



PARKS & RECREATION

Quarterly Newsletter



January 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

Parks Director Retiring

On February 28 we will be wishing farewell to our Parks Director, Mike Farrell. If you personally don't know Mike, we bet you have seen him at many past events such as Music in the Park dancing the night away!



Mike built his parks career from the ground up. While attending college at California State University, he worked for the City of Monrovia where he started part-time as a maintenance aid and worked into a full-time parks crew member

after graduation. He moved to Washington in 1996 where he continued to work in parks maintenance for the City of Auburn and the City of Bothell. He then became the Parks Supervisor for the City of Sammamish in 2001. During his time as a supervisor, he completed his masters in Public Administration from the University of Washington in 2002. The following year, he moved to Indiana to further his career as a Parks Director. We welcomed Mike and his family back to Washington in 2005 when he became the City of Monroe's first Parks Director. Today, Monroe's Parks Department includes 12 full-time employees (soon to be 13) and takes on 6 seasonal each summer.

Mike was part of many memorable accomplishments throughout his journey with the City of Monroe but a few include the development of Wiggly Field Off-Leash Dog Park, Miracle League Field, Lake Tye's Skate Park, Lake Tye Synthetic Fields, and the acquisition of Trombly Hill Park. To say he has seen Monroe through it all is an understatement.

Fun Fact: A long-time Chicago Cubs fan, Mike is responsible for naming our Wiggly Field Off-Leash Dog Park after the Cubs home of Wrigley Field.

We wish Mike and his family the best as they enter this new and exciting chapter!

[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

[Lake Tye Park Fixes](#)

In preparation for increased use beginning in Spring 2025, our Parks Maintenance Crew will be addressing much needed repairs to the Lake Tye playground. These repairs will include fixes to the tri swing, slide, and the spin chair. The playground will be good as new come Spring!

[New Information Station at Sky River Park](#)

The Sky River Park Information Station will be installed in the first quarter of 2025. This station will allow the city to advertise events, park news and more.

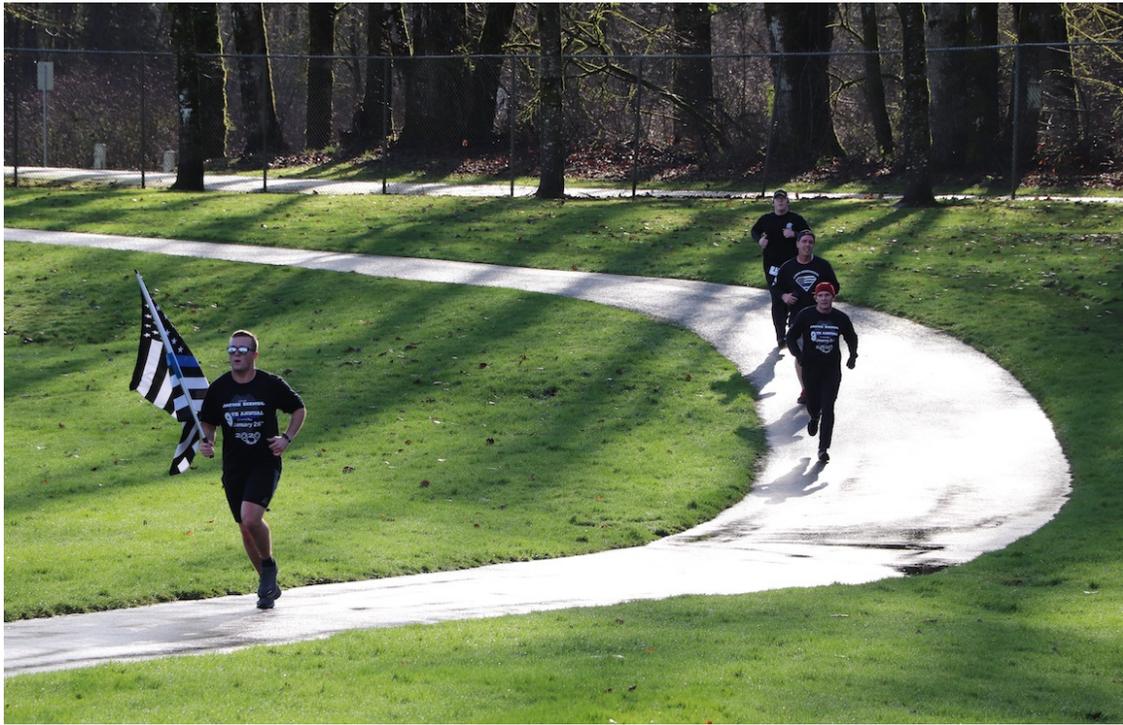
EVENTS

[Jayme Biendl Run/ Walk](#)

Want to start the year off right and support a great cause? Sign up for the 13th Annual Jayme Biendl Memorial 5k on Sunday, January 26, 10am at Sky River Park. Not only is this a great start to your year, its an opportunity to honor and remember [Officer Jayme Biendl](#) whose End of Watch was January

29, 2011.

[Pre-register here](#). You can also register on the day-of, registration opens at 9am and the race begins at 10am. If you are unable to attend, but would still like to participate, you can select 'shipping' during registration and your race shirt and bib will be shipped to you.



DID YOU KNOW?

Question: What use to be located where our beloved Lake Tye is today?

Answer: The Frye Lettuce Farm which was made up of roughly 1200 acres. The farm employed up to 1,000 during peak harvest including a large contingent of Filipinos and many women and high school students from up and down the valley. Originally the Robinson Lettuce Farm, Charles Frye purchased most of it in a foreclosure sale in 1929, and then lost it less than ten years later to another foreclosure after a bad year for lettuce. Lake Tye as we know it today was dug out in the mid-90's.

Photo #1216 courtesy of the [Monroe Historical Society](#) was taken in 1932 and features the Frye Lettuce Farm, also known as PictSweet.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Playground Chip Spreading throughout Monroe

The Parks Department has identified a significant need to increase the playground chips at numerous parks throughout the city and we are calling for volunteers to help with this project. The project most likely will take place in March or April and volunteer tasks would include carrying a wheel barrow of wood chips from a set location on-site to disperse around the playground. If this is a volunteer project you are interested in please email [Shelley Rowe](mailto:Shelley.Rowe@cityofmonroe.com) to be added to our list to contact regarding specific project details.

Easter Egg Hunt

The city's annual Monroe Community Egg Hunt returns April 19, 2025. 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 1 at a time.

Want to be notified of future volunteer opportunities within the City of Monroe Parks? [Sign up for our volunteer list here.](#) To volunteer, an application, agreement, and background check will be required and is valid for a calendar year.

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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