



City of Monroe, Washington  
Parks & Recreation Department

February 11, 2014

## 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

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 and repair work on equipment and landscaped areas. Staff is also busy working with community partners in planning a full slate of events and programs for 2014, as well as assisting with the kick off of the Park Plan update as part of the City's 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update process.

Event planning work includes a return of Skyhawks youth sports camps, the Tri-Monroe Triathlon (6/21), MasterCraft Pro Wakeboard Tour (7/12-13), Triple Crown Sports Memorial Day Tournament (5/24-26), and four Legends Baseball Tournaments (6-13-15, 6/20-22, 7/18-20, 7/25-27). New for this year, we have been approached by USA Ultimate Frisbee Football from Boulder, Colorado to host a 2014 USA Ultimate National Team Tryout Camp (3/22-23). We are excited to host this new event at Sky River Park!

The Third Annual Officer Jayme Biendl Memorial Run was held on January 26, 2014 on a cold and foggy morning, but that did not stop over 500 people from attending and participating in the event, which also raised over \$9,000 for the Behind the Badge Foundation.



*New slide replacement @ Lake Tye Park*



*Pruned & mulched beds @ Hillcrest Park*

The Snohomish Artist Guild, a non-profit organization that produced four free music concerts in Lake Tye Park last summer, has confirmed that they are returning, with help from local sponsors, to produce four new free music concerts this summer in Lake Tye Park. Shows are scheduled for Thursday evenings starting at 7pm on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>. Another returning partner for 2014, Republic Services, has recently informed us that they would like to continue to financially support the City's flower program and Movies Under the Moon as they have the past four years.

We continue to partner this year with the Monroe Correctional Complex on projects that benefit the community and both organizations. Inmates have begun raising 4,000 flowers from seed at the prison for use later this spring on the ends of the traffic islands along Main Street and Lewis Street. This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> year of partnering on the flower program, which is a cost saving measure for the City. In addition, we have scheduled to utilize DOC work crews again to assist with maintaining public right of ways in the City. One new program that we are embarking on is using 'worm tea', which is a natural fertilizer produced from the castings of worms raised at the prison that feed on food scraps and paper waste at the site. We tried some last year on a few of the hanging basket flowers downtown and will expand the use to all of the baskets this year. The community gains from a free source of natural fertilizer and the prison reduces the volume of its waste disposal. Another new program that we are experimenting this year with the prison, is utilizing wood mulch that is produced at the prison from chipping pallets and other waste wood products. This recycling can also prove to benefit both organizations, as well as the community.



*Black Vinyl All-Stars perform at 2013 SAG free music concert*



*Green house @ Monroe Correctional Complex*

Eagle Scout Mason Harris completed construction and installation of new dog agility pieces at Wiggly Field! The old agility pieces were worn out, so the new equipment is very much appreciated by all who utilize this fun and friendly place. Another Eagle Scout candidate, Alexander McCreary, has committed to installing new barbecues at the new shelter at Lake Tye Park. He is targeting late February for his work party to accomplish the job! Projects such as these add value to our community and provide a great leadership experience for the Eagle Scouts.



*12th Man Flag across Main Street donated by the Super Bowl Champion Seattle Seahawks!*

**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 Denise Jacobsen at (360) 863-4559.

Visit the City website [www.monroewa.gov](http://www.monroewa.gov) for information on upcoming programs and events.