

# July 2021 Parks & Rec Report

Kris Ammerman joined the City of Wilsonville Parks and Rec team on July 26 as its new Parks and Recreation Director. Ammerman is an experienced parks and recreation professional who most recently worked for the City of Roseburg.

"Beyond his extensive experience, Kris is passionate about creating a vibrant community through parks and recreation. He is a humble leader with a commitment to excellence in public service," Assistant City Manager Jeanna Troha said.

In Wilsonville, Ammerman's responsibilities include developing and overseeing recreation programs, parks maintenance and development, senior services and implementing projects outlined in three parks master plans.

"The more people I met throughout the interview process, the more I felt this was a place I wanted to be and a group I wanted to work with," Ammerman said. "Wilsonville is forward-thinking, it values its park system, and has an interest in developing new community recreational amenities."

A Cottage Grove native, Ammerman is a graduate of Oregon State University, where he earned his bachelors degree in Horticulture. His hobbies include mountain biking, hiking, camping and other opportunities to enjoy the outdoors with his wife and three children.

## **Directors Report:**

It is day one of my second week here with the City of Wilsonville and so far, so good. The entire organization has been extremely welcoming and I cannot say enough good things about my Parks & Recreation team. They are a passionate and talented group that is committed to delivering quality programs and a high level of service to the community. It has been my experience, after working with two other cities and a handful of private sector companies, that developing an organizational culture such as this does not happen by accident. Kudos to city leadership for actually walking the walk when it comes to fostering a culture of inclusiveness, collaboration, and service-minded dedication.

-Kris Ammerman

### **Recreation Updates:**

#### **Korean Armistice Day Commemoration:**

In partnership with The Korean War Memorial Foundation of Oregon, a successful Korean Armistice Day commemoration was held on Saturday, July 24t at the Oregon Korean War Memorial in Town Center Park. Supported by the Korean War Veterans Association – Oregon Trail Chapter approximately 170 guests were welcomed to the event which commemorated the signing of the Korean War Armistice on July 27, 1953. After the opening prayer by Rev. Daesung Kim, cadets from the Aurora Composite Squadron – Civil Air Patrol posted the colors. Guests speakers included Mayor Julie Fitzgerald, Junsik Kim, Consul for the Korean Consulate in Seattle, Kelly Fitzpatrick, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, Heon Soo Kim, President of the Korean Society of Oregon (KSO), and Todd Kwapisz, a Korean adoptee who currently works for the State of Oregon. Greg Caldwell, Honorary Consul, served as emcee. The program included songs by the Korean Elders Choir and a flyover by the West Coast Ravens Flight Team. A wreath ceremony honoring those lost in the Korean War was an important part of the ceremony. Ron Phillips, a veteran, played TAPS and the Honorable George Van Hoomissen, a Korean War veteran and former Associate Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, gave the benediction. Following the ceremony, a light lunch of sandwiches was provided to guests.





#### **Community Center Staff Updates:**

- Information and Referral Specialist, Sadie Wallenberg resumed in person meetings with social service clients. July also marked the returned of the Center's medical equipment loan program.
- Nutrition Coordinators Catherine Day and Janice Mash continued to produce home delivered meals, averaging around 88 meals per day to the community's most vulnerable population. The Center is aiming for a fall to resume the in-person congregate dining program although an exact start date has not been finalized.
- Administrative Assistant, Brittany Hernandez was diligent in preparing the Center for reopening. This included entering all programs into the Department's registration and facility management software, as well as updating informational flyers for the Center's Social Services, Wellness Program and Nutrition Program.

### **Recreation Updates Cont.**

- Fitness Specialist, Brad Moore continued to offer both small group and personal training sessions at the Grove Shelter in Murase Plaza. Small group training will remain outside through the end of summer, however most individual training sessions will move back to the Fitness Studio at the Community Center in August.
- Duck Days at Town Center Park during the month of July proved to be a big hit. Water feature goers were given a free rubber duck for the chance to win an additional prize if they picked the 'lucky duck'. The kids (and some adults) then went a played with their rubber ducks in the water feature.
- Tie Dye Tuesday was another hit in Town Center Park on Tuesday, July 20. An estimated 120 participants showed up to tie dye their own garment. Staff were at the event to help participants create unique designs, provide all materials, and keep the area safe and clean. We managed this event with two people, but will definitely be looking for additional volunteers to help with this event next year. Any takers?
- The department did its best to spread the word about dog leash rules in City Parks this month. Recreation Coordinator, Erica Behler tabled twice in July at the Dog Park and at Town Center Park to handout free City of Wilsonville Dog Leashes and educational material. The department has also partnered with local dog trainer, Raegan Adams to provide a dog park etiquette class for \$10 on August 21 at the Memorial Park Dog Park.
- The department hosted two movies in the park in July. "Scoob" on July 16th in Town Center Park, and "The Secret Garden" at Memorial Park







River Shelter on July 30. The Town Center Park location was a brand new spot for movie viewing, and worked out great! It was awesome to see so many people gather together again. A big shout-out to Wilsonville Subaru for sponsoring this years movie series.

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2021

# WILSONVILLE **ACTIVITY GUIDE**









## The Fall Activity Guide is Complete-Registration Opens August 23

The Fall Activity Guide received a design overhaul in July, with updated imagery and a fresh modern look. The guide will be mailed to all Wilsonville addresses and should arrive in mailboxes the week of August 16. Online registration will begin on August 23, with a 10% discount applied if folks register for classes before September 1.

## **Board Highlights**

Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board— The Kitakata Sister City Advisory board met twice in July to finalize a three year work plan. Goals were prioritized, along with a number of tasks within each goal. The board also hosted a free Tanabata (a traditional Japanese holiday) Event where community members were invited to come make their own wish, or Tanzaku card, to hang on a bamboo tree.

Wilsonville Community Seniors Inc. — The Board continues to finalize their short term (less than 3 years)

and long term goals surrounding services and programs they would like to offer older adults in the Wilsonville community.

## **Parks Maintenance**

## **I-5 Pedestrian Bridge Park Property**

The one acre lot that will be the future landing park for the I-5 Pedestrian bridge was a focal point of work for the parks team this month. Five large truck boxes of woody debris as well as 125 gallons worth of garbage were removed by the team.



**Before Clean Up** 

**After Clean Up** 

## **Nature Play Underway**

A new amenity installation in Memorial Park is currently underway. The Nature Play area located at the rear of Memorial will be a one of a kind project in Wilsonville. The parks team has worked diligently to source materials that will allow kids to build forts and interact with nature in a safe controlled environment. The project is being completed using in house resources and was partially funded by the Community Enhancement Program. The team is working towards a completion date in October and looks forward to sharing progress along the way.



**Nature Play Area** 



**Nature Play Materials**