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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 Parks Department has been busy throughout November with a variety of tasks. Much of the month was dedicated to leaf removal in parks and medians, including blowing, sweeping, and collecting leaves. Heading into December, the department is waiting for the final pear leaves to fall to complete the leaf season. In addition to leaf management, some pruning was done on ornamental grasses, preparing them for the winter months.



Repairs were also made to Sky River soccer field, addressing rut marks caused by vandalism on two separate occasions. To further improve security, two new bollards were installed at the entrance, which can now be locked for added protection.

The department has a significant backlog of projects, some of which date back as far as two years. Despite this, they have been making progress, including the completion of an information station at Sky River Park, which is expected to be finished early next year.

In addition to ongoing tasks, the crew devoted time to essential training, including pesticide application certification and playground maintenance and repair certification, to stay up to date with industry standards. Lastly, the team successfully returned several items of personal property that had been removed from the parks in the previous month.

In late November, the crew also worked on putting up the holiday decorations along Main Street, Highway 2, and at Travelers Park, in preparation for the annual Light Up Monroe event. This added a festive touch to the community as the department worked to ensure everything was ready for the holiday season.



(Above: Sky River Park Information Station and bollards for security)

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## November Event Visitation Data

November was a sparse month for events in Monroe, but we did welcome back the annual Great Junk Hunt to the Evergreen State Fair Park November 1 & 2.

Friday during show hours the Fair Park saw 4,000 visitors

Saturday during show hours the Fair Park saw 6,100 visitors

Visitors Definition: The unique number of individuals who visited a location, regardless of how many times they entered. Meaning one person can contribute multiple "visits" but only counts as a single "visitor." This data excludes those that live and work here.

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## 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.

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**Park Board**

The Board’s meeting in November was cancelled. The next meeting will be January 16, 2025.

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**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:

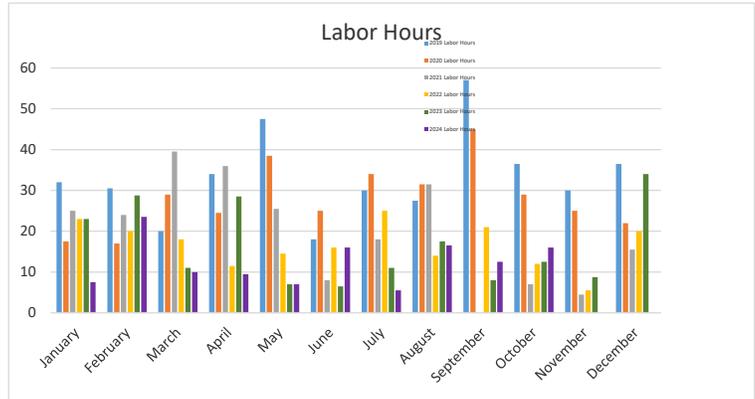
**Locations: Al Borlin & Sky River Trails**

DATE	TOTAL LABOR HOURS	# BAGS OF LITTER COLLECTED	NOTES
11/24	0*	0*	No inspections due to time spent on storm cleanup and training/recertification
			See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2019- 2023

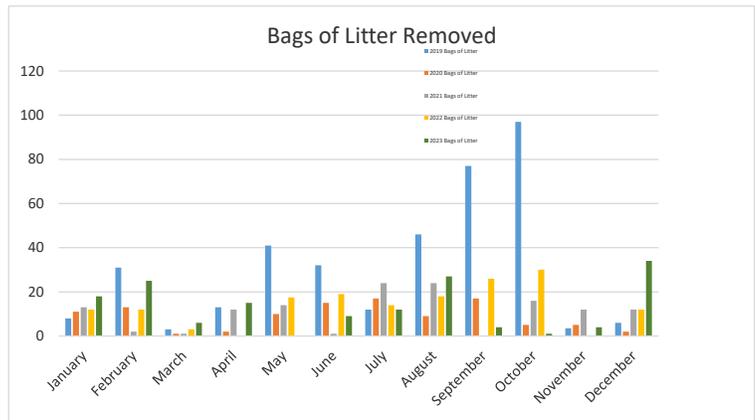
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	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-24	7.5	0	0
Feb-24	23.5	22.5	0
Mar-24	10	15	0
Apr-24	9.5	14	1
May-24	7	8	2
Jun-24	16	8	2
Jul-24	5.5	2	1
Aug-24	16.5	12	9
Sep-24	12.5	40	1
Oct-24	16	30	4
Nov-24	0*	0*	0*
Dec-24			
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>151.5</b>	<b>20</b>

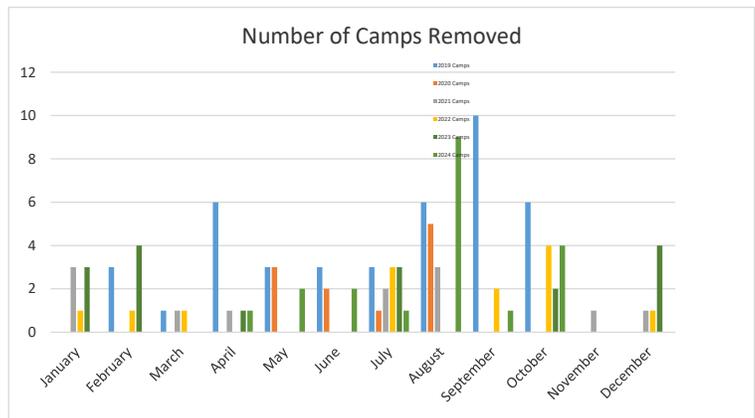
Note: \* No trail inspections due to storm event and training



	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)