



City of Monroe, Washington
Parks & Recreation Department

December, 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

Master Plans for Cadman Site, Lake Tye Park

The City of Monroe is creating two long-range master plans for Lake Tye Park and the Cadman Site, which is adjacent to Skykomish River Park. Both plans will chart improvements, guide funding strategies, and help define the future of these parks.

To involve the public in shaping the future of these parks, the City of Monroe hosted two pop-up planning studios and two open houses on September 15th and 16th at the Boys and Girls Club and at Lake Tye Park to gather input from our community. Both the pop-up studios and the open houses were well attended by the public.

In addition to the pop-up studios and open houses, interested stakeholders had the option to take an online survey to answer questions and provide comments about their vision for the two parks. The online survey was very popular and the number of responses has exceeded everyone's expectations.

Our contracted consultant, HBB Landscape Architects of Seattle, have condensed the data and ideas that the community brought forth and presented preliminary ideas to both the Monroe City Council and Park Board in joint meetings on September 26 & October 24. The concepts were refined and a second public open house was held on November 1, along with a second community feedback web survey. Next steps include review of the draft plans, with City Council adoption of the master plans to occur in January 2018.



Exercise Stations @ Skykomish River Park

Parks staff are installing new exercise stations at Sky River Park! Earlier this year, in partnership with the Monroe Boys & Girls Club, a Snohomish County Small Capital Projects Partnership Grant application was submitted and awarded to purchase and install 4 basic trailside exercise stations along the walking trail at Skykomish River Park. The new exercise stations will provide fun and exercise for users with varying abilities.



Centennial Trail connection to Monroe

The City of Monroe, along with other local governments and trail advocates have continued to express support to Snohomish County to develop a regional trail connection between the cities of Snohomish and Monroe. We thank Snohomish County Councilmember Sam Low and County Parks, Recreation & Tourism Director Tom Teigen for their successful efforts that have led to the inclusion of \$250,000 in the 2018 Snohomish County Capital Budget to design stream crossings for this project. The City had been previously notified notified by the Centennial Trail Coalition last October that funding originally allocated for this project had been reallocated to other projects. Our Mayor and City Council made a formal request that the Snohomish County Executive and Council restore 2018 funding for this project.

Design of the two stream crossings within the future trail corridor will provide the opportunity to extend the Centennial Trail east from Snohomish in a meaningful and phased approach and keep this priority expansion of the Centennial Trail moving forward. To date the City of Monroe has extended its hard surface trail system to the western most point of the city awaiting the arrival of this connection. We are excited about the steps the County has taken to expand our regional trail system and look forward to the development of this connection.



Operations

Parks and Recreation Department team members have been busy this fall with daily recreation use of our parks facilities, as well as scheduled maintenance, park improvements and repair work on equipment and landscaped areas.

Light Up Monroe

Light Up Monroe annual holiday celebration was held Sunday, November 26, 2017 at Travelers Park, where the spectacular lighted Christmas Tree became an instant holiday sensation for our community!

We would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the following area businesses: **Windermere Real Estate/Monroe, Speedway Chevrolet, American Family Insurance – Sally Petty, The Church at Monroe, Jones Family Orthodontics, and Penrith Home Loans** for their generous donations for the purchase and installation of new LED holiday lights for the Monroe Community Christmas Tree!



City Parks Unmarked Trails Inspections

Earlier this year, 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:

NOTE – Due to river flooding, inspections did not occur during three weeks in November.

Locations: Al Borlin Park; Sky River Park

DATE	TOTAL LABOR HOURS	# BAGS OF LITTER COLLECTED	NOTES
11/1	6	6	
11/8-11/22	N/A	N/A	Due to river flooding, inspections did not occur during three weeks in November.
11/28	2.5	4	3 encampments discovered at Al Borlin Park. Police contacted.
Avg.	4.25	5	Removed 1 abandoned camp @ Al Borlin Park
Prior month Avg.	6.3	9.6	

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.