



Parks and Recreation Report | January 2024

Director's Report

Our Parks and Public Works teams worked tirelessly in response to this month's winter storm. Crews were out to clear roads and walkways so that folks could get around safely in the slippery conditions. The vast majority of the time our Pacific Northwest weather is uneventful—in a good way—but when it turns, it's nice to have hard working and capable teams to face the adverse conditions head on.

Switching gears, it is with great excitement that I announce that our team has secured a \$100,000 grant from Travel Oregon to conduct a feasibility study and concept plan for river access at Boones Ferry Park. The focus of the project will be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) access for non-motorized watercraft. River access rose to the top of the list during the 2018 Parks Master Planning process so it is very exciting to make progress towards this high community priority.

Other notable updates include design work for Frog Pond Neighborhood Park which is currently at 75%. The Boones Ferry Park restroom replacement is moving along, as well as the Boones Ferry North trail extension, the Park at Merryfield trail upgrade, and the playground replacement project at Sofia Park.

January also marked the retirement of Honorary Consul of the Republic of Korea, Greg Caldwell. Greg served in that capacity for 10 years and was honored by City Council at its January 4 meeting. We will miss Greg and his dedicated service to improving international relations and cross-cultural understanding of the peoples of the United States of America and the Republic of Korea. We wish him well in retirement!

Here's to another exciting and eventful year in Wilsonville Parks! Happy New Year!

~Kris Ammerman

Recreation Updates

Summer Registration Opens April 8!

The Summer Activity Guide will be in mailboxes the week of April 1, with registration opening on April 8. The Summer Activity Guide covers all programming and events May through August, including youth summer camp options. The Recreation team is excited to announce that they've added three new summer camp providers to the mix including KidoKinetics, Play-Well TEKnologies, and Fun4All. Beloved favorites will also return including Skyhawks, Soccer Shots, Jordan Kent Sports Camps, YMCA, and Coyle Outdoors.

Online Reservations Coming Soon

The team has been working behind the scenes with the Information Technology (IT) department to implement a new online reservation system for park shelters. We are excited to offer this new service to Wilsonville residents (and non-residents) as it should streamline how reservations can be done.

Sister City Trip to Kitakata, Japan

January was a month of planning and preparation for the City Council and Sister City Advisory Board trip to Kitakata Japan, planned for February 2 through 10. The group will depart PDX Airport during the wee hours of Friday morning on February 2 and land at Tokyo Haneda Airport in the late afternoon of Saturday February 3. The group has a busy itinerary which includes business meetings, city facility tours, cooking classes, and much more!

Community Center Updates

Storm Response – Nutrition

The January ice storm made home delivered meal delivery nearly impossible for three days. Luckily, the Community Center team prepares for unexpected events like this and had previously sent all clients three shelf-stable meals that can be used in these unique situations. All home-delivered meal clients received check-in calls on Monday night alerting them to no delivery on Tuesday, and they all also received calls on Wednesday morning. One client expressed food insecurity concerns on Wednesday but staff was able to bring that client a meal later in the afternoon.

Life 101 Lectures

The 2024 Life 101 Lecture series kicked off with two well-received lectures. "Understanding and Responding to Dementia Related Behavior" was presented by the Alzheimer's Association, and a Dizziness Workshop was presented by physical therapist and vestibular specialist Sydney Neumann. The Dizziness workshop filled to its capacity of 20, with a waitlist. Due to its popularity, a second version of this workshop is being explored for Spring/Summer.

AARP Tax Appointments

The Community Center began taking free tax preparation appointments in January. All 180 appointment time slots have been filled and a waitlist is now being taken.

AARP Smart Driver

This day-long classroom course, presented by an AARP volunteer, refreshed attendees on techniques for handling turns, right-of-way, following distance, and roundabouts. Tips to reduce traffic violations, crashes, and injury risk were also presented. Those completing the course are also eligible to save money on their auto insurance.



Board Highlights

Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission (ACHC)

At the January ACHC meeting the Commission received a presentation from Dianne Alves, Clackamas County Arts Alliance Executive Director, on the Arts & Economic Prosperity Study which goes over the economic value and actual figures from arts and culture in the county. The Commission also received presentations from staff on a future project for Pride Month, as well as an informational presentation about arts and culture at the library. Following the meeting, the Commission held a Gallery Presentation for the exhibiting artist W.S. Cranmore.



Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board

Select members of the Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board (those traveling to Japan in February) met with Wilsonville City Council and Executive Director of the Japan-America Society of Oregon (JASO), Graham Morris, on Thursday, January 4 to receive a cultural training about Japan. The group learned business etiquette such as formal business card exchange, differences in communication styles, and common flow of business meetings. A big takeaway was that 'in general' Japan values relationship over task, whereas 'in general' America values task over relationship. The group is very excited for their departure to Kitakata on February 2.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met on Thursday, January 11. The group welcomed two new board members, Bill Bagnall and Paul Diller, and elected a new chair and vice-chair in Amanda Harmon and Jim Barnes, respectively. The board also set new goals for the 2024 calendar year. A special session of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 7 at 4:00 pm. It will be held over Zoom.

Other Group Highlights

Wilsonville Community Seniors Inc.

The Wilsonville Community Seniors continue to prepare for their BINGO fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, March 9 from 6:30-9 pm. In person ticket sales are now available at the Community Center on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 am-12 pm. An evening ticket sale window will also take place on Thursday, February 22 from 5-7 pm. Tickets to the event are \$25.00.

Korean War Memorial Foundation of Oregon

Representatives of the Korean War Memorial Foundation of Oregon attended the January meeting of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) – Oregon Trail Chapter. The meeting was dedicated to honoring Greg Caldwell, former Honorary Consul for Korea. The meeting was attended by Korean War veterans and their family members, Korean Defense veterans, who are also members of KWVA, a group of Korean adoptees, and friends of the Korean American community. After a wonderful lunch, a number of KWVA members and friends offered kind words, certificates of appreciation, and gifts to Caldwell, who was dressed in a Korean "hanbok" gifted to him by David and Mindy Penaflo.

Upcoming Events

Wilsonville Delegation to Visit Sister City: February 2-10, Kitakata, Japan

Daddy Daughter Dance: February 23, 7-9pm, Wilsonville Community Center

Community Egg Hunt: March 30, 10am, Memorial Park Sports Fields

WERK Day: May 18, 9-11am, Memorial Park (Complimentary Breakfast at the Community Center, 8-9 am)

Parks Updates

January on Ice

The Parks team saw a significant number of projects get underway in January. The playground at Sofia Park was removed to prep for the installation of the new playground in February. The team also installed new or updated park amenities in Memorial Park (corn hole boards), Hathaway Park (basketball hoop), Murase Plaza (32 new trees) and Arrowhead Creek Park. These smaller projects help the team ensure the parks are better than before and ready to go when the sun comes out again. The team also spent a significant amount of time clearing parks, trails, sidewalks, and a few down trees during the January ice storm.



Sofia Playground Removal.



Tree Replanting at Murase.



Basketball Hoop Install.



Corn Hole Board Install.



Hazard Tree Removal.