



Parks and Recreation Report | February 2024

Director's Report

A highlight this month was sending the Mayor and City Council as well as the Chair and two members of our Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board to Kitakata, Japan for the 35th anniversary of our sister city relationship. While I did not attend, reports back indicate that it was a wonderful trip and a great experience for all of the participants. No doubt our sister city relationship was strengthened and new friendships were formed.

Valentine's day marked a near record day at the community center for the in-person congregate lunch program. 75 individuals were served at the center with an additional 135 home delivered meals going out the same day. Way to go nutrition team!

Also at the Community Center this month was the Daddy Daughter Disco Dance held on February 23. This popular event was sold out with 130 participants.

Besides routine maintenance, the parks team is busy moving several projects forward including path improvements at Boones Ferry Park and Merryfield Park, Sofia Park Playground replacement, as well as restroom and playground replacements at Boones Ferry Park. Look for these upgrades to be completed this coming spring.

Looking ahead, we have a full slate of spring activities including Wilsonville Environmental Resource Keepers (WERK) Day on May 18 and the ever popular community egg hunt in Memorial Park on March 30 at 10 AM. Hope to see you there!

~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 opportunities.

Athletic Fields in High Demand

The Parks and Recreation team hosted two (2) in-person field sign-up nights—one for resident sports organizations followed by a second one for non-resident organizations. During these two evenings, representatives from different sports organizations had the opportunity to sign up for recurring field time for their teams to play on the athletic fields in Memorial Park. Once again, the Parks and Recreation team saw the continuing trend of resident organizations filling all available time slots on the ballfields during the spring season for the three (3) fields with lights and as much of the field time as possible on the two (2) ballfields without lights.

Community Garden Renewals Start for Current Gardeners

Plot renewals are in progress for current gardeners. New gardeners will be able to sign-up for available plots beginning on Monday, April 8 when the summer registration opens.

Online Reservations Set to Launch in March

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

Community Center Updates

Life 101 Lecture Series Continued

The Life 101 Lecture Series continued in February. On February 5, Attorney Michael Rose of Rose Elder Law presented a workshop centered around estate planning basics such as wills, trusts, probate, powers of attorney, advance directives, and Medicaid Planning.

On February 12, physical therapist Sydney Neumann, PT, DPT shared common causes of low back pain and what can be done to reduce pain and prevent future injury. The workshop also included tips and tricks for managing low back pain and how physical therapy can help.

Finally, on February 26 Michael Rose once again presented, this time with a workshop covering Medicaid planning, preserving and protecting assets, and veteran's benefits.

Nutrition Program Growth and Valentine's Day Lunch

The Community Center's Nutrition Program continues to grow. The home-delivered meal program is approaching 100 clients and in-person lunch is steadily growing with attendance most days in the 45 – 50 person range.

A special Valentine's Day lunch drew 75 individuals to the Center and 45 of those stayed to listen to 17 members of the I-5 Connection Community (senior) Chorus who gave a special performance. This was one of the Center's biggest lunch crowds in recent times and is up there for all-time lunch crowds at the Center.



The Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board will be hosting a Cherry Blossom viewing event on Saturday, March 23 at the Parks and Rec Admin Office and Town Center Park.



The Wilsonville-Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board Presents:

“A MORNING AMONG THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS”



March 23 | 11am - 1pm | Town Center Park

**Green Tea
Origami Station
Story Time at 11:30 am
Cherry Blossom Viewing
Kitakata Sister City Info Booth
Cherry Blossom Coloring Sheets**



Board Highlights

Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission (ACHC)

Although the ACHC did not meet in February, it was a big month for Public Art. Staff received 50 Memorial Park Skatepark Mural Request for Qualifications (RFQs) from talented artists residing throughout the United States. An internal team went through a lengthy review and scoring process to determine the top eight (8) applications that are advancing to the next stage of the project. The Panel, which consists of the ACHC as well as two members from the skate community, are excited to review those proposals at their next meeting. The project is being funded by the Wilsonville-Metro Community Enhancement program.

Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board

February was an exciting month for the Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board, as several board members, City Council members and staff traveled to Kitakata, Japan from February 2—10. The focus of the trip was to deepen the Sister City relationship, enhance cultural awareness and celebrate the 35th anniversary of the signing of the friendship agreement, which originally took place in October of 1988. The group was able to learn so much about the City of Kitakata, experience the generosity of it's people, and explore local businesses and cultural traditions. The group partook in a tea ceremony, toured a ramen noodle factory, learned to make soba noodles from scratch, and took part in several informative business meetings. The Sister City Advisory Board met on February 21 to debrief the trip and discuss potential updates to delegation trips visiting from Kitakata moving forward. Ideas for changes moving forward include a more official welcome dinner with 'pinning ceremony', having students attend a board or council meeting, and a type of condensed civics academy for students to learn about the various city departments.

Other Group Highlights

Wilsonville Community Seniors Inc.

The Wilsonville Community Seniors made their final preparations for the BINGO fundraiser on March 9. The sold-out event will include BINGO, a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle.

Korean War Memorial Foundation of Oregon (KWMFO)

Members of the KWMFO Interpretive Center Committee and City staff met with officials of Formations, Inc. to view progress on the project. The display cases, wall panels, photo panels, and topographical map table are 95% completed and are awaiting the graphics/photos that are scheduled to arrive in the upcoming days. The flipbook biographies of approximately 60 veterans are also at the printer and are expected to be completed soon. The topographical map maker is on target for mid-March and Formations, Inc. has set the day for completing installation as March 24, 2024. KWMFO's plans are to have a special private opening for veterans and their families in late April or early May, followed by a formal grand opening of the Interpretive Center to commemorate the beginning of the Korean War on June 29, 2024 at 10 am at the Oregon Korean War Memorial in Town Center Park.



Upcoming Events

Open House: Saturday, March 9 from 2pm-4pm, Stein-Boozier Barn

Cherry Blossom Event: Sat., March 23 from 11am-1pm, Parks and Rec Admin Office & Town Center Park

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

Open House: Sunday, April 7 from 10am-12pm, Stein-Boozier Barn

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

Parks Updates

Moving Toward Spring

As spring continues to draw near, the Parks team kept busy in February with both small projects and maintenance. Sofia Park's playground is nearing completion and should reopen in March. The Team spent time planting new trees and installing irrigation to better steward parks system wide. They also spent time deep cleaning restrooms in anticipation of a busy summer. Murase will be getting nine new picnic tables to replace aging tables, some of which were not originally ADA. The team assembled those tables this month and they are excited to get them out when the weather allows.



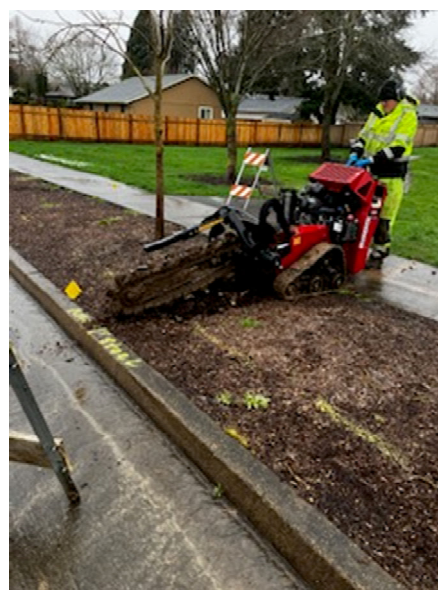
Sofia Nearing Completion



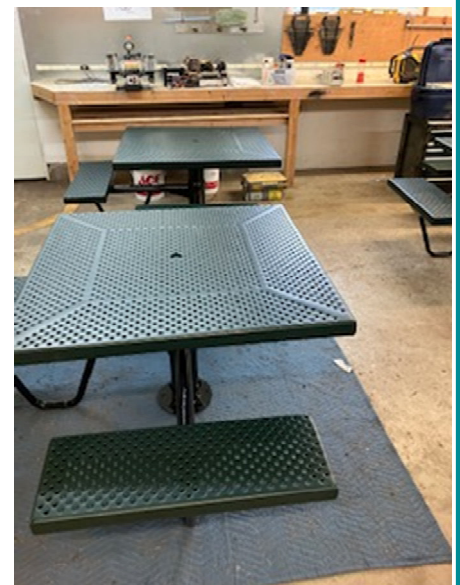
Tree Planting at Murase



Restroom Deep Clean



Irrigation Work



ADA Tables Project