



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

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 as the county has opened up for events.



Parks team members plant the medians along Main Street.

Grand Opening Celebration for Lake Tye All-Weather Lighted Fields Project

What: Lake Tye All-Weather Fields Grand Opening Celebration

When: Thursday, August 5, 2021, 5:30pm-7:00pm

Where: Lake Tye Park All-Weather Fields, 14964 Fryelands Blvd, Monroe, WA 98272

Join us as we celebrate the grand opening of the Lake Tye All-Weather Fields, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by an opportunity for all invited to enjoy informal play on the new fields!

This community high-priority parks capital project consisted of renovating two natural grass, single sport-use, unlighted fields, originally built in 1996, to all-synthetic, LED lighted multipurpose fields, permitting year-round extended competitive play and practice for baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, football and rugby. The new, synthetic fields will improve the capacity, diversity of use and accessibility of two fields at our signature community park.



The project, at a total cost of approximately \$3.9 million, was funded in part with \$1,305,000 in awarded state and county grants and a local community donation. In 2018, the City of Monroe applied for, and received a State Department of Commerce \$800,000 Appropriation, and a \$350,000 State Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) Youth Athletic Facility Grant. Also in 2018, Monroe's Sky Valley Little League donated \$10,000 cash toward the project. In 2019, the City of Monroe applied for and received a \$150,000 Snohomish County Community Partnership CIP Grant. The remaining funding for this project was budgeted from the City's Park Capital Fund.

North Hill Area Parkland Acquisition

The City of Monroe has taken steps to acquire 5 acres of land to develop into a public neighborhood park in the City's rapidly-developing North Hill Area of Monroe, and have recently completed purchase of the property. In addition, the City received notification that the State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) awarded grants for 2020 applicants during their June 30 meeting, with the City of Monroe receiving a \$1 million grant award for the property acquisition. [State Awards Grants for Outdoor Recreation, Wildlife Habitat and Working Lands - RCO](#)

Because of planned development, rapid growth and the resulting underserved population, acquiring parkland in this area has been listed as a high priority in our Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) plans for over a decade. Our current PROS Plan states that it is critical to reach the City's Level of Service Objective in the North Hill area of town. In August 2020, the Monroe City Council authorized Mayor Thomas to sign a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the 5 acre acquisition, located at the southwest corner of 191st Ave & 134th St. Staff applied for \$1 million State RCO Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program Grant to help fund the acquisition, appraised at \$1.3 million, with the remaining \$300,000 budgeted within the Parks Capital Improvement Project fund. Next steps include seeking additional grant funding to support design (with public input) and development of a park. [View the North Hill Park story in this link](#)



Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan Update

The project has moved to the strategy phase. Attached to this report is a Vision Framework for the Plan. The community’s vision for the future is integral to the City’s Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. Recent community feedback from PROS Plan outreach and from Comprehensive Plan “Imagine Monroe” focus groups and interviews was discussed in a joint Parks Advisory Board/Planning Commission meeting. Board and Commission insights were used to define the City’s values, vision and goals for parks, recreation facilities, trails, programs, and related services. Called the “vision framework,” this information provides a foundation for the entire PROS Plan. It also guides the development of strategies for systemwide enhancements and site development or improvements.

Save the Date

Join us for a Virtual Town Hall to help us shape the future of our parks. What is most important for our community?

When: Thursday July 29th, 6pm. Additional details and link to be announced at a later date.

Please visit the [PROS Plan Update project web page](#) to view information about the project, planning process, meeting & document library and to join our mailing list or contact us.



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 the present. 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
6/8	0	0	
6/22	8	1	
Avg.	4.25	.5	
			See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2017- 2020

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering for the City of Monroe, please contact Katie Darrow at (360) 863-4519.

Visit the City website www.monroewa.gov for information on upcoming programs and events.

**CITY OF MONROE
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES**

May 20, 2021

7:00 p.m.

via Zoom Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:02 pm, via Zoom online meeting platform.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Tami Kinney, Devlin Piplic, Ron Petrick, Jessie Robinson, Keith Dahlenburg
Board Members Absent: Daniel Enrico, Kyle Fisher

AGENDA REVISIONS – None.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Board Member Robinson, seconded by Board Member Petrick, to approve the March 18, 2021 Minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

1. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Discussion

City Administrator Deborah Knight presented an overview of what ARPA is and the city's distribution plan. City Administrator Knight explained that the City anticipates the distribution being an application process, through which local agencies and the City will apply for projects; there will be a differentiation between internal programs the City reserves funds for (such as staff positions, purchase of PPE), and external programs the City and entities will apply and compete for. The process for review of applications is envisioned to be reviewed by members of city advisory boards including Park Board members, with an anticipated timeline of applications going out June/July, proposals review by boards in August with recommendations to the city Council for a first distribution in September, and a second round in 2022.

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas added that the City is seeking input from the Board on ideas for projects or events that will help reconnect the community and asked that their ideas be brought forth to city staff.

General thoughts and feedback from the Board included facility improvements such as paths/sidewalks, playgrounds, sport courts such as sand volleyball, to programs such as opportunity camps, outdoor catering carts, and events in the parks and downtown.

City Administrator Knight concluded the discussion stating that there will be a follow-up discussion at the next scheduled meeting.

2. Creation of Donated Trees Record

Monroe Garden Club Member Diane Carlson requested that the Board consider creation of a listing on the city website of all tree donations to the city, noting that the Garden Club has donated multiple Arbor Day trees that were planted in parks and it would be great for the community to access information about how many trees have been donated, types, locations, when planted and why in a listing database and possibly on a map. Board members were unanimous in their support of the proposal, adding interest in a link for the listing when completed be added to the weekly Monroe This Week newsletter and ensuring that any photos are credited appropriately. Director Farrell stated that staff would begin

**Accommodations for people with disabilities will be provided upon request.
Please allow advance notice, call Mike Farrell (360) 863-4557.**

**CITY OF MONROE
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES**

compiling the information and work to develop such a database that could be accessed on the City's website.

STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

1. Monthly Staff Report was provided by the Director of Parks and Recreation, Mike Farrell who presented an update of Governor Inslee's January 5, 2021 Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery Plan; with updated guidance for Sports, Recreation & Fitness. He shared crew work on installing permanent lighting for the flagpole at Lake Tye Park, park repairs, encampment cleanups at Al Borlin Park in coordination with Police and BNSF and update of progress on construction of lighted all-weather fields at Lake Tye Park.

BOARD DISCUSSION - None

AGENCY REPORTS

Planning Commission – No report.

Monroe School District- Board Vice Chairperson Piplic reported that the Monroe School District has been very busy with work on safely reopening schools.

ADJOURNMENT – Board Member Piplic motioned to adjourn and Board Member Petrick seconded, motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Tami Kinney, Chairperson

Daniel Enrico, Secretary

**Accommodations for people with disabilities will be provided upon request.
Please allow advance notice, call Mike Farrell (360) 863-4557.**



PROS Vision Framework

The community’s vision for the future is integral to the City’s Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. Recent community feedback from PROS Plan outreach and from Comprehensive Plan “Imagine Monroe” focus groups and interviews was discussed in a joint Parks Advisory Board/Planning Commission meeting. Board and Commission insights were used to define the City’s values, vision and goals for parks, recreation facilities, trails, programs, and related services. Called the “vision framework,” this information provides a foundation for the entire PROS Plan. It also guides the development of strategies for systemwide enhancements and site development or improvements.

The elements of the vision framework are defined in the side bar and identified on the next pages.

Values

The important qualities Monroe residents want to see reflected in the park system include:

- **Stewardship:** Monroe will take care of our assets and protect our natural resources, including our trees, lakes and rivers, wetlands, and greenspaces.
- **Community Health and Livability:** Great parks, natural areas and trails ensure that Monroe is a healthy, active, livable community.
- **Family-Friendly:** Monroe’s parks, playgrounds, and sports fields support recreation activities for children, families, and residents of all ages.
- **Safety:** Our parks and facilities are designed and maintained to support public safety and comfort.
- **Connections to Nature:** Monroe’s parks foster outdoor recreation, connections to the Skykomish River, and opportunities to experience nature.
- **Vibrancy:** Unique events and facilities are critical to attract residents and visitors to our downtown and support the economic vitality of our community.

Vision Framework Elements

The vision framework is structured to answer the following questions:

What values guide the City’s provision of park and recreation services?

Our *values* describe the important qualities we want to see reflected in our park system.

How do we imagine our future park and recreation system?

Our *vision* summarizes the City’s aspirations for future parks and recreation services.

Where do we want to be in the future?

Our *goals* describe our desired directions for long-range change.

What do we want to achieve?

Our *objectives* describe the specific and measurable outcomes that contribute to achieving our goals.

What will we do to create this park system of the future?

Site *recommendations* identify the projects that we will carry out.

- **Equity and Inclusion:** We provide parks and facilities throughout the city to ensure easy and equitable access for all residents, no matter their age, income or ability.
- **Connectivity:** We promote park access and a walkable, bikeable community by providing an interconnected regional, local, and nature trail system.
- **Commitment:** Our staff will use resources wisely to provide quality, sustainable parks and facilities that reflect the character, history, culture and values of our community.
- **Collaboration:** We will work together with volunteers, stakeholders, schools and partners to leverage resources and maximize the benefit to our community.

Vision

A new vision for the parks and recreation system is proposed:

Great parks, natural areas, and trails foster outdoor recreation and protect our riverfront to create an active, beautiful and livable city.

Mission

The existing mission for the Parks and Recreation Department is carried forward into the revised plan:

The Monroe Parks and Recreation Department is committed to:

- *Protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of Monroe through the development of a vibrant system of parks, open space, and trails.*
- *Providing citizens of all ages positive recreational opportunities in clean, safe, and accessible recreation facilities.*
- *Enhancing health, quality living, and the natural environment for future generations.*

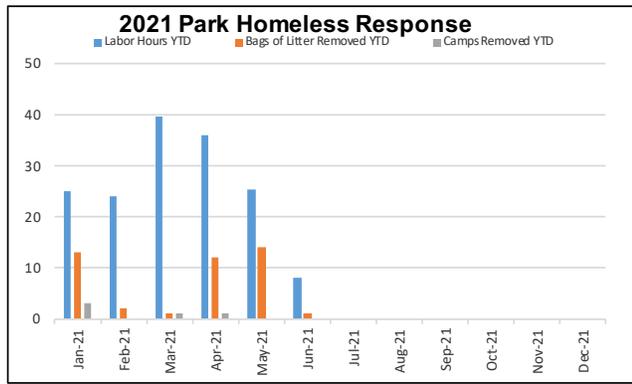
Goals

Systemwide objectives and site recommendations, which will be developed in the next phase of the planning process, will help achieve the following goals:

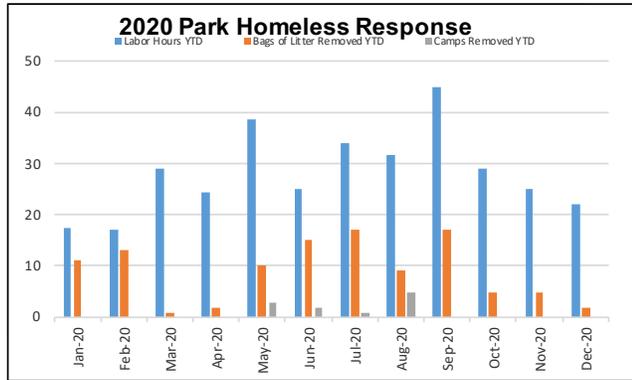
- **Well-Stewarded Parks:** Manage, maintain, and revitalize parks, facilities, and natural resources to support safe, attractive and engaging recreation space and green space.
- **Vibrant Riverfront:** Enhance parks, recreation amenities, and trails along the Skykomish River to create a riverfront system that supports local use and recreation tourism.
- **Outdoor Recreation Hub:** Provide unique recreational amenities that attract residents and visitors to Monroe's outdoor activities, programs and events.
- **Park Access:** Develop parks and minimize barriers to ensure residents have equitable access to recreation opportunities within walking or biking distance from home.
- **Connectivity:** Provide an interconnected network of multi-use trails, walkways and bikeways connecting city and regional destinations.

2018-2021 Park Homelessness Response

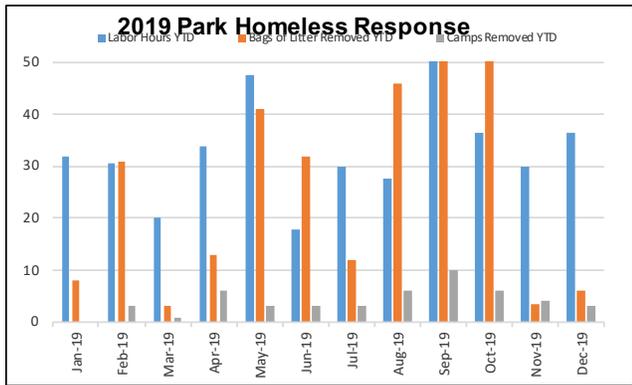
	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-21	25	13	3
Feb-21	24	2	0
Mar-21	39.5	1	1
Apr-21	36	12	1
May-21	25.5	14	0
Jun-21	8	1	0
Jul-21			
Aug-21			
Sep-21			
Oct-21			
Nov-21			
Dec-21			
Total 2021	158	43	5



	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-20	17.5	11	0
Feb-20	17	13	0
Mar-20	29	1	0
Apr-20	24.5	2	0
May-20	38.5	10	3
Jun-20	25	15	2
Jul-20	34	17	1
Aug-20	31.5	9	5
Sep-20	45	17	0
Oct-20	29	5	0
Nov-20	25	5	0
Dec-20	22	2	0
Total 2020	338	107	11



	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-19	32	8	0
Feb-19	30.5	31	3
Mar-19	20	3	1
Apr-19	34	13	6
May-19	47.5	41	3
Jun-19	18	32	3
Jul-19	30	12	3
Aug-19	27.5	46	6
Sep-19	57	77	10
Oct-19	36.5	97	6
Nov-19	30	3.5	4
Dec-19	36.5	6	3
Total 2019	399.5	369.5	48



	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-18	25.5	10	0
Feb-18	17	5	0
Mar-18	20	12	4
Apr-18	37	32	0
May-18	27.5	14	5
Jun-18	30.5	20	5
Jul-18	31.5	23	3
Aug-18	26	13	3
Sep-18	28	13	1
Oct-18	32.5	10	6
Nov-18	30	18	0
Dec-18	32	11	0
Total 2018	337.5	181	27

