
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

January was a busy and productive month for the Parks Department. The crew completed the work necessary to reopen Al Borlin Park after it was closed due to flood damage. Significant time was also spent addressing flood impacts at the Sky River south parking lot. Unfortunately, this area remains closed, as conditions are still too wet to safely reopen.



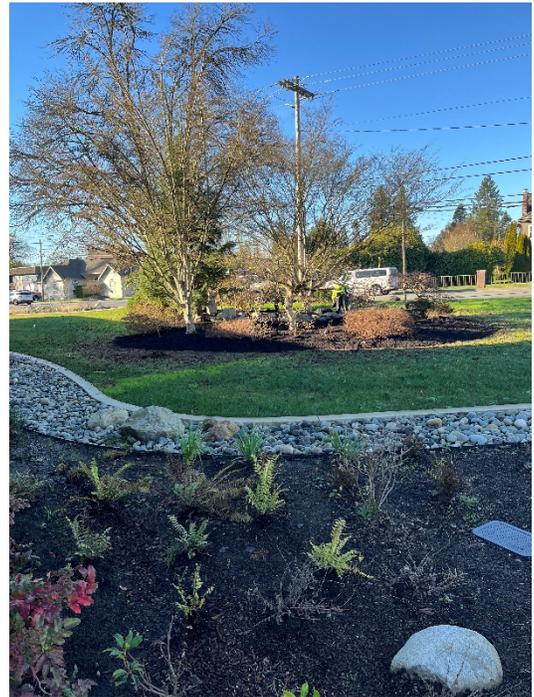
During January, Sky River Park hosted the Jamie Biendl Run. The crew dedicated time to site cleanup and event preparation, efforts that were well received and appreciated by event participants and the community.



The crew also conducted low-frequency playground inspections, which are still ongoing. These inspections were more extensive than the routine monthly checks and included examining every bolt and inspecting beneath playground platforms. In addition, work began on cleaning up a large encampment east of Al Borlin Park. Further coordination will be required to remove the remaining debris.

Additional projects included pressure washing the Police Department sidewalk, mulching the City Hall front planting bed, and cleaning out the

beds along the Main Street medians. The crew also installed new hand dryers in Lake Tye women's restroom. All of this work was completed alongside regular maintenance responsibilities.



Events

Remembering Officer Jayme Biendl

Sunday, January 25 the Jayme Biendl Memorial 5k returned to Sky River Park. Runners and walkers come together from all over the Pacific Northwest to honor and remember Officer Jayme Biendl whose End of Watch (E.O.W.) was January 29, 2011. Many Officers complete the walk/run in full uniform in her honor.

Placer.ai attendance estimate: 472



Tree City USA Renewal

In January, the Parks and Recreation Department received confirmation that the city has once again been acknowledged as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. Since first awarded in 2019, the City has been able to maintain this recognition.



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 bit.ly/3uLsNjW. Visit the City's website at MonroeWA.gov for more information.

Park Board

The Monroe Park Board met on Thursday, January 15, 2026 and was presented with Playground Renovation Locations and Concepts for 2026. In addition, the board reviewed the memo to City Council with the Park Boards recommendations regarding the prioritization of the Festival Lot. The next meeting is on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 7 p.m. The Park Board currently has two vacancies.

City Parks Unmarked Trails Inspections

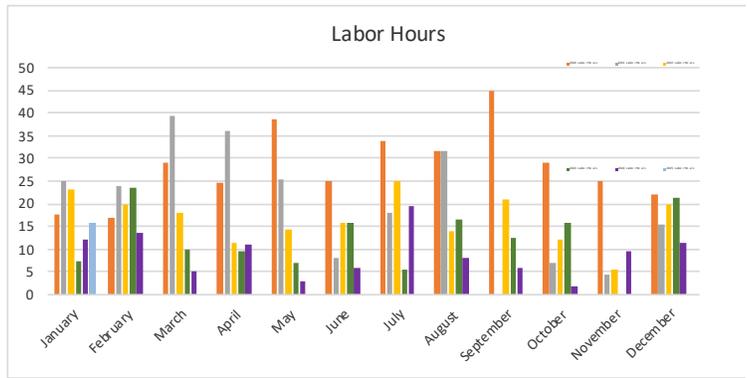
In 2017, a weekly maintenance monitoring emphasis by park staff was initiated on unmarked trails at Al Borlin and Sky River Parks to identify and resolve, in cooperation with our Police Department, any unlawful encampments that may be occurring in City parks. Attached is the comprehensive data from 2023 to the present. The following is a summary of data for the past month.

Locations: Al Borlin Park, and Sky River Park Trails

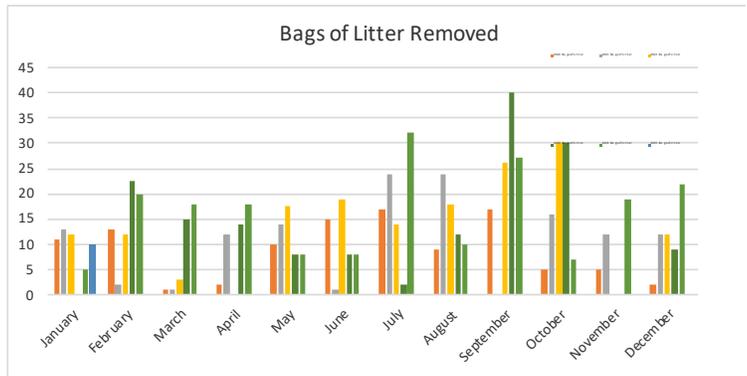
Date	Total Labor Hours	Number of Bags of Litter Collected	Notes
1/9	10	0	Al Borlin Park – Inspections
1/12	2	0	Al Borlin Park – Inspections
1/29	4	10	Al Borlin Park – Inspections & Cleanup
			See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2023 - 2025

	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-26	16	10	0

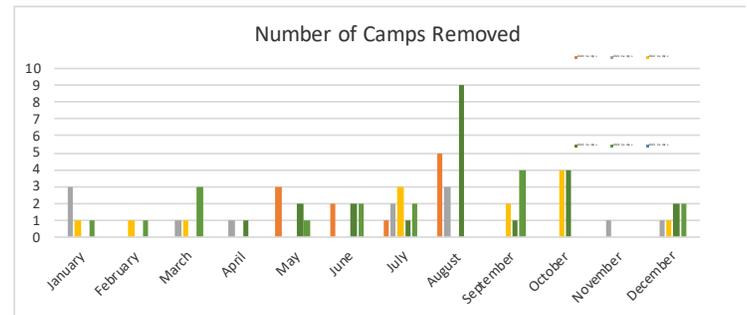
Total 2026	16	10	0
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	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-25	12	5	1
Feb-25	13.5	20	1
Mar-25	5	18	3
Apr-25	11	18	0
May-25	3	8	1
Jun-25	6	8	2
Jul-25	19.5	32	2
Aug-25	8	10	0
Sep-25	6	27	4
Oct-25	2	7	0
Nov-25	9.5	19	0
Dec-25	11.5	22	2
Total 2025	107	194	16



	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*	0*
Dec-24	21.5	9	2
Total 2024	145.5	160.5	22



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

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



MONROE PARK BOARD

Park Board Meeting
Thursday, January 15, 2026, 7:00 PM
Hybrid: Zoom Online Meeting Platform & In-Person at the Monroe City Hall at 806 West Main Street

Park Board Members:
Lisa Brown, Chair
Ryan Olson, Vice Chair
Brady Welever, Member
Abdul Salama, Member
Katie Kohler, Member
Claire Robinson, Member

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Olson called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:12pm, hybrid via Zoom and in-person in the Council Chambers at 806 W. Main St.

2. ROLL CALL

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Olson	Co-Chairperson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katie Kohler	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abdul Salama	Board Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	Board Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	Board Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hayley Hanford	Board Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	Board Member

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Motion was made by Board Member Kohler, seconded by Board Member Salama, to approve the November 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Provide input on the 2026 Playground Renovations Locations and Concepts - *Mike Thomas*

Mike Thomas provided options for playground renovations, locations and concepts. The board members affirmed that they would like to move forward with the priority of the parks renovations be Cedar Grove and Wales St. adding that they were in favor of swings and PRO PIP.

7. STAFF/BOARD DISCUSSION

- 7.1. Parks Department Report - *Kevin Teague*
- 7.2. Festival Lot - Review draft memo to City Council in response to their request for a recommendation of prioritization within Parks CIP. - *Kevin Teague*

Motion was made by Board Member Kohler, seconded by Board Member Salama to move forward with the memo as amended by the Park Board to City Council. Motion carried 4-0

8. ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1. The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 19, 2026.**
- 8.2. There being no further business, and no objections, Chairperson Olson adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm.

Chairperson