



City of Monroe, Washington
Parks & Recreation Department

MISSION

Protect and enhance the natural beauty of Monroe through the development of a vibrant system of parks, open space and trails. Provide citizens of all ages positive recreational opportunities in clean, safe and accessible recreation facilities. Enhance health, quality living and the natural environment for future generations.

Department Update Jan/Feb 2012

Parks operations team members have been busy making several facility and equipment improvements and repairs during the months of January and February. Their technical skills are saving City residents on higher costs for replacement and out-sourced repairs. Some examples of their work are:

- Park entry sign refurbishment – Marcy Boroughs and Orville Pearl led restoration efforts on the park entry signs for Al Borlin Park, Travelers Park, Food Bank, and Boys & Girls Club. They stripped them down, sanded and replaced rotted sections by fabricating the reliefs by hand and then painted them, saving a few thousand dollars in replacement costs for the signs.
- Parks utility trailer refurbishment – Gene Valentine and Marcy Boroughs led refurbishment work on four parks equipment trailers that resulted in extending their service life, saving several thousand dollars in trailer replacement costs. They replaced rotted and broken floor boards, repaired bent and damaged lift gates, rails, lights and reflectors.
- Spiral slide repair – Eric Dexter made a repair to the surface of the spiral slide at Sky River Park. The slide has been vandalized several times over the past few years and had been replaced once at a cost of over \$5,000. Eric made a professional patch repair to the slide surface that is safe and attractive, saving the City from needing to make another expensive replacement purchase. Eric also achieved certification last year as a Certified Playground Inspector and he has put that certification to use in noting and making safe repairs to our playgrounds.
- Park equipment maintenance and repairs – Bryan Olson and Gene Valentine led repairs and winter maintenance required to keep all of the park equipment such as mowers, tractors and small power tools in service and ready for another season of work.

Some in-house projects this winter included most or all of the crew working together to add new certified playground wood chips to the playground at Lake Tye Park. The crew guided the large delivery truck through the trail to the west end of the play area so the truck could dump the chips directly into the play area, which saved on paying an additional cost to have the chips blown into the play area.

The entire crew also worked together to address grade issues with the landscaped islands along Lewis Street and Kelsey. Along Lewis Street, the team removed excess sod and thatch that had built-up over the years and was starting to cover up the irrigation heads. Along Kelsey, the island sides had sunk below the curb to a point that made it impossible to continue mowing along the curbing. In both cases they safely worked in the street to remedy both areas.

Other maintenance activities included winter storm repairs to fences and park trees, pruning, lighting and wiring repairs and repairing and pressure-washing athletic fields and park facilities in general as needed.



Storm-damaged trees @ Sky River Park



Storm-damaged fence @ Lewis St Park



Repaired fence

Denise Jacobsen has been extremely busy with coordinating and processing the on-going public records requests for the City; work that she has been charged with for over a year now, in addition to her duties in the Parks and Recreation Department. She is also processing several special event, athletic fields and gazebo reservation requests as they continue to stream in.

Dale Olson, Parks Landscape Leadworker, continues to review landscape plans and perform inspections as he receives them from the Planning Department, in addition to leading the crew in their daily tasks and organizing their work schedules. Dale is a working lead, who you will find out in the parks working with the rest of the team.

Other activities in the Department include:

- Registrations for Skyhawks summer sports camps have begun. Skyhawks is entering their 6th year in partnership with the City.
- Egg Hunt planning has been underway. The Egg Hunt will occur on Saturday, April 7th with pre-event activities starting at 9am and the Easter Egg Hunt beginning at 10am at Lake Tye Park.
- The Monroe Garden Club has generously donated \$500 toward the flowers for downtown. They will also volunteer to pot up the hanging baskets and plant flowers in the street planters downtown.
- The Monroe Department of Corrections (DOC) has resumed the partnership with the Parks & Recreation Department to grow flowers from seed with inmate labor to be installed in the landscape island ends along Main Street and Lewis Street. The DOC is also going to donate liquid fertilizer that they have created from worm castings, which come from the worm program they have developed. The program was developed by the inmates to save the DOC on food scrap composting costs.
- The Department received notification from the Snohomish County Tourism Promotion Area (TPA) grant coordinator that the review committee has recommended awarding the City of Monroe \$200,000 per the grant request toward developing all-weather synthetic athletic fields at Monroe High School. We are awaiting formal approval which is expected by the end of March. Mike Farrell wrote the grant in December, 2011 in partnership with the Monroe School District. They will continue work to seek additional funding to make the project become a reality.
- The Department has reached out to Northside Basketball and are partnering with them to put on two girls basketball tournaments – City of Monroe Along with Northside Basketball “Who’s Got Game Invitational” March 24, 25 and May 5, 6 at Monroe High School and Hidden River Middle School. We have also scheduled a special event 3-on-3 basketball tournament August 4, 5 at Lake tye Park and are working on the planning details for this new event. This new partnership will provide our area youth with an opportunity for exciting and challenging youth sporting events and also attract teams and visitors from out of the area to come and experience what Monroe has to offer.

In addition to the above mentioned items, work continues with planning and scheduling the numerous events, programs, volunteer projects as we head toward spring.



Landscape repair work @ Lewis St



Landscape repair work @ Lewis St



Play area before @ Lake tye Park



Truck delivery



Eric Dexter operating trackhoe



After