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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 Maintenance & Operation crew spent the month of June clearing trails for park users in Al Borlin. Staff partnered with Monroe School District to grow the begonias for the center islands. The High School students grew the plants in the greenhouse and the crew planted them. Parks staff did some trimming and limbing of plants at Lewis Street Park to improve the visibility within the park. General pruning, mowing, safety inspections, and irrigation repairs continued throughout the month.



Picking up the begonias from the High School & planting in the center islands



Trail clearing in Al Borlin Park

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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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### June Events

Monroe **PRIDE** kicked off its 3<sup>rd</sup> year on June 11<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Monroe Equity Community. The first year, the event estimated about 700 attendees. It has continued to grow each year, bringing both residents and visitors to Sky River Park to enjoy vendors, music, food, entertainment, and more. This was a peaceful event that celebrated love, free hugs, and many smiles.



In 2020, two recent MHS graduates and a couple of Monroe’s business owners launched Monroe’s first **Juneteenth** celebration which brought about 25 socially distanced attendees together. Now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Sky River Park, Juneteenth continues to grow. From this year’s event on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, Monroe Equity Community reported “we heard a number of times just how much it truly felt like a community coming together”. We look forward to the event returning again in 2024.



Lastly, East Main Street closed down on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> for the **Monroe Block Party** hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. The event showcased local businesses, vendors, music, food, and special in-store discounts along the route. It was a beautiful sunny day for visitors and residents to come together in Historic Downtown to shop and dine. Thank you to our Public Works staff for managing the road closure and for both Public Works and Parks Department staff that worked together to assemble the performance stage.



### 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: Al Borlin, Sky River, Lake Tye & Stanton Trail**

DATE	TOTAL LABOR HOURS	# BAGS OF LITTER COLLECTED	NOTES
6/14	2	0	Al Borlin Trail - Inspection only
6/15	4.5	9	Sky River – 5 Garbage Bags, Al Borlin – 4 Garbage Bags Lake Tye & Stanton Trail – Inspection Only
<b>Avg.</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>4.5</b>	
			See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2019- 2023

**Monroe Park Board**

The Monroe Park Board met on Thursday, June 15, 2023.

Board Members completed the regular agenda items, then finished the meeting with a Park Tour of the following locations: Trombley Park, Lake Tye Park, Sky River Park, and the JVM Food Bank Garden.

Attached to this report are the approved May 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes.



# MONROE PARK BOARD

Park Board Meeting  
Thursday, May 18, 2023, 7:00 PM  
Hybrid: Zoom Online Meeting Platform & In-Person at City Hall

**Park Board Members:**  
Jessie Robinson, Chair  
Amy Martin, Vice Chair  
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 7:02pm, 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	Board Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Keith Dahlenburg	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brady Welever	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Petrick	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mariana Medina	Board Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Scot Noel	Board Member

Board Members Dahlenburg and Noel were absent.

### 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

#### 3.1. State of the City Address - *Mayor Thomas*

Mayor Thomas gave a presentation on the current state of the City, explaining the projects, goals, and plans we have coming up.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Motion was made by Board Member Martin, seconded by Board Member Welever, to approve the April 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

## 7. STAFF/BOARD DISCUSSION

### 7.1. Parks Department Report - *Mike Farrell*

Mike highlighted the crew's work for the month and the events that took place.

### 7.2. Community Development Department Report

### 7.3. Blueberry Children's Park Playground Design

The final design was displayed for the playground renovation. The only suggestion was to switch the two belt swings to the middle section of the swing set.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

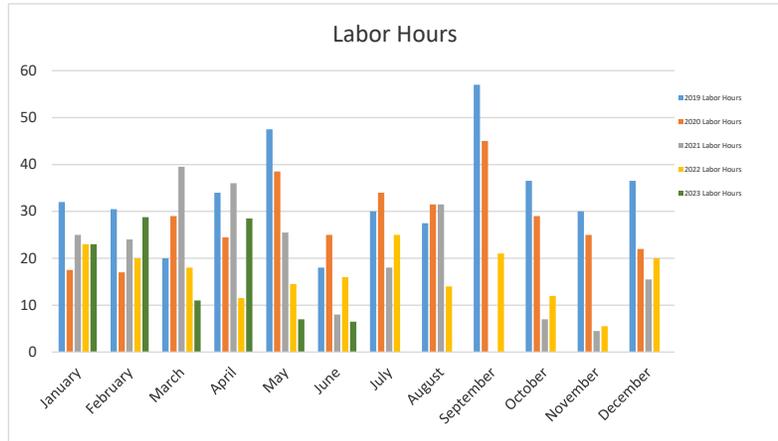
8.1. Board Members agreed to have the Park Tour during the June meeting. The board will meet at City Hall to open the meeting, then tour the following parks in order: Trombley Park, Lake Tye Park, Sky River Park, and the JVM Garden.

8.2. Board Member Petrick motioned to adjourn and Board Member Welever seconded. Motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm.

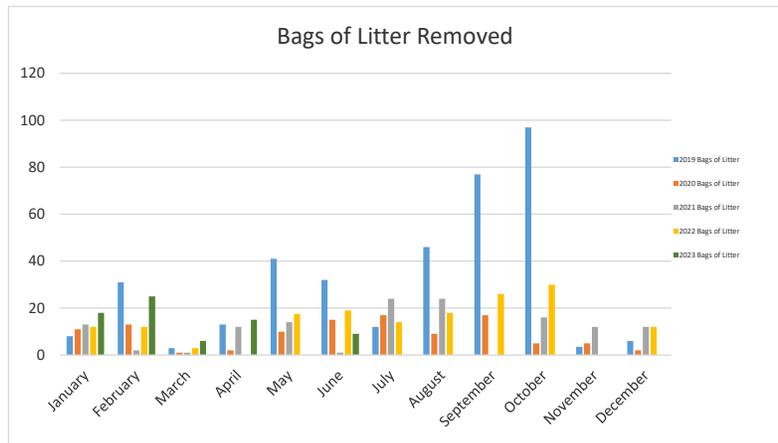
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Parks Homeless Response Data 2023

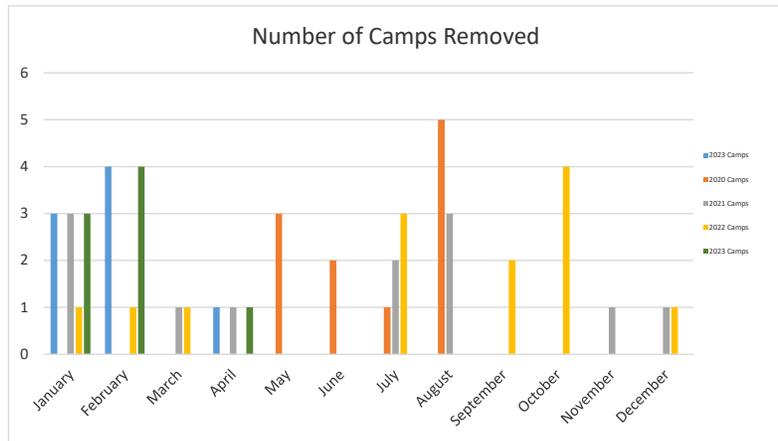
	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-23	23	18	3
Feb-23	28.75	25	4
Mar-23	11	6	0
Apr-23	28.5	15	1
May-23	7	0	0
Jun-23	6.5	9	0
Jul-23			
Aug-23			
Sep-23			
Oct-23			
Nov-23			
Dec-23			
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>104.75</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>8</b>



	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