



City of Monroe, Washington
Parks & Recreation Department

March, 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

New Playground for Lake Tye Park

The project to replace the playground at Lake Tye Park is underway, as a groundbreaking ceremony was held on Thursday, March 16. In 2016 the City Council authorized 2017 Parks Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding for replacement of the twenty-year old playground at Lake Tye Park, which is a listed project in the Six-Year CIP of the Park Plan. The playground has outlived its service life, replacement parts were becoming non-existent, and features were dated and lacking the inclusive, challenge and motion elements that the playground industry of today offers. The Monroe Park Board reviewed the existing playground equipment at their October 2016 meeting. Comments regarding the playground replacement included new active play features and improved ADA accessibility.

Design criteria established for the new playground include features that encourage multi-generational play, ADA inclusive play spaces that intentionally break down physical and social barriers to play, playful public art 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 rubberized surfacing is also desired in the playground design.

This exciting new Parks Capital Improvement Project is anticipated to be completed before the end of May.



Computer-generated images of the new playground!



Lake Tye Park playground ready for construction

Groundbreaking on the project - March 16

New Downtown Furniture

In 2016 the City Council authorized 2017 funding of \$30,000 to purchase new furniture for downtown Monroe along Main Street. Staff have met with representatives from the Downtown Monroe Association and Monroe Chamber of Commerce to review designs and select new furniture including benches, litter receptacles and bicycle racks.

The review team have selected new furniture that more compliments both the historical elements of the downtown and its recent streetscape improvements. The vertical lines and color of the furniture create a tie to the modern look of the North Kelsey shopping area furniture, while classic/historic design details will give it the historic/classic fit for our downtown. The furniture will be ordered and then installed later this spring.



New furniture design for the Downtown as selected by review team

Adopt A Park

The Monroe Boys & Girls Club has been piloting an Adopt a Park program with the City of Monroe for Sky River Park and have been doing various tasks at the park including litter pick up, basic landscaping, and spreading play chips. We are excited to have them on board in this program! We are also partnering with the Boys & Girls Club on applying for a Snohomish County Small Capital Projects Partnership Grant to purchase and install 4 basic trailside exercise stations along the walking trail at Sky River Park.



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. Staff are also busy working with community partners in planning a full slate of community events and programs for 2017.

City Parks Unmarked Trails Inspections

Last month, a weekly maintenance monitoring emphasis by park staff was initiated 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.

The following is a summary of data for the last month:

Locations: Al Borlin Park; Sky River Park

DATE	TOTAL LABOR HOURS	# BAGS OF LITTER COLLECTED	NOTES
2/13	12.5	36	Only Al Borlin Park inspected. 3 abandoned camps discovered at Al Borlin Park. Police not contacted.
2/21	9	16.5	Litter/abandoned camp discovered at Sky River Park near Cadman property. 1 person discovered sleeping behind Al Borlin Park sign. Police contacted.
2/28	8	7	
3/7	7	8	
3/13	7	5	

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 on-going 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.