



City of Monroe, Washington
Parks & Recreation Department

February, 2017

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

"Wagner Swifts" Sculpture Dedication

The much anticipated dedication of the "Wagner Swifts" sculpture by artist Kevin Pettelle occurred in front of an enthusiastic crowd on the morning of Saturday, January 7, 2017 on the northwest corner of Main & Lewis Streets in the Downtown. The beautiful piece was funded through the 2016 City of Monroe Art Grant.

Art Sculpture Project Timeline

Last year, Mayor Geoffrey Thomas and the Monroe City Council supported the establishment of a Public Art Policy and funding in the amount of \$10,000 for an outdoor sculpture to be installed within the newly renovated Downtown Plaza Area of Monroe. A call for sculptors was advertised and the City received five proposals from four different artists, which were then reviewed by an Art Selection Committee representing the Monroe Arts Council, Monroe Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Monroe Association, Monroe Planning Commission, Monroe Park Board, Monroe City Council, and Monroe City Staff.

A recommendation to the City Council was unanimously agreed upon to select the proposal brought forth by local Artist Kevin Pettelle titled - "Wagner Swifts". Kevin has since designed and created a beautiful metal sculpture representing Vaux's Swifts and the Frank Wagner Elementary School's chimney, located ½ mile west of the sculpture site on Main Street, recognized as one of the most important Vaux's Swift communal migratory roost sites in North America.



"Wagner Swifts" Dedication

New Banners

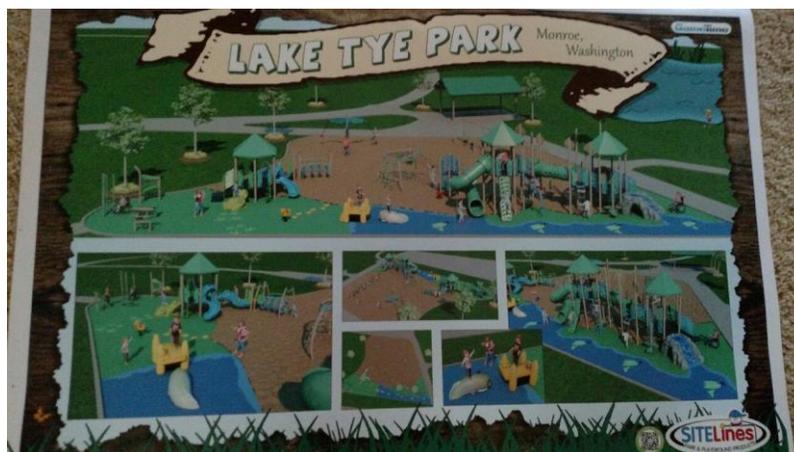
Parks & Recreation staff installed 83 tourism-branded street pole banners for the historic downtown and North Kelsey shopping, lodging and restaurant retail areas in Monroe that were purchased through a Snohomish County Hotel/Motel Tax Fund grant. As part of the grant conditions, City staff collaborated with the Snohomish County Tourism Bureau, Monroe Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Monroe Association in the design guidelines for the banners, that reflect a tourism-related themes. This will help introduce hidden assets in our community and bring together our historic downtown, the North Kelsey shopping area and the Evergreen State Fairgrounds as tourist destinations in Snohomish County. Existing and new events held in the greater Monroe area will benefit from the tourism imagery that the banners display, as well as area restaurants, lodging and shopping districts.



New banners!

New Playground for Lake Tye Park

The public is invited to attend a special Park Board meeting at 7:00pm on Thursday, February 23, 2017, 7:00pm, in the performing stage area of Fryelands Elementary School, located at 15286 Fryelands Blvd. A special presentation will be made showing and explaining features of a new replacement playground for Lake Tye Park. This exciting new Parks Capital Improvement Project is funded for this year and anticipated to be completed before the end of May.



Request for Proposals - Kayak/Paddleboard Rental Services

The City of Monroe is requesting proposals from licensed, qualified businesses to provide a seasonal boat (paddle boards, canoes or kayaks) rental program service at Lake Tye Park. Detailed proposal packets may be picked up at the Monroe City Hall, M-F 8am-5pm at 806 W. Main Street, Monroe WA 98272. Deadline to receive proposals is 3:00pm PST, Friday, February 24, 2017.

Operations

Parks and Recreation Department team members have been busy this winter with daily recreation use of our parks facilities, as well as scheduled winter maintenance, park improvements and repair work on equipment and landscaped areas. A weekly maintenance monitoring emphasis has begun on unmarked trails at Al Borlin and Sky River Parks to identify and resolve, in cooperation with our Police Department, any unlawful encampments that may occur in City parks. Staff are also busy working with community partners in planning a full slate of community events and programs for 2017.



Refurbishing signage

Community Service from the Department of Corrections

We continue to partner this year with the Monroe Correctional Complex on projects that benefit the community. Inmates have begun raising 4,000 flowers from seed at the prison for use later this spring on the ends of the traffic islands along Main Street and Lewis Street. This will be the 8th year of partnering on the flower program, which is a cost saving measure for the City. In addition, we have scheduled to utilize DOC work crews again to assist with maintaining parks and public right of ways in the City.



Greenhouse at Monroe Correctional Complex



Inmates from MCC planting flowers (file photo)

Volunteer Opportunities Join the City of Monroe team by volunteering your talent and time to support City programs, projects and events. Volunteering is an opportunity to learn about Monroe's diverse community, understand how local government works and connect with other community members. The City offers ongoing and one-time event volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in volunteering, or seeking additional information, please contact Pamela Baker at (360) 863-4524.

Visit the City website www.monroewa.gov for information on upcoming programs and events.