



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 age's 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.

Department Update

Operations

In October, the parks crew worked on removing flowers from Main Street in preparation for the winter. The crew will be topdressing those areas and prepping for spring daffodils in the coming weeks. Fall leaves have begun to drop so a large amount of staff time in October was spent on mulching, blowing, and collecting the leaves. Repairs were made to Rotary restroom automatic door openers to reduce the down time on those. The month also included playground inspections, and trail inspections. The pickleball court was poured, irrigation winterization city-wide, and two memorial benches were installed at Wales Street Park and Lake Tye Skate Park. Lastly, the crew repaired a planter located on Main Street that was damaged from a collision.

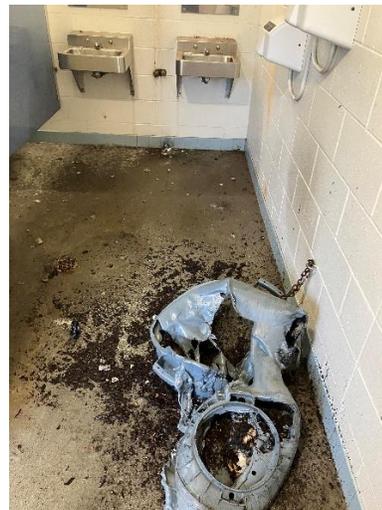


Left: Damaged planter on Main Street. Middle & Left: Pickleball Court progress at Sky River Park

Vandalism

Our parks crew has been finding regular acts of vandalism throughout our parks, in October, these included:

- 10/2/23: Burned trash can at Traveler's Park
- 10/9/23: Sky River Park sustained graffiti in two different locations: at the concession/bathroom facility and on the retaining wall of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- 10/9/23: The trash can in the Sky River Park women's restroom was burned.
- 10/10/23: Restrooms at Sky River Park were vandalized by using explosives in the toilets which also caused damage to a sink.
- 10/17/23: Rotary Restroom vandalized.
- 10/17/23: Sky River Park Shelter #1 sustained substantial graffiti.
- 10/23/23: Playground piece at Lake Tye was taken and placed in the lake.
- 10/24/23: Sky River Park Restrooms vandalized.
- 10/31/23: Sky River Restroom sustained graffiti.



Left: Graffiti on WWTP retaining wall. Middle: Burned trash can at Sky River Park Restroom.
Right: Moved playground piece at Lake Tye Park

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 for information on upcoming programs and events.

October Events

October was a quiet month for events. Beck's Place partnered with Seattle Veterinary Outreach to provide Monroe's first sliding scale-low-cost veterinary wellness clinic for those in need. The first event was at the beginning of October at Lake Tye Park. The sliding scale services provided included an exam, DHPP/FVRCP Vaccines, rabies vaccines, Lepto/Bordetella Vaccines, flea treatment, deworming, microchip, nail trim, anal glands. The clinic was first come, first-serve. We were thankful for this great opportunity for our community.

October wrapped up with the Chamber's Historic Downtown Monroe Trick or Treat event and Trunk or Treat. This is always a local favorite and a fun, family event.



Historic Downtown Trick or Treat Event

Evergreen State Fair Park Dog Park Opens

The Winter Dog Park at The Evergreen State Fair Park opened October 9th. After a successful pilot project between the city and the Fair Park in 2022 the project has now become a permanent attraction. The park is open October 9, 2023 – February 29, 2024, from dawn to dusk excluding these dates: November 17-19 & 23-24, December 23-25 & 31, January 1 & 15, and February 19. This is a great place for owners and pups to get out of the weather. The Parks Department and city are looking forward to continuing this successful partnership.



Trails Master Plan Survey

The Trails Master Plan Survey deadline has been extended and is open for public input until November 15, 2023. We are hoping to get as much input from our community as we can for this twenty-year plan.

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 Trails

DATE	TOTAL LABOR HOURS	# BAGS OF LITTER COLLECTED	NOTES
10/10	3.5		Al Borlin & Sky River – Inspection only
10/26	9	1	Sky River – 2 camps found abandoned
Avg.	6.25	.5	
			See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2019- 2023

Monroe Park Board

The Monroe Park Board met on Thursday, October 19, 2023.

Allison Jones presented to the Park Board an idea for a communication board in the parks to help children with disabilities communicate. Staff gave updates on the Parks Department, Community Development, and the upcoming TBD ballot request.

The next scheduled Park Board meeting is Thursday, November 16 at 7:00pm in the Court Room at 769 Village Way.



MONROE PARK BOARD

Park Board Meeting
Thursday, August 17, 2023, 7:00 PM
Hybrid: Zoom Online Meeting Platform & In-Person at Monroe Council Chambers

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 7:00pm, 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	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keith Dahlenburg	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brady Welever	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Petrick	Board Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Mariana Medina	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scot Noel	Board Member

Board Member Medina was absent.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1. Trails Master Plan Update - *Ben Swanson*

Ben gave a brief overview of the Open House event and let Board Members know that we could use help directing the public to the different stations during the event.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Motion was made by Board Member Martin, seconded by Board Member Welever, to approve the July 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. 2024-2029 Capital Facilities Plan Update Ben Swanson

Motion was made by Board Member Welever, seconded by Board Member Dahlenburg, to recommend approval of the Parks and Recreation portion of the proposed 2024-2029 Capital Facilities Plan. Motion carried 6-0.

7. STAFF/BOARD DISCUSSION

7.1. Parks Department Report - *Ben Swanson*

Ben highlighted the trail maintenance, encampment clean up, and irrigation project at Sky River Park completed by the parks crew. He also gave an update about the pickleball court project and the delay of the resurfacing bid.

7.2. Community Development Department Report - *Ben Swanson*

Ben mentioned that the Comprehensive Plan outreach feedback lacked a bit for the initial effort, but staff made multiple visits to the high school and community events to get more feedback results. He also gave an update on SFR data and annexation plans.

8. ADJOURNMENT

8.1. Staff made a note of a **Save the Date** for the **Trails Plan Open House**, which will replace the regular agenda items:

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

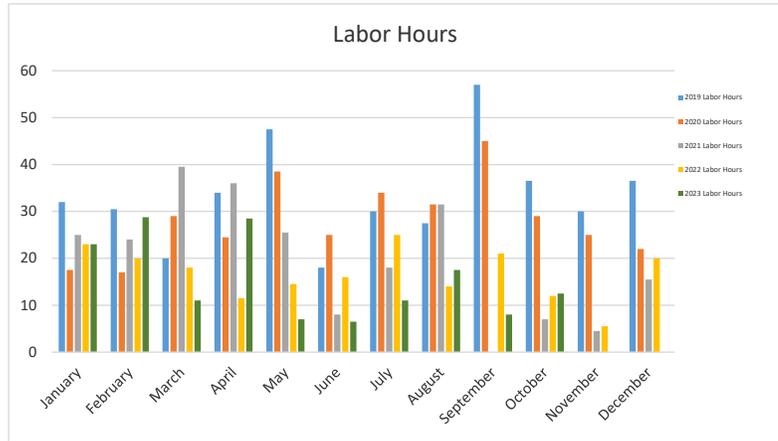
Location: Park Place Middle School Commons - 1408 W Main St. Monroe, WA 98272

8.2. Chair Robinson motioned to adjourn and Board Member Petrick seconded. Motion passed 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

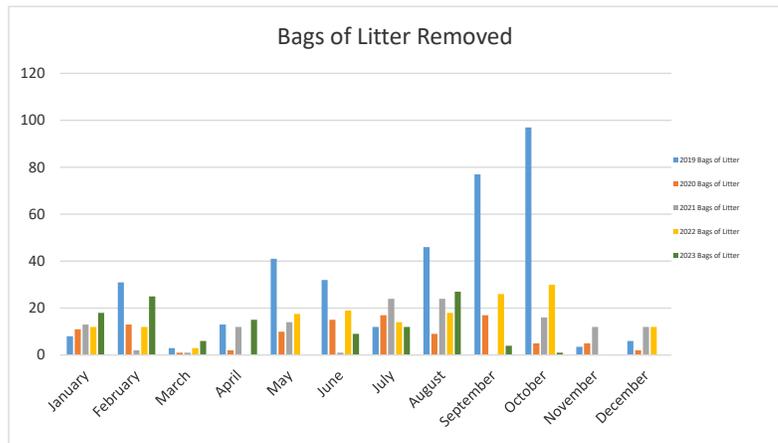
Chairperson

Parks Homeless Response Data 2023

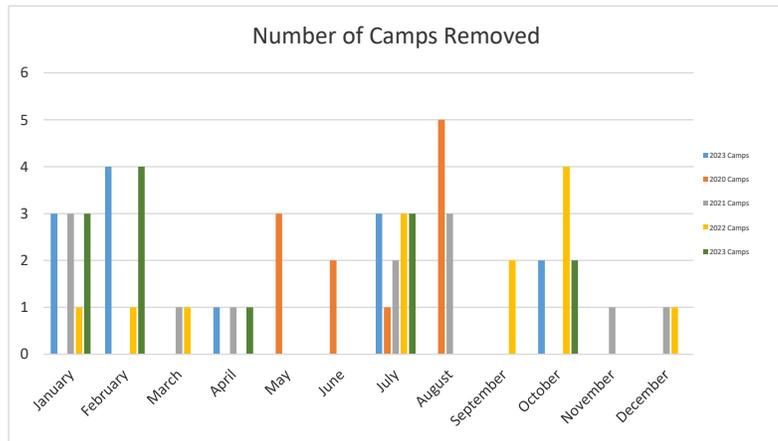
	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-23	23	18	3
Feb-23	28.75	25	4
Mar-23	11	6	0
Apr-23	28.5	15	1
May-23	7	0	0
Jun-23	6.5	9	0
Jul-23	11	12	3
Aug-23	17.5	27	0
Sep-23	8	4	0
Oct-23	12.5	1	2
Nov-23			
Dec-23			
Total 2023	153.75	117	13



	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
Total 2022	200.5	163.5	13



	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



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