



City of Monroe, Washington
Parks & Recreation Department

August, 2018

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

Fire District 7 and City of Monroe partner to promote water safety

This spring Snohomish County Fire District 7's Water Rescue Team has been busy training and preparing for the summer swimming season. Many of the trainings have taken place at Lake Tye, a prominent swimming area in Monroe.

Lake Tye is a manmade lake that gradually slopes into the water, but then has a shelf that drops off to depths that can reach up to 30 feet deep. Conversations between the City of Monroe and Fire District 7 were started to discuss swimmer safety and first responder awareness due to the shelf in the lake.

"In the past there has not been a designated swimming area established to signal swimmers to stay within their abilities closer to the shoreline where there is a more gradual slope," says Heather Chadwick, Public Information Officer with Fire District 7. "Furthermore, having the buoy line as a reference point helps aid in rescue efforts."

On July 18th, City of Monroe Parks staff and Fire District 7's Water Rescue Team worked together to install the buoy line at the beach area that will outline where the lake bottom begins to drop off.

"We value opportunities to partner with Snohomish County Fire District 7," says City of Monroe Mayor Geoffrey Thomas. "Our community benefits from a coordinated approach to promote and improve water safety in Monroe."

There are no lifeguards on duty at the lake. Swimmer do so at their own risk.

At the beach there is a prominent teal blue-colored information kiosk with important water safety information posted in both English and Spanish. The information includes life jacket safety, bathing recommendations, waterfowl feeding prohibition and water quality information.

Fire District 7 recommends the use of life jackets for all when on the water. The Fire District participates in a free life jacket loaner program through Safe Kids of Snohomish County. Free day-use life jackets are available at the Fire District 7 station located at 163 Village Ct. Monroe, and also at the Lake Tye Park concessions stand.

The lake is sampled and tested monthly. Citizens can read the results of the testing on the City's website: <http://www.monroewa.gov/721/Lake-Tye-Water-Quality-Testing>



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Grant Award – Exercise Stations @ 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 to purchase and install four basic trailside exercise stations along the walking trail at Sky River Park to complete an eight-station system. Last year, the City received a similar grant award from the Snohomish County Council through their Small Capital Projects Partnership Grant program to purchase and install four initial outdoor exercise equipment at the park.

This month, the Snohomish County Council approved a grant award of \$6,761.56, which will cover the purchase of all equipment and supplies related to project. There is no net cost to the City. The new exercise stations will be installed in the park this fall and will provide fun and exercise for users with varying abilities.

Lake Tye Synthetic Fields Design Update

The City of Monroe is designing new synthetic turf lighted fields at Lake Tye Park and invited the public, including sports user groups to visit the Parks & Recreation booth at the National Night Out Against Crime event on Tuesday, August 7 and view schematic design layout alternatives up close, share ideas with our design team and vote on their preferred layout. The event drew many people and Alternate layout #2 was the clear favorite (pictured below). The public input was valuable for this stage of the design, leading to exploration of various field layout orientations and additions. This project is anticipated to be constructed in 2020.



Preferred option

Operations

Parks and Recreation Department team members have been busy this summer with daily recreation use of our parks facilities and athletic fields, as well as scheduled maintenance, park improvements such as the new playground at Sky River Park, concrete pad for the mobile stage at Lake Tye Park and repair work on equipment and landscaped areas.

City Parks Unmarked Trails Inspections

Last 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:

Locations: Al Borlin Park; Sky River Park

DATE	TOTAL LABOR HOURS	# BAGS OF LITTER COLLECTED	NOTES
7/9	10	5	1 camp discovered at Sky River Park and reported to Police.
7/17	8	5	1 camp discovered at Al Borlin Park and reported to Police.
7/24	8	3	1 camp discovered at Sky River Park by river and reported to Police.
Avg.	8.6	4.3	
Running Avg.	8.0	7.6	

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.