



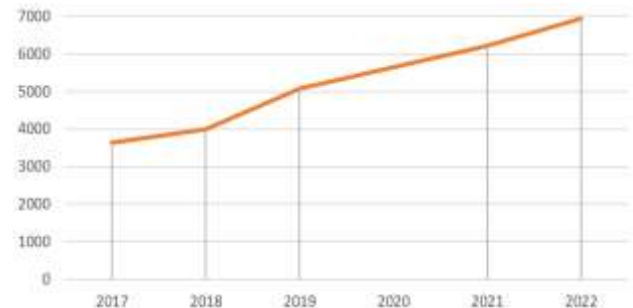
Philomath Arena Replacement Project



I am writing in support of Philomath Rodeo Arena Grandstand Replacement Project which will support community events, tourism, and economic development within the region.

Project Scope

- Construction of new metal bleachers around the arena
 - Replaces the bleachers destroyed in the 2022 fire
 - Doubles seating capacity from 2,250 to 4,157
 - Adds 5X the number of ADA seats from 6 to 33
 - Improves comfort for all seating types
 - Adds box seating and premium seating options
- Installation of energy efficient LED arena lighting
 - Replaces high-watt halogen flood lights
- Installation of chutes, gates and fence panels



Rodeo Attendance
(no rodeo in 2020)

Funding Request

The City of Philomath is seeking funding to help replace the grandstands and install other needed amenities at Skirvin Park, the city-owned park that has been home to the Philomath Frolic & Rodeo the past 40 years. The original bleachers were built by volunteers using repurposed bridge trusses in 1983. These bleachers were destroyed in a fire in 2022. With sellout crowds every year for the last 10+ years, discussions were already underway to replace the grandstands. With last year's fire, the community is in immediate need to address the seating capacity issue and make improvements to support continued use of this treasured facility. With increasing population forecasts, we must build for future capacity needs, not just replace what was lost.



The larger capacity will attract new events and continue to increase use of the arena and the entire rodeo grounds. A capital campaign is underway to raise \$500,000 in matching funds from local businesses, supporters, and residents. In anticipated success of this fundraising, the community is seeking \$2 million from the state to support ongoing development and use of this property.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire destroys portion of the Frolic & Rodeo grandstands

Just a week-and-a-half before the community's big event, organizers are hoping that the show can still go on



By Brad Fuqua, Philomath News June 28, 2022

With less than two weeks to go before the start of the Frolic, tragedy struck when embers from a work party ignited and caught fire to the south end of the grandstands. By the time it was extinguished, 1/3 off the covered seating was completely destroyed.



Shocked, but not willing to cancel the event, volunteers sprang into action to remove the debris and install portable bleachers. Donations began to roll in from the community, with business, non-profit organizations, and residents all wanting to support efforts to re-build. After completing a successful rodeo with record-setting attendance, the board of directors quickly began planning, designing, and preparing engineered plans for replacement of the bleachers. With no other funding in place to support such a large undertaking, the board turned to the City for assistance to make the needed improvements to the city-owned property.

Facility Improvements will support Community Events



Use of the arena and the surrounding land has increased dramatically since the property was donated to the city in 2017 and named in honor of the previous owners, Paul and Lola Skirvin. In 2022, the grounds hosted 24 events, ranging from the Frolic & Rodeo, Northwest Youth Rodeo Association Finals, and horse training classes to dog shows, a wedding, the Lions Club Book Sale and the Benton County Sheriff and Philomath Police Department Chili Cookoff fundraiser. A large field area of the grounds previously used for parking was dedicated to create two new baseball diamonds, the first in Philomath in over 20 years.

Facility Improvements will contribute to Tourism and Economic Development



The Philomath Frolic & Rodeo attracts spectators and participants from all around the country. In 2022, tickets were sold to individuals representing 12 different states, Great Brittan, Netherlands, Canada and Chile accounting for 13% of all ticket sales. The economic impact of the annual event is felt as hotels and restaurants fill up and fuel is purchased. The Frolic & Rodeo is actively building partnerships with more high school, middle school, and youth rodeos, including a plan to bring the only National Finals Youth Rodeo qualifier in the Northwest to Philomath in 2024. This event along will bring in thousands of people every year with their large trucks, horse trailers, and families looking to spend money and boost Philomath's economy.

Facility Improvements Are Supported by the Community



Each year, local and regional businesses provide over \$100,000 in sponsorships to support the Philomath Frolic & Rodeo. Many of these supporters have already pledged their support to assist in rebuilding the grandstands and the other facility improvements needed. Almost \$16,000 has already been given by individuals and families to support improvements.