



City of Monroe, Washington  
Parks & Recreation Department

April, 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 part of the new playground design.

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



*Computer-generated images of the new playground!*



*Groundbreaking on the project - March 16*



*New playground equipment has arrived!*

### **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 has been ordered and will be installed later this spring.



*New furniture design for the Downtown as selected by review team*

### **Donations**

- The Monroe Garden Club has donated \$300 toward this year's downtown flower hanging baskets. In addition, members of the club will volunteer their time potting up the flowers into the wire hanging baskets for installation by our Parks crew in mid-May.
- Republic Services has once again committed to donating \$500 toward the City's flower program. In addition, They have also committed to donating \$1,600 to sponsor the 4 free Movie Under the Moon Movie nights.
- Community Transit has committed to helping sponsor the Chamber of Commerce's free Summer Music Series in an amount to be determined.

### **Master Plan Cadman Site, Lake Tye Park**

Staff are drafting a request for qualifications (RFQ) for qualified planning firms for these sites. Advertisement of the RFQ is scheduled to occur by the beginning of May.

### 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. This month's events include:

- April 1 - SVLL Jamboree – Sky River Park
- April 15 - Community Egg Hunt – Lake Tye Park
- April 22 - Ultimate Frisbee Tournament – Sky River Park
- April 23 – Kid's Fishing Day – Lake Tye Park

### 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 past month:

**Locations: Al Borlin Park; Sky River Park**

DATE	TOTAL LABOR HOURS	# BAGS OF LITTER COLLECTED	NOTES
3/21	4	3	Camp discovered at Al Borlin Park. Police contacted.
3/27	6	4	Removed litter/abandoned camp at Al Borlin Park from previous week's discovery after notice posted by Police.
4/3	7	5	2 camps discovered at Al Borlin Park. Police contacted.
<b>April Avg.</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Prior month Avg.</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>14.5</b>	

**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](http://www.monroewa.gov) for information on upcoming programs and events.