



# Sister City Pen-Pal Program! Kitakata, Japan

Now Accepting Letters at the Parks and Rec Admin Office  
Details at [ci.wilsonville.or.us/sistercity](http://ci.wilsonville.or.us/sistercity)

## Parks and Recreation Report | January 2022

### Directors Report:

This time of year usually sees a lull in activity as the holidays have wrapped up and the winter season has fully taken hold. However, the Wilsonville Parks and Recreation team doesn't seem to slow down regardless of the weather or time of year. Our Recreation team still has a plethora of programs and classes going on now and into the spring. The same can be said for activities at the Community Center. From fitness classes and meditation to gardening and oil painting we have offerings that appeal to all interests and walks of life.

On the Parks side, the Memorial Park restroom upgrade project currently underway. We also have two exciting new projects on the horizon; a new playground at River Fox Park and a Memorial Park Skate Park upgrade. Both of which will be completed by the start of summer. On top of driving these projects forward the team has also been busy with tree plantings to replace those lost in last February's ice storm. To date they have replanted 100 trees in our parks!

January has brought some decent weather that has allowed our parks team to get out and perform the first mowing of the season. The smell of fresh cut grass is a sure sign that spring activities are right around the corner. On behalf of the entire Parks and Recreation team, we are grateful to be able to provide the places and spaces where community members can enrich their lives by relaxing, learning something new, being physically active, and connecting to themselves to nature and others. In short, we take pride in planting moments, so that community members can harvest memories. Make 2022 the year you learn to play a new instrument (Ukulele), make a friend in Japan (Pen Pal Program), become a better you (fitness class), or harvest family memories at one of our many events (Spring Fling, Block Party, Harvest Festival). Get out and enjoy a park or program and make 2022 a memorable year!

*-Kris Ammerman  
Parks and Recreation Director*



## Recreation Updates:

### Sister City Pen-Pal Program— now extended through February 2022

Do you want to connect with an individual in our sister city of Kitakata, Japan via letter or email? From January 3 through February 28, the Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board will be accepting letters from Wilsonville residents at the Parks and Rec Admin Office (29600 SW Park Place) Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm.

All letters collected during this time will be mailed to Kitakata, Japan on Tuesday, March 1 for distribution to the local community. Students and residents in Kitakata will then reply directly to the provided return address or email. Remember to write as legibly as possible (typing up your letter is also an option). At a minimum, please include the following information in your letter:

- Your Name & Age
- Your physical return address or email address (please note your preferred method of reply by starring one)
- Your school/grade or occupation (adults are welcome to participate!)
- Hobbies/interests/pets/currently reading/etc.
- Something you'd like to know about Japanese culture
- Other items to include might be - a drawing, a picture of you or your family, stickers, bookmarks, etc... (only include items that can lay flat- and nothing too heavy please!)

The Board hopes that through this pen-pal program we can extend hospitality and messages of friendship from Wilsonville to Kitakata. It has been an exceptionally trying time for all of us around the world, and a letter from a friend (even one on the other side of the world) can go a long way. Letter writing is also a great way to help students in Kitakata learn to read and write in English, as well as help Wilsonville residents learn and appreciate the culture of our sister city. We hope you join us in this pen-pal program!

### Winter/Spring Classes Begin!

The 2022 Winter/Spring class session officially kicked off this month, with several programs running successfully including; vinyasa yoga, water color, pilates, body sculpt, healthy bones and balance, parenting with love and logic, and several youth science camps.

### Conversation around Teen Center continues...

The conversations surrounding the potential for a Wilsonville Teen Center continued this month. Director, Kris Ammerman and Recreation Coordinator, Erica Behler met with Youth Services Librarian, Brad Clark and several members from the student support and school social work team for the West Linn-Wilsonville School District. All were very supportive of the idea, and agreed that there is a high need for this type of programming/center in Wilsonville. A central location, appropriate parent messaging/marketing, and mental health resources were all identified as important aspects to consider if/when moving forward with this program.



**CLASS SPOTLIGHT**

**MAD SCIENCE** Mechanical Engineers  
Monday, January 17, 2022  
9:00 am-12:00 pm  
Tauchman House | \$50 | Course#10072

## Community Center Updates:

Fitness programs continued their return in January with Healthy Bones and Balance and Tai Chi classes filling with a waitlist. The watercolor class, initially planned to take place in person made the decision to return to Zoom for this session. The group hopes to return to in-person classes in March. Drop in programs such as bridge lessons, bridge open play and pinochle and cribbage continue to provide a fun socializing opportunity for members of our community. The nutrition program sent out 2 “shelf stable” meals to the 100+ home delivered meal clients. These meals provide an emergency meal for clients should a situation ever arise where Center staff is not able to provide a meal.

## Board Highlights

**Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board:** The Kitakata Sister City Advisory board had 4 of 12 meetings with Japanese school children in January. Students in Kitakata are practicing their English through various presentations and interactions via zoom meetings with Wilsonville staff and board members. Over the course of the 12 meetings, the board will have been introduced to over 200 students and teachers.

**Korean War Memorial Foundation of Oregon (KWMFO):** The KWMFO met to update the Foundation of the work being done by the Interpretive Center Design Committee. Additionally, the Foundation began preliminary discussions for a summer event, currently scheduled for June 25.

**Parks and Rec Advisory Board:** The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met in January to receive an annual update from the department. The board also reviewed their goals and got an overview of the playground project at River Fox Park.

**Wilsonville Community Seniors Inc.:** The Wilsonville Community Seniors Inc .continues to plan for their first annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser in partnership with the Wilsonville Rotary. The drive-thru/pick up event will take place on Saturday, February 12 from 4-6 pm at the Community Center. Cost for a meal is \$15 or \$45 for a family of 4. Pre-orders are required.

## Upcoming:

**1000 Trees Day:** Help the Parks Maintenance team plant 1,000 trees and help our parks recover from the devastating 2021 ice storm! On February 19 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, we need the community's help to plant 1,000 western red cedar and ponderosa pines! Participants should meet at the Parks Maintenance Barn in Memorial Park (7950 SW Memorial Dr.) and come ready to work. Bring a water bottle, work gloves, face mask, and closed toed shoes. Long pants and long sleeves are strongly recommended. Masks will be required when social distancing cannot be maintained. All work equipment will be provided. Participants must pre-register. Those under the age of sixteen must have a parent/guardian with them during the event.



## Parks Team

### Memorial Central Park Restroom Installation

The central restroom at Memorial Park has been torn down and installation of the new restroom is underway. The parks team is working closely with other city team members from engineering, public works, planning, building, legal and administration to ensure this project stays on track. This is a full Wilsonville team effort and will result in a new facility in place by the end of February.



**Restroom Demo Begins**



**Frosty Foundation**

### Preparing for A New Skate Park

The Parks team made quick work of the demolition of the old skate park in Memorial Park. The existing skate park was past its useful life and in need of replacement. The parks team will be collaborating with a skate park contractor in the coming months. This will bring a brand new skate park amenity to Memorial Park for the first time in over 20 years. The parks team is excited to bring this updated amenity to the community in the summer of 2022.



**Skate Park Removal**



**Remaining Concrete Pad**