

# PARKS & RECREATION

*Quarterly Newsletter*



**July 1, 2025**

*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.*

## NEWS

### Park and Recreation Month

July is the National Recreation and Park Association Park and Recreation month. This year's theme, "Build Together, Play Together," reminds us of the contributions of more than 160,000 full-time park and recreation professionals — along with hundreds of thousands of part-time and seasonal workers and volunteers — who maintain our country's close-to-home parks. Watch the city's



[Facebook page](#) throughout the month for some fun, park-related facts.

### **Staff Changes**

With the retirement of our Parks & Recreation Director Mike Farrell and the departure of our Interim Parks & Recreation Director Ben Swanson the Parks & Recreation Department is experiencing some temporary staff changes. Public Works Director Jakeh Robert has taken on the duty of the Interim Parks & Recreation Department Director. Our Parks Supervisor Mike Thomas has moved into the Interim Parks & Operations Manager and our Parks Lead Dan Pestana has moved into the Parks Operations Supervisor role. These interim changes allow our department to operate without too much interruption until the permanent staff for these positions have been appointed.

That being said, knowing we are short staffed and in transition, our department is consciously trying to not take on extra work or projects this quarter.

### **Parks & Recreation Director Search**

This past quarter this City of Monroe conducted a second round search for the future Parks & Recreation Director. Interviews were conducted in June and we are hopeful to find our next fearless leader this quarter.

### **Parks & Recreation Staff Moving to Remodeled City Hall**

This July, parks staff are getting ready to move to City Hall on the Municipal Campus located at 806 West Main Street.

The official reopening date of City Hall and Monroe Municipal Court will be announced on the [City's Facebook page](#) and [website](#). Customers, visitors, and employees will be better served with easier access to the campus, increased parking, remodeled council chambers, and secure customer service areas.

Parks administrative and maintenance staff will be available to assist walk-in customers with questions about special event permitting, park reservations, community gardens, and volunteer opportunities. Visit the [department's webpage](#) for information about these and other services.

City services have occupied the campus since 1977. The remodel improves safety with seismic upgrades, fire protection, back-up power, upgraded network and security operations, enhanced air quality, sound buffering and energy and environmental efficiency. These types of improvements have not been made in over 30 years to the building.

For additional project information, visit [MonroeWA.gov/campus](http://MonroeWA.gov/campus). Click [here](#) to download a "At-A-Glance" city directory.

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## **PARK PROJECTS**

### **Currie View Park Finishing Touches**

Over the next quarter, our Parks Department will be putting the finishing touches on Currie View Park. One of these touches includes installing fencing

between the playground and the road.



### **Wiggly Field Wood Chips**

If you have a fur-legged friend and visit Wiggly Field Off-Leash Dog Park you may notice some changes coming up. Our staff will be working to fill in low areas and dirt spots using wood chips.

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## **EVENTS**

### **Featured Event**

#### **Movies Under the Moon**

This event is truly a community effort. Republic Services funds the movie rights for each showing and then many community organizations come together to help make this a great, family-friendly event. Monroe Arts Council provides the posters - design, printing and distribution as well as hosts a craft night for one of the movies. Monroe Concert Band provides the pre-show music entertainment which this year Take Seventeen Big Band, Tarnished Brass, and the Bavarian Dance Band will be performing. Additionally Galaxy Theatre, Monroe LaCrosse Club, and Wild Style Gym will be hosting a craft tables for the showings. Music will begin around 7-8 p.m., crafts around 8 p.m. and the movies begin at dusk.



### Other Events in our Parks this Quarter

**July 8:** SRFR Water Safety Camp - Lake Tye Park - 10 a.m.

**July 11:** Music in the Park: The Machine - Lake Tye Park - 6 p.m.

**July 12:** Shakespeare in the Park - Sky River Park - 5 p.m.

**July 18:** Music in the Park: Jackie & the Holograms - Lake Tye Park - 6 p.m.

**July 19:** Lake Tye Science Day - Lake Tye Park - 10 a.m.

**July 25:** Music in the Park: Hair Nation - Lake Tye Park - 6 p.m.

**Aug. 1:** Movies Under the Moon: Despicable Me 4 - Lake Tye Park - Dusk

**Aug. 2:** Lake Tye Triathlon - Lake Tye Park - 8 a.m.

**Aug. 5:** National Night Out Against Crime - Lake Tye Park - 5:30 p.m.

**Aug. 8:** Movies Under the Moon: Moana 2 - Lake Tye Park - Dusk

**Aug. 9:** Walk to Remember - Sky River Park - 9 a.m.

**Aug. 15:** Movies Under the Moon: The Lion King - Lake Tye Park - Dusk

**Aug. 22:** Movies Under the Moon: Captain America: Brave new World  
- Lake Tye Park - Dusk

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## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Question:** What happened after the Frye Lettuce Farm (where Lake Tye is located today)?

**Answer:** Bozeman Canning took over from Frye Lettuce Farm starting in the 1930s. Bozeman processed mostly peas which were a very important crop here until the 1980s.

**Fun Fact:** The process of flash freezing peas were developed here.

*Photo: Worker at Bozeman Canning sorting peas.*



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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Wood Chip Spreading

Over the next quarter our staff will be looking for some support to spread wood chips at Wales Street Park and possibly Cedar Grove Park. This commitment would require moving play chips from one location to another using wheel barrows and spreading the chips. This task will require volunteers to load and transport wheelbarrows of chips. If you would like to volunteer for this task please email [srowe@monroewa.gov](mailto:srowe@monroewa.gov).

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## 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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