



CITY OF FLORENCE
PUBLIC WORKS

OLD TOWN PARK

GAZEBO REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Public Works crews have completed the installation of a new 16-foot octagon wood gazebo from Amish Country Gazebos, replacing the aging structure that had stood in Old Town Park since 1989. Over the years, the original gazebo served as the backdrop for countless weddings, holiday celebrations, and live music performances. However, the harsh coastal environment had taken a toll, leading to significant dry rot in the structural members, rafters, and other components.

The new gazebo includes a standing seam metal roof and a 19-inch octagonal cupola. One of the most notable improvements is the new concrete slab-on-grade foundation. The previous gazebo sat on a thinner, settled concrete pad, but the new structure is supported by a monolithic concrete slab. With the gazebo floor raised approximately 6 ½ inches above ground level, Public Works crews constructed an ADA-compliant concrete ramp, ensuring full accessibility.

The new gazebo is slightly larger than its predecessor (16 feet vs. the previous 14-foot diameter) and was placed in nearly the same location. This enhancement will not only preserve the park's charm but elevate its value as a central community gathering space—especially for weddings and seasonal festivities.

This project was made possible by a generous donation from the Central Oregon Coast Board of Realtors, to whom we extend our sincere thanks.





APRIL - DEMOLITION

On the morning of April 8, all hands were on deck as Public Works crews began the demolition of the old gazebo. Before work began, the team carefully removed and stored the iconic whale weather vane, which will return to crown the new structure.

Crews noted significant dry rot in the old gazebo's posts and rafters. After removing the railing, they attached a rope to a header beam and pulled the structure down. The team quickly dismantled and hauled off the remaining debris. The existing concrete pad, which showed signs of settling, was jackhammered and removed to make way for excavation of the new monolithic foundation.





MAY - PREPPING THE SITE

Public Works crews excavated the site and prepared the area for the larger concrete foundation. While waiting on favorable weather to pour the slab, utility division staff picked up brushes and began applying a protective white stain to the gazebo's wood components. The stain will help preserve the structure against the coastal climate.



Meanwhile, the whale weather vane was sandblasted and repaired. Although it now shines brightly, it won't be long before the copper naturally develops its classic green patina.

On May 29, crews poured the monolithic concrete slab—an essential and demanding step. To spare the team the backbreaking work of hauling concrete via wheelbarrow, a trailer-mounted concrete pumper was used to deliver all four cubic yards directly to the site.



Pouring a monolithic foundation is intense, precision-driven work. Done properly, it ensures good drainage, long-term durability, and a solid base for everything that follows.





JUNE - CONSTRUCTION

With clear skies in June, Public Works crews began assembling the new gazebo. The floor joists and composite decking were installed and anchored to the new concrete slab. Crews then assembled and installed the roof support posts, wall panels, and door panels. Using clamps to align the pie-shaped roof sections, the team secured the rafters in place and anchored the structure to the slab.



The following week, the metal roof was installed, followed by the reattachment of the refurbished whale weather vane atop the new cupola. Finally, a new ADA-accessible concrete ramp was poured to connect the paver path to the gazebo.



Now, only a few finishing touches remain.

This was a major undertaking—and what makes it even more remarkable is that all labor was completed in-house by Public Works staff. It was inspiring to see team members from across all divisions come together to make this happen. Even Public Works Director Mike Miller joined in to assist during the assembly.

