

Youth Commission Opportunity Coming Up

Ridgefield is taking a big step toward engaging more voices in shaping our future—this time, from our youngest community members. For years, City Council has explored new ways to bring more residents into the decision-making process. This spring, we added a youth member to the Parks Board, ensuring students have a seat at the table on the development and operations of the city's parks and trails system.

At our annual council retreat, we decided to go even further. In May, Council directed staff to begin work to create Ridgefield's first-ever Youth Advisory Council—an advisory body made up entirely of middle and high school students. This council will study issues that matter to young people and provide input and policy recommendations directly to City Council. The first of these issues will be to help recommend safe rules and regulations for electric bikes and scooters – an issue directly affecting our young people and broader community.

Opportunities like this matter. Studies show that young people who participate in civic life early are far more likely to stay engaged as adults, and youth councils across the country have influenced real policy changes—from park designs to public safety initiatives. Now, Ridgefield students can be part of that impact right here in their own community.

We are currently recruiting students to serve on the inaugural council. Members will learn how local government works, develop leadership and collaboration skills, and help shape policies affecting their peers and the community at-large.

We often call today's youth tomorrow's leaders; but they're also leaders right now. This is a chance to help guide Ridgefield's promising future, one idea at a time.

Details on eligibility, application deadlines, and meeting schedules are available at ridgefieldwa.us. We can't wait to see the ideas our students bring forward.





Envision Ridgefield 2045: Rooted in Tradition, Planning for Tomorrow

Our city is growing, and we're responsible for ensuring this growth is thoughtful, balanced, and has the right infrastructure and services to serve everyone in our community. Envision Ridgefield 2045 is our project to update the plan that guides how we manage our growing community, known as the Comprehensive Plan.

The goals and policies of the comprehensive plan are shaped by a vision unique to our community. We started the visioning process in 2024 by asking community members what is most important to them at City Council meetings, in person events and surveys. Through this work, Council identified five characteristics to serve as guideposts:

- Small Town Charm: Maintaining our connected community, historic downtown and small-town spirit.
- Growth and Infrastructure: Balancing the needs of local growth by promoting sustainable development.
- Community Health & Well-being: Living healthy lives with access to vibrant public spaces.
- Environmental Conservation & Natural Beauty: Protecting nature and preserving its beauty.
- Equity & Inclusion: That Ridgefield welcomes everyone!

The City will be hosting our next community workshop on Tuesday, September 16 from 6 to 8 PM at the Ridgefield Administrative and Civic Center, with an online component available for those who can't attend. Participants will review portions of the draft comprehensive plan, climate element, and submit your comments.

Visit the project website or sign up for our newsletter to stay involved: RidgefieldRoundtable.org/comp-plan

Meet Councilmember Clyde Burkle: A Neighbor Helping Shape Ridgefield's Future

About two years ago, Clyde Burkle felt a calling to serve the community he's called home for more than two decades. A familiar face at City Council meetings, he saw an opportunity when a vacancy opened in Spring 2023 and applied, eager to help shape the future of the city he loves. In November of that year, he was elected by the people of Ridgefield to Position 2 on City Council.

Councilmember Burkle has lived in Ridgefield for 21 years, watching as services, events, and amenities have grown alongside the population. While he appreciates these developments, what he treasures most is how Ridgefield has fostered and maintained its welcoming, small-town feel.

"Ridgefield is growing quickly," remarked Councilmember Burkle, "My focus is on ensuring we plan responsibly—so our infrastructure keeps pace, our natural beauty is protected, and our downtown retains the unique character that makes it the heart of our community."

Outside of his Council work, Clyde is deeply involved in local service. He volunteers with the Green Bag/Ridgefield Food Project, the Ridgefield Lions Club, and Neighbors Helping Neighbors. He is also close with his family and enjoys spending time with his two daughters and their husbands.

"I truly love living in Ridgefield," Clyde said. "I'm here to be a positive voice for a forward-thinking Ridgefield, while staying rooted in what makes it truly special."



Project Highlights/Updates

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE PROJECTS AT RIDGEFIELDROUNDTABLE.ORG](https://ridgefieldroundtable.org)

New Signs and Speed Radars Help Keep Ridgefield Roads Safer

A 2022 Road Safety Plan showed that crashes where vehicles left the roadway were more likely to cause serious injuries—especially on curves. The City secured a federal grant to dig deeper into the data and put safety improvements in place. Each of these steps is designed to keep our community safe on Ridgefield roads:

- **Lower speed limits** – Last fall, City Council reduced speed limits on several roads, including Pioneer Street, which went from 40 to 35 mph, to give drivers more time to react.
- **Curve warning signs** – Installed in July, these signs give drivers advance notice and recommended speeds before entering curves.
- **Radar speed signs** – Added in August at six locations, these “Your Speed Is” signs help remind drivers to slow down in areas with higher crash risks.

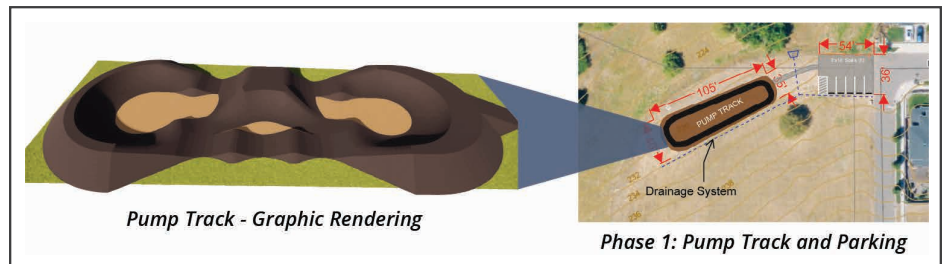


New Park Opening this Fall

A new park is under construction in the Paradise Pointe neighborhood! When the park opens in October, you might hear the laughter of toddlers at the “tot lot,” see older kids racing across the 5–12 playground, or watch neighbors strolling along shady nature trails. Families can gather under the picnic shelter for a snack or celebration, while visitors from across town will enjoy easy access to parking on site. Stay tuned for updates on this new space to play, connect, and enjoy the outdoors.

Pump Track Taking Shape at Boyse Park

Construction is underway at Boyse Park on a new pump track designed for riders of all ages and skill levels. Work also includes adding a parking lot and fencing to improve access and safety.



Boyse Park, located at the end of N 32nd Avenue along a tributary of Gee Creek, was once an undeveloped neighborhood park. Its natural setting, paired with existing informal foot and bike trails, made it an ideal location for Ridgefield’s community pump track. When complete, the pump track will give local riders a safe, dedicated space to practice and play, right here in Ridgefield.



Pioneer Widening Project Nearing Completion

Pioneer Street is starting to take shape as the tree-lined, multimodal entrance to Ridgefield that residents have been waiting for. Sidewalks, landscaping, street lighting, and curbs are being installed, giving a clear glimpse of the finished roadway.

Traffic impacts, including shifts, flagging and a closure for top lift paving, will continue as crews wrap up the final work on utilities, paving, and medians, but the project is on track to open all four lanes and shared use paths this fall, about 15 months after beginning.

Once complete, the widened Pioneer Street corridor will not only serve as a welcoming gateway to Ridgefield, but also bridge east and west side residents, helping connect our growing community.

Upcoming Events

Come enjoy music, fun, food, family-friendly activities and a sense of community!

Whether you're looking just for a day out or would like to be a vendor at one of our events, we have fun for everyone! To see all the upcoming events, check out our Community Events calendar at Ridgefieldwa.us/calendar.



Dragon Boat Community Paddles

FRIDAYS AT 6:30 PM | JUNE 20 TO OCTOBER 4

Try Dragon Boat paddling – an exciting growing sport – on Ridgefield's own Kaohsiung boats!

No experience necessary, free registration required. RidgefieldWa.us/396/Dragon-Boats



First Saturday: BirdFest & Bluegrass

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

Enjoy birding activities at the Refuge as well as vendors, kids crafts, Bluegrass performances, and a Pickers Festival in Downtown.



Downtown Trick or Treat

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

Wear your costumes, grab a candy bucket and come trick or treat at Downtown Ridgefield businesses from 3 to 5 PM on Halloween.



First Saturday: Hometown Celebration

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Enjoy the hometown holiday spirit of historic Downtown Ridgefield where you will find twinkling lights, decorated businesses, gifts, food, and holiday specials.



The Ridge newsletter is published regularly for residents and those in the Ridgefield area.

The information is current as of the publication date. Visit Ridgefieldwa.us to verify dates or the status of projects and events.

Questions, comments and suggestions can be sent to Megan DeMoss at Megan.DeMoss@ridgefieldwa.us.