



City of Monroe, Washington  
Parks & Recreation Department

November, 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 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

### Operations

Regular items for the Parks and Recreation team members included: general maintenance of mowing, leaf mulching/pick-up and trail inspections. Parks and Recreation team members have also been working on upgrading the lighting at Lewis Street Park and Lake Tye Park. The lighting upgrade includes changing over to LED lights. Another November task included putting up decorations downtown Monroe for the holidays.



Left to Right: Dan Pestana hanging a banner, decorating Main Street, before and after images of the Main Street Gateway project

Additional tasks included: continuing to prepare for the sculpture installation at the SE corner of Main and Lewis Streets. The sculpture has been installed and has passed inspection. The official revealing of the sculpture took place Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The Main Street Gateway project is now complete, we look forward to the new growing landscape.



Artists Milo White, Jay Bowen and Parks Lead Mike Thomas work on the sculpture installation on the SE corner of Main and Lewis Streets

---

### Living Christmas Tree Program

Monroe's living Christmas tree program has kicked off for 2019. Anyone in the community can purchase a living Christmas tree in a container, and then donate it to our city parks so that everyone can enjoy it for years to come.

---

### Downtown Planter Cleanup

Thank you to DMA members Samantha Idle, Teresa Willard and 4 additional volunteers who donated flowers and their time clean out 32 pots in downtown Monroe and re-plant them with a total of 225 geraniums and other ornamentals. Our Parks Department was able to help by supplying fresh topsoil for the pots and by disposing of debris.



6 DMA members and volunteers helped clean and replant 32 flower pots downtown Monroe

## Light Up Monroe

There was a record attendance of roughly 800 people at the Dec. 1 Light Up Monroe. The community enjoyed guest appearances from Santa and Mrs. Claus, Mayor Thomas, Councilmember Kevin Hanford, Councilmember Jim Kamp, Chamber of Commerce President Mike Buse and a very special guest; 'Redman' the donkey who visited us from Lord Hill Farms. As a thank you to Santa and Mrs. Claus for making the trip to Monroe from the North Pole, Mayor Thomas presented them with a special coin as a token of the community's appreciation.

During the event, attendees listened to live music performances on our mobile stage. Mayor Thomas lead the countdown down to tree lighting with the help of the Monroe Youth Cheerleaders, the Frank Wagner Elementary Choir and a cheering crowd.

Many local businesses and organizations came together to create this free public event, each contributing something to the attendees; handing out hot cider/cocoa, Pilot House Coffee, Monroe Pizza and Pints cinnamon knots (150 donated), reindeer food, candy canes, lit up cars with activities for kids, outdoor firepits from Monroe Fireplace, and pictures with Santa coordinated by Windermere Monroe.

Light Up Monroe is made possible by these amazing event sponsors: Monroe Chamber of Commerce, Sam's Cats and Dogs Naturally, Monroe Boys & Girls Club, Natural Factors, Windermere Monroe, City of Monroe, Downtown Monroe Association, Edward Jones - Financial Advisor: Brian Metcalf, Brookdale Monroe, Community Transit, Hill Street Cleaners.

Special thank you to our Light Sponsors: Windermere Monroe, Penrith Home Loans, Sally Petty - American Family Insurance Agent, Speedway Chevrolet, Jones Family Orthodontics, The Church at Maltby/Monroe.

This event is also made possible with assistance from the Snohomish County Hotel/Motel Tax Fund.



December 1, 2019 Light Up Monroe Event. Roughly 800 people attended

---

## Julia V. Morris Centennial Garden 2019 Reports

The JVM Garden had a bountiful season. 2,601 pounds of produce was harvested and donated to the Sky Valley Food Bank. See the full annual report, monthly harvest data and historical numbers at the end of this document.

### 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 preview. The following is a summary of data for the past month:

#### Locations: Al Borlin Park, Lake Tye Park, Sky River Park

DATE	TOTAL LABOR HOURS	# BAGS OF LITTER COLLECTED	NOTES
11/5	7	.5	1 camp found at Lake Tye Park. Police contacted.
11/13	8.5	3	2 camps found at Sky River Park. Police contacted.
11/19	10	0	1 camp found at Al Borlin Park. Police contacted.
11.26	4.5	0	
<b>Avg.</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>.875</b>	
			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 Katie Darrow at (360) 863-4519.

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

# Julia V. Morris Centennial Garden (JVM Garden)

a food bank garden since 1999

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

NOVEMBER  
2019

Our **MISSION** is to maintain the Julia V. Morris Centennial Garden as an evolving, sustainable community resource, growing food and educating to help eliminate food insecurity in our community.

**We grow food for the Sky Valley Food Bank.**

### Garden Results 2019

- **2,601** pounds of produce harvested  
May to October (38% increase over 2018)
- **\$8,359** monetary value of produce
- **\$31,533\*\*** value of 1,240 hours by 30 volunteers



- **\$1,250** Monetary donations
- **\$3,641** Value of **IN KIND** donations

\*\* (Hourly average taken from: <https://independentsector.org>)

It has been quite a transition year! A goal of the JVM Garden Steering Committee this year was to begin using sustainable practices to grow healthy soil, examples of which are: cover crops, crop rotation, composting, limited tilling, safe pest management and organic fertilizer.

It's working! While cleaning up in October we discovered the delightful presence of happy worms all munching their way toward healthy soil.

<https://regenerationinternational.org> <http://www.notill.org/gabe-brown>



"In this season of gratitude, I express my heartfelt thanks to the JVM food bank garden volunteers. It warms my heart each time I drive by the garden and see all the volunteers happily working.

Our customers at the food bank are extremely thankful for the garden bounty – the fresh produce is the first thing they select!

The Food Bank is privileged to work collaboratively with the JVM Garden. Together we help many families in our community."

Cindy Chessie, Executive Director  
Sky Valley Food Bank

### Wonderful Donors for 2019

**THANK YOU ALL!!!**

*Sky Valley Food Bank  
Monroe Garden Club  
Monroe Fred Meyer  
Dianne & Richard Forth  
Joie Worthen  
Staci L. Logar*

### IN KIND Donations

*Christian Santori: Washing Station  
Snohomish Conservation District  
Chris Reedy: aerial photos of garden  
Bailey Compost: compost  
Cascade Coffee of Everett: burlap bags  
Samantha Idle and Amy Martin: advice, help, and supplies for our first irrigation water saving system  
Snohomish County Fruit Society: plants  
Monroe Community Senior Center: photocopying  
Original Pilot House: burlap bags  
Joanne Pinnell, Gene and Sue Mensching, Chris Albus  
Diane Carlson, Ginny and Mike Read, Jeannette Susor  
Jeff Rasmussen and Monroe Rotary Club for help in April as part of World Rotary Day  
City of Monroe: the Departments of Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Police*

**ALSO: thanks to our GARDEN PARTNERS** for their oversight and direction: the City of Monroe Parks & Recreation Department, Sky Valley Food Bank, Monroe Community Senior Center, and Monroe Boys & Girls Club.

"I am delighted to have found this community of fellow gardeners, and the bonus to contribute to the food bank. Thank you for the friendship of this group."

Cheryl Black

"We began volunteering at the JVM Food Bank Garden to give back to our community in Monroe. We have discovered that the experience is giving back to us in many ways. The warm welcome by the committed volunteers has led to new friendships. The wealth of gardening knowledge among the other volunteers is phenomenal. As a result, our own home garden is improving because of our time at the JVM food bank Garden. What matters most is that we are helping provide fresh, healthy food to others."

Gene and Sue Mensching

Report presented by 2019 **JVM Garden Steering Committee**: Chris Albus, Pat Castiglione, Diane Carlson, Sheryl Hunter, Amy Martin, Joanne Pinnell, Ginny Read, Jeannette Susor

## TOTAL POUNDS with MONETARY VALUE 2019

Vegetable	Total pounds	Monetary Value
Radish	59	308
Rhubarb	50	200
Bok choy	11	44
Lettuce	392	1,486
Sno Peas	35	123
Cabbage	378	945
Beets	166	996
Carrots	154	116
Peppers	131	491
Tomatoes	489	1,956
Herb: Parsley, Oregano, Basil,	35	210
Cucumber	82	103
Tomatillos	366	728
Green Beans	245	613
Kale	4	20
Swiss Chard	4	20
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>\$8,359</b>

NOTES: Crops are listed in the order in which they were harvested. Monetary Values are rounded up or down to the nearest dollar. To arrive at the above Monetary Values we based prices on the averages of both the local supermarket values plus the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s ‘Table of Average Price per pound’

(<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/fruit-and-vegetable-prices.aspx> )

Facts that complicate pricing are that some of the varieties we grow are not available commercially; and that produce pricing varies during the season. Lastly, we noticed that overall, the prices of produce have increased since 2018.

### Special Project in 2019



**JUNE 15:** Eagle Scout project of Christian Santori (of Lake Stevens): Christian volunteered at JVM a couple years ago and wanted to return and do his project here. He and fellow scout members plus parents built a much needed produce washing station consisting of three half rain barrels (which were donated by Snohomish County Conservation District), and mounting them on wood frames set on a brick platform.

“After years of admiring and walking through the garden on our way to the library or Sky River park, my three-year-old daughter and I finally started volunteering at the JVM Garden this year. We both have had so much fun each week seeing everyone there and helping with harvesting, weeding, and watering. It was something special for us to look forward to and talk about each week. We both really enjoy growing food in our garden at home, but it was especially great to be able to help the efforts in this community space and then walk the food we helped grow over to the food bank. It was a great learning experience for my daughter and it opened up a dialogue about food and where it comes from and how we can help others. We’re both glad to have been a part of the 2019 growing season!”

Bridget Dove

## WHAT VOLUNTEERS DID THIS YEAR

### January/ February/March

- Plan crops and changes we want for this year
- Match food bank clients' needs to harvest plans
- Volunteers grow plant starts at home
- Install new fence panels for growing snow peas
- March 16: **OPENING DAY**



### April/May/June

- Plant cool season crops: radish, bok choy, snow peas, lettuce, cabbage, beets, carrots
- Install wire fence to keep hungry rabbits out of emerging lettuce and beans
- Plant new pollinator garden
- Prepare beds and install fencing supports for tomatoes, peppers and pole beans
- Install irrigation lines throughout the season for *water wise gardening*
- Our **first harvest, May**: radishes
- Install shade cloth on greenhouse to protect veggie starts from 85 degree weather in May
- Christian Santori's Eagle Scout project on June 15: produce Washing Station!
- Plant warm weather crops: Cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, tomatillos



### July/August

- Continue harvesting
- Install wire fence around cabbage starts for protection from nibbling rabbits
- Cabbages ready – The new cabbage variety tried this year was very successful!
- Sheet mulching continually done throughout the season to control weeds
- Plant fall crops: kale, swiss chard, more beets and carrots



### September/October/November

- Plant overwintering crops and any spring bulbs
- Continue harvesting and begin Cleanup. Pulling tomatillos out
- Cover crop planted and ready for winter
- Gather leaves for winter mulch on **CLOSING DAY**: Oct. 30



## Some of the harvests in 2019

It has been a pleasure volunteering this year! I found a wonderful, caring, grounded group who shared the same passion that I do about the earth and community service. I look forward to another season! Aaron Edmunds

### JUNE/JULY...



### AUGUST...



### SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER...



To volunteer or join the Steering Committee please contact [friendsofjvmgarden@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofjvmgarden@gmail.com) FB: Friends of JVM Garden

# Julia V. Morris Centennial Garden

*A food bank garden since 1999*



## HARVEST POUNDS by Month 2019

VEGETABLES	Number of lbs. MAY	Number of lbs. JUNE	Number of lbs. JULY	Number of lbs. AUG	Number of lbs. SEPT	Number of lbs. OCT	TOTAL lbs. of each Vegetable
Radish	59						59
Rhubarb	16	18				16	50
Bok Choy	11						11
Lettuce		104	102	6	154	26	392
Sno Peas		6	27	2			35
Cabbage		160	190	28			378
Beets		22	120	24			166
Carrots			114	40			154
Peppers			11	36	60	24	131
Tomatoes			44	279	166		489
Herbs: Parsley, Oregano, Basil			20	6	9		35
Cucumber			20	54	8		82
Tomatillos			12	160	122	72	366
Green Beans: Pole & Bush			2	84	29	130	245
Kale						4	4
Chard						4	4
<b>TOTAL lbs. each MONTH</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>2,601</b>

**TOTAL POUNDS 2019: 2,601**

# Gardening grows community

## Julia V. Morris Centennial Garden (JVM Garden)

*A food bank garden in Monroe WA since 1999*



## Historical Record of Harvest

Total pounds grown and Monetary Value since 2000

The following numbers represent the total pounds of produce grown, harvested and donated to the Sky Valley Food Bank through the years since the Garden's beginnings in Fall of 1999. Per Sky Valley Food Bank and JVM Garden records.

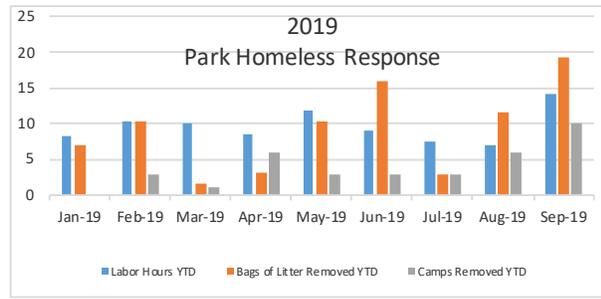
(Monetary Value numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar amount.)



YEAR	POUNDS	MONETARY VALUE
2000	1,309	Unknown
2001	2,130	Unknown
2002	637	Unknown
2003	1,661	Unknown
2004	1,695	Unknown
2005	1,637	Unknown
2006	2,004	Unknown
2007	2,148	Unknown
2008	2,877	Unknown
2009	1,283	Unknown
2010	1,619	Unknown
2011	1,595	Unknown
2012	3,141	Unknown
2014	3,064	\$8,781
2015	4,503	\$10,389
2016	3,821	\$10,372
2017	2,261	\$5,831
2018	1,612	\$5,240
2019	2,601	\$7,928
2020		

## 2017-2019 Park Homelessness Response

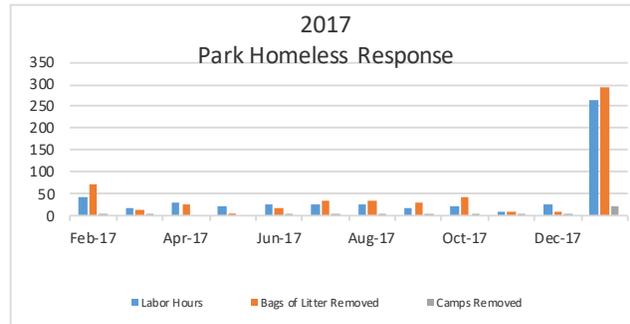
	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-19	8.3	7	
Feb-19	10.2	10.3	3
Mar-19	10	1.5	1
Apr-19	8.5	3.25	6
May-19	11.9	10.25	3
Jun-19	9	16	3
Jul-19	7.5	3	3
Aug-19	6.9	11.5	6
Sep-19	14.25	19.25	10
Oct-19	7.3	19.4	6
Nov-19	7.5	0.875	4
Dec-19			
<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>101.35</b>	<b>102.325</b>	<b>45</b>



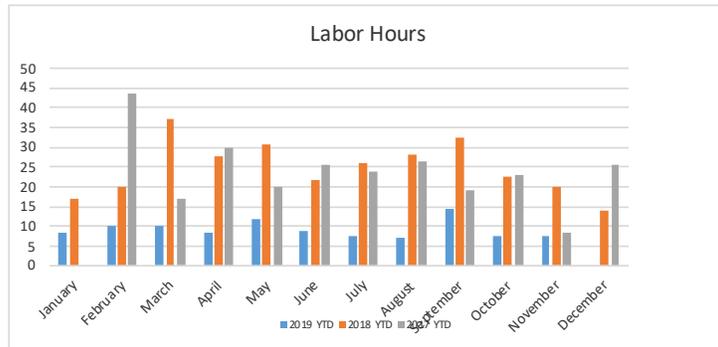
	Labor Hours	Bags of Litter Removed	Camps Removed
Jan-18	17	5	0
Feb-18	20	12	0
Mar-18	37	32	4
Apr-18	27.5	14	0
May-18	30.5	20	5
Jun-18	21.5	21	5
Jul-18	26	13	3
Aug-18	28	13	3
Sep-18	32.5	10	1
Oct-18	22.5	14	6
Nov-18	20	5	0
Dec-18	14	5	0
<b>Total 2018</b>	<b>296.5</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>27</b>



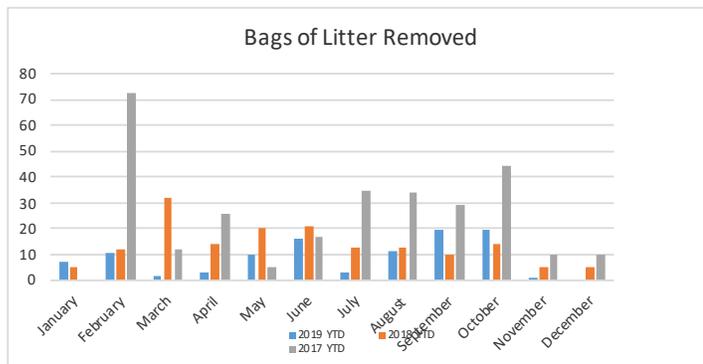
	Labor Hours	Bags of Litter Removed	Camps Removed
Feb-17	43.5	72.5	4
Mar-17	17	12	3
Apr-17	30	26	0
May-17	20	5	0
Jun-17	25.5	17	2
Jul-17	24	35	3
Aug-17	26.5	34	3
Sep-17	19	29	2
Oct-17	23	44	1
Nov-17	8.5	10	3
Dec-17	25.5	10	1
<b>Total 2017</b>	<b>262.5</b>	<b>294.5</b>	<b>22</b>



Labor Hours	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	2017 YTD
January	8.3	17	0
February	10.2	20	43.5
March	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		14	25.5



Bags of Litter Removed	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	2017 YTD
January	7	5	0
February	10.3	12	72.5
March	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		5	10



Camps Removed	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	2017 YTD
January		0	0
February	3	0	4
March	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		0	1

