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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 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.**

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## Department Update

### Operations

The crew has been pruning many areas of the city including the newly acquired Festival Lot, Sky River Park, and medians. Staff responded to a city tree branch the fell into a resident's yard causing minor damage to their property. The crew resolved the issue and are currently removing problem trees. They have been inspecting playgrounds, replacing parts that have failed and restoring them promptly. Equipment repairs and maintenance are in full swing where the crew is responsible for maintaining all of our mowers, trailers, chainsaws, blowers, generators, tractors, utility vehicles and the accessories that go with them. PW has helped the Parks Department with grading around the new pickleball court and prepped for parks to plant grass seed in the coming weeks.



Above: Crew removing downed trees from storm.

Below: Removing problem trees



### **Bird Flu Update**

After consulting with the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the City of Monroe continued to post the bird flu notice at Lake Tye through November. Despite a dramatic decrease in mortality the week of November 20th, WDFW is still receiving reports of occasional sick or deceased birds. Even though the outbreak appears to be tapering off, the city continued the bird flu notice at Lake Tye.

As of the end of November, there was no estimated date to remove the bird flu notices. Based on past WDFW experience, these events typically last 2-4 weeks and the event at Lake Tye entered its 4th week in November. However, the City of Monroe is located along the Pacific Flyway, a major migratory route, and there is the potential for new cases emerging during this time.

The City will continue to coordinate with WDFW and the WA State Dept. of Health until the outbreak has passed and we will continue to keep our community updated until it has passed.

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### **January Event**

The weather held out for the 12th annual Jayme Biendl Memorial 5k on January 28th. Thank you to all the sponsors, participants, businesses and organizations that came together for this annual memorial event. Participants enjoyed live music from Monroe High School Band and fresh, warm soup post-run from the Monroe Soup Ladies. Everyone came together in honor and remembrance of Officer Jayme Biendl.



### Tree Donations

We've had another successful year for our Living Christmas Tree Program. In January, Galaxy Theaters donated 4 Dwarf Spruce trees from an event the theater organized. In December, four local businesses participated in a tree decorating contest with living Christmas trees donated by [Walmart Monroe](#). Post competition (congrats to [Umpqua Bank](#)), the trees have been donated to the city and were planted at Rotary Field and Hillcrest Park for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to the 600+ voters and following businesses for participating and supporting this event: [Bugu Brewing Company](#), [Umpqua Bank](#), [Coastal Community Bank](#), and [Bella Balducci's Mediterranean Cuisine](#).

We also received 5 Eastern Redbuds and 5 White Flowering Dogwoods from City employee Hannah Maynard which have been planted at Al Borlin Park. If you happen to see orange tags while walking around the park, these indicate the new young trees.



**Volunteer Opportunities**

If you are interested in volunteering for the City of Monroe, please contact our Parks and Recreation Admin Assistant at (360) 863-4559 or sign up for notifications at <https://bit.ly/3uLsNjW>. Visit the City website [www.monroewa.gov](http://www.monroewa.gov) for information.

**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
1/16	2.5	*	Sky River Park – Inspection Only
1/16	5	*	Al Borlin – Inspection Only
<b>Avg.</b>	<b>3.75</b>	*	
			See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2019- 2023

\* Due to inclement weather, only labor hours were collected.

**Monroe Park Board**

The Monroe Park Board met on Thursday, January 18, 2024.

The Board approved the 2024 Work Plan and elected Officers.

Attached to this report are the approved minutes from the November 15, 2023 meeting.

The next scheduled Park Board meeting is Thursday, February 18, 2024 at 7:00pm in the Court Room at 769 Village Way.

Board Members also participated in the January 30, 2024 City Council Workshop for Councilmembers, Boards & Commissions.



# MONROE PARK BOARD

Park Board Meeting  
Thursday, November 16, 2023, 7:00 PM  
Hybrid: Zoom Online Meeting Platform & In-Person at the Parks & Public Works Building at  
769 Village Way

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

## MINUTES

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robinson called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:01pm, hybrid via Zoom and in-person in the Court Room at 769 Village Way.

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mariana Medina	Board Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	Board Member

Board Member Medina attended on Zoom.

### 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

### 6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Order setting day and time for regular meetings - *Ben Swanson*

Motion was made by Chair Robinson, seconded by Board Member Welever to approve Park Board Order No. 2023-01 setting the day and time for regular meetings as the third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm. Motion carried 6-0.

6.2. Park Board 2023 Annual Report Ben Swanson

Motion was made by Chair Robinson, seconded by Board Member Petrick, to approve the 2023 Annual Report. Motion carried 6-0.

## 7. STAFF/BOARD DISCUSSION

7.1. Parks Department Report - *Ben Swanson*

Ben highlighted an uptick in vandalism occurrences within the parks, then noted the outbreak of Bird Flu at Lake Tye Park that is being handled by WDFW.

7.2. Community Development Department Report - *Ben Swanson*

Ben discussed the next steps of the Comp Plan.

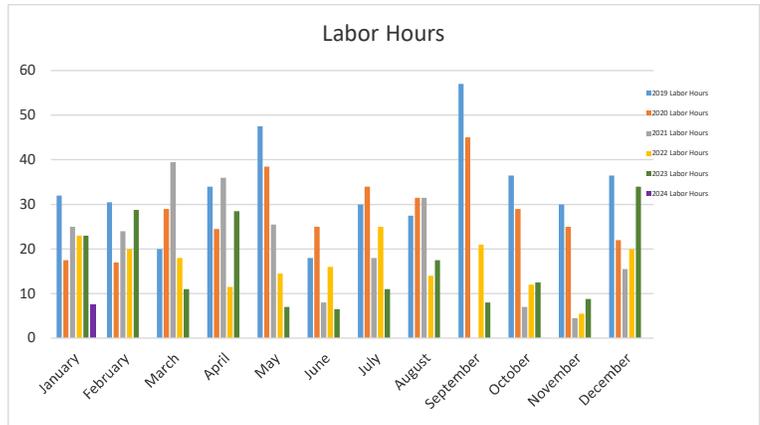
## 8. ADJOURNMENT

8.1. Board members agreed to cancel the Thursday, December 21 meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 18th at 7:00pm.**

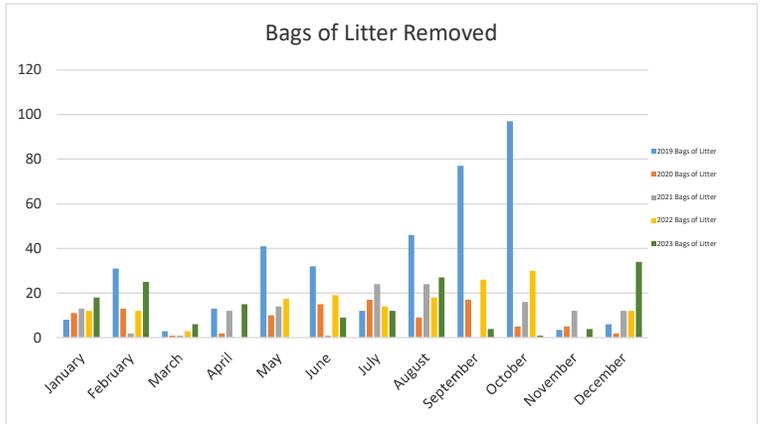
8.2. Chair Robinson motioned to adjourn and Board Member Petrick seconded. Motion passed 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.

  
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Chairperson

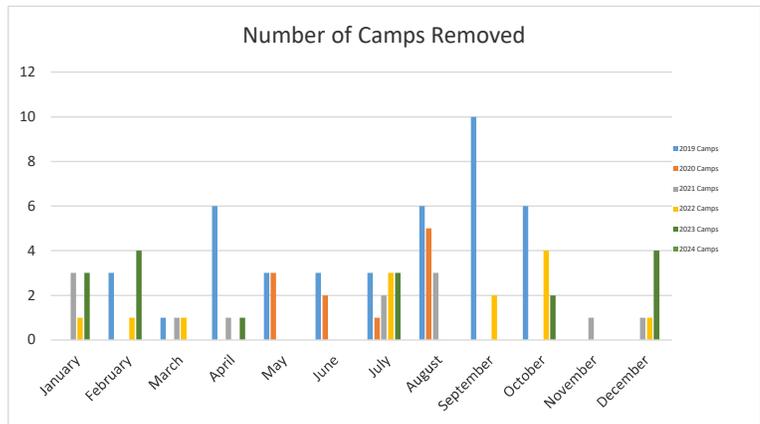
	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-24	7.5	0	0
Feb-24			
Mar-24			
Apr-24			
May-24			
Jun-24			
Jul-24			
Aug-24			
Sep-24			
Oct-24			
Nov-24			
Dec-24			
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



	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	8.75	4	0
Dec-23	34	34	4
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>196.5</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>17</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>



2019-2021 data is shown only on the graphs. If you would like the full data breakdown, please reach out to Shelley Rowe [srowe@monroewa.gov](mailto:srowe@monroewa.gov)