



PARKS & RECREATION

Quarterly Newsletter



April 1, 2024

Thank you for subscribing to the City of Monroe's first ever 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. This issue we have lots of new and exciting updates for you.

NEWS

Trails Master Plan Open House #2

The Monroe Parks and Recreation Department is creating the City's first Trails Master Plan. The new plan will establish a framework for improving, growing, and maintaining Monroe's network of trails over the next two decades. The Trails Master Plan will help guide City decision-making, set priorities, and direct the



use of resources so that Monroe has a great trails system for all to enjoy. The next Open House will take place on Thursday, April 4, 2024, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at

Park Place Middle School (1408 Main Street, Monroe, WA 98272). The Department will be sharing proposed trail networks, connections, and safety improvements. Help us to shape our future trails by sharing your thoughts and ideas on these proposals. Pizza and refreshments will be provided.

PARK PROJECTS

Blueberry Children's Park

We expect to start construction later this spring and complete by June 2024. The contractor needs to wait for the winter weather to pass before starting on the project as the rubberized surfacing installation requires dry weather, with outdoor temperatures needing to be consistently over 60 degrees. **See feature image above for conceptual image of Blueberry Children's Park.*

Currie View Park Playground Concept

Thanks to all who provided feedback for the new playground options for the park. The second option with a few minor adjustments has been selected with overwhelming support from comments received at both the March 21 Park Board Open House attendance and virtual/social media input from our community. Again, thank you for your input! Construction is expected to begin late summer after the playground order is shipped, with an expected completion in September 2024.



Pickleball Courts Coming to Monroe

We are installing 2 new pickleball play facilities at Sky River Park & resurfacing the sport courts at Lake Tye Park to accommodate the increase in Pickleball within the city. We expect construction of both of these project sites to be completed by July 2024. Sky River Surfacing, Inc. has been awarded a contract to install court surfacing/stripping for the 2 new pickleball courts at Sky River Park and resurface/stripe all of the existing sports courts (2 tennis courts overlaid with 5 pickleball courts and the existing 1-1/2 basketball courts) at Lake Tye Park. The contractor needs to wait for the wet spring weather to pass before starting on the project as the surfacing installation requires dry weather, with outdoor temperatures needing to be consistently over 60 degrees.



**Photo is an aerial image of the Sky River Park future pickleball courts.*

EVENTS

Featured Event

Arbor Day & Earth Day Celebration

City of Monroe Mayor, Geoffrey Thomas, will host a tree planting ceremony at Lake Tye Park on Friday, April 26 at 1:00 p.m. to

recognize the importance of preserving our natural resources. A 3rd grade class from Fryelands Elementary School will assist in the planting of a Red Oak (*Quercus Rubra*) Tree, donated by Monroe Garden Club.



The City of Monroe has been awarded the Tree City USA award for the sixth consecutive year. The Tree City USA program has been greening up cities and towns across America since 1976. It is a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. More than 3,400 communities have made the commitment to becoming a Tree City USA. They have achieved Tree City USA status by meeting four core standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day.

Other Events this Quarter

May 5: Kaci 5k & Battle of the Badges - Lake Tye Park

May 18: VFW Flags for Our Fallen 5k - Lake Tye Park

June 8: Lake Tye Challenge - Lake Tye Park

June 9: PRIDE - Sky River Park

June 15: Juneteenth - Sky River Park

July 22-23: HAM Radio Field Day - Lake Tye Park

2024 Events Brochure

Our annual events brochure has published. City of Monroe residents should be receiving a copy of the brochure in your mailboxes this week. Copies will also be available at the Monroe Chamber, Monroe Library, City Offices, and events throughout the city. You can also read the brochure online here.



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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Spring is upon us which means the flower planting and beautification of the city is about to begin.

Downtown Hanging Baskets

Each year volunteers from the Monroe Garden

Club, JVM Garden, and City of Monroe Parks staff come together on a day in May to plant our city's beloved downtown hanging baskets. There are 66 baskets total which host about 400 flowers. This year the arrangements may include Petunias, Million bells (Calibrachoa), Lavendar or blue Scaveola, Chartreuse sweet potato vine, and Licorice plants.



We strive to keep our business local and we are thankful for Republic Services for helping to fund the baskets and Pine Creek Nursery for working with us to grow the flowers.

Flowers in City Medians

Each year our parks staff works hard to plant 16 endcaps along on Main and Lewis Streets. These include 3,000 Begonia's displaying colors of Ambassador White, Pink, and Scarlet. The City of Monroe purchases the materials and partners with Monroe High School's Plant Biology class to grow the flowers. The class which is led by Anne Lowe receives the plugs in April and grows them until June. Once the plants have matured, staff picks them up from the class and plants them in the medians.

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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