



City of Monroe, Washington
Parks & Recreation Department

April, 2022

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

Over the past month, parks crew members have been working hard to maintain the sports fields in challenging weather conditions, staying ahead of the spring grass growth, and keeping the trails clear at Al Borlin Park. Additional projects in April included reinstalling damaged plants at the 154th and 179th intersection, and reinstalling damaged plants at Rotary Field. Crews have also been working to provide user groups and event participants a clean, safe, and positive experience in our parks.



Trees down over the trails at Al Borlin Park.



Reinstalling damaged plants at Rotary Field and at the 154th and 179th intersection.

Parks Department Supervisor Hired

In April we said Happy Retirement to Dale Olson who had been with the city for 32 years. At the end of the month, we welcomed Mike Thomas into the Parks Supervisor Position. Mike has worked for the city for the past 7 years as a Parks Maintenance worker and then as our Parks Lead. We welcome him into his new position!



Monroe Park Board

The Monroe Park Board met on April 21, 2022. Items discussed were:

- Information presented about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) and requested volunteers to review applications for the second round.
- 2023 Strategic Priorities and 2023-2027 Strategic Plan were reviewed, and members were asked to gather requests to help prioritize the funds and planning.
- Updates on the North Hill Area Neighborhood Park development plan. Development of the park will be split into 2 phases due to massive cost increases on materials and labor.
- Staff reviewed the Community Development Report with the Park Board.

The Park Board currently has 2 vacant seats. Please visit our website to learn more about how to serve.

Attached to this document are minutes from the February 17, 2022, Park Board Meeting (the March meeting was canceled).

North Hill Area Neighborhood Park Update

Staff is preparing grant applications to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks Program and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the Phase 1 development of the North Hill Area Neighborhood Park (image attached).

The goal of developing Phase 1 is to activate the park for residents with amenities including site preparation and the development of open space play areas, grading, utilities, pathways, parking area, viewing area, and the medium shelter. Completing Phase 1 establishes the infrastructure

for the City to fund amenities, such as sports courts, identified in Phase 2. The parcel is located at the southwest intersection of 134th Street SE and 191st Avenue SE, in the City of Monroe.

The total estimated cost for building Phase 1 is approximately \$5,000,000 with full buildout of the project (Phase 1 and 2) estimated at \$10,000,000. The City is requesting the maximum grant amount from LWCF (\$2,000,000) and WWRP (\$500,000) totaling \$2,500,000. If awarded, the City would be responsible for a 50 percent (50%) match or \$2,500,000. The current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) identifies \$4,000,000 for the development of the North Hill Area Neighborhood Park in 2025.

Monroe Community Egg Hunt

After a two-year break, the Monroe Community Egg Hunt returned on Saturday, March 16th and was a huge success. We had roughly 40 booths hosted by local businesses and organizations and were told this was one of the largest turnouts yet. We've received many comments on the success of the event. We thank our many sponsors and donors for making this possible and for our staff for the set-up, take down, and operational duties of the event.



Sky Valley Trout Unlimited's Kid's Fishing Day

Kid's Fishing Day returned April 24th at Lake Tye Park and as always brought many big smiles with it. 1,500 fish were placed for the kids inside the net at Lake Tye with #2 \$500 prize fish, one for the kids, and one for the adults.



Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration on April 29th. Mrs Tenney's 3rd Grade Class from Fryelands Elementary assisted Mayor Thomas in planting a Pacific Sunset Maple which was donated by A Group of Gardening Friends in Honor of the Monroe Garden Club.



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:

DATE	TOTAL LABOR HOURS	# BAGS OF LITTER COLLECTED	NOTES
4/5	4	0	
4/19	2.5	0	
4/26	5	0	
Avg.	3.83	0	
			See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2019- 2022

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**

February 17, 2022

7:00 p.m.

via Zoom Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Board Member Robinson called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:06pm, via Zoom online meeting platform.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Jessie Robinson, Ron Petrick, Amy Martin, and Keith Dahlenburg
Board Members Absent: Daniel Enrico

AGENDA REVISIONS – None

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Board Member Martin, seconded by Board Member Petrick, to approve the January 20, 2022, minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed amendments to Chapter 4.50 MMC

City staff presented proposed changes to the City's Municipal Code governing the Park Board. The proposed amendment would replace the representatives from the School District and the Planning Commission with two at large members. The purpose of this amendment is to allow greater participation from the public. Board members raised concerns regarding the continued communication between the School District and Planning Commission. Staff stated the communication would continue between staff members and the Board would be provided monthly staff reports from the Community Development Department.

2. Lodging Assessment

City staff provided an update on the City's lodging assessment effort. The City hired a consultant to conduct a lodging needs and demand assessment for Monroe. The study will review traditional lodging needs such as hotels, but the study will include other lodging needs such as camping. The purpose of the study is to identify lodging opportunities in Monroe and market these opportunities to hospitality businesses.

STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

1. An update on the North Hill Area Neighborhood Park was provided by city staff. The City was preparing to conduct a second open house to solicit neighborhood input on the future park. The first workshop produced two parks concepts that will be discussed at the second workshop. The main theme of each proposal was an open space play area for the surrounding community.
2. The Board received an update on the new *City Council, Boards, and Commissions Resource Manual* by City staff. The manual provides several links to resources frequently used by these groups. The manual also provides background information on local government in Washington State.

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**

3. The Park Board was provided a copy of the Community Development Monthly Report. The report is intended to keep the Board apprised of development projects taking place in Monroe.

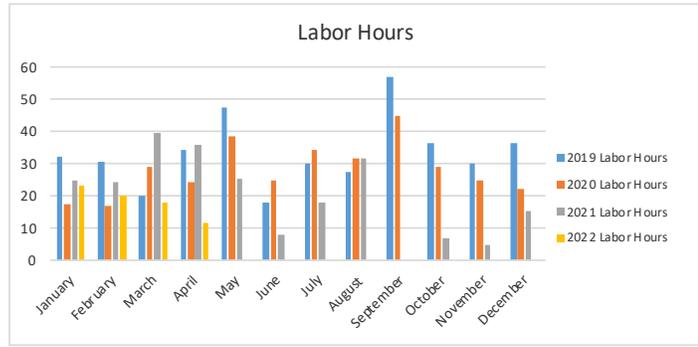
BOARD Reports/Updates – None

ADJOURNMENT – Board Member Petrick motioned to adjourn, and Board Member Martin seconded. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

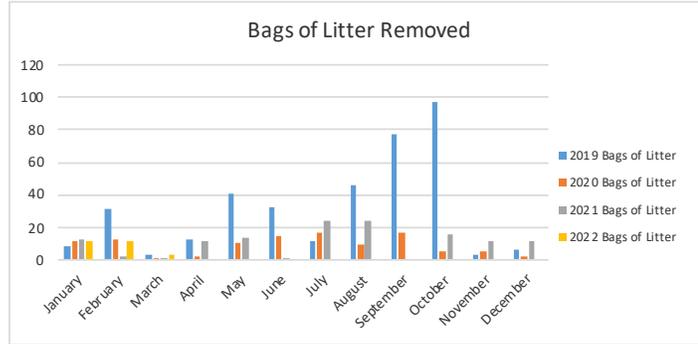
Jessie Robinson, Chairperson

2019-2022 Park Homelessness Response

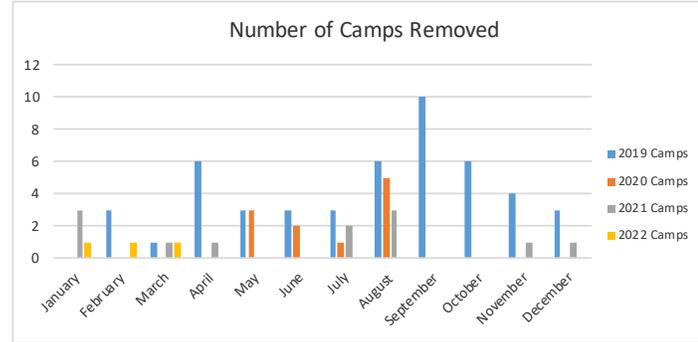
	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-22	23	12	1
Feb-22	20	12	1
Mar-22	18	3	1
Apr-22	11.5	0	0
May-22			
Jun-22			
Jul-22			
Aug-22			
Sep-22			
Oct-22			
Nov-22			
Dec-22			
Total 2022	72.5	27	3



	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	31.5	24	3
Sep-21	0	0	0
Oct-21	7	16	0
Nov-21	4.5	12	1
Dec-21	15.5	12	1
Total 2021	234.5	131	12



	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