



# PARKS & RECREATION

*Quarterly Newsletter*



**October 1, 2024**

*Thank you for subscribing to the City of Monroe's quarterly Parks & Recreation Newsletter. Learn about news, events, volunteer opportunities, upcoming projects and more, all happening within our parks. Plus, fun facts you may not have known.*

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## NEWS

### [Levy Lid Lift • Proposition 1](#)

In the upcoming November 2024 general election, Monroe voters will consider Proposition 1 to support investment in parks maintenance and public safety services.

**What does this mean for parks?** If approved, Proposition 1 would restore parks maintenance staffing to 2008 levels to address current service demands, expanded park system, increased users, visitors, and special

events, and to address deferred maintenance issues.

Currently, our staff manages:

- 17 park & open space sites which includes: 288 acres, 14 miles of trails, and 160,000+ square feet of median strips
- 12 playgrounds
- 12 athletic fields; 9 grass open fields
- 14 sports courts
- 1 skate park; 1 dog park

Our staff are managing all of these assets at 26 acres per 1 FTE (26:1)

National standard is 12 acres per 1 FTE (12:1). Our statistics include:

29% increase of parkland since 2008

44% increase in park field reservations (2015-2024)

400% increase in city-permitted events (2008-2023)

Proposition 1 funding would fund 3 parks maintenance positions, equipment & supplies needs and address current service demands. Additionally, funds will go to support Public Safety Services.

### **Does Proposition 1 allow for tax exemptions?**

Yes. As noted in the City's Resolution to place Proposition 1 on the November ballot, qualifying low-income seniors, disabled veterans, and other persons with disabilities may be exempt. For more information about the tax exemption program, contact the Snohomish County Assessor's Office at 425-388-3540 or [assessor@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:assessor@co.snohomish.wa.us).

[Learn more here.](#)



### Event Attendance

Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy the events in our beloved parks. Many of these events saw record attendance numbers this year. Both the Monroe Community Egg Hunt and National Night Out Against Crime exceeded 3,000 attendees, wow! Many others exceeded 1,000 attendees or returned to pre-pandemic attendance numbers. With the help of the city's new Placer.ai dashboard we are able to accurately estimate event attendance.

### Park Board Openings

Are you interested in being on the Monroe Park Board? The Park Board consists of seven members. The members at large shall be of recognized fitness for such position and shall reside within the limits of the City of Monroe, except the Mayor may appoint, with consent of the City Council, one board member from the City of Monroe's urban growth area to fill a vacant position. The Board meets every third Thursday of the month at 7pm, there are currently two vacancies. [To learn more visit the City's website](#), and to apply, [submit this application](#) to [cityclerk@monroewa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@monroewa.gov).

### Living Christmas Tree Program

As the holidays approach, consider purchasing a living tree. If you purchase a living tree in a container, and you don't intend to plant it on your own property, you may donate it to be planted in the City of Monroe so that everyone can enjoy it for years to come. Many locations which are within a park or alongside a trail. "Our living Christmas tree program allows residents who use living Christmas trees to donate suitable trees to the city for planting in our parks and open spaces after the holidays," Mayor Geoffrey Thomas said. Locations that supply living Christmas Tree will be posted on the [City's Facebook page](#) in November.

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## **PARK PROJECTS**

### Currie View Park Playground

Due to timing of the upcoming winter season weather, the Currie View Park installation has been pushed to a tentative installation date of May 2025.

### New Information Stations at Parks

We are happy to announce over the next few months our parks crew will be installing information stations at Sky River Park and Wiggly Field. These stations will allow the city to advertise events, park news and more.

### Q3 Ribbon Cuttings

We had a busy third quarter with three new and exciting park additions. July 23 we opened the city's first designated pickleball courts at Sky River Park and the following week the tennis courts at Lake Tye Park were resurfaced to now include pickleball courts as well. Then, on August 28 we celebrated the opening of the newly updated Blueberry Children's Park.



## EVENTS

### Featured Event ~ Orca Recovery Day

This event is a celebration of community and what it means to be stewards of our local waterways, supporting our Orcas and their ecosystem. Join the City of Monroe and Snohomish Conservation District at Sky River Park on October 19 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. to learn about our local Orca pod and how you can support Orca habitat. Plan on a fun family day at the park. The event will have booths from local organizations with various educational materials, games, and activities including a watershed model and a poop toss game.

Attendees will also have an opportunity to plant native trees at a nearby location to support watershed health! The Skykomish River connects to the Snohomish River and flows all the way to Puget Sound. The native trees we'll plant near Skykomish River Park will have downstream impacts, helping our Southern Resident Orcas.

Grab a bite to eat at the food trucks and take home some fun Orca Recovery Day swag.

**7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ORCA RECOVERY DAY**  
**OCTOBER 19, 2024 - 10 AM - 1 PM**  
**SKYKOMISH RIVER PARK - MONROE, WA**

MONROE WASHINGTON  
REPUBLIC SERVICES  
SNOHOMISH CONSERVATION DISTRICT

[SNOCD.ORG/ORD2024](https://www.snoxcd.org/ord2024)

JOIN US FOR...  
• TREE PLANTING  
• FAMILY FUN  
• FOOD TRUCKS

### Other Events this Quarter

October 31: Downtown Trick or Treat - Historic Main Street

December 1: Light Up Monroe - Traveler's Park

January 25, 2025: Jayme Biendl Run - Sky River Park

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Question:** What Netflix series was filmed at Lewis Street Park and on the Skykomish River Bridge?

**Answer:**

The Man in the High Castle, directed by Ridley Scott was filmed on location in Monroe, WA September 29, 2014 at Lewis Street Park and the Skykomish River Bridge. The scene was a border check point and can be seen in the first episode of the series.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Want to be notified of future volunteer opportunities within the City of Monroe Parks? [Sign up for our volunteer list here.](#) Some activities may include volunteering for an event such as the Community Egg Hunt, spreading playground chips, collecting garbage from a park, and more. To volunteer, an application, agreement, and background check will be required and is valid for a calendar year. This past year our volunteer projects have been minimal but we hope to increase projects possibilities in the future.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Monroe Parks and Recreation Department is committed to:

- Protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of Monroe through the development of a vibrant system of parks, open space, and trails
- Providing residents of all ages positive opportunities for recreation and social gathering in clean, safe, accessible, and inclusive facilities and green spaces
- Enhancing health, quality living, and the natural environment for present and future generations



“Any portion of an individual’s time not occupied by employment or life’s essential activities is leisure time, which is pursued for its own sake, to

recreate, to experience the opposite of toil and enrich the body, mind and human spirit.”



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