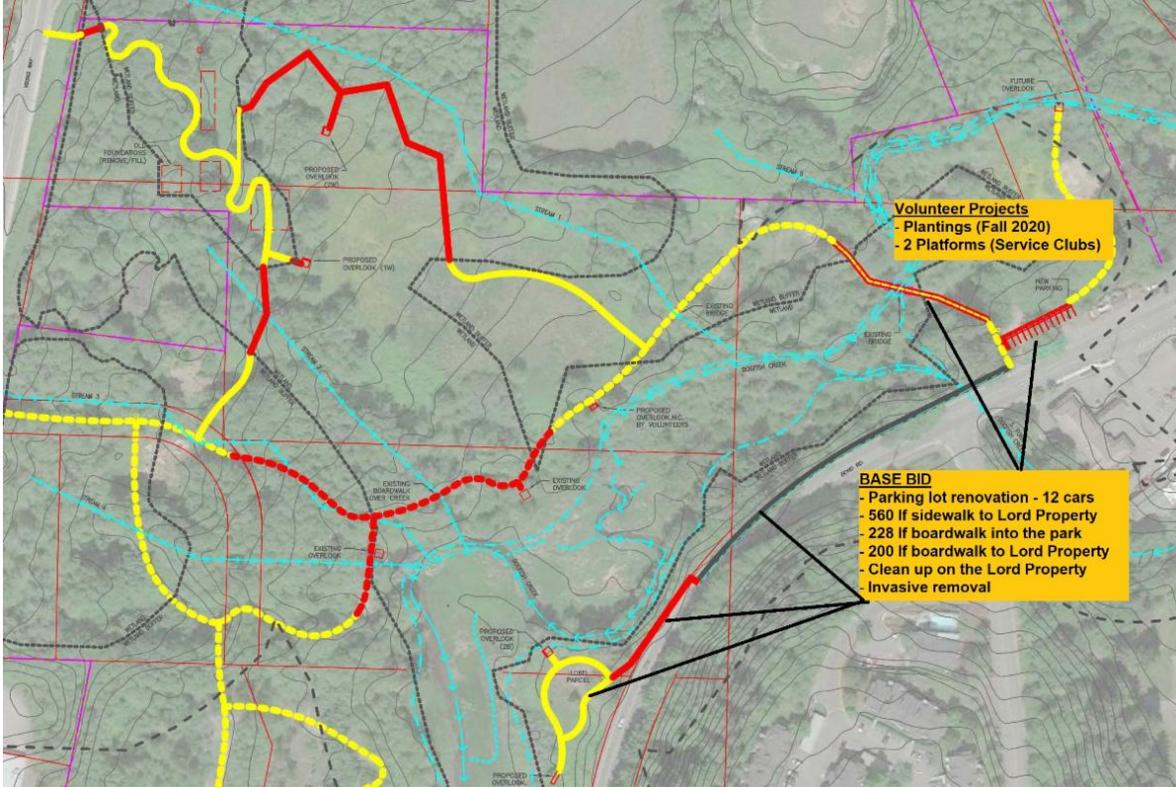
Finn Hill Shared Use Path Project

The Finn Hill Shared Use Path Project continues construction. Almost all the stormwater pipes have been installed and the retaining walls have been constructed. For the next few weeks, the contractor will be grading out the path as this project takes shape. The initial foundation for the boardwalk portion of the trail has been installed and the framing for the structure will begin as well.

The City of Poulsbo thanks you for your patience and please continue to expect traffic delays if you routinely travel on Finn Hill or Rhododendron.



Poulsbo Fish Park - Phase IV



The community history of support by volunteers, organizations, schools, businesses, grantors, government and the City is immeasurable to Poulso's Fish Park. Construction is underway for improvements to Fish Park along the Bond Road side of the park. The City Council awarded the contract to W.S. Contractors of Buckley in July.

The project includes parking lot renovation on Bond Road with stormwater improvements, 560 lineal feet of 6' wide sidewalk and 200 lf of boardwalk along the west side of Bond Road to the Lord Property, which is the park's shoreline parcel right on the estuary. An additional 228 lf of elevated boardwalk will lead from the renovated parking lot and into the park. Volunteer projects this fall will include two new platforms built by community organizations including the Poulso-NK Rotary Club and Poulso Lions Club. Kitsap Audubon and Steering committee volunteers have also created six new interpretive signs. When completed, this project will provide public access, environmental improvements and education to ALL parcels in PFP's 40 acres.

This project is being funded by the City of Poulso and two state grants: one through the Recreation and Conservation Office and one through a senate appropriation thanks to the support of Senator Christine Rolfes.

For more information please contact Poulso Parks and Recreation Director Mary McCluskey at mmclluskey@cityofpoulso.com or 360-394-9772.

POULSBO
PARKS &
RECREATION

SEPTEMBER 2020
ACTIVITIES

REGISTER AT
CITYOFPOULSBO.COM/REGISTER
OR CALL 360.779.9898

Phase 2-compliant Virtual & Outdoor
Activities are being held this fall!

Activities will continue to be added, so check our online catalog at
CityofPoulso.com/Register for the most updated availability.

Youth Programs

Preschool Soccer & T-Ball * Preschool & Youth Art *
Private Piano/Music Lessons * Sailing Team-Gr 8-12
Tennis Lessons-Age 7-12 * Youth Opti Sailing * Youth Soccer-Gr K-5

Adult Programs

Clogging * Designing W/Trees in the Landscape * Urban Hikes
Guided Walks-Poulso's Fish Park * Is My Tree Hazardous?
How to Find Calm in a Crazy World * Outdoor Photography
Language classes: French, Spanish or Japanese
Native Trees and Shrubs in Poulso's Parks * Outdoor Yoga- AM & PM
Private Piano/Music Lessons * Tools for Impossible Times

Inspire **Teach** change

Do you have a skill or a hobby that you would like to share with the community?
Poulsbo Parks and Recreation is looking for instructors to teach virtual and outdoor classes this fall.

Parks & Recreation Instructors set all the parameters for their class; days, dates, time, age of students and you get paid too!

For more information, contact Kris Goodfellow, kgoodfellow@cityofpoulsbo.com or call 360.394.9775.

PHONE: (360) 779-9898
EMAIL: parksrec@cityofpoulsbo.com



Job Opening

The City of Poulsbo is currently hiring for the following position: Police Officer (Entry Level). Click [here](#) to learn more details about the open positions.

