

PARKS & RECREATION

Quarterly Newsletter



April 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

New Maintenance Team Member

Even though this officially happened in our first quarter we are excited to be able to make the announcement. Our Parks Department welcomed an additional and much needed Parks Maintenance worker. Tyson Annen worked for the city as a seasonal for three summers prior to being hired on as a full-time employee.



New Park Board Member

We want to give a friendly welcome to Katie Kohler, the newest addition to our Park Board. Katie has lived in Monroe for nearly 10 years and is an active park user. She is passionate about ensuring our parks stay safe and welcoming.

Stewardship of Parks & Forestry

The Parks Department is taking steps to to become better stewardship of our parks and forestry. We recently congratulated one of our staff in becoming a Certified Arborist and the city plans on developing an Urban Forestry Plan. More details on the plan coming soon.

2025 Events Brochure

If you are a Monroe resident, watch your mailbox the week of April 14 for the arrival of the 2025 Events Brochure. This brochure is a quick go-to for free activities in Monroe. Pin to your fridge as a quick reference and don't miss all the Monroe fun.

Two Park Board Openings

If you love Monroe's parks and trails as much as we do, consider serving on our Park Board and Imagine Monroe's future park system. The Park Board consists of seven members who are tasked with reviewing comprehensive park and recreation plans and making recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on improvements to parkland, facilities, and programs. 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.

PARK PROJECTS

Currie View Park Facility Renovation

The groundbreaking ceremony for Currie View Park took place Friday, February 28 and the project began Monday, March 3. The project is scheduled to be completed the end of April.

The new play equipment includes features that: encourage multi-generational play; are ADA inclusive and intentionally break down physical and social barriers to play; a playful theme that enhances the visual appeal of the park; and advanced climbing challenges and motion activities that appeal to older children who seek a more adventurous play experience. Surfacing improvements such as the use of ADA approved rubberized surfacing are also part of the playground design as well as new seating areas, drinking fountain and fencing that will serve as a visual and physical barrier between the play area and parking lot. The overall footprint of the play area will be approximately 3 times larger than the previous play area at the park and will be sited closer to the frontage of the park for better public access. Special thanks go out to our Monroe community, especially the Currie View Park neighborhood residents that gave us great input on the overall design, colors and features for the new play facility during our design open house held last spring.

Northwest Playground Equipment was tasked to design and install the new play facilities for Currie View Park through an approved bid through King County Directors Association (KCDA) Purchasing Cooperative of which the City of Monroe is a member. Under the KCDA program, member public agencies may purchase eligible supplies, equipment, and factory-certified installation services at competitively-bid prices. Total project cost is \$700,000, funded by Monroe City Council-approved Parks Capital Improvement Project Fund.



Downtown Revitalization Project

In December 2023, the City of Monroe completed the purchase of two adjacent properties located on the northwest corner of 201 W. Main and 101 N. Blakeley Street in downtown Monroe for a future public space. The properties include the former Union Bank building, chiropractor's office, and parking lot. Combined, the properties create a half-acre site for a future community gathering space, parking, and public restrooms – a plan envisioned by the city since the 1970s.

Preliminary concepts presented to the Parks Board and Economic Development Advisory Board include: parking lot/festival lot with small

pavilion-style tenant space; parking garage with street-facing tenant space and small public plaza; and mixed-use building with ground floor tenant space, upper floors in residential, including small public plaza and publicly accessible parking.

Next Steps

Phase One

We are currently in the initial phase that consists of:

- Staff analysis of options, including assistance of consultant
- Presentation to EDAB for comments
- Presentation to Parks Board for comments
- Presentation to City Council for direction

Phase Two

With City Council direction, the consultant will flesh out the concepts with site plans and illustrations for use in the public engagement process.

Phase Three

Staff will analyze public input and will work with the consultant to create a site plan and illustration of the final draft concept. These results will be presented to City Council for direction.

EVENTS

Featured Event

Kids Fishing Derby

The Kids Fishing Derby returns! The original event organizer retired after the 2023 event. This is a community favorite and can see over 2,000 attendees but organizing the event is no small feat. We are thrilled to announce that Snohomish Sportsmen's Club has decided to move their event to Lake Tye after outgrowing their previous location. This event will take place on April 27 at Lake Tye.



Other Events this Quarter

April 19: Monroe Community Egg Hunt - Lake Tye Park - 9 a.m.

April 25: Arbor Day / Earth Day Celebration - Lake Tye Park - 1 p.m.

April 26: Bark in the Park - Sky River Park - 1 p.m.

April 27: Kids Fishing Derby - Lake Tye - 8:30 a.m.

May 3: Miracle League Opening Day - Rotary Field - 9 a.m.

May 4: Kaci Edelbrock Memorial 5k & Battle of the Badges
Lake Tye Park - 9 a.m.

May 17: VFW Flags for Our Fallen 5k - Lake Tye Park - 9 a.m.

June 7: Lake Tye Challenge - Lake Tye Park - 5 a.m.

June 8: PRIDE - Sky River Park - 12 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?

Question: What were the original plans for Lake Tye?

Answer: The original plan for the area where Lake Tye currently resides was for the area to become a 9-Hole Golf Course. However, after discovering flooding impacts the area was developed as a lake to mitigate the impacts to the flood plain.

Photo: Flash back to 1995.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Easter Egg Hunt

The city's annual Monroe Community Egg Hunt returns April 19,=. We could not run this event without the help of volunteers. Tasks include spreading our 25,000 eggs across 5 fields, managing our prize table, and most importantly, managing the fields prior to the hunt so we can ensure fields hunt one at a time. If you would like to volunteer for the event please email kdarrow@monroewa.gov.



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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