



City of Monroe, Washington  
Parks & Recreation Department

December, 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

### **Wiggly Field fencing upgrade project**

We have recognized that the fencing at Wiggly Field is in need of an upgrade. Mayor Thomas and our City Council have supported this by allocating funding in this year's budget to replace and upgrade the fence, which is currently underway. The new fencing will feature a taller height, double-gate entry points, and upgraded plastic mesh fencing that will be annually installed after each flood season. Please feel free to contact Parks & Recreation Director Mike Farrell if you have further questions at either (360) 863-4557 or [mfarrell@monroewa.gov](mailto:mfarrell@monroewa.gov)



*Tyler Reeves & Bryan Olson installing new fencing*



*Wiggly Field patrons*

### Operations

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

Staff have begun work on an aggressive tree-limbing and landscape pruning program of both Lewis Street Park and Al Borlin Park in order to open up river views and improve sight distances throughout both parks and the trails. Work shall include cleaning, pressure-washing and painting the on-site facilities as weather conditions allow through the fall and winter months.

### 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 and awarded to purchase and install four basic trailside exercise stations along the walking trail at Sky River Park to complete an eight-station system. The grant will cover the purchase of all equipment and supplies related to project. Staff are finishing the installation of this system that will provide fun and exercise for users with varying abilities.



*Staff finishing installation of new exercise stations @ Sky River Park*

### Light Up Monroe

Thank you to all who sponsored, helped out and came out to enjoy Light Up Monroe at Travelers Park! A crowd of over 600 people came out to enjoy this yearly tradition. 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 sponsoring the stunning light display on the 60'+ tall Monroe Community Christmas Tree!



*Gathering of over 600 people helped Mayor Thomas countdown to lighting up Monroe!*

### **Monroe Park Board**

Members of the Monroe Park Board participated in the November 14 Community Outreach meeting for the opportunity to view the existing right of way for the US 2 Bypass, and share suggested trail alignment and access points for the future temporary trail. This month the Board will work on their 2019 Work Plan and review Heritage Tree nominations that will be shared with the City Council this winter.

### **Nominate a Heritage Tree and/or donate a living Christmas tree to your local parks!**

This September, the Monroe Parks Department launched a contest to find and recognize Monroe's biggest and most interesting trees. The Heritage Tree Program encourages residents of all ages to seek out significant trees within the City limits and nominate them for recognition. The City is also launching a Christmas Tree replanting program this year.

Nomination forms for the Heritage Tree contest are available [online](#) and at Monroe City Hall and the Monroe Parks Department. The nomination deadline is Dec. 31 to allow the Park Board to review the nominations, select the winners and make the award announcement to commemorate Earth Day and Arbor Day 2019. Nominations will be accepted each year until Dec. 31 with heritage trees announced in April.

If you purchase a living Christmas tree in a container, and you don't intend to plant it on your own property, you may donate it to our local Monroe city parks so that everyone can enjoy it for years to come. Call the Parks & Recreation office at (360) 863-4559 for information on how to donate your potted living Christmas tree. You may find suitable living Christmas trees for sale at the following local area businesses: • Fred Meyer - 18805 St Route 2, Monroe, WA, 98272; 360-805-1996 • Pine Creek Farms and Nursery - 23225 Sofie Rd, Monroe, WA 98272; 360-863-8866 • Falling Water Gardens - 17516 WA-203, Monroe, WA 98272; 360-863-1400



*Heritage Tree @ Traveler's Park*



*Donate a Living Christmas tree to your local parks!*

### **December events include:**

- Dec 8 – Swing into Christmas 1pm @ Monroe Community Senior Center
- Dec 8 – Artisans Holiday Fair 10am-5pm @ Evergreen State Fairgrounds
- Dec 14 – Monroe Concert Band Free Concert 7pm @ Frank Wagner PAC

Please visit [www.choosemonroe.com](http://www.choosemonroe.com) for more community event happenings this month!

**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
11/5	12	6	Removed 1 abandoned camp @ Sky River Park.
11/15	10	4	
12/6	10	1	
<b>Avg.</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>	
<b>Running Avg.</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>7.3</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.