



City of Monroe, Washington  
Parks & Recreation Department

June, 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

### Lewis Street Park Playground Replacement Update

A ground-breaking ceremony for the Lewis Street Park play equipment replacement project occurred on Thursday, May 16, 2019. Thank you to our City Council for funding this project, the Monroe Park Board for reviewing the old equipment, hosting a public house, their recommendation to Council to approve the new equipment, and to Sitalines Park and Playground Equipment Inc. for designing the new structures within the existing playground footprint. 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!



*Ground-breaking Ceremony for New Play Equipment at Lewis Street Park!*

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

A Puget SoundCorps team pruned trees and remove invasive weeds at five city-owned park and open space sites in Monroe May 13 through 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 performed the following tasks:

- Al Borlin Park - Pruned 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, removed 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 - Removed invasive plants and dense shrubs along fence line. Pruned trees for visibility where possible.

- Maintenance and survey of forested wetland mitigation site known as Foothills Wetland Preserve.

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. We appreciate all of their help!



*Thank you Puget SoundCorps crew for improving our community!*

### **Hanging Basket Planting/Town Landscaping**

The City of Monroe would like to thank the following businesses and organizations from our community who helped us make our town even more beautiful:

- Monroe Garden Club – donating to the City for the flower program and for planting the flowers in the hanging baskets.
- Pine Creek Nursery – supplying the hanging basket flowers at a discount.
- Republic Services – donation to City for the flower program.
- Monroe Lowes – supplying soil for hanging baskets at a discounted price.
- Downtown Monroe Association – planting and maintaining flowers in the planter pots.
- Monroe Reformatory – growing flowers from seed to be installed along Main and Lewis Streets.

With their help we are able to provide beautifully landscaped islands, planter pots and hanging baskets around town. These help to provide a warm welcome to visitors and residents alike.



*Thank you Monroe Garden Club volunteers for beautifying our community!*

## 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.



*Tyler Reeves & Mike Thomas work on Lewis Street Playground*



*Booth @ Touch-a-Truck event*

## Wetland Naming – Foothills Wetland Preserve

At the Tuesday, May 14, 2019 City Council meeting, Council passed a resolution naming the City-owned open space property located north of US-2 and east of Roosevelt Road as Foothills Wetland Preserve. The naming of the property was a condition of an educational component to a \$109,000 State Conservation Commission grant award in 2016 for restoration of the wetland fed by Cripple Creek.

The project included the planting of over ten thousand willow stakes in 2018. Monroe has partnered with lead agency Snohomish Conservation District to achieve this important environmental improvement. Students from our Monroe School District participated in a naming contest whereby Snohomish Conservation District staff received one hundred and sixty-eight submissions, narrowed it down to the top twenty out of that list. A review board of community members, including: Janelle Drews of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, City of Monroe Parks & Recreation Director Mike Farrell, Agriculture Instructor and FFA Advisor at Monroe High School Alison Branz, Legislative Aide to Snohomish County Councilmember Sam Low and Monroe School Board Member Darcy Cheesman, Monroe Library Director Phil Spirito, and City of Monroe Stormwater Compliance Coordinator Vince Bertrand voted on what they felt were the top five names. The top five names were reviewed by the Park Board during their April 18, 2019, meeting, with a unanimous recommendation made to the Monroe City Council of naming the area: Foothills Wetland Preserve.



*Thank you to all of the students who participated in the naming contest of Foothills Wetland Preserve!*

**Monroe Park Board**

The Monroe Park Board will conduct an annual tour of park sites this month.

Please visit [www.choosemonroe.com](http://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
5/6	10	30	Large quantity of trash at Al Borlin Park adjacent to the railroad tracks. 1 camp found at Sky River Park. Police contacted.
*	*	*	No inspections of unmarked trails performed during the last 3 weeks of May due to staffing shortage, coupled with competing high-priority task needs elsewhere.
6/4	8	2	2 camps found at Sky River Park. Police contacted. More activity observed behind Al Borlin Park sign. Police contacted.
Avg.	9	16	
			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](http://www.monroewa.gov) for information on upcoming programs and events.