



City of Monroe, Washington
Parks & Recreation Department

April, 2019

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

Monroe celebrates Earth Day and Arbor Day with Proclamation, Arbor Day tree planting, Tree City USA recognition and announcement of 2019 Heritage Trees

Please join us to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day at Lake Tye Park on Friday, April 26 at 1:00pm as Students of Mrs. Hehn's 3rd Grade Class from Fryelands Elementary School will join me in the ceremonial planting of an Arbor Day tree donated by the Monroe Garden Club. During the event, there will also be a Tree City USA award presentation by Kirsten Lints, representing the Washington Community Forestry Council and the State Department of Natural Resources. Our Monroe Park Board will also announce our 2019 Heritage Trees.

In the lead-up to the Arbor Day event, a Proclamation will be read at the start of the Monroe City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00pm at the Monroe City Hall, located at 806 W. Main Street.

For more information, contact Mike Farrell at the Monroe Parks Department at 360-863-4557, or visit www.monroewa.gov.



Arbor Day 2018 Tree Planting



Lewis Street Park Playground Replacement Update

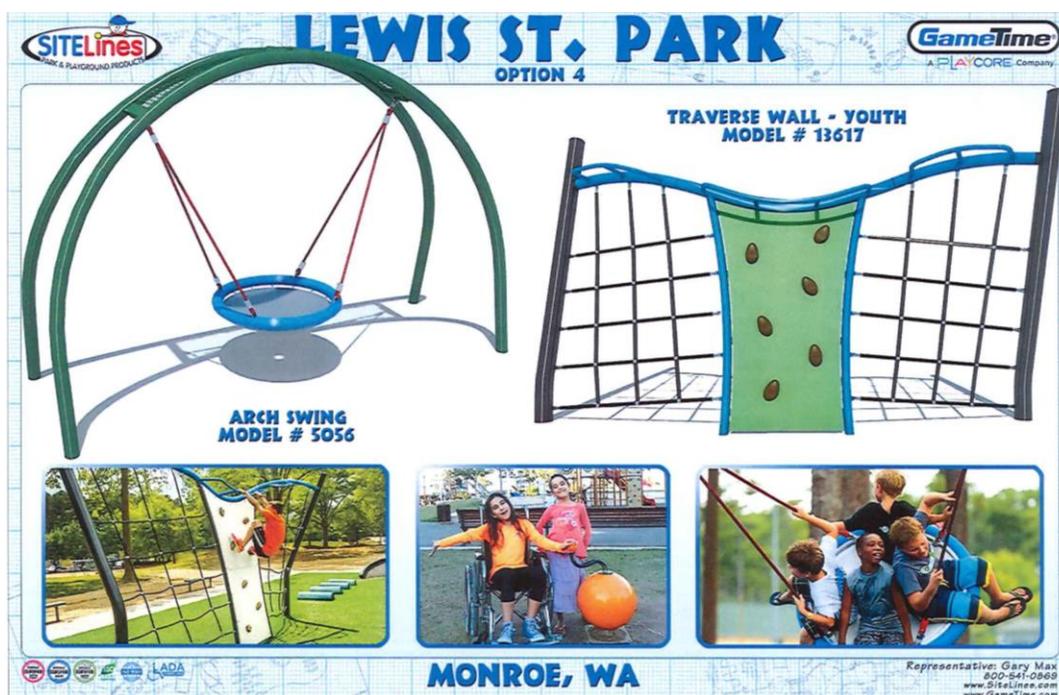
In 2018 the City Council authorized 2019 Parks Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding for replacement of the twenty-year old play equipment at Lewis Street Park, which is a listed project in the Six-Year CIP of the Park Plan. The play equipment has outlived its service life, and features were dated and lacking the inclusive, challenge, and motion elements that the playground industry of today offers.

The Monroe Park Board reviewed the existing playground equipment at their July, August, and September 2018 meetings, including a site visit. A public open house was held on March 21, 2019. Monroe's oldest City park is set within a stand of mature evergreen trees. This posed a challenge: to work within the existing play area boundaries so as not to disturb fragile tree root zones, yet ensure that new replacement equipment meet safety zone space requirements. An important design consideration was to ensure that any new equipment did not create hiding areas or block views through the park. Colorful information boards displayed four feature option concepts.

The new play equipment includes features that: encourage multi-generational play; are ADA inclusive and intentionally break down physical and social barriers to play; a playful theme that enhances the visual appeal of the park; and advanced climbing challenges and motion activities that appeal to older children who seek a more adventurous play experience. Surfacing improvements such as the use of rubberized surfacing are also part of the playground design.

A unique feature for this project includes a MusicBall, which will be the first of its kind in the Northwest. It is an inclusive, human-powered sensory-play music generator, with pre-recorded music or sounds through an SD card, which can be changed any time [Musicball Link](#).

This exciting new project is anticipated to be completed this summer!



New Play Equipment for Lewis Street Park!

Operations

Parks and Recreation Department team members have been busy this early with daily recreation use of our parks facilities and athletic fields, as well as scheduled maintenance, park improvements such as landscape fertilization and turf aeration, cleaning and repair work on facilities, equipment and landscaped areas.

Staff continue 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 winter months.

Monroe Park Board

During their March meeting, the Monroe Park Board reviewed play equipment options for Lewis Street Park and made a recommendation to our City Council. The Board also had a final discussion and voted on Heritage Tree nominations that will be announced during the Arbor Day Tree Planting event at 1pm on Friday, April 26 at Lake Tye Park.

Please visit www.choosemonroe.com for more community event happenings this month!

Student Contest: Name a Wetland in Monroe

Students from our schools are participating in a naming contest for the City-owned wetland preserve located north of US 2 between 179th Ave and Frylands Blvd. The top names will be reviewed by our Park Board with a recommendation made to our City Council later this spring. The naming contest is part of an educational component to a \$109,000 State Conservation Commission grant award for restoration of the wetland fed by Cripple Creek. The project included the planting of over 10,000 willow stakes last year. Monroe has partnered with lead agency Snohomish Conservation District to achieve this important environmental improvement. For more information about this program you may visit the Snohomish Conservation District [website](#) or contact our Stormwater Compliance Coordinator Vince Bertrand at (360) 863-4552.



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
3/11	10	4	Two individuals found sleeping in Al Borlin Park with possessions. Police contacted.
3/18	6	2	Unoccupied tent found at Al Borlin Park. Police contacted
3/25	8	4*	*Found a stash of scrap metal and wire at Al Borlin Park.
4/1	10	3	4 tents found – 3 at Al Borlin, 1 at Sky River Park near boat launch area. Police contacted. Overnight sleeping/trash continues to be a problem in area directly behind Al Borlin Park sign at Simons Road
Avg.	8.5	3.25	
			See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2017- 2019

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.