



City of Monroe, Washington  
Parks & Recreation Department

March, 2023

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## Mission

**Protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of Monroe through the development of a vibrant system of parks, open space, and trails. Providing residents of all ages positive opportunities for recreation and social gathering in clean, safe, accessible, and inclusive facilities and green spaces. Enhancing health, quality of living, and the natural environment for present and future generations.**

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## Department Update

### Operations

The Parks field crewmembers have been working on finishing up projects that were started this last winter. The Lewis Street men's restroom was repainted due to multiple graffiti incidents that occurred over the last year. The crew is finishing installing the cigarette urns that were ordered in 2022 for the downtown area. During the windows of dry weather, the crew is shaping the baseball fields for the spring season.



Pressure washing the restroom/concessions building at Lake Tye.



Aerial view of Sky River ballfields being prepped and mowed.

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### Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering for the City of Monroe, please contact Makenna Ohlsen at (360) 863-4559. Visit the City website [www.monroewa.gov](http://www.monroewa.gov) for information on upcoming programs and events.

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## Thanks to Our Donors!

Our deepest gratitude to the following groups for their continued contributions to the City of Monroe and the Parks Department!

### Downtown Planter Pots

Special thanks to the generosity of **Plants Northwest** for donating Rosemary and Nepeta plants at a value of **\$1,520** for planting in the 32 planter pots in our historic downtown. Thank you to community volunteers Samantha Idle, Pat Castiglione, Sheri Watson, and Park Board Member Amy Martin who planted them on Sunday morning, March 26. They look wonderful! Plants Northwest has also committed to planting annual flowers in the pots later this spring when temperatures are favorable for them.

### Republic Services Community Support

Special thanks and appreciation to **Republic Services** for their continued partnership with the City of Monroe in providing services and support for our community. For the 12<sup>th</sup> year, Republic Services will be the prime financial sponsor of our **Movies Under the Moon** outdoor movie series in the amount of **\$2,000** (\$500 each movie night). Last year the crowds grew to approximately 400+ per movie night.

In addition, the City received a donation of **\$500** from **Republic Services** in their continued financial support of the City's downtown flower beautification program toward the **hanging baskets** that are a signature feature of our community.

Lastly, we appreciate **Republic Services'** continued in-kind support of providing **complimentary garbage/recycling totes and small dumpster services** for two key annual community events: the **Egg Hunt on April 8<sup>th</sup>** and **National Night Out on August 1<sup>st</sup>**, which bring out thousands of community attendees in these fun and healthy social events.



Sheri Watson, Amy Martin, Samantha Idle, & Pat Castiglione after planting to downtown pots

### 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 2019 to the present. The following is a summary of data for the past month:

#### Locations: Sky River & Al Borlin

| DATE        | TOTAL LABOR HOURS | # BAGS OF LITTER COLLECTED | NOTES  |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 3/9         | 5                 | 6 + 1 mattress             | Sky River  |
| 3/9         | 4                 | 0                          | Al Borlin  |
| 3/27        | 2                 | 0                          | Al Borlin – 1 camp found, inspection only            |
| <b>Avg.</b> | <b>3.7</b>        | <b>2</b>                   |  |
|             |                   |                            | See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2019- 2023 |

### Monroe Park Board

The Monroe Park Board met on Thursday, March 16, 2023.

Staff reported on the Easter Egg Hunt event happening on April 8<sup>th</sup>, the Blueberry Children’s Park open house for the playground renovations on April 20<sup>th</sup>, and explained the recent Request for Proposals that was sent out for the Master Trails Plan project.

Attached to this report are the approved February 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

**\*\*\*The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 7:00pm. This meeting will be a Public Open House for the Blueberry Children’s Park playground renovation options.** Meeting information will be available on the meetings calendar on the City’s website and as a newsflash, in the City’s Monroe This Week newsletter, as well as in English and Spanish on social media, in park information stations and postcards have been mailed out to the surrounding Blueberry neighborhood (see on next page).

# BLUEBERRY CHILDREN'S PARK PLAYGROUND RENOVATION OPEN HOUSE



RENOVACIÓN ABIERTA AL PÚBLICO DEL ÁREA DE JUEGOS DEL BLUEBERRY CHILDREN'S PARK

## YOU'RE INVITED!

The City of Monroe Parks Department & Parks Board are hosting an open house on **Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** at City of Monroe Council Chambers (806 West Main Street, Monroe, WA) Please join us as we display playground options for the update to Blueberry Children's Park. Attendees will vote on their favorite option.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Upon completion of the stormwater retention project within the park by the Public Works Department, the Parks Department will be completing playground improvements to Blueberry Children's Park. Funding for this project is supported by the City's CIP Funds and a Snohomish County Grant. This project is tentatively scheduled to start by the end of Summer 2023.

**ATTENDANCE:** For those unable to attend in person, the meeting will be live on Zoom: Meeting ID: 724 099 9919 / Passcode: 2022

Questions? Please contact Makenna Ohlsen, Parks Admin Assist.:  
mohlsen@monroewa.gov / 360-863-4559

## ¡ESTÁ INVITADO!

El Departamento de Parques y la Junta de Parques de la ciudad de Monroe harán una presentación abierta al público el **jueves 20 de abril a las 7:00 pm** en las Salas del Ayuntamiento de la ciudad de Monroe (806 West Main Street, Monroe, WA). Lo invitamos a la muestra de las opciones para la mejora del área de juego del Blueberry Children's Park. Los asistentes votarán por su opción preferida.

**DESCRIPCIÓN DEL PROYECTO:** Una vez que el Departamento de Obras Públicas termine el proyecto de retención de agua pluvial dentro del parque, el Departamento de Parques hará mejoras en el área de juego del Blueberry Children's Park. Este proyecto es financiado por los fondos CIP (Capital Improvement Program) de la ciudad y un subsidio del condado de Snohomish. Se prevé que el proyecto empiece a fines del verano de 2023.

**SISTENCIA:** Para aquellos que no puedan asistir en persona, la reunión se transmitirá en vivo por Zoom:  
ID de la reunión: 724 099 9919 / Contraseña: 2022

¿Tiene alguna pregunta? Comuníquese con Makenna Ohlsen,  
Secretaría de la Administración de Parques:  
mohlsen@monroewa.gov / 360-863-4559

# YOU'RE INVITED! ¡ESTÁ INVITADO!



The City of Monroe requests your presence and input at the **BLUEBERRY CHILDREN'S PARK RENOVATION OPEN HOUSE** scheduled for **Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** at City of Monroe Council Chambers (806 West Main Street, Monroe, WA)

La ciudad de Monroe solicita su presencia y opinión en la **RENOVACIÓN ABIERTA AL PÚBLICO DEL ÁREA DE JUEGOS DEL BLUEBERRY CHILDREN'S PARK**, programada para el **jueves 20 de abril a las 7:00pm** en las Salas del Ayuntamiento de la ciudad de Monroe (806 West Main Street, Monroe, WA)



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# MONROE PARK BOARD

Park Board Meeting  
Thursday, February 16, 2023, 7:00 PM  
Hybrid: Zoom Online Meeting Platform & In-Person at City Hall

**Park Board Members:**  
Jessie Robinson, Chair  
Amy Martin, Member  
Keith Dahlenburg, Member  
Brady Welever, Member  
Ron Petrick, Member  
Mariana Medina, Member  
Scot Noel, Member

## MINUTES

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robinson called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:00pm, hybrid via Zoom and in-person at Monroe Council Chambers.

### 2. ROLL CALL

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessie Robinson  | Chairperson  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Martin       | Vice Chair   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keith Dahlenburg | Board Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brady Welever    | Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ron Petrick                 | Board Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mariana Medina   | Board Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scot Noel        | Board Member |

Board Member Noel attended remotely via zoom.  
Board Member Petrick was absent.

### 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Motion was made by Board Member Dahlenburg, seconded by Chair Robinson to approve the January 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

### 6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Local Government - Structure and Functions - *Ben Swanson*

Ben Swanson explain the structure of government and the role that Park Board Members play within our government structure.

6.2. Proposed Code Amendment to MMC 5.28 - Special Events - *Ben Swanson*

Motion was made by Chair Robinson, seconded by Board Member Welever to recommend City Council approves the proposed amendments to MMC 5.28- Special Events.

## **7. STAFF/BOARD DISCUSSION**

7.1. Parks Department Report - *Ben Swanson*

Ben Swanson highlighted the uptick in vandalism this month, but noted the installation of the security cameras will hopefully deter more incidents. Board members requested that volunteer opportunities be emailed out.

7.2. Community Development Department Report - *Ben Swanson*

7.3. Wiggly Field Modifications

Board Member Noel expressed the community's interest in a fenced off section at Wiggly Field, specifically for small dogs. Parks Director Mike Farrell made note of this idea and shared some potential funding opportunities that could happen within the next budget cycle or Park Bond (between 2024-2026). Donations for funding this project are an option as well, but we will need to update the staff's work plan and vet a proper design that won't need significant modifications in the future.

7.4. Native Plants

Vice Chair Martin shared the best practices that the JVM Garden members have been using for native plants. She asked that donated or purchased trees be picked from a list of native tree types that benefit our ecosystem. Parks Director Mike Farrell notes that the PROS Plan had goals related to using native landscapes wherever possible.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

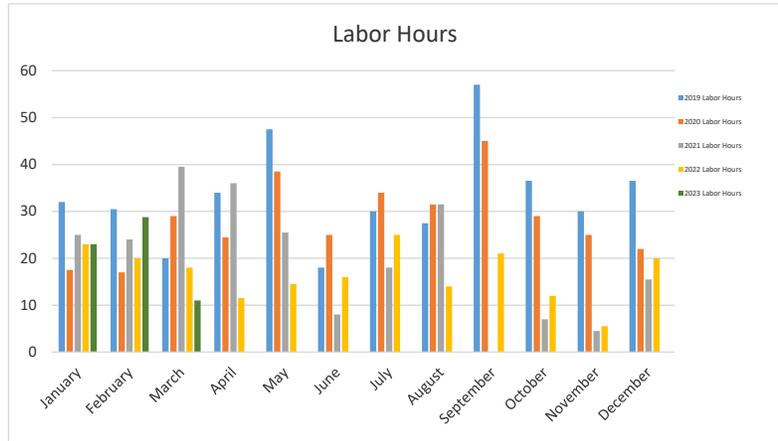
8.1. Board Member Dahlenburg motioned to adjourn and Board Member Welever seconded. Motion passed 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.

*Jessie R. Robinson*  
Chairperson

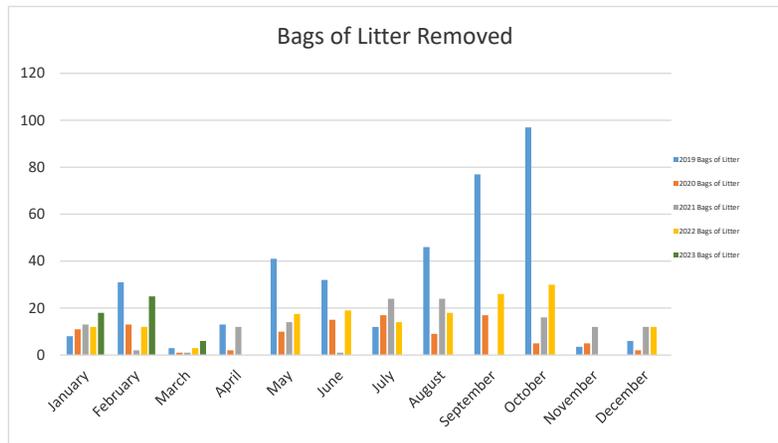
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Parks Homeless Response Data 2023

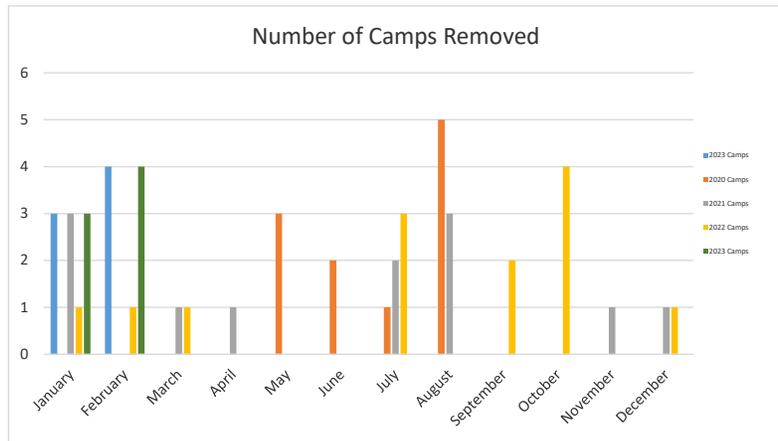
|                   | Labor Hours YTD | Bags of Litter Removed YTD | Camps Removed YTD |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Jan-23            | 23              | 18                         | 3                 |
| Feb-23            | 28.75           | 25                         | 4                 |
| Mar-23            | 11              | 6                          | 0                 |
| Apr-23            |                 |                            |                   |
| May-23            |                 |                            |                   |
| Jun-23            |                 |                            |                   |
| Jul-23            |                 |                            |                   |
| Aug-23            |                 |                            |                   |
| Sep-23            |                 |                            |                   |
| Oct-23            |                 |                            |                   |
| Nov-23            |                 |                            |                   |
| Dec-23            |                 |                            |                   |
| <b>Total 2023</b> | <b>62.75</b>    | <b>49</b>                  | <b>7</b>          |



|                   | 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            | 14.5            | 17.5                       | 0                 |
| Jun-22            | 16              | 19                         | 0                 |
| Jul-22            | 25              | 14                         | 3                 |
| Aug-22            | 14              | 18                         | 0                 |
| Sep-22            | 21              | 26                         | 2                 |
| Oct-22            | 12              | 30                         | 4                 |
| Nov-22            | 5.5             | 0                          | 0                 |
| Dec-22            | 20              | 12                         | 1                 |
| <b>Total 2022</b> | <b>200.5</b>    | <b>163.5</b>               | <b>13</b>         |



|                   | 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                 |
| <b>Total 2021</b> | <b>234.5</b>    | <b>131</b>                 | <b>12</b>         |



2019 & 2020 data is shown only on the graphs. If you would like the full data breakdown, please reach out to Makenna Ohlsen, mohlsen@monroewa.gov