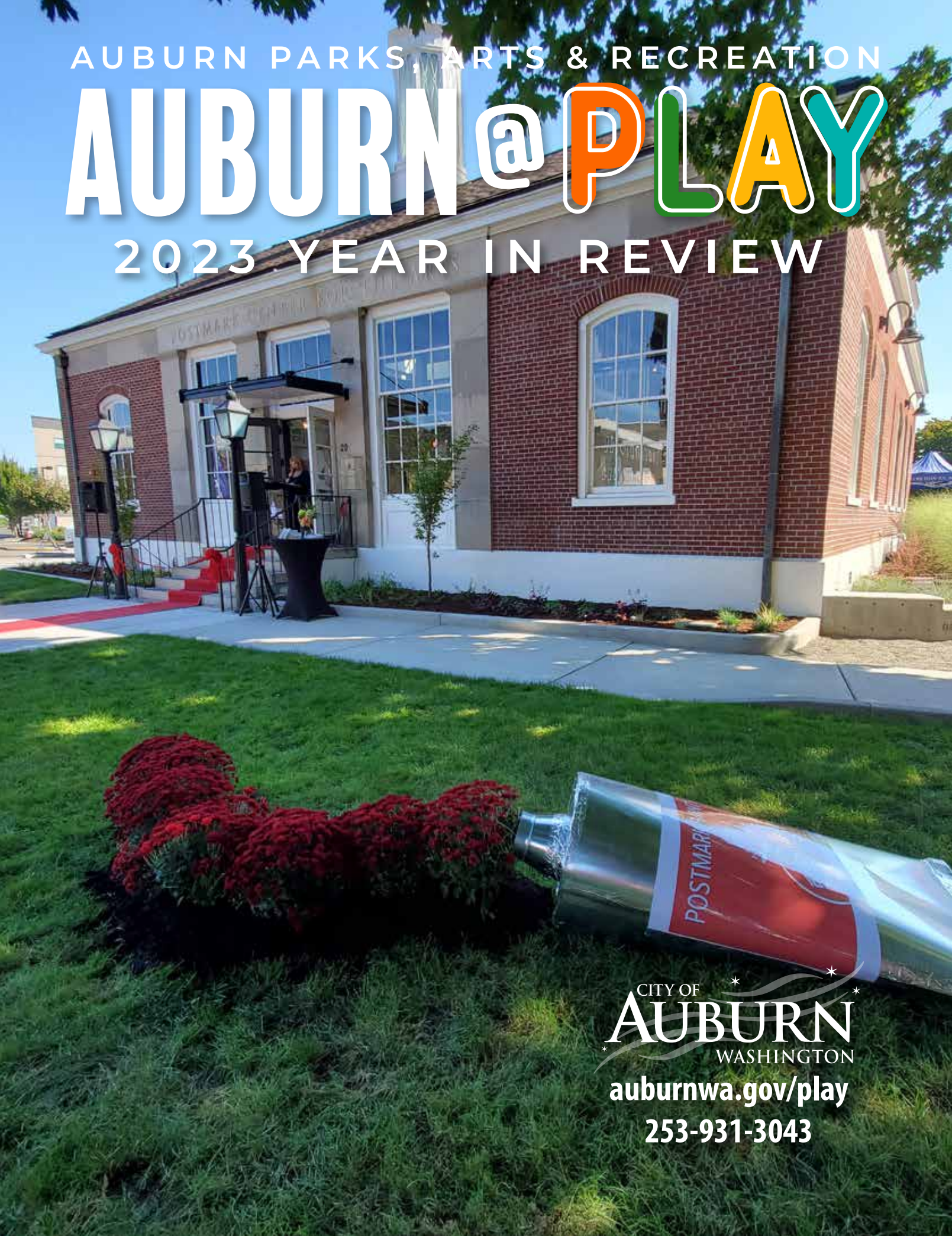


AUBURN PARKS, ARTS & RECREATION

AUBURN @PLAY

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



CITY OF
AUBURN
WASHINGTON

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253-931-3043

youth



Auburn Parks ever-popular Indoor Playground, for kids ages 1-5, continues to grow leaps and bounds as new families come and play. In 2023, the program served 2,821 kids, parents, grandparents and caregivers.

The Parent's Night Out program offers parents a night off and gives their kids a chance to come to the gym to play, make crafts, or just hang out with their friends. An average of 15-20 kids attend monthly.

Birthday Party Packages are booked by families from all over the valley. People who attend these parties are often inspired to come in and book a party for their family. Auburn Parks provided a total of 38 birthday parties for the year.

A variety of classes for Preschoolers and Youth age children have been offered throughout the year. Popular classes include Dance, STEAM, Piano, and classes for 1-3-year-olds.



Auburn Parks continues to offer its incredibly popular summer camps. In 2023, Auburn parks supported over 200 children a day in summer camps for preschoolers to teens. For elementary aged children, the Mix & Match camps gave children choices to have different camp experiences each week. Teen and tween camps included field trips, adventure programming, and even overnight camping trips.

Rec n Roll mobile recreation returned in 2023 and brought free recreation to even more parks in the Auburn community - adding Auburndale, Dykstra, Dorthy Bothell and more from the 2022 schedule! Rec n Roll also visited a neighborhood during the National Night Out program.





teens



The REC hosted hundreds of teens this year between the after-school program and summer camps. After school at The REC has grown because of the popular activities offered such as, cooking, open gym and the best video game lounge in Auburn. This summer the Counselor-In-Training program trained 3 teen volunteers that participated in summer camp counselor activities and earned over 150 volunteer hours to go toward school credit. Auburn Youth Council continues to serve Auburn by fundraising and hosting toy drives. In 2023, AYC raised over \$3,000 and was able to help a family in need during the holiday season.

bikes



Cedar Lanes Bike Park - Phase One - opened in 2023, which included 4 skills zones and a Single Track Flow Trail. As part of the opening, a Summer Ride mountain bike series was created in partnership with Cycle Therapy Racing, which ran twice weekly for six weeks. Bikes and helmets were available for kids to check out. Over 570 people attended the summer ride program. Learn to Ride programs were also offered at the bike park and Les Gove campus. Pedal Power taught 112 kids to pedal and 114 ECEAP & Transitional Kindergarten students learned to pedal through a pilot program with Pioneer Elementary. The program will be expanding in 2024 to serve Gildo Rey, Chinook, and Terminal Park Elementary Schools. The bike programs are supported by 200+ Volunteer Hours, several grants, and partnerships with local agencies and non-profits.



specialized recreation



The Auburn Specialized Recreation Programs were busy in 2023, with sports, arts and crafts, fitness classes, cook outs, and holiday themed events. A new program that literally made a splash in 2023 was the water fitness class, Waves of Fun. Water resistance helped improve the strength, endurance, and flexibility of participants, who had a blast splashing their way into a wonderful, wellness, water workout. Additionally, the Specialized Recreation program offered a variety of sports and competitions, scavenger hunts, social programs, movie nights, day trips, dances, wagon rides, fishing, hiking, biking, music, and fitness classes, just to name a few. Offering new and creative ways to keep our community involved with inclusive, and adaptive programming allows maximum participation for all.



pickleball

Pickleball is going strong and increasing in popularity seemingly every day. In 2022, Auburn Parks offered 21 pickleball programs (leagues, clinics and classes) with 210 participants. In 2023, the pickleball grew to 50 pickleball programs with 740 participants. Our pickleball staff have a pulse of the pickleball community and are helping us to grow the game in Auburn. During the rainy season the noontime open pickleball is normally at full capacity. Auburn Parks will continue to look at increasing offerings in 2024 to meet the rising demand for pickleball.

fitness



Group Fitness returned to full pre-Covid operations. All programming returned to fully in-person with the exception of the online pre-recorded library. Quarterly special events took place to build momentum for the program and to recruit new members. Programs included a New Year Kick Off, Summer Mixer, Fall Open House and Turkey Burn. Class offerings increased to include 38 classes each week with more new classes coming in early 2024. Membership is just under 500 members. Tai Chi continued to offer a popular 6-week Beginners class that was offered quarterly for people new to Tai Chi.



Free Fitness in the Park was a big hit this summer with an average session attendance of 50+ for Yoga at Sunset Park and 20+ for Tai Chi at the City Hall Plaza.



seniors

"Back to normal" was the feeling in 2023 at the Senior Activity Center. Participation numbers have returned to or exceeded pre-pandemic numbers. The Center had 454 people register as first-time visitors. The increase in new participants allows us to offer new programs and additional trips. Many new participants have decided to volunteer at the Center too. The Center boasts over 100 active volunteers and continues to recruit more.

The King County Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy funded Resource Navigation Program continues to grow. The program assists seniors with obstacles that can prevent them from receiving services they need. Case management was provide to hundreds of Auburn community seniors in need. Additionally, the program assisted 13 homeless seniors secure housing using emergency housing vouchers.

The partnership with the Sea Mar Community Living Connections returned in 2023, with the organization brining approximately 25 Latino seniors to the center each Monday to participate in activities, attend the lunch program and receive needed information, assistance, and referrals. Center special events are very popular with participants, on average, there is one special event a month with up to 150 participants per event. New in 2023 was the addition of a Harvest Bazaar, held in conjunction with the City's Halloween Harvest Festival at Les Gove Park. There were 34 vendors and lots of shoppers.





By the Numbers - 2023

- 37,103 visits were recorded at the Center, an average of 147 per day.
- 11,997 Volunteer Hours recorded by 110 volunteers.
- 14,366 lunches were served by Catholic Community Services. Twelve lunch days were special events, attracting more participants.
- 32,119 Meals on Wheels were delivered by volunteers to Auburn area shut ins.
- 1,123 visits were made to the Senior Savers Pantry. The pantry generated \$18,155 in revenue.
- 454 people participated in a Newcomers Tour.
- 678 registrations for 53 hikes/walks (217miles) with a total of 2,668 miles recorded by 163 people. 20 people were new in 2023.
- 1,606 participants went on a-day trip, with an average of 22 people per trip and 72 different trips hosted.
- 104 Medicare eligible seniors received free fitness memberships paid for by their supplemental insurance companies.
- 503 registrations for Monthly Social Dinners prepared by Wellness Team.





Special events were well attended through 2023. Peter Cotton Trail entertained nearly 2,000 participants who searched for paper bunnies hidden around 16 park and trail sites. Over 450 volunteers participated in Clean Sweep projects across 18 different project sites. Petpalooza and the Dog Trot unleashed on Game Farm Park with a crowd of almost 15,000 and 532 Dog trotters. Kids Day and the 4th of July landed in Les Gove Park with thousands of happy festival-goers. Free summer fun included Kids Summer Stage, Summer Sounds and Friday Night Flicks. Fall marked the return of the popular Halloween Harvest Festival at Les Gove Park. Main Street in downtown Auburn featured the beloved Veterans Parade in November and the Santa Parade and Tree Lighting in December.

special events




The Auburn Farmers Market had a phenomenal 2023 season. The Market hosted 86 unique vendors during the 16-week season, with a total of 34,395 customers and \$539,131 in vendor sales; an increase of over \$136,000 compared to 2022! It was also an important resource for food access, with over \$16,600 in EBT redeemed and \$14,300 in Snap Market Match redeemed at the Auburn Farmers Market. Market vendors donated 4,871 pounds of fresh produce to the Auburn Food Bank and the annual Chili Cook Off raised \$1,229 for the Food Bank.



2023 was “THE YEAR” for the arts in Auburn as the transformed 1937 historic post office opened as the Postmark Center for the Arts in the downtown core. The new arts center features two galleries, a gift shop, a small café, classroom spaces and is also available as a rental venue. A beautiful Welcome Figure adorns the entrance, created by Muckleshoot tribal artists. A grand opening celebration was held in September with the community coming out in support of the new space. In addition, the arts were showcased throughout the year, with the Community Center, Senior Center and Art on Main Galleries filled with rotating art exhibitions, new sculptures added to the community as part of the Downtown Sculpture Gallery, an artist-in-residence at the Mary Olson Farm, and a variety of classes and free Artrageous art-making activities held throughout the year.



→ arts



We've taken performing arts in Auburn on the road again in 2023 as we plan for next steps at the Auburn Avenue Theater. Over \$1.5M in grant funding has been secured to go towards building a new Theater and additional funding opportunities continue to be explored. An initial conceptual design and cost estimate for a new facility was conducted in 2023.

The performing arts schedule continues to feature an lineup of music, comedy, theater, and kids' programming. The Auburn Community Players staged a production of Nunsense and Little Shop of Horrors in 2023, along with the Jr. Players production of Junie B. Jones. The Postmark Center for the Arts was added as a performing venue in 2023, featuring small-scale performances.



Auburn Community Jr. Players: Junie B. Jones Production

white river valley museum & mary olson farm

Museum Highlights:

- Greeted 9,194 museum guests, field trip students, and event participants
- Displayed three new temporary exhibits: Cocktail Party: Dressing the Midcentury Hostess, Ribbons and Shirtsleeves: The Tapestry of Alyce Wood, and Festival of Trees: Stay Golden
- Toured 401 City of Auburn employees, community groups, and public program participants on the Racial History of Auburn
- Accepted 116 new artifacts into the collection from 16 unique community donations and fulfilled 86 research requests and photograph orders
- Completed two renovation projects in the Museum's galleries to improve visitor experience and future exhibitions and welcomed a brand new HVAC system for the building
- Museum volunteers devoted over 1,100 hours of service!



Farm Highlights:

- Welcomed 6,419 farm guests, field trips students, and event participants
- Smiles were contagious during five weeks of early learner fun at Farm Tots
- Campers explored nature and history for two weeks of Farm summer camps
- Brews, bands, and vibes were on tap for the 750 people who attended the annual Hops & Crops festival
- The Farm was aglow for the 2,500 people who came out for the free LUSIO light art festival
- Installed new security systems with improved monitoring to protect our historic Farm.



park planning & development

- The dilapidated playground structure at Fulmer Park was replaced with a new and expanded playground with funding provided by King County Grants and Park Impact Fees. The new playground was the first of its kind installed in the State.
- A new playground was installed at Auburndale Park and a new accessible pathway was funded and constructed by Peak Machinery, the local Bobcat dealer, through a National Recreation and Park Association grant.
- Phase 1 of the Cedar Lanes Bike Park was completed with Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance constructing a dirt skills course through the forested area of the park. Phase 2 of the project will begin in the spring of 2024 and include a bicycle pump track, a new restroom and storage and staging building.
- Phase 1 of the Postmark Center for the Arts was completed in mid-2023. Permitting for Phase 2, the lower lever, was submitted in December 2023 with construction set for 2024.
- A drainage project at Sunset Park was completed to address flooding in the playground caused by old, decayed wood chips.
- A secured parking area for Park's transportation vehicles was constructed in the 12th St. parking lot at Les Gove to help address ongoing vehicle vandalism.



Postmark Center for the Arts



Auburndale Park



Cedar Lanes
Bike Park



→ park maintenance





2023 Highlights:

- Updated Fulmer Park with new playground, new irrigation and grass, a new park sign. Also removed vegetation and replanted with new shrubs and flowers.
- Installed 208 hanging baskets in the downtown core.
- Designed and planted new landscaping around the Postmark Center for the Arts and installed and planted 6 new flower pots near the alleyway stage. Repainted entire parking area.
- Identified and repaired major irrigation leak at Les Gove Park.
- Removed vegetation from Bi-Centennial Park Sign and created more visually appealing area.
- Supported Arts Division City-Wide Sculpture Gallery change-over, including assisting with the installation of the new Welcome Figure at the Postmark.
- Assisted with Clean Sweep by coordinating the planting of 1,200 annuals planted at various locations with the help of Auburn Garden Club, 230 yards of mulch applied at Les Gove Park, 80 yards of woodchips installed at Auburndale Park, 70 yards of Playchips installed at Brannan and Isaac Evans Park.
- Completed decking repairs at Mill Pond Park.
- Supported City Sponsored Events.

→ auburn golf course





The golf boom continued in 2023 with another successful season at Auburn Golf Course. Course highlights included:

- 2023 golf course revenues exceeded 2022 across the board.
- Increased number of Corporate and Charity Shotgun events by 20%.
- The men's club & ladies club memberships increased again to a total of nearly 1,250 members. A holiday Toy Drive was a huge success with over 250 toys donated by club members.
- The Couples League expanded membership again for 3rd consecutive season now with over 130 members and the Merchants League expanded to 20 teams, with a total of over 100 members.
- PGA Junior league had two teams with increased membership by at least 10%.
- Hosted a qualifying event of over 150 junior participants for the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship at Augusta National Golf Club.
- Successfully transitioned to a new, upgraded point of sale system during the peak season. The system has many new features helping customer experience including email confirmations for tee times and improved credit card payment options.

Course maintenance highlights included:

- Fairway maintenance continued with 1,000 yards plus of sand and topdressing added to the fairways.
- Added new equipment, made irrigation improvements, and added new areas of short turf on the Course.
- Air2G2 treatment to the greens, a process of air blowing into greens vertically and laterally.



Auburn's Mountain View Cemetery completed several projects over the course of 2023:

- Began process of expanding the ForestWalk Cremation Garden.
- Cut 200-year-old tree struck by lightning, 12 trees in Forest Walk area and 10-12 from steep slope on Mountain View Drive.
- Repaired and replaced split rail fence in ForestWalk and the 9th addition natural area and redesigned landscape entrance and part of the parking in front of the office.
- Installed gutters and security shutter on the Chapel of Memories.
- Purchased a new John Deere mower and a new 310 G-Tier Backhoe.
- Trimmed all cemetery headstones 3 times and placed small signs with flower policy throughout the grounds.
- Held several special events: Easter Sunrise Service, Clean Sweep volunteer project, Memorial Day ceremony, Veterans Day flag markings, and Tree of Remembrance.
- In total, there were 326 total placements (181 Cremations & 145 Ground Burials) and over \$2M is revenue with graves, markers, and niche spaces.



mountain view cemetery



MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY
CITY OF AUBURN



New Cedar Lanes Bike Park

2023 Parks, Arts & Recreation Boards/Commissions/Committees

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Peter Di Turi
Michael Hassen
Katie Helton
Matt Jennings
Tiffany Lindsay
Wayne Osborne
Mike Palko-Dean

Urban Tree Board

Todd Beals
Linda Bielejec
Tanya Galat
Donna Hall
Bryce Landrud
James Tourangeau

Auburn Arts Commission

Kristine De Leon
Tammy Dwight
Tracy Gallaway
John Harris
Ana R. Kear
Eydie Leighty
Trisenda Mayfield
Ann Marie Natali
Chris Olds
Tori Olsen
Dinah Rau
Tracy Taylor-Turner

Cemetery Board

Arnie Galli
Jeanne Hicks
Tim Pierce
Robert Rakos
Judi Roland

Museum Board

Derek Anderson
Ronnie Beyersdorf
Dani Crivello-Chang
Tom Ginsburg
Dennis Grad
Mike Holman
Erika Moore
Charles Natsuhara
Gordy Nishimoto
Kim Perry

Auburn Senior Activity Center Advisory Council

Sylvia Chavez
Kathy Maples
Edna Pelletier
Janice Bellinger
Lakshmi Chandran
Judy Collins
Cindy Erickson
Bob Johnston
John Larson
Lani Webster
Karen Wright

Auburn Mayor & City Council - 2023



Nancy Backus
Mayor



James Jeyaraj
Deputy Mayor



Bob Baggett
Councilmember



Kate Baldwin
Councilmember



Larry Brown
Councilmember



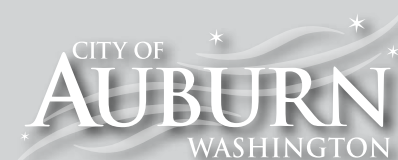
Robyn Mulenga
Councilmember



Cheryl Rakes
Councilmember



Yolanda
Trout-Manuel
Councilmember



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