



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 the month of February, the parks crew worked their tails off. The crew removed 2 hazard trees that were causing damage to private residence property during storm events. They continued with late season pruning in various parks and right of ways. The crew planted multiple tree donations replacing dead trees along trails. They removed failed playground equipment and replaced equipment that was on order at both Cedar Grove Park and Lake Tye Park. The crew started initial baseball field preps for the coming year which is proving to be challenging with frozen and wet weather still occurring. The crew also continued with completing winter maintenance on mowers, tractors, generators, and small equipment that are heavily used throughout the year. Finally, the crew moved around 90 yards of play chips and bark into Stanton Park, Sky River Park, Country Crescent medians, and Fryelands medians. That equates to 9 dump truck loads or 810 wheelbarrow loads that were moved by the crew this month alone!





Above: Crew removing downed trees from storm.

Below: Adding play chips and bark to medians & playgrounds



We are pleased to announce that Parks Supervisor, Mike Thomas has completed a 2-year program of the Pacific Northwest Resource Management School held in Fort Worden, Washington. The course is a two-year program that is comprised of two sessions. The first year focuses on developing a resource management plan and addresses other related subjects pertinent to resource management. The second year builds on the first year's materials with a focus on developing and managing a budget, human resources, and maintenance information systems. Congratulations Mike!

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.

Tree Donations

In February we had 2 additional tree donations for our Living Christmas Tree Program. Our department would like to thank Christopher Cooper for donating a Douglas Fir to the program. Additionally, we received a second Douglas Fir from Amy Martin and Ian Fairweather. Both trees have been planted along the Stanton Trail. That makes a total of six trees donated to our City Parks through this program this year.



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 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
2/6	12.5	15	Sky River Park – Inspections, Garbage Removal Al Borlin – Inspections, Garbage Removal
2/7	4	3	Lake Tye – Inspections, Garbage Removal Stanton – Inspections, Garbal Removal
2/23	2		Al Borlin – Inspections
2/26	5	4.5	Sky River – Inspections, Garbage Removal Al Borlin – Inspections, Garbage Removal
Avg.	5.9	5.6	
			See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2019- 2023

Monroe Park Board

The Monroe Park Board met on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

The Board approved Chapter 7 of the Comp plan.

Attached to this report are the approved minutes from the January 18, 2024 meeting.

The next scheduled Park Board meeting is Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 7:00pm in the Court Room at 769 Village Way. This will also include an Open House regarding playground options for the update to Currie View Park. Attendees are welcome to come to provide input on their favorite option.

In addition, we will be having an Open House on April 4, 2024 at Park Place Middle School from 6:00pm-8:00pm. The Parks and Recreation Department is creating the City’s first Trail’s Master Plan. At this meeting the Department will be sharing proposed trail networks, connections, and safety improvements. Pizza and refreshments will be provided.



MONROE PARK BOARD

Park Board Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2024, 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
Vacant, Member
Brady Welever, Member
Ron Petrick, Member
Mariana Medina, Member
Lisa Brown, Member

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robinson called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:04pm, 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	Vice Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	Board Member
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brady Welever	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ron Petrick	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mariana Medina	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Brown	Board Member

Board Member Medina arrived at 7:20pm via Zoom. Board member Welever was absent.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1. Park Board Vacancy Announcement / Recognize Keith Dahlenburg - *Ben Swanson*

Ben Swanson recognized Keith Dahlenburg for his service on the Park Board and introduced new Park Board member Lisa Brown.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Motion was made by Board Member Petrick, seconded by Board Member Martin, to approve the November 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Ch 3.52 MMC - Park Impact Fee Analysis - *Ben Swanson*

Ben Swanson reviewed new state RCW's that requires analyzing park impact fees.

6.2. Park Board 2024 Work Plan - *Ben Swanson*

Motion was made by Board Member Petrick, second by Martin, to approve the Park Board 2024 Work Plan. Motion carried 4-0.

6.3. Selection of Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair) - *Ben Swanson*

Motion was made by Board Member Petrick, second by Board Member Martin, to appoint Jessie Robinson as the 2024 Park Board Chair. Motion carried 5-0. Motion was made by Board Member Petrick, second by Chair Robinson to appoint Board Member Martin as the 2024 Park Board Vice Chair. Motion carried 5-0.

7. STAFF/BOARD DISCUSSION

7.1. Parks Department Report - *Ben Swanson*

Ben Swanson highlighted the closure of the restrooms due to freezing temperatures and the coordination with the Human Services Department to address homelessness issues within the parks.

7.2. Community Development Department Report - *Ben Swanson*

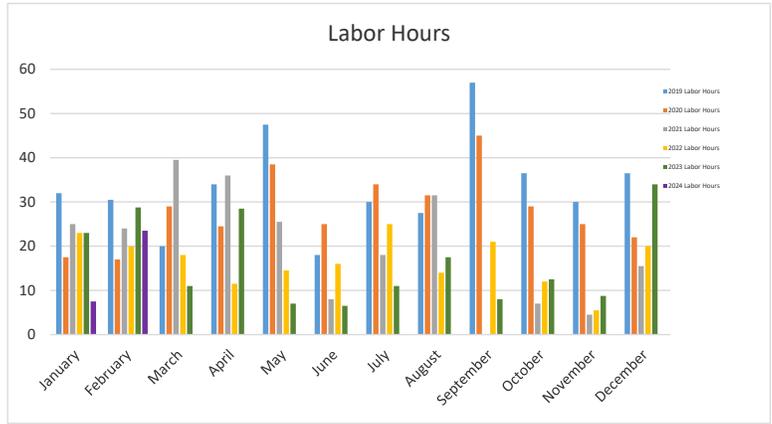
8. ADJOURNMENT

8.1. Staff reminded Board members of the upcoming OPMA/PRA training on January 30th and requested RSVP's.

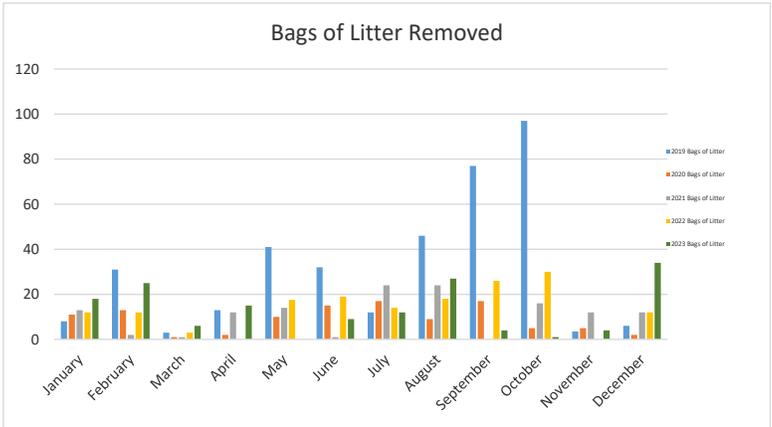
8.2. Chair Robinson motioned to adjourn and Board Member Petrick seconded. Motioned passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

Jessie R. Robinson
Chairperson

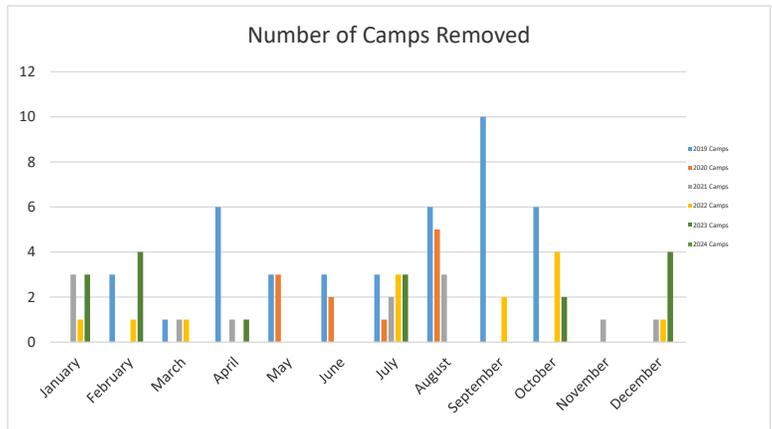
	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-24	7.5	0	0
Feb-24	23.5	22.5	0
Mar-24			
Apr-24			
May-24			
Jun-24			
Jul-24			
Aug-24			
Sep-24			
Oct-24			
Nov-24			
Dec-24			
Total 2024	31	22.5	0



	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
Total 2023	196.5	155	17



	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



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