



City of Monroe, Washington
Parks & Recreation Department

May, 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

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate Arbor Day & Earth Day and helped us plant a tree! Our guests included Mayor Geoffrey Thomas, Monroe City Councilmember Kirk Scarboro and representatives from our Park Board and Planning Commission. Kirsten Lints of Washington Community Forestry Council and State Department of Natural Resources presented our Mayor with Monroe's Tree City USA award. Principal Jeff Presley, Mrs. Hehn and her 3rd grade students of Fryelands Elementary School assisted us with planting our 2019 Arbor Day tree.

Thanks also goes out to the Monroe Park Board & Historical Society for their work on our Heritage Trees program and to the landowners for sharing the stories of their magnificent trees. Then a big thank you to Monroe Garden Club for donating the beautiful red maple tree; we can't wait to see it grow in the years to come.



Arbor Day 2019 Tree Planting Celebration

Lewis Street Park Playground Replacement Update

The Public is invited to attend the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the play equipment replacement at Lewis Street Park. The ceremony will occur on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 4:30pm. Lewis Street Park is located at 561 S. Lewis Street. Monroe's oldest city park is set within a stand of mature evergreen trees, with picturesque views of the wild Skykomish River. This exciting new project is anticipated to be completed this summer!



New Play Equipment for Lewis Street Park!

Urban forestry project helps City of Monroe improve tree health and Puget Sound water quality

A Puget SoundCorps team will prune trees and remove invasive weeds at five city-owned park and open space sites in Monroe starting at 10 a.m. Monday, May 13 through Thursday, May 16, as part of an ongoing effort to restore and protect our urban forestry tree canopy and improve water quality. The Puget SoundCorps team will work with city staff to perform the following tasks:

- Al Borlin Park - Prune trees and shrubs for trail clearance, line of sight visibility and renovation.
- Lake Tye Park - Maintenance of restoration site on north end of the lake. Light pruning, remove invasive plants. Structural pruning of a few landscape trees along trail.
- Monroe Rotary Field - Maintenance of forested riparian mitigation site. Structural pruning of recently planted trees.
- Lewis Street Park - Remove invasive plants and dense shrubs along fenceline. Prune trees for visibility where possible.
- Maintenance and survey of forested wetland mitigation site north of Highway.

The Urban Forestry Restoration Project is offered by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Urban and Community Forestry Program to provide Puget SoundCorps teams to communities throughout the Puget Sound region to assist their urban forestry efforts. Through good urban forestry management, healthy trees improve quality of life, help communities manage stormwater runoff and improve air and water quality.

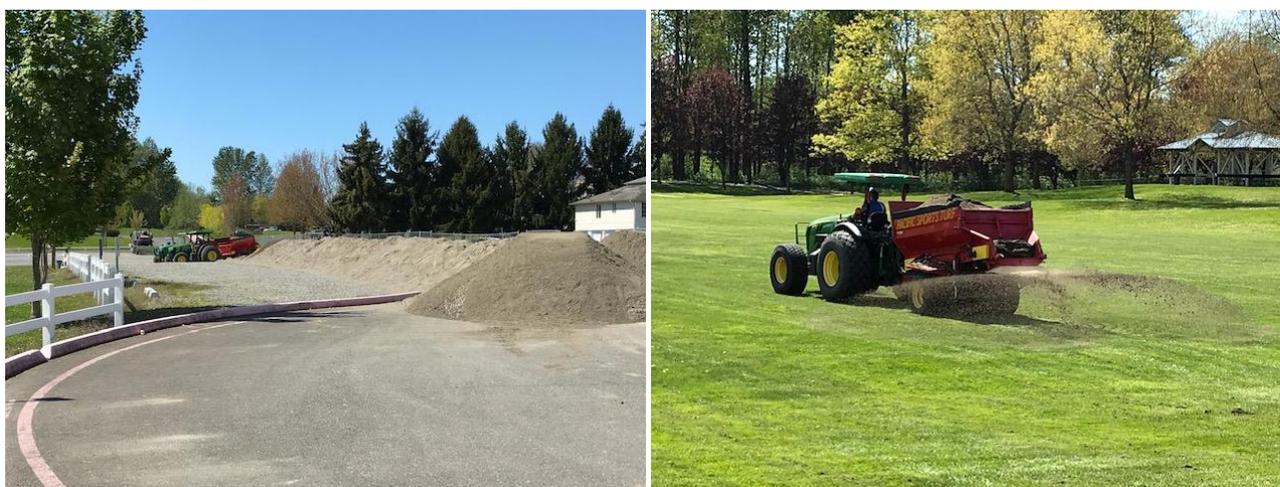
DNR's Urban and Community Forestry Program is made possible through a partnership with the USDA Forest Service. Puget SoundCorps is part of the broader Washington Conservation Corps program administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology. Puget SoundCorps crews work on projects that help restore and protect water quality in Puget Sound. The Washington Conservation Corps is supported through grant funding and Education Awards provided by AmeriCorps.



Puget SoundCorps crew

Operations

Parks and Recreation Department team members have been busy this spring 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. Daily athletic field preps and covered shelter use is keeping our staff busy. Staff also will commence demolition and prep work this month for the upcoming play equipment replacement at Lewis Street Park.



Completion of Skykomish River Park athletic fields topdressing project

Monroe Park Board

During their April meeting, the Monroe Park Board reviewed names for the city-owned wetland area along US 2 and made a recommendation to our City Council. City Administrator Deborah Knight Briefed the Board on the City's Vision 2020 initiative, Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee, North Kelsey future development and the East county Park & Recreation District's proposed bond. Board Members also participated in the Arbor Day Tree Planting event on April 26, 2019 at Lake Tye Park.

Please visit www.choosemonroe.com, pick up a copy of the latest issue of Choose Monroe magazine and Parks & Recreation Events & Programs Brochure for more community event happenings this month and throughout the year!

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
4/8	12.5	30	Large quantity of trash and potential stolen items found at Al Borlin Park. Police contacted. Group of transients found with a campfire at park were trespassed by Police.
4/16	10	4	No camps found.
4/23	10	4	1 camp found off main trail at Al Borlin Park. Police contacted.
4/29	15	3	1 camp found at Al Borlin Park. Police contacted. Several individuals trespassed from park.
Avg.	11.9	10.25	
			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.