



TOP 10

Public Works Projects

IN 2024

# Airport Siding, Windows, Door, and Gutter Replacement Project

---

**10** At the Florence Airport, we take great pride in our Fixed Base Operator (FBO) Building (office, pilot lounge, restrooms, and equipment storage building), which serves as an invaluable resource for out-of-town pilots seeking information about our airport and the surrounding city. Staffed by our friendly Airport Volunteers, this facility not only provides essential information but also offers a welcoming area for airport hangar owners, many of whom volunteer at the information desk. Local citizens are encouraged to stop by as well to learn more about our airport, fostering a sense of community and connection among all who visit.

The current building, which has been a fixture at the airport since its construction in 1989, has shown signs of weather damage after enduring the harsh coastal elements for 35 years. Recognizing the need for an upgrade, we initiated a much-needed exterior facelift. The airport's T1-11 siding and gutters required replacement after years of exposure, and the doors and windows were in dire need of an upgrade to more energy-efficient models.





Crews from Jason Lockler Construction worked diligently for about a month to complete the renovations. They removed water-damaged T1-11 plywood siding, installed new plywood underlayment and moisture barrier, replaced the outdated windows and doors on the airport FBO as well as new Hardie Plank fiber cement siding. Additionally, replacement LED floodlights were added to the north end of the building to enhance visibility and safety during evening hours. The Hardie Plank fiber cement lap siding, was selected to provide a durable and aesthetically pleasing finish. The building exterior was then painted in the traditional 'airport blue'. Finally, once the painting was completed, new gutters were installed, ensuring that the building is well-equipped to handle the elements for years to come.

The renovations at Florence Airport not only improve the functionality and appearance of the FBO but also enhance the overall experience for pilots and visitors alike. By the City investing in the FBO, we are showing our commitment to maintaining a welcoming environment that supports the needs of our aviation community that also fosters local engagement. With these upgrades, we look forward to continuing to serve as a vital resource for both pilots and the residents of our community.

# City of Florence Rhododendron Parade Float

The 2024 City Grand Floral Parade entry showcased the Rhododendron Drive Realignment and Improvement Project, highlighting the improved riverfront. The float prominently featured the soil nail retaining wall, which creates a raised multi-use path, allowing visitors to look over the traffic and enjoy views of the river and dunes.

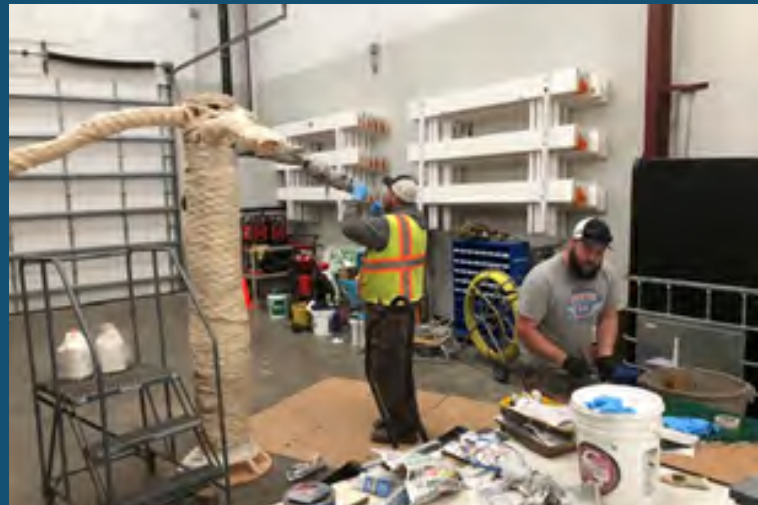
The Float also included benches and bridge railings, all of which will be incorporated into the riverfront area as time permits. The City obtained several sections of bridge rail when ODOT replaced the Siuslaw River Bridge concrete guard rails to comply with current safety standards. These railings will be installed along the landscape strip to create a separation between the parallel parking on Rhododendron Drive and the walking path next to the river. This initiative aims to seamlessly blend the park with the Art Deco style of our coastal bridges while also providing a safety barrier for pedestrians from vehicles.



The central tree on the float was crafted with a wooden support structure and topped with paper mâché "bark." The leaves on the tree, as well as the fish adorning the river float skirt, were colored and cut out by students from Siuslaw Elementary School. The City extends heartfelt thanks to the teachers and students who contributed to making our float a truly special creation.

For the Rhododendron aspect of our float, the City purchased 16 rhododendrons from Bones Nursery. These plants have now been planted around town at various City properties, celebrating the beauty of rhododendrons by increasing their presence in our community.

The City float was built and decorated at the Public Works facility on Kingwood Street. City staff members from all departments helped with the decoration of this year's float, showcasing the impressive outcomes when every department collaborates as a cohesive team. This spirit of teamwork and community engagement reflects our shared commitment to making the riverfront a vibrant space for all to enjoy, fostering a sense of pride and connection among residents and visitors alike. As we look ahead, we are excited to see how these enhancements will further enrich our community and provide lasting benefits for future generations.



# New City Equipment

---

8 This past November, the City welcomed a new street sweeper at Public Works, much to the excitement of the Stormwater and Street crews who had been waiting since January. After a brief overview of its features and functionality checks, extensive training in December the new sweeper was put to work. You may see both the old and new sweepers out and about in the coming months as staff continues to train on the new equipment.

The old Elgin Crosswind sweeper, acquired in 2007, has served well but has faced over \$60,000 in repairs in recent years. Given its age and rising costs, the City decided to invest in a replacement.

The new Schwarze A7 Tornado features a twin-engine design for quieter operation and a Peterbilt 220 chassis for improved visibility and maneuverability around obstacles. This design will help Public Works staff perform street sweeping safely and efficiently. If you see our Stormwater Utility Division crews on the streets in the new sweeper, make sure to wave hello as they work to keep the streets free of debris and contaminants.



The street sweeper wasn't the only new Vehicle Purchased the City made in 2024. Police received three F150 Super Crew Cab 4x4 PowerBoost Full Hybrid Trucks, two of which have been fully upfitted and are in use. The new F150 PowerBoost full gas electric hybrids are a four-door super crew cab that is four-wheel drive; provides 7.2 kW onboard power; trailer tow package; 10 speed hybrid electric automatic transmission; and backup camera package. The gas electric engine provides EPA fuel economy of 24 miles per gallon (mpg) in the city and 24 mpg on the highway. As one can imagine, police vehicles spend a lot of time idling on the job. With on-board electrical equipment that can be powered using the lithium-ion hybrid battery, this allows the gasoline engine to shut off – running only intermittently to charge the battery. That's what makes the hybrid powertrain on the new F150 full gas electric hybrid vehicle ideal for law enforcement. The hybrid four-wheel drive drivetrain provides improved handling stability and traction in all driving conditions. It also offers significant improvements in fuel economy and reduced engine idle time (compared with the previous model), along with across-the-board improvements in performance and capability.



Public Works received two Ford F-150 XLT Powerboost full hybrid pickup truck upfitted with rooftop strobe light bar and alley lights; TruckVault® truck bed storage system, truck bed rails and headache rack (protects the rear window). Public Works also received a highly anticipated new full electric, Ford F150 Lightning. The new F150 Lightning is an all-wheel drive Super Crew Cab full electric pick-up truck that includes a 9.6 kW onboard power, dual electric motors, an EPA estimated range of 320 miles, 1,800-pound payload (with extended range battery) and towing capacity of 10,000 pounds (however the tow range drops to approximately 100-120 miles).

As the City 'right sizes' its fleet, whenever possible, new vehicles will either be all electric or gas/electric hybrid going forward. This transition aims to reduce our environmental impact and carbon footprint of the city's operations. By adopting more sustainable vehicle options, the city not only contributes to cleaner air and a healthier environment but also sets a positive example for residents and businesses. The move is part of a broader strategy to embrace green technology and promote sustainable urban living.

# Water Main Break on 21st

On Tuesday afternoon, March 12th, right as school pick up was starting, Utility division crews responded to a water main break on 21st Street west of Hwy 101. Cablecom LCC was performing a directional drilling operation to provide Spectrum cable services to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) building. Cablecom LLC had a right-of-way permit from the City to conduct their work and followed industry standard protocols of calling in for underground utility locates and potholing the underground utilities to verify location and depth. Through their potholing efforts, they verified that the top of the water main was 3 ½ feet under the pavement surface. Cablecom LLC then set up their directional drill for a depth of 4 ½ to 5 feet. Unfortunately, they lost control of their drill head and it sheared off the top of the water main.



Since the top of the water main was sheared off, the water main break heaved an extensive amount of pavement. Utility division crews quickly, efficiently and safely performed the necessary repairs to the water main. Crews first isolated the customers water services by turning off the water meters so that when we isolated and turned down the water main, the customers water from their plumbing and water heaters would not drain back into the water main. Crews then isolated the area by operating the water valves in the street to slow the flow of water, but having enough positive



pressure in the water main so that soil and contaminants cannot enter the break. Crews used the combination sewer cleaner to hydro excavate the area as well as the backhoe to remove the pavement. Crews created a sump under the water main so that the water could drain out of the water main without being in contact with the soils. Crews then were able to resection the water main, flush the system and return the water main to service. Crews also turned on the angle meter stops to the water meters that they turned off and communicated with the customers so that they knew that their water service had been restored. During the course of the work, crews disinfected the repair parts as well as the water main and then proceeded to verify that residual chlorine levels of 0.5 ppm of chlorine was in the water system after flushing and took a bacteriological sample of the water to also verify that no contamination occurred to the water system during the repairs.

After the water main was repaired the City made the necessary temporary repairs to the street surface. Due to the large area of pavement that needed to be replaced, a paving machine was needed to actually place the new Hot Mix Asphalt Cement (HMAC) road surface. Due to weather and contractor's availability, the permanent pavement repairs could not occur until June. Pavement specialty contractors, Ray Wells, Inc and RiverBend Materials completed the permanent pavement restoration to the street on Thursday, June 6th.



# Movie in the Park - July

6 August 2024 marked our first Movie in the Park hosted by the City. This program has been something that the City has wanted to do for our community members since the completion of the concession stand and restroom facility.

Movie in the Park is a big undertaking. We were able to reach out to our counterparts in the City of Eugene. Billy Hernandez, Eugene Parks and Recreation Supervisor for Petersen Barn Community Center, heads up Eugene's Movie in the Park program. Billy was immensely helpful informing us how Eugene operates their Movie in the Park program and the equipment they use. During the course of our conversations, Billy asked if we would like to rent Eugene's equipment. We jumped at the opportunity and worked with another staff member at Eugene Parks and Recreation, Austin Nieve who actually sets up and operates the equipment for Eugene's movie in the park program.

As we planned the event, we decided it would benefit the community to allow a non-profit to a fundraiser through concessions. The Siuslaw High School baseball team volunteered and successfully ran the concession stand. The baseball team offered popcorn, nachos, pretzels, candy, and hot drinks. They sold out of everything within 30 minutes after the movie started, raising over \$500.





The team is now able to purchase a piece of equipment from their wish list. The City thanks the baseball team for their efforts.

With Eugene Parks and Recreation equipment arriving, Austin Nieve guided Florence Public Works staff in setting up the screen and audio/visual gear. Community members eagerly claimed their viewing spots even before the screen was fully set up. Despite the threat of rain, about 450 attendees brought blankets and chairs. According to Austin, our Movie in the Park turnout was the largest he had seen (including in Eugene) in the last five years.



Our first movie in the park was a huge success, not only because the stars aligned with our City of Eugene friends, Billy and Austin, but to our incredible staff of Public Works and City Administration. This year's movie in the park was a test to see if a program like this would be well received and valued by the community. After this year's great attendance, it showed that this is something that our community would really like to see.



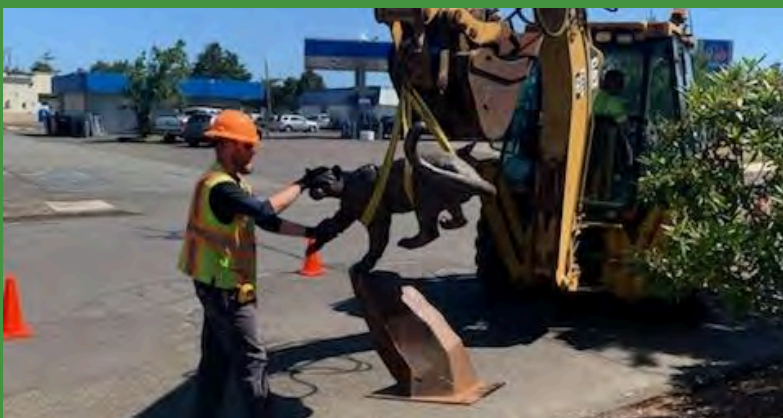
City Staff is currently looking into what a 2025 movie in the park program would look like. Please stay tuned to see what we come up with and we can't wait to see you at another movie at Miller Park.



# New Art Exposed Plinths on 101

5 When we designed and constructed ReVision Florence in coordination with ODOT we had always planned to have art as part of the streetscape project. During construction, art bases (art plinths) were installed during construction and served in a dual capacity of being a seating area as well as displaying art in the future. In 2024, the City decided to extend the Art Exposed Program along Hwy 101 within the ReVision Florence corridor. The City had already been running the art exposed on Bay St with 8 locations since 2018 (the program started in 2018 with four locations in Old Town and has expanded to the eight location in 2022). By using the existing art plinths and adding three additional art plinths along Hwy 101, we were able to increase the amount of rotating art spots by six locations. We were also able to except much larger art pieces than we could display on Bay Street.

During April and May Public Works Park and Utility Staff members, along with the City’s specialty contractors, made forms and poured three new art plinths along Hwy 101. Every art plinth also required the installation of an “sacrificial” steel plate. The steel



plates are secured to the concrete art plinth and then the art piece is installed onto the steel plate. This helps limit the holes that we have to drill into the concrete thus increasing the life of the art plinth.

Economic Development and Communications Analyst, Chantelle Meyer, coordinated artists and the art with our Parks staff so that the artwork could be installed. The collaboration ensured a seamless integration of creativity and infrastructure, enhancing the visual landscape of Florence. Artists contributed their unique visions, turning the public spaces along Hwy 101 into a vibrant outdoor gallery. This initiative not only supports artists but also enriches the community, inviting residents and tourists alike to engage with the evolving art scene.

Now that the hard work is behind us these new art plinths will continue to bring a rotating array of art to the City of Florence for years to come.



# FloGro

4 Thanks to all of our customers, we were able to sell 162 cubic yards of FloGro in 2024. This brings us to a total of 483 yards sold in the last 3 years. FloGro was so popular during 2024 we were out of stock for 20 weeks. Every time we would get some ready to sell, it would be gone by the next week. To prepare for Spring gardening, Wastewater crews have been hard at work making as much FloGro as can fit in our current composting program and operation. We should have an estimated 240 cubic yards of FloGro ready for sale in 2025.



**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 while also reducing yard debris.

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**

**\$30 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**  
[ci.florence.or.us/publicworks/flogro-it-makes-flowers-grow](http://ci.florence.or.us/publicworks/flogro-it-makes-flowers-grow)

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

# Volunteers

---

Public Works oversees three different Volunteer programs. Airport Volunteer Group (AVG), Adopt-A-Park, and Adopt-A-Street. During 2024, all of our volunteer groups in total provided 2,657 hours of community service.

Public Works staff would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers for giving their time and energy, whether it is picking up litter along a roadway, removing invasive species from City right-of-way's, greeting visitors to the airport, or completing a small project, it all makes a difference. With their selflessness and commitment to the beautification of our City, each and every one of them helps to keep us a City in Motion!



---

## AIRPORT VOLUNTEER GROUP



The Airport Volunteer Group (AVG) is an all-volunteer organization that was formed in December 2011 to provide a presence at the Florence Municipal Airport. The primary tasks for these volunteers are to be a friendly face and greet pilots and their passengers at the airport; answering the airport office phone; and providing information and directions to local attractions. The volunteers are also the 'eyes and ears' in regards to monitoring airport operations and alerting City staff of potential safety, security or maintenance issues.

The AVG proudly maintains a presence at the airport eight hours a day, seven days per week. In 2024 fifteen (15) active volunteers provided 1,930 hours of service 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.



The City of Florence's Adopt-a-Street Program is an initiative aimed at keeping our roadways free of litter. This voluntary program fosters collaboration among organizations, merchants, and residents. Each participating group takes on the responsibility of a designated section of road or street, committing to remove litter and trash at least four times a year for a two-year term.

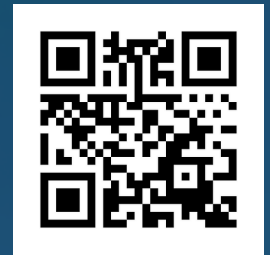


Most of our Adopt-a-Street Volunteers were already going for walks along the streets they adopted. Now they do it with a trash grabber and bucket.

# ADOPT A STREET

## 2024 Street Volunteer Hours

35th St from Hwy 101 to Rhododendron	Ray & Jenny Hull	56 hours
Kingwood St from 9th to 35th St	EMAC	8 hours
Oak St from 20th to 35th St	Siuslaw PTA	23 hours
Rhododendron from Hwy 101 to 9th St	Florence Indivisible	11 hours
Rhododendron from 35th to Sebastian St	Mike & Pat Allen	135 hours
ROW Scotch Broom removal	Ken Kettelman	62 hours



## Top Volunteers – Mike and Pat Allen

Mike and Pat have been volunteering with the City for many years. Not only do they maintain their adopted 2 mile stretch of Rhododendron Dr from 35th to Sebastian, they have adopted Hurd Park as well. They have also been active in helping recruit others to adopt streets and parks and well as volunteering at other groups events. In total the Mike and Pat have put in 168 hours in 2024 not only with their personal adoptions but also helping other groups with theirs.





The primary purpose of the Adopt-a-Park program is to promote partnerships between community groups, philanthropic organizations, and businesses to assist Public Works staff with routine maintenance, clean up, and beautification of parks, open spaces, and trails.

Through the use of volunteers, designated areas will be spruced up by removing litter and debris, controlling weeds, caring for plants, mulching around trees and planting areas, raking leaves, sweeping ball courts, identifying hazards, reporting vandalism, and planting trees, shrubs, and other approved vegetation.

# ADOPT A PARK



## 2024 Park Volunteer Hours

Exploding Whale Park	Lutheran Church	12 hours
Gallagher Park	Florence Garden Club	47 hours
Gallagher Park	Rhody Society	47 hours
Hurd Memorial Park	Mike & Pat Allen	13 hours
Miller Park	Boys & Girls Club	93 hours
Old Town Park	R.W. Hogeland	92 hours
Vets Memorial Park	Tony & Susan Sclafani	8 hours

**In 2024 our Parks Volunteers were able to complete 3 large projects.**

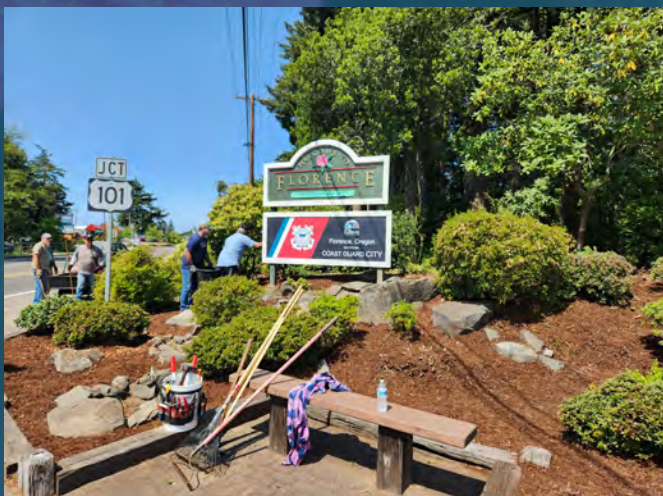
### Boys and Girls Club planter boxes at Miller Park

In order to help the children of Florence take pride in their community the Boys and Girls Club of Florence adopted Miller Park. In 2024 they came to Miller park several times to pick up litter and pull weeds. They even came over the day after National Night Out, a yearly City event for the community to spend time with our Local Law Enforcement employees, to help pick up trash. They were rewarded for their efforts with their own ice cream party. Parks staff also prepped 3 new raised planters for the Boys and Girls Club to plant flowers and maintain.



## 18th Street Pocket Park Native Garden

Saturday, April 20th the City of Florence's Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC), joined by numerous local volunteers, gathered at the 18th Street Pocket Park to plant a pollinator garden along the back perimeter fence line. Volunteers spent several hours planting, laying down landscaping fabric, and mulching the area. Parks staff came later and finish finished the garden by sowing some of the new wildflower, perennial wildflower and butterfly milkweed at the park. We hope that the garden will continue to grow and become an example to the community of how good a pollinator garden can look.



## Power of Florence at Gallagher Park

During 2024's Power of Florence event volunteers from the Florence Garden Club, Rotary Club of Florence, and the Rhododendron Society worked on cleaning up the corner of Gallagher Park at Hwy 126 and Spruce Street. Volunteers provided 93.5 hours of labor weeding, trimming shrubs, cleaned out the dry creek bed at the welcome to Florene and Coast Guard City signs, and spread bark dust. Public Works dropped off three cubic yards of bark dust for the volunteers to use. The volunteers made a big impact and the corner of Hwy 126 and Spruce Street hasn't looked this good since before the pandemic.

# Siuslaw Estuary Trail

2 The Siuslaw Estuary Trail, Phase 1 project is nearing completion! The extensive planning phase, which lasted from November 2010 to January 2013, provided the vision and laid a solid foundation for the trail's development. From that vision, we have successfully refined the trail's design to enhance accessibility and user experience.

In August, the City's contractor, Laskey-Clifton Corporation, mobilized and started construction on the new Multi Use Path. They began by removing trees and vegetation that needed to be removed in order to construct the multi-use path. The tree and vegetation debris that was removed from the project was dropped off at our yard debris disposal site at the north end of the airport so that it could be mulched and used later in our composting operations to create FloGro.

Laskey-Clifton Corporation crews started by establishing the trail head at the south end of the Redwood Street right-of-way. There was a large amount of material that needed to be removed in order to meet the ADA requirements for the trail. The 'cut' material was used on site to fill and raise the lower portion of the trail to keep it out of the sensitive areas of the estuary.







The contractor has progressed nicely on the subgrade for the multi-use path, including the installation of geotextile fabric and the placement of the base rock material for the path. The contractor placed some large 20-pound rock along the toe of the slope in some areas to help reinforce portions of the multi-use trail slope from Munsel Creek and estuary influences.

Currently, the contractor's focus is on the parking lot area at Hwy 126 and Spruce Street where grading and fill operations have commenced. This critical component of the project will provide parking for visitors, making it easier for the community to access the trail.

The City is working closely with representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and our graphic designer to develop educational and interpretive signage for the trail. This collaboration aims to enhance the visitor experience by providing informative content that reflects the cultural significance and natural features of the area. Once they are complete, they will be installed along the trail by City staff.





The Siuslaw Estuary Trail will offer outdoor enthusiasts a safe and enjoyable space for walking, biking, and experiencing the area's natural beauty. Designed to withstand the impacts of nearby waterways, the trail ensures long-lasting use for future visitors.

Community members can soon take pride in this significant addition to Florence, fostering a greater connection to the environment and providing a recreational outlet that enhances the quality of life in the area. The Siuslaw Estuary Trail is more than just a pathway; it is a symbol of cooperation, conservation, and community spirit.



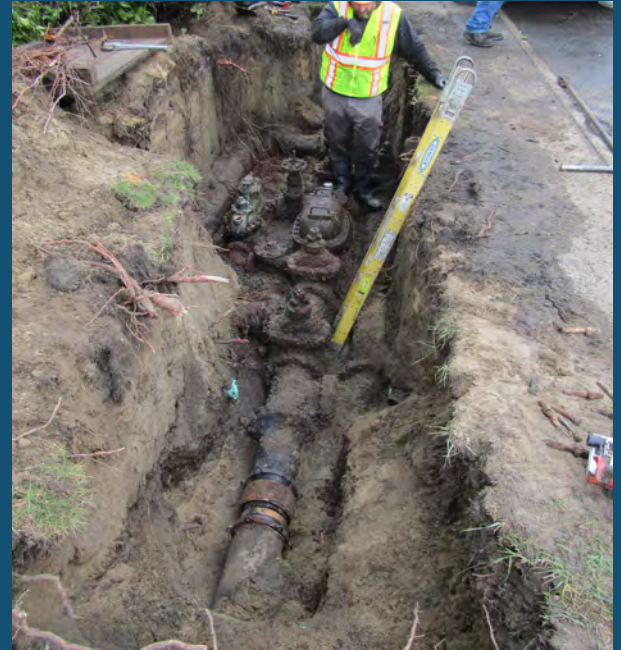
# Rhododendron Drive Realignment

The Rhododendron Drive Realignment and Improvement Project, executed by Excavating, Inc., has reached its successful conclusion after several months of intensive work that began back in March. This project aimed to enhance the roadway and infrastructure along Rhododendron Drive, between Wildwinds and 35th street to improve water and wastewater lines; provide stormwater treatment and management; improve traffic, pedestrian and bicyclist safety by creating a separated multi-use path along the east side of the roadway; and enhance the river pull out area.

From the start, the project involved complex operations including clearing and grubbing, utility relocation and adjustments, road widening, and the installation of new infrastructure. Temporary lane closures were implemented to ensure safety for both the construction crews and the public. With traffic control measures in place, including flaggers, the project managed to maintain a reasonable flow of traffic, despite the necessary stoppages during peak hours.



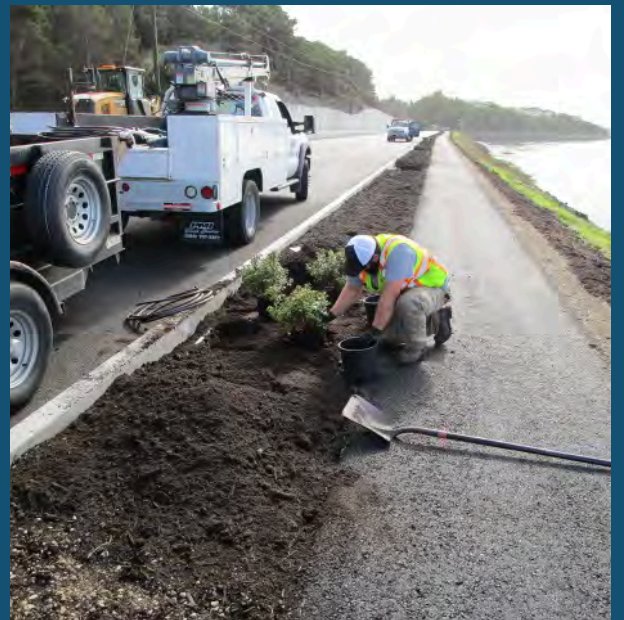




One of the early challenges was the discovery of an old metered water inter-tie connection, which required Florence Public Works crews to intervene unexpectedly. This highlighted the importance of site investigations prior to construction, as such discoveries can significantly impact project timelines and budgets. However, K&E Excavating quickly adapted to these challenges, progressing with tree trimming and utility work that laid the groundwork for further developments.

As the project advanced, significant milestones were achieved. For instance, the completion of the new 8-inch water main; new 18-inch wastewater line; and the installation of retaining walls marked a critical phase in the construction timeline. These efforts were complemented by the installation of stormwater infrastructure that is essential for managing runoff and maintaining local water quality.






A notable improvement was the realignment of New Hope Lane, which required careful coordination to ensure access for local businesses and residents. The construction of the Ultrablock precast concrete retaining walls and the large soil nail wall were significant features of the project, providing structural integrity while enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the area.

As the project neared completion, the focus shifted to finalizing the roadway surface and landscaping. This included paving the multi-use path and installing new curbing, which are vital for ensuring safe access for pedestrians and cyclists. The aesthetic improvements, such as the installation of street trees and rhododendrons, were designed to enhance the community's experience along Rhododendron Drive.

In the final weeks leading up to the project's conclusion, crews were busy with punch-list items, which included minor adjustments and refinements to ensure everything met the city's standards. The careful planning and execution throughout the project culminated in a well-coordinated effort that prioritized both function and form.



An aerial photograph of a wide river flowing through a landscape. On the right bank, there is a road with several buildings and trees. The sky is blue with some light clouds. A large blue semi-transparent rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

The City of Florence hosted a grand opening event along Rhododendron Drive on November 1st, with a celebration that will include remarks from city officials. This project not only improves the infrastructure but also enhances the community's accessibility and visual appeal, making it a significant achievement for the city. The successful completion of the Rhododendron Drive Realignment and Improvement Project stands as a testament to the hard work and dedication of all involved, paving the way for a safer and more efficient roadway for years to come.

Although the project has officially concluded, the City is actively working to continue enhancing the riverfront area. The City plans to install several benches and possibly a bike rack. As well as place several sections of bridge rail that the City acquired from the ODOT Siuslaw River Bridge railing and cathodic protection work project. The bridge rail will be placed along the parking area to help keep path walkers safe from traffic.

