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## 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.**

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## Department Update

### Operations

Parks and Recreation Department team members have been busy this spring with daily recreation use of our park's facilities and athletic fields, as well as scheduled maintenance, park improvements, cleaning and repair work on facilities, equipment and landscaped areas. In addition, team members have been working to assist with the completion of the Lake Tye All-Weather Fields and prepping for the opening of the fields. Then with high temperatures this summer, watering has been a continued, demanding task for the staff.



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### Cascade Community Church's 'Serve Monroe'

Cascade Community Church has been volunteering with the City and Parks Department to complete various volunteer projects for their 'Serve Monroe' event. In July, this included volunteering with our Parks Department to paint dugouts at the Lake Tye Park grass baseball field, raking and cleaning the sand at the Lake Tye Park baseball field and helping to evenly spread the play chips at the Lake Tye Park playground. More projects to come in August but we are excited and thankful for their service.

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### Arborist Training Class

ACRT Inc. held a 10-day Basic Arborist Training Class at Lewis Street Park in July. This class brought in attendees from many different states including Oregon and Idaho in which completion included a certification. The class actively worked on trees at the Lewis Street Park and Al Borlin Park locations.



Basic Arborist Training participants practicing at Lewis Street Park.

### National Night Out Against Crime

National Night Out Against Crime returned this past Tuesday at 5:30pm at Lake Tye Park. Parks and Recreation hosted a booth in which in addition to our usual park swag and informational materials we were able to include interactive signs for the community to provide feedback for our PROS plan. We received roughly 700 responses to various subjects.



The Parks and Recreation booth at National Night Out Against Crime.

### Lake Tye Park All-Weather Fields Grand Opening

This past Thursday, we celebrated the grand opening of the Lake Tye All-Weather Lighted Fields. The new fields offer 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. All are invited to enjoy informal play on the new fields following the Opening Ceremony.

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.



### Music in the Park Recap

July wrapped up our Friday night Music in the Park event series which is hosted by Monroe Chamber of Commerce. Thank you to everyone who came out for the events. We had record turnouts this year.



The Spazmatics / Aphrodisiacs performance on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

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### July Welcomed Two New Events to Monroe

On July 18 Monroe welcomed the first annual Monroe Criterium which is a high-speed bicycle race which requires a certain number of laps to be completed. The event took place in the industrial area of the City on Tye St SE from 169th Dr SE to 167th Ave SE, 167<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, 146th St SE from 167th Ave SE to 169th Dr SE and 169<sup>th</sup> Dr. SE. The event had a great turnout of competitors from all over the state and organizers plan to return in 2022 and grow the event.



The second new event was a Spikeball Tournament which took place July 24-25 at Skykomish River Park. This is a new sport that includes teams of #2 and is played 2 vs.2. It is described as a mix between volleyball and four-square.



### **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**

A virtual Town Hall meeting was held Thursday, July 29th at 6pm to help us shape the future of our parks. What is most important for our community? The presentation for the meeting can be viewed here: [Parks Virtual Town Hall Meeting](#)

Community members who couldn't make the meeting had another opportunity to weigh in by participating in a fun questionnaire activity at the Parks & Recreation Department booth during the well-attended National Night Out Against Crime event at Lake Tye Park, Tuesday, August 3.

Visit the PROS Plan page at <http://www.monroewa.gov/994/Parks-Recreation-Open-Space-PROS-Plan-Up> to learn more about the PROS Plan update project.



**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: Lake Tye Park**

DATE	TOTAL LABOR HOURS	# BAGS OF LITTER COLLECTED	NOTES
7/14	6.5	0	
7/25	2.5	0	
7/28	9	24	2 Camps removed.
<b>Avg.</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	
			See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2018- 2021

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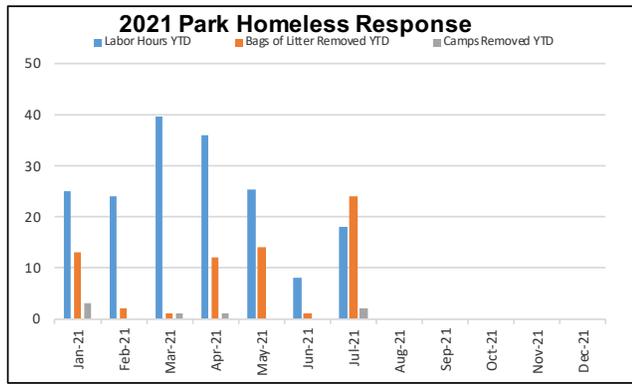
**Volunteer Opportunities**

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

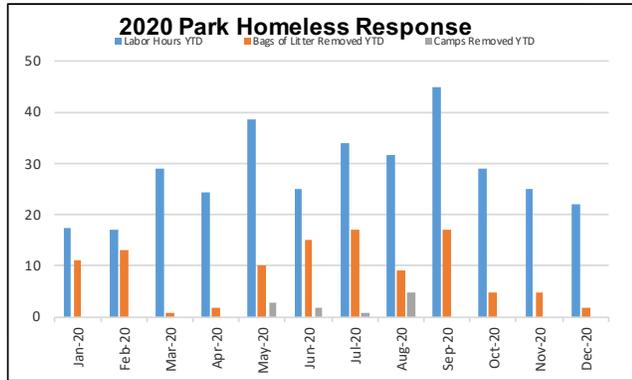
Visit the City website [www.monroewa.gov](http://www.monroewa.gov) for information on upcoming programs and events.

## 2018-2021 Park Homelessness Response

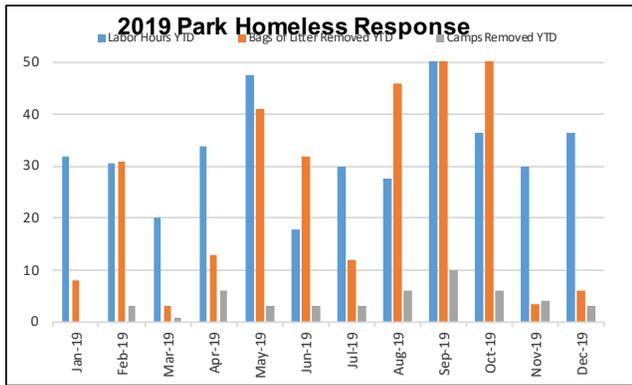
	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-21	25	13	3
Feb-21	24	2	0
Mar-21	39.5	1	1
Apr-21	36	12	1
May-21	25.5	14	0
Jun-21	8	1	0
Jul-21	18	24	2
Aug-21			
Sep-21			
Oct-21			
Nov-21			
Dec-21			
<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>7</b>



	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
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>11</b>



	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
<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>399.5</b>	<b>369.5</b>	<b>48</b>



	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
<b>Total 2018</b>	<b>337.5</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>27</b>

