



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

Throughout January, the crew focused heavily on pruning. Key areas of attention included the entry to Monroe from Highway 203, the plum trees at Blueberry Park, and tree maintenance at JVM Garden. Additionally, significant efforts were made to prune shrubs at Sky River Park and Lake Tye Park. The crew also began a week-long project at Tjerne to improve sightlines and sidewalk access—an area that had not been addressed in several years.



A new pilot project was launched at Hillcrest Park to implement a more natural approach to landscaping by



planting native species. As part of this initiative, the crew repurposed wood chips from pruning as mulch instead of purchasing traditional bark, promoting sustainability in park maintenance.

The crew collaborated with Public Works to reinstall the Rainier View Park sign, which had been damaged by a vehicle in 2024. Equipment maintenance was also a priority this month, ensuring all equipment was repaired and prepped for the upcoming year.

Additional tasks included repairing fencing at Lake Tye Park, sweeping the turf field, and fixing damaged lacrosse nets

Lake Tye Park Play Structure

Due to unforeseen challenges, the Lake Tye Park playground repairs have taken longer than anticipated. There are four major portions of the playground that needed addressing: the slide, Tri-swing, Spin Chair and the ladder. The ladder has been fixed and is completed. We've received the parts we needed for Tri- Swing and have scheduled to complete this portion in partnership with Public Works February 18. We have received parts for the spin chair. Crews need to demo the old footing and pour a new one before that chair can be installed. March 1st hopefully will be completed by. The Tri Swing and Spin Chair have been replaced on 3 separate occasions prior to this. Then for the slide, we have selected a contractor for the items we needed to outsource. We are currently waiting to complete some project logistics with the contractor.



Overall, our goal is to have everything complete and be able to re-open the playground mid-March.

A potential question we may receive from the community - we have removed the Cantata Chimes toy and it won't be coming back. The reason we decided to remove it was due to the number of continuous repairs needed and the high cost of those repairs.

January Events

Take the Next Step hosted their annual Point in Time Count at Lewis Street Park and Travelers Park on January 23. This event collects information for surveys and provides materials, resources, and food to unhoused individuals.

Thank you to all of those that participated and showed your support at the 13th Annual Jayme Biendl Memorial 5k on January 26. It was a brisk but beautiful day. Jayme's dad Jim was amazed at the turnout and support they received even after 14 years. Thank you Monroe for coming together to keep her memory alive.



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.

Park Board

The Board's meeting in January reviewed and approved their annual workplan. The next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2025.

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
1/13	12	5	Sky River Park – Inspections, Garbage Removal Al Borlin, Garbage Removal
			See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2019- 2023



MONROE PARK BOARD

Park Board Meeting
Thursday, January 16, 2025, 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

Chairperson Martin called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:02pm, hybrid via zoon and in-person in the Court Room at 769 Village Way.

2. ROLL CALL

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Martin	Chairperson
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	Board Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Abdul Salama	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brady Welever	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Petrick	Board Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Brown	Board Member

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1. Park Board 2024 Annual Report was reviewed by Ben Swanson.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Motion was made by Board Member Petrick, seconded by Board Member Welever, to approve the September 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 4 - 0.

4.2. Motion was made by Board Member Welever, seconded by Board Member Petrick, to approve the October 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- 5.1. Park Board Annual Workplan was reviewed Ben Swanson.
- 5.2. Parks & Rec Dept. Workplan was reviewed by Ben Swanson.
- 5.3. Park Board Election

Motion was made by Board Member Brown, seconded by Board Member Welever, to elect Board Member Martin as Chairperson. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Chairperson Martin, seconded by Board Member Welever, to elect Board Member Petrick as Vice Chairperson. Motion carried 4-0.

- 5.4. Prop 1 Election Results was reviewed by Ben Swanson.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. STAFF/BOARD DISCUSSION

- 7.1. Parks Department Report - *Ben Swanson*

Ben Swanson highlighted the Parks Crew Options and Events from December.

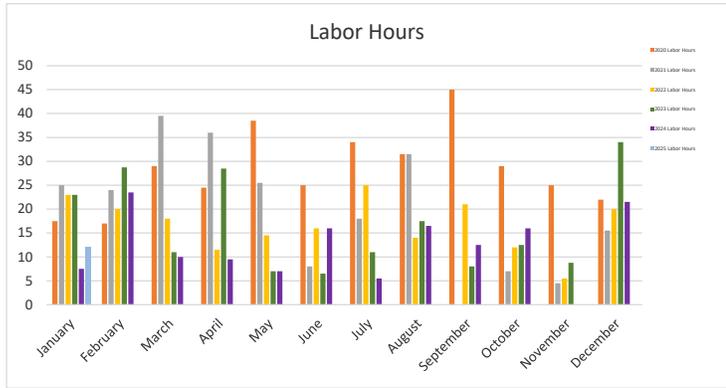
- 7.2. Community Development Department Report - *Ben Swanson*

8. ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1. Chairperson Martin motioned to adjourn and Board Member Welever seconded. Motioned passed 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

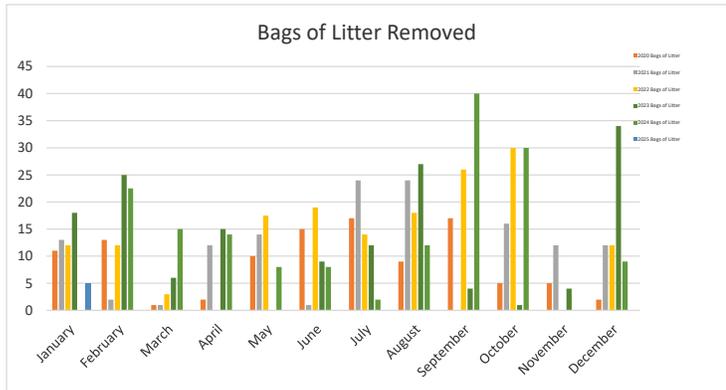
Chairperson

	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-25	12	5	1
Feb-25			
Mar-25			
Apr-25			
May-25			
Jun-25			
Jul-25			
Aug-25			
Sep-25			
Oct-25			
Nov-25			
Dec-25			
Total 2025	12	5	1

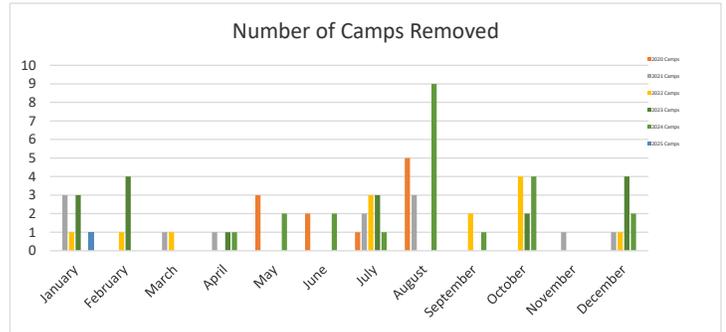


	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-24	7.5	0	0
Feb-24	23.5	22.5	0
Mar-24	10	15	0
Apr-24	9.5	14	1
May-24	7	8	2
Jun-24	16	8	2
Jul-24	5.5	2	1
Aug-24	16.5	12	9
Sep-24	12.5	40	1
Oct-24	16	30	4
Nov-24	0*	0*	0*
Dec-24	21.5	9	2
Total 2024	145.5	160.5	22

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
Total 2023	196.5	155	17



2019-2022 data is shown only on the graphs. If you would like the full data breakdown, please reach out to Shelley Rowe srowe@monroewa.gov