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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

Through the month of May the crew split their time between ball field preps, mowing parks, starting up irrigation, putting on baseball tournaments, hosting events like the Kaci 5 K, and gathering material for the hanging flower baskets and installing them down Lewis and Main St. The crew cut daffodils in the endcaps of the medians on Main and Lewis St. and prepped them for begonias that will be planted later in June. The crew transported the playground equipment to Blueberry so that it could be installed by contractors. Four crew members attended Certified Playground Inspector Training held locally. The crew also pressure washed the garbage cans and benches down main St. in conjunction with PW porous concrete cleaning schedule. We wanted to give a big thank you to the Monroe Police department who helped monitor and slowdown traffic around the maintenance crew while out working in the roadway. The crew had been experiencing speeding and distracted drivers in their work zones and requested some help from the police department. Sgt. Carswell took the time to listen to the crew's concerns and scheduled Officer Patton to patrol the area while the crew was working in the medians.



Above: Hanging Flower Basket Prep & Blueberry Equipment

## Communication Board Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On Friday, May 31, elected officials and members of the Monroe Kiwanis Club gathered to celebrate the installation of the City's first communication board. A communication board (see below) is a board with symbols or pictures that is used to facilitate communication for children with limited expressive language ability. Funding for the communication boards was generously provided by the Monroe Kiwanis Club. This is one of three communication boards purchased with help from Kiwanis. The other two boards will be installed this summer at Sky River Park and Blueberry Children's Park. The Monroe Rotary Club has also committed funding to purchasing communication boards for other park sites. Our goal is to have a board at all playground areas in our parks. Thank you to all in our community for your generous support of this initiative!



Above: Communication Board at Lake Tye

## Blueberry Children's Park Play Area Construction Update

Contractors have commenced construction of a new children's playground area for Blueberry Children's Park. The new play equipment includes features that: encourage multi-generational play; are ADA inclusive and intentionally break down physical and social barriers to play; a playful theme that enhances the visual appeal of the park; and advanced climbing challenges and motion activities that appeal to older children who seek a more adventurous play experience. Surfacing improvements such as the use of ADA approved rubberized surfacing are also part of the playground design. The overall footprint of the play area is approximately 50% larger than the previous play area at the park. A ribbon-cutting celebration will be scheduled when staff have determined a completion date for the construction of the facility.



## May Events

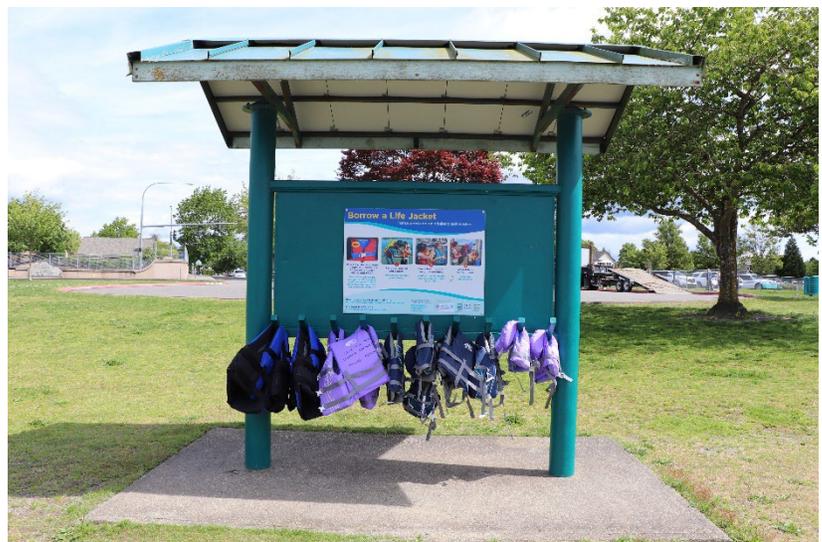
May kicked off the events season with a few annual events. The Kaci Edelbrock Memorial 5k and Battle of the Badges returned to Lake Tye Park on May 5th. Both events saw a good turnout even though spring showers were in full swing that day! Battle of the Badges raised over \$17,000 for the Big Heart Big Smile Foundation. Then the eighth annual Ward Roney Jr. Post 7511 Flags for Our Fallen returned to Lake Tye Park on May 18th.



Above: Kaci 5k and Battle of the Badges

## Lake Tye Life Jacket Loaner Station Opens

As of Memorial Day, the all-new Lake Tye Life Jacket Loaner Station is up and running! As the weather gets nicer and families start enjoying activities on the water, make sure that your loved ones are safe. Everyone should wear a properly fitted life jacket while in the water. You can visit the life jacket loaner cabinet and borrow an infant, youth or adult life jacket at no charge. When finished, simply return the life jackets to the same cabinet. Life jacket loaner stations/cabinets are located at many marinas, launch sites, and State parks. The goal is to increase the use of life jackets and educate boaters about the importance of wearing a properly fitted life jacket.



If you can't find a cabinet where you're headed, stop by SRF Station 31 on Village Way in Monroe to borrow a jacket. The State parks boating program partners with the Washington Drowning Prevention Network and local agencies to coordinate the life jackets. The Lake Tye Loaner Cabinet is made possible by Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue, the City of Monroe, and

Snohomish County Safe Kids. Life jacket loaner cabinets are open Memorial Day through Labor Day.

**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:

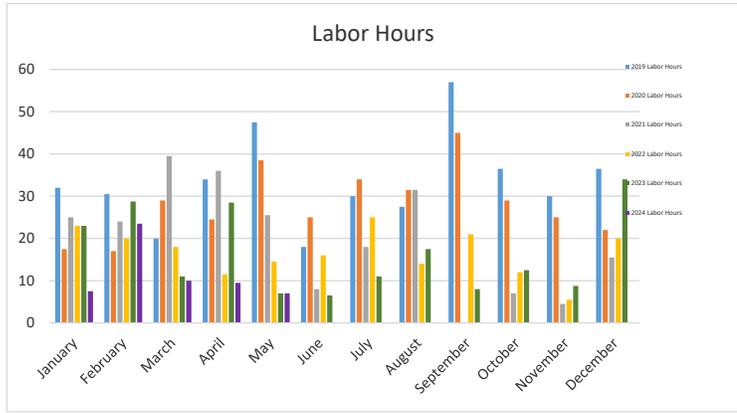
**Locations: Al Borlin & Sky River Trails**

DATE	TOTAL LABOR HOURS	# BAGS OF LITTER COLLECTED	NOTES
5/7	7	8	Sky River Park – Inspections, Garbage Removal Al Borlin – Inspections, Garbage Removal 2 encampments reported to Human Services and the PD
			See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2019- 2023

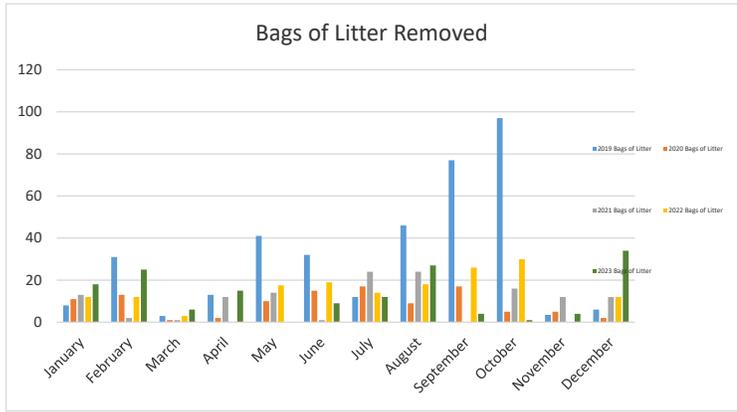
**Monroe Park Board**

The Monroe Park Board cancelled the May monthly meeting. The next scheduled Park Board meeting is Thursday, June 20. A copy of the minutes from the April meeting will be provided in the next monthly report after they have been reviewed and approved by the Park Board.

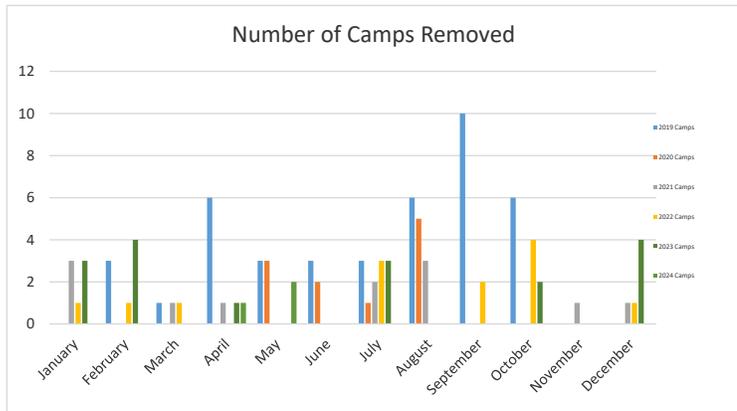
	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-24	7.5	0	0
Feb-24	23.5	22.5	0
Mar-24	10	15	0
Apr-24	9.5	14	1
May-24	7	8	2
Jun-24			
Jul-24			
Aug-24			
Sep-24			
Oct-24			
Nov-24			
Dec-24			
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>3</b>



	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	4
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	4
Oct-22	12	30	2
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)