



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 age's positive recreational opportunities in clean, safe and accessible recreation facilities. Enhance health, quality living and the natural environment for future generations.

Department Update

Parks & Recreation Department COVID-19 Response Actions

- Playgrounds are closed
- We have posted signs encouraging social distancing and sanitation in our parks and on our buildings.
- Parks restrooms, parking lots, sports courts & athletic fields, picnic shelters, Lake Tye skate park and Wiggly Field dog park are closed.



- Due to lack of adherence by some members of the community for physical distancing requirements, staff rented construction fencing to surround the skate park, consisting of 6ft-high self-standing chain link panels that bolt together. 'No Trespass' signage is attached to the fencing on all four sides. This is a more durable method to limit access to the skate park while the Governor's stay at home order remains in place. This should reduce the need for our police to stop at the skate park to contact people and put back up the previous measure of barricades, yellow tape, and signs.



- All park facility and special event applications for scheduled events through May 4 are cancelled. Reservations beyond May 4 will continue to be accepted under the condition that they may be subject to cancellation.
- Office staff are working from home, available by email and phone working on tasks, projects, customer service as well as completing online training opportunity modules.
- Field staff are working a split field/work from home schedule. **In Field:** focus on sanitation, safety inspection of park/trail facilities, mowing only in compliance with the Governor's order; **Work from home:** complete online education training modules.

- Beginning Monday, March 30, the city placed an ADA sanican and hand washing station at the north end of City Hall as a public service. The sanican will be maintained by a vendor weekly or more frequently as needed. Staff are checking it daily. Due to light use, it is receiving weekly servicing on Fridays.



Operations

In addition to regular jobs and ongoing encampment work in early March, Parks Crew members had Blood Borne Pathogen and Anti-Harassment training and graffiti/vandalism repairs throughout the parks. Mid-March the focus started to change in order to keep up with cleaning and disinfecting tasks surrounding the parks restrooms, playgrounds, shelters and fixtures.

In March, a sewage lift-station was installed at Skykomish River Park's to improve wastewater system. In the past, the old lift station would experience frequent failures during large scheduled events. These failures would often result in overflows and in result, bathroom closures causing significant inconvenience to the community members enjoying the event. Last month, city utility crews installed a new duplex grinder pump system with an increased hydraulic capacity, redundancy, and grinder technology to reduce the chance of clogs. This improvement will serve as a great improvement in the reliability and effectiveness of that important function of the park.



City utility crews installed a new duplex grinder pump system at Skykomish River Park.

Monroe Park Board

Due to COVID-19 the March Park Board meeting was cancelled. More detailed information on the Western Washington University Sustainable Communities Program presented to the Park Board on February 20th at the end of this document. Their presentation can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2xl6vCG>.

City Parks Unmarked Trails Inspections

In 2017, 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. Attached is the comprehensive data from 2017 to present. The following is a summary of data for the past month:

Locations: Al Borlin Park

DATE	TOTAL LABOR HOURS	# BAGS OF LITTER COLLECTED	NOTES
3/4	6	0	
3/10	7	0	
3/17	10.5	1	
3/25	5.5	0	
Avg.	7.25	.25	
			See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2017- 2020

Volunteer Opportunities

Due to COVID-19 the City of Monroe's volunteering has been temporarily suspended. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Katie Darrow at (360) 863-4519.

Visit the City website www.monroewa.gov for information on upcoming programs and events.

Western Washington University Sustainable Communities Program City of Monroe Partnership Project Wrap-up



WWU Students presented to the February 20th Park Board

Summary

Western Washington University (WWU) students participating in Sustainable Communities Program (Program) concluded the program's coursework with a presentation to City of Monroe's Park Board February 20, 2020. The student's work represented the last of three courses which studied the City's proposed temporary trail (Trail) within the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) US 2 Bypass right-of-way, between Chain Lake Road to the east and eastern edge of Snohomish County Fairgrounds. The Program provided an opportunity for students to use the Trail project to gain experience working on an actual project with real-world conditions and clients.

The proposed Trail was selected by the City for WWU to use as a study area with the goal of delivering reports addressing three planning elements: community outreach, transportation analysis, and environmental assessment of the proposed trail. The purpose of the delivered reports is to help the City negotiate a temporary trail easement with WSDOT to use the US 2 right-of-way for the Trail.

Background

WWU contacted the City of Monroe May 2018 requesting the City submit project proposals for the Program during scholastic year 2018-2019. The Program offers municipal agencies the opportunity to partner with WWU students and faculty to advance a mutually agreed-upon, community project. The partnering entity (e.g. City of Monroe) receives faculty and students work through a variety of studio and service-learning courses providing students experience tackling real-world projects.

During their June 5, 2018 meeting, City Council reviewed the Program and discussed possible projects which would benefit from a student-faculty study. The City selected planning the Trail as the Program's project area. Student work commenced during the 2018-2019 academic school year. The original scope of work included community meetings and outreach report, transportation study, wetland identification, and environmental assessment report. The wetlands identification class was later dropped and trail limits set at the Snohomish Fairgrounds eastern limit. Final cost for WWU Program work was \$19,233.75.

Deliverables

The three courses and completed final reports were completed under faculty direction of WWU's Environmental Studies Department (ENVS) from fall 2018 to fall 2019:

1. Fall 2018 brought students to Monroe enrolled in ENVS 475 *Community Development and Participatory Methods*, taught by Dr. Tammi Laninga. Student's coordinated with City staff, Snohomish County's Evergreen State Fairgrounds, conducted public open house, and site visits as a part of their work. Included in their report are the findings from the student-held community outreach meeting on November 14, 2018, at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Monroe and focused on outreach, design input, and research for the proposed trail. Feedback from this meeting as well as the other teams' findings are included in their final report.
2. During the following scholastic quarter, winter and spring students followed with ENVS 373 *Transportation Systems Analysis*, taught by Dr. Paul Stangl. Their final report utilized the research and community outreach feedback acquired from ENVS 475 in combination with best practices in transportation planning and transportation data specific to the area of study. The transportation analysis includes a walking survey compiled from 26 students who walked the surrounding trail area and reported their findings. Their final report analyzed transportation impacts and made recommendations associated with implementation of the Trail. It describes the value of different potential Trail entrances and identifies improvements to adjoining pedestrian and bicycle networks to improve access to the Trail.
3. The final class in the program, ENVS 493 *Environmental Impact Assessment*, taught by Dr. Tammi Laninga referenced work completed in ENVS 475 and ENVS 373 as well as original research. WWU Huxley School of the Environment offers Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as a culminating course known as a capstone. The report generated from this class is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) conducted by WWU seniors as the final project in the EIA Capstone course. The environmental factors identified as being potentially impacted by the Trail are earth, water, plants, recreation, transportation, and aesthetics.

4. Completed fall of 2019 and presented to the Park Board February 20, 2020, the report assesses the proposed Trail impacts to the environment with special attention paid to potential adverse impacts to critical areas, including wetlands, streams, and steep slopes. The report identified existing and future erosion as posing the greatest environmental issue and provides mitigating features such as replanting, general cleanup, bridging over drainage, and signage.

Next Steps

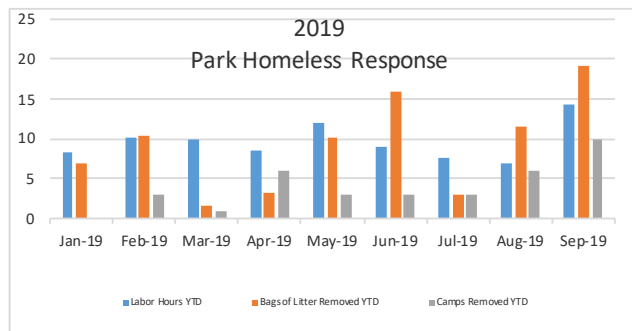
The three reports will assist City staff in developing a conceptual site plan to be used in future discussions with WSDOT. If a temporary trail easement is granted to the City of Monroe by WSDOT, the Trail is proposed to be volunteer-developed and maintained. The City would plan to reach out to volunteer organizations such as Washington Trails Association for assistance to develop trail building and maintenance plans, and to work with WSDOT planners and other stakeholders to establish Trail development criteria and a timeline.

2017-2020
Park Homelessness Response

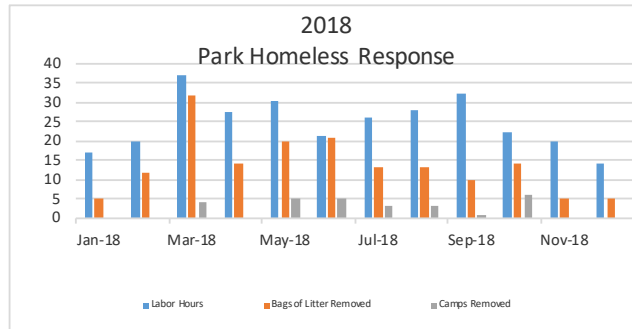
	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-20	8.75	5.5	0
Feb-20	5.67	4.33	0
Mar-20	7.25	0.25	0
Apr-20			
May-20			
Jun-20			
Jul-20			
Aug-20			
Sep-20			
Oct-20			
Nov-20			
Dec-20			
Total 2020	21.67	10.08	0



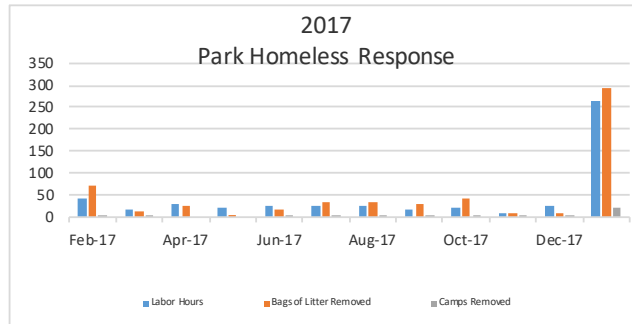
	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-19	8.3	7	
Feb-19	10.2	10.3	3
Mar-19	10	1.5	1
Apr-19	8.5	3.25	6
May-19	11.9	10.25	3
Jun-19	9	16	3
Jul-19	7.5	3	3
Aug-19	6.9	11.5	6
Sep-19	14.25	19.25	10
Oct-19	7.3	19.4	6
Nov-19	7.5	0.875	4
Dec-19	7.3	1.2	3
Total 2019	108.65	103.525	48



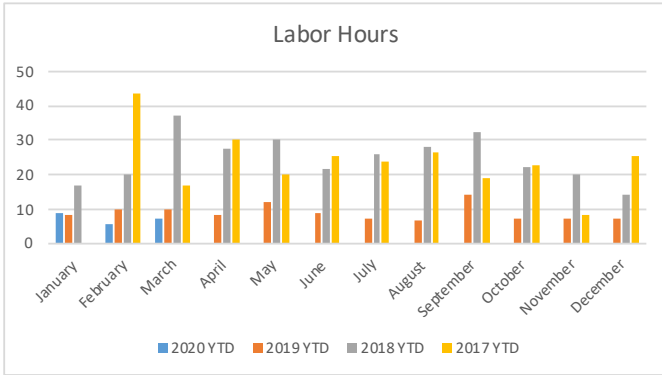
	Labor Hours	Bags of Litter Removed	Camps Removed
Jan-18	17	5	0
Feb-18	20	12	0
Mar-18	37	32	4
Apr-18	27.5	14	0
May-18	30.5	20	5
Jun-18	21.5	21	5
Jul-18	26	13	3
Aug-18	28	13	3
Sep-18	32.5	10	1
Oct-18	22.5	14	6
Nov-18	20	5	0
Dec-18	14	5	0
Total 2018	296.5	164	27



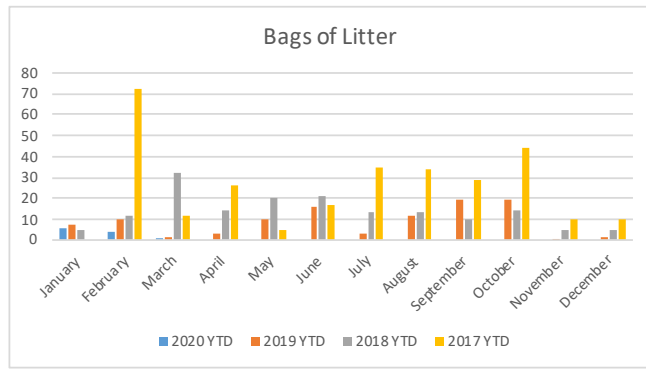
	Labor Hours	Bags of Litter Removed	Camps Removed
Feb-17	43.5	72.5	4
Mar-17	17	12	3
Apr-17	30	26	0
May-17	20	5	0
Jun-17	25.5	17	2
Jul-17	24	35	3
Aug-17	26.5	34	3
Sep-17	19	29	2
Oct-17	23	44	1
Nov-17	8.5	10	3
Dec-17	25.5	10	1
Total 2017	262.5	294.5	22



Labor Hours	2020 YTD	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	2017 YTD
January	8.75	8.3	17	0
February	5.67	10.2	20	43.5
March	7.25	10	37	17
April		8.5	27.5	30
May		11.9	30.5	20
June		9	21.5	25.5
July		7.5	26	24
August		6.9	28	26.5
September		14.25	32.5	19
October		7.3	22.5	23
November		7.5	20	8.5
December		7.3	14	25.5



Bags of Litter Removed	2020 YTD	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	2017 YTD
January	5.5	7	5	0
February	4.33	10.3	12	72.5
March	0.25	1.5	32	12
April		3.25	14	26
May		10.25	20	5
June		16	21	17
July		3	13	35
August		11.5	13	34
September		19.25	10	29
October		19.4	14	44
November		0.875	5	10
December		1.2	5	10



Camps Removed	2020 YTD	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	2017 YTD
January	0	0	0	0
February	0	3	0	4
March	0	1	4	3
April		6	0	0
May		3	5	0
June		3	5	2
July		3	3	3
August		6	3	3
September		10	1	2
October		6	6	1
November		4	0	3
December		3	0	1

