



# TOP 10

Public Works Projects

# IN 2023

2675 Kingwood  
Florence OR 97439





# Maple Street Plaza - April

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The City hired a local contractor to replace the decking, including the railings, and hired an electrical controls specialty contractor to update the wiring and controls to the sewer pump station at the Maple Street Plaza.

The Maple Street sewer pump station is located at the Maple Street Plaza. The actual sewer pump station is located under the decking in front of the public restrooms. Due to the corrosive atmosphere of a sewer pump station, the electrical conduits, light fixtures, exhaust fan and sump pump (for the stairwell into the pump station) all were in need of replacement. This required that all of the conduit be replaced with PVC coated aluminum conduit to protect it from corrosion. Stainless steel supports and anchors were also added to help prevent future corrosion issues.

Since the electrical work was extensive, over \$29,000, and the old deck needing to be restructured (several of the wooden supports had rotted and settled) including the tree roots from the spruce tree nearby that was uplifting the deck, it was time to give the entire area an update.

The decking contractor replaced the decking with Trex brand decking as well as adding new railing and privacy walls around the bathroom entrances.







**What is a pumpstation?** - A sewage pumping station, put simply, moves sewage from one location to another, either horizontally and/or uphill when gravity cannot be relied upon to do the job. Ordinarily, the sewer network relies on gravity for wastewater to flow from homes and businesses to the sewer main lines. The area where the Maple Street Plaza is located is actually the low point in the sewer system. On Bay Street, the sewer actually flows from River Roasters to the east towards the Maple Street sewer pump station. Once the sewer reached the pump station it is lifted (pumped) and a force main sends the sewer to the west side of the Siuslaw River Bridge where it goes to gravity and flows to the Ivy Street sewer pump station located at 1st and Ivy Streets, where the sewer is once again lifted to the wastewater treatment plant.



# Airport Improvement Project - August & October

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DuDuring August 2023, we closed the Airport for 7 days. The full closure of the airport was due to the pavement surface sealing of the runway and taxiway that required a complete cure of the sealcoat prior to allowing aircraft on the surfaces. The project included pavement marking removal; narrow crack repair; wide crack repair and asphalt patching; pavement edge cleaning; 39,000 square yards of surface sealing; new pavement markings; construction staking; and temporary flagging, markings, and signage. The pavement area includes Runway 15-33; Taxiways A1-A4; Taxiway A, the apron and taxi-lanes. Once the pavement sealing work was completed, temporary markings were also placed on the runway, taxiway and apron in August so that the slurry seal had enough time to cure before the permanent markings and legends could be applied. With favorable weather conditions, our contractor was able to

install the permanent striping and legend markings on the airport pavement surfaces in early October.

The runway was originally constructed in 1984 and the parallel taxiway was originally constructed in 1989. The apron was expanded and reconstructed in 2011 and the taxi-lanes were constructed at various times between 1989 and 2000 as aircraft hangars were constructed. Taxi-lanes are the paved surface between the hangars to allow aircraft from the hangars access to the parallel taxiway.

This \$1,024,386 project was funded by a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant valued at \$921,947 and an Oregon Department of Aviation Critical Oregon Airport Relief (COAR) grant for \$92,195. The remaining \$10,244 to fund the project was paid by the City from the airport fund.







# Chip Seal - July

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8 Some of our best weather occurs in late July and early August, which makes it prime time to complete our annual street maintenance projects. 2023 marked the 9th year that we have used Sierra Santa Fe, a private contractor that specializes in chip seals and roadway sealant projects, to help us in preserving our road ways.



**Where did we chip sealing?** - 8th Street from Hwy 101 to Quince Street; Greenwood Street between 9th Street and the terminus of Greenwood; Hemlock Street between 9th and 10th streets (this area received a double chip seal); Pine Street between 15th to 22nd streets; and Rhododendron Drive between 35th and just north of Tournament Drive. In addition, the following streets received a seal coat: Hemlock Street from 10th Street to Park Village Loop and Spruce Street between Munsel Lake Road and the end of Spruce Street.







**Why do we chip seal our roads?** - In an effort to provide the most cost-effective pavement maintenance procedure for streets that are in "good" condition (streets not needing full depth reconstruction, overlays or grind inlays) a chip seal with a fog seal has been recognized as a cost-effective solution. Chip sealing is a common pavement maintenance practice that extends pavement life and provides a good driving surface. With chip seals, a thin film of heated asphalt liquid is sprayed on the road surface, followed by the placement of small aggregates ("chips"). The chips are compacted to orient them for maximum adherence to the asphalt, and excess stone is swept from the surface. Instead of the typical fog seal that is applied to the chip seal, we applied a product called Onyx®, to protect the chip seal from harmful UV rays that deteriorate the chip seal over time. Chip and fog seals extend the life of existing paved streets; protects the sub-grade from water intrusion; and is an environmentally (resource) friendly solution to pavement maintenance which utilizes 60-75% less material over an 18-20 year life span of the street.



# Snow! - February

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**I**t is rare when we get snow on the coast. When we do get it, you just want to stop, get your hot cocoa (or other hot beverage) and appreciate it as it falls. Behind the scenes, Public Works crews are busy tracking the weather forecast and making preparations in the event that snow or ice arrives. Vehicles and equipment are prepared in advance to insure a rapid response to changing weather conditions.

During the 2023 snow events, Public Works responded to the snow emergency making sure that the streets were passable by applying traction aid starting at 5:30am. Crews also cleared sidewalks and the parking lots at City facilities. Of course, Public Works employees have to have fun too. In-between clearing the roadways, crews did build a snowman or two.









# Paving 35th & 101 - August

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The City got a rare opportunity to work cooperatively with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) crews to complete some pavement repairs on 35th Street at Hwy 101. ODOT provided their compact track steer with a small asphalt grinder that made quick work grinding out 2 ½-inches of asphalt in the west bound travel lane. The majority of the repair area is actually within the City's maintenance jurisdiction, but part of the work was also within ODOT's right-of-way too. ODOT brought in a full dump truck load of HMAC (Hot Mix Asphalt Cement), plus their motor grader to help place the HMAC. In addition to City crews, the City provided our backhoe to remove the pavement grindings; our roller to compact the asphalt; and our heated patch truck with an additional 5 tons of HMAC. After the HMAC was placed and compacted, City utility crews cleaned up the work area and reapplied the crosswalk thermoplastic markings, as well as, re-striping the bike lane/fog line. It was great to work alongside our local ODOT crews to make this much needed pavement repair.









# Rhododendron Fire Hydrate Line Break - May

5 On a Wednesday morning, a motorist traveling east along Rhododendron Drive became distracted and ran over a communication pedestal, mail box and hit the fire hydrant at the main entrance to the Wastewater Treatment Plant on Rhododendron Drive. Reports from the field indicated that the driver was not injured, however they hit the fire hydrant in such a way that the 6-inch water line that feeds the fire hydrant sheared off at the foot or bottom of the fire hydrant. This caused the free flow of the 6-inch line that fed the fire hydrant to begin flooding the wastewater plant as well as eroded a large amount of soil. We estimated that more than 38,000 gallons of water was lost from the time the line was broken to when crews were able to isolate the 16-inch water main and stop the water flow.





Due to the nature of the water main break, and the velocities of the water rushing through the water distribution network, half the City had colored water. We had reports throughout the day of brown water up to 17th and Kingwood streets north of Rhododendron Drive and east to Harbor Street. Even with flushing the system, customers within this area experienced colored water well into the late afternoon before the water distribution system returned to normal.



With a water break of this nature, the velocities within the water system exceeded 10-15 feet per second (normal velocity is less than 5 feet per second), the natural occurring sediments on the bottom of the water mains were stirred up. This created the colored water that our residents saw at their sinks. When this occurs, people may see water that ranges from a yellow tea-colored tint to a brown light coffee color. The discoloration typically only lasts up to a few hours while the sediments resettle to the bottom of the water main. At no time was the public at risk and the water was safe to use.



# New Effective and Efficient Equipment

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The City of Florence has been busy updating our fleet with more efficient vehicles. When selecting a new fleet vehicle, we think about usability (how the vehicle will be used) and both short term and long-term operations and maintenance of the vehicle. With the fuel and oil prices increasing, including the amount of idle time and total daily mileage that is placed on our fleet we have decided to go hybrid or full electric when we can. Switching out a 20-year-old truck that gets 8-9 MPG for something the gets 35-45MPG is always an easy decision. For example, we spent, on average, \$91.79 a month on fuel for our 2012 Ford E250

Econoline van assigned to our Facilities division. The new all electric van uses around \$5 in kilowatt hours to operate for the month and that is only if we drain the battery completely every week. With short travel distances between worksites and buildings, we don't even come close to that using that much in energy. Based on this one comparison, the City will realize a savings of approximately \$1,041.48 or more a year in fuel costs alone, just for this one vehicle!

In addition, City Council recently approved the purchase of two Ford F150 gas/electric hybrid pickups for the Police Department; two Ford F150 gas/electric hybrids for Public Works; and an all-electric Ford F150 Lightning for Public Works. Public Works is redefining the way the City drives, one vehicle at a time.







Ford F150 gas/electric hybrid



2 - Ford Maverick gas/electric hybrid



CAT 299D Compact Track Loader  
with mulcher attachment



2 - Kubota F2690E 72-inch mowers



AquaTech - Combination Sewer Cleaner



# FloGro

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3 Thanks to all of our customers, we were able to sell 202 cubic yards of FloGro in 2023. This is up from the 120 cubic yards that were sold during 2022. Although we ran out of product for two months during this summer, we were still able to out sell the previous We hope to sell even more FloGro in 2024.





**What is FloGro?** - FloGro is the finished material from our composting operations where we take our biosolids at the wastewater treatment plant, mix it with mulched yard debris, and compost the material through a process called a covered aerated static pile. FloGro was developed by the City's Public Works Department, with the assistance of Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, as a pilot project in 2010. The program is an environmentally friendly way to reduce the amount of money the City spends on hauling biosolids and reduce yard debris. The Class A biosolids product is produced through a composting process that combines our chipped yard debris with our biosolids. The end result is a sustainable compost supply for our community. The program was expanded in 2013 after the City was awarded a Waste Diversion Opportunity Grant by Lane County. Class A composted biosolids are a valuable resource rich in plant-essential nutrients and organic matter. Using composted biosolids improves soil health and allows the soil to hold more water while letting it drain and breathe better.



# FLOGRO

# \$25 a yard

Pick up times 10am to Noon every Tuesday & 9am - 2pm during Yard Debris Saturdays at Public Works off of Kingwood



If you have any questions or need to schedule an alternative pick up contact Public Works



**CONTACT**  
**PUBLIC WORKS**  
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541-997-4106  
2675 Kingwood St  
[publicworks@ci.florence.or.us](mailto:publicworks@ci.florence.or.us)



# Volunteers

2 Public Works Oversees three different Volunteer programs. AVG (Airport Volunteer Group), Adopt-A-Park, and Adopt-A-Street.

## Adopt-A-Street

Our street volunteers work along our roadways picking up trash and alerting us to any hazards along the roads such as blocked storm drains or overhanging foliage.

35th St	Ray & Jenny Hull	51 hours
Kingwood	EMAC	23 hours
Oak St	Siuslaw PTA	25 hours
Rhododendron from Hwy 101 to 9th	Florence Indivisible	16 hours
Rhododendron from 35th to Sebastian St	Mike & Pat Allen	191 hours
ROW Scotch Broom removal	Ken Kettelman	87 hours

Adopt-A-Park Our Parks volunteers work in our parks and trails picking up trash, pulling weeds and removing invasive plants.	Exploding Whale Park	Lutheran Church	17 hours
	Hurd Memorial Park	Mike & Pat Allen	17 hours
	Old Town Park	R.W. Hogeland	106 hours
	Vets Memorial Park	Tony & Susan Sclafani	20 hours
	New this year		
	Gallagher Park	Florence Garden Club	
	Miller Park	Boys & Girls Club	

## Airport Volunteer Group

With fifteen (15) active volunteers, our volunteers provided 1,623.5 hours of labor greeting visiting pilots and their passengers at the airport; answering phone calls; and providing general information and directions to local attractions; checking all entrance/exit gates; visually check taxiways to ensure they are free and clear of debris; cleaned and disinfected the loaner car and collected fees from loaner car users; clean and disinfect the restrooms and office space at the airport office.

We would like to thank all our Public Works volunteers for giving their time and energy, whether it is picking up litter along a roadway, removing invasive species from City land, or completing a small project, it all makes a difference. Because of their selflessness and commitment to the beautification of our City, each and every one of them helps to keep us a City in Motion!





# ADOPT A STREET



# ADOPT A PARK



# AIRPORT VOLUNTEER GROUP





# Miller Park

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**1** The long awaited and needed replacement play structure at Miller Park was completed this year. Fort Miller (the old play structure) was torn down in June after 36 years of service. It was replaced by the S.S. Miller and christened right at the National Night Out event in August. The new play structure took a lot of planning, community input, and a few grants.

While the Miller Park play structure improvements were in the 2021-23 biennium budget we still had to seek out grants to help pay for the \$350,000 project. Public Works was able to secure two grants for the Miller Park playground rehabilitation project. One from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department in the form of a Local Government Grant Program (LGGP) grant of \$75,000. The other grant was from Lane County Public Health for \$80,000. The Lane County Public Health Grant was a rarity. They reached out to us to see if we wanted grant funding for our playground. We also received donations from the Citizens of Florence totaling \$13,958, including a \$4,000 donation from the Kiwanis Club of Florence. We want to thank everyone who donated and helping to make the playground at Miller Park bigger and better than it ever was before.

We hope that the new S.S. Miller will provide as many years of service that Fort Miller did.





