



April 2021 Parks & Rec Report

Monthly Department Overview:

April was all about environmental awareness for the recreation team. The Spring Fling event series that debuted in April was a hit with the community and provided new opportunities for creative and informative programming for the recreation team. From free plant drive thru events, to virtual tutorials, to small in-person classes and events, Spring Fling had a little something for everyone.

The parks and recreation teams had several opportunities to collaborate on projects this month, something the department is hoping to do more of this summer. A parks maintenance staff member, Chris Delk, was able to teach a small, in-person worm composting class at the Stein Barn. The entire parks team helped coordinate WERK week efforts throughout our City Parks, and to top it all off, the Recreation team put together an in-person goat petting event that utilized a contractor the Parks team had been using for invasive species removal. Yay for collaboration and team-work! It has become harder to find opportunities to collaborate within our department, given gathering and event restrictions due to Covid. It was a great month of working together and sharing ideas.

The department said goodbye to our fearless leader and Department Director, Mike McCarty on April 30. Mike is on to his next adventure of retirement and I think it's safe to say, we're all a bit jealous! Mike was a passionate boss who always looked out for his employees' wellbeing. We will surely miss having him around. The department would like to publicly thank him for all his hard work, enthusiasm, and leadership over the last 4 years. Thank you Mike!



Recreation Updates:

April Virtual Tutorials– Compost Tea Magic, Backyard Chickens, and DIY Bee Hotels!

A plethora of virtual tutorials were offered this month including compost tea magic, a backyard chicken tour, and DIY Bee hotels! For Compost Tea Magic, Recreation Coordinator, Erica Behler walked viewers through how to make compost tea for use in your yard and garden. An overview of the equipment needed, ingredients, and overall benefits were discussed. In the backyard chicken tour video, Brock Ricker showed us his hand built chicken coop and chicken run located in Portland, OR. The video went over topics such as cleanliness, feeding, and egg production. Lastly, in the DIY Bee Hotel virtual tour, Brock and Erica gave an overview on blue orchard mason bees, their nesting habits, and what they like to live in! New bee hotels to attract mason bees will be installed at the pollinator garden in Murase plaza next month!

Additional Spring Fling Programming:

Additional Spring Fling programming this month included a goat petting event at Memorial Park, a free trillium drive thru event at Town Center Park, and an in person worm composting class at the Stein Barn. A host of WERK days got the community out and volunteering in our local parks, and virtual contests like the Earth Day Pledge and Wilsonville Plant share saw significant participation. A community garden volunteer day also helped the parks crew prep the community garden for the season, as volunteers worked to spread bark chips in communal areas like pathways and entry points.





Community Center Updates:

- The newest session of Stretch, Strength and Stamina is proving even more popular than the first two. 25 older adults are currently enjoying this seated fitness class taught by Personal Trainer, Brad Moore, virtually over Zoom.
- The Spring Senior Drive Thru event was a big hit. 40+ older adults came by the Center to pick up Spring themed cookies, brain activity worksheets and an at home marigold plant kit.
- Social Worker, Sadie Wallenberg, helped 50 seniors throughout the month providing assurance calls and check ins, facilitating grocery and prescription orders and delivery and much more.
- The nutrition program continued to serve community members and now has 94 clients on the home-delivered meal program.

Board Highlights

Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board— The Kitakata Sister City Advisory board did not meet in April. Upcoming meetings are schedule for May 5, May 19, and June 2. The board will undergo facilitation for Mission, Vision and Values, and goal setting in the coming months.

Korean War Memorial Foundation of Oregon – The Organization continues to provide direction for the creation of the Korean War Memorial Interpretive Center. Recently, a list of 25 veterans and their accompanying stories was provided to the designer in an effort to help shape the themes and stories that will be presented to visitors.

Parks and Rec Advisory Board – At their April meeting, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board awarded funding for the Community Opportunity Grant. The Wilsonville Arts and Culture Council was the lone recipient and received a \$6,000 grant. The funding will support “The Biggest Pumpkin,” a multi-faceted project aimed at community collaboration and learning opportunities through the carving of an 11,000-pound block of granite by local artist, and Wilsonville resident, Benjamin Mefford. The final project is expected to be displayed at the 2021 Festival of the Arts at Charbonneau, November 5-7, if an in-person event is possible.

Wilsonville Community Seniors Inc. — The WCSI continues to look to shape their future programs within the community. The Board is currently working on outreach and a potential survey to better understand the needs of Wilsonville seniors.

Park Updates:

Goats, Goats, and more Goats:

Over a timeline of 12 days in April a team of goats worked to manage invasive Himalayan Blackberries and English Ivy in Memorial Park. The goats were a welcomed addition to the team as it aligns with the city's IPM and provides a passive management approach. Just over one acre of heavily overgrown invasive species were mitigated by the team of goats.



Pollinator Paradise:

A full city team effort has resulted in a wonderful new pollinator garden in Murase Plaza. The parks and recreation team, roads team, engineering team, and administration were all key teams in the completion of this new amenity. The four distinctly unique pollinator gardens are designed to give Wilsonville citizens ideas and plant lists for pollinator gardens they can install in the own yards. The project was funded by the Wilsonville—Metro Community Enhancement program. A trail connection in the Murase Plaza parking lot will make it easy to access and a great addition to the community and our pollinator community as well.



