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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nugent Park Reopening with Exciting New Upgrades

Umatilla, OR- OCTOBER 28, 2024— The City of Umatilla is pleased to announce the reopening of Nugent Park, following significant upgrades that enhance its facilities and accessibility. The revitalized park will welcome community members and visitors starting October 29th. This effort is supported by a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, in partnership with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, aimed at further improving the park to better serve our community.

These improvements include: an all-new playground that replaced the more than 50-years old playground; an all-new large outdoor pavilion with power, water, BBQs, and picnic tables that replaced the small pavilion; an expanded parking area with 10 additional parking spaces; restriping and resurfacing the existing parking area; and adding new sidewalks and curbing. Visitors will also have access to a new outdoor kitchen facility, perfect for gatherings and events. Each of these enhancements were also all built to ensure ADA access to all park structures, making Nugent Park one of the most welcoming and accessible to parks in Umatilla for people of all abilities.

These improvements align with the City's Master Park Plan, adopted in summer 2021, which reflects the community's strong desire for enhanced park facilities and amenities and complement other recent improvements that include the new restroom, new broadcast booth and concessions building, the first mural of the City's 6 by 2026 Mural Program, updated little league field,

and new scoreboard. Nugent Park's prime location—just outside downtown and conveniently near transportation, trails, and schools—makes it an ideal site for these upgrades. The next improvement to Nugent Park, scheduled to be completed by early-winter 2026, will be to replace the boat ramp to meet more modern river access designs and sustainability goals.

“We are thrilled to unveil the newly renovated Nugent Park and invite the community to rediscover this beautiful outdoor space," said Esmeralda Perches, Parks and Recreation Director. "With improved amenities, the park is now better equipped to serve as a hub for recreation and community gathering. We look forward to seeing community members of all ages and abilities enjoy everything the park has to offer for many years to come.”

The City invites all community members to join us for the **Grand Reopening Celebration of Nugent Park on October 29th, 2024, at 4:30 PM**, located at 500 8th St., Umatilla, OR 97882. Come explore the upgraded facilities, enjoy fun activities and light refreshments, and celebrate these improvements with your neighbors.

The City of Umatilla is happy to welcome everyone back to Nugent Park! Parks play an important role in our community by providing spaces for recreation, social interaction, relaxation and other mental health benefits, and connection to others and our environment. We hope all will enjoy Nugent Park and the enhancements made. Thank you for your support.

For more information on this project and other City initiatives, please visit our website at <https://www.umatilla.gov/city-projects>.

About the City of Umatilla

The City of Umatilla is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for its community members through thoughtful urban planning, community engagement, and sustainable development initiatives. With a focus on innovation and inclusivity, Umatilla strives to create vibrant, accessible spaces that foster a sense of belonging and well-being for all.

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