



## Parks and Recreation Report | December 2021

### Directors Report:

For the past six months I have been honored to serve as the head of the Parks and Recreation Department, which is dedicated to providing an exceptional level of service to the Wilsonville community. A prime example of this was demonstrated this month with new and creative programs and total team commitment to providing park and facility coverage throughout the very busy holidays and even during periods of inclement weather. The passion and commitment the team has for their community was reciprocated by community members with a record breaking year for both the toy drive and senior stocking collections. What a way to wrap up 2021!

Our Winter/Spring 2022 Activity guide was published in December and offers a full slate of events and activities in the coming months. At the Community Center, participation in classes and events continues to grow and the home delivered meal service has recently crested the 100 meals/day mark for the first time.

On top of the usual work load, the Parks team has been busy replanting trees that were damaged in February's ice storm. This time of year is also good for pruning and other tree care practices as the mowing demand is eased.

I am especially grateful this time of year to be surrounded by a dedicated, hard-working team and supported by City Council, City Leadership, and the greater Wilsonville Community. There is truly no place I would rather be and nothing else I would rather be doing! Happy New Year Wilsonville!

**-Kris Ammerman**





## Recreation Updates:

### Winter Themed StoryWalk:

Town Center Park was home to a new StoryWalk in December. The book “Ten Ways to Hear Snow” by local author and librarian Cathy Camper was chosen as December’s story. The book is about a young modern Arab American girl, Lina, who visits her grandma on a snowy winter’s day to cook traditional foods. Her grandmother’s eyesight is deteriorating, so Lina listens to all the way she can hear snow to share the experience of winter with her grandmother.

### Toy Drive Delivery:

The annual Wilsonville Toy Drive brought in over 800 toys this year! Collection sites were held at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office, Wilsonville Orthodontics, and Wilsonville Subaru. Program Manager, Brian Stevenson, and Recreation Coordinator, Erica Behler drove the toys to Clackamas County Compassion in Action for distribution before the holidays. Compassion in Action is always so grateful for the amount of collections we bring in, and we wanted to pass along the thank you to our community! The department also worked with the Family Empowerment Center this year to identify students in our local schools who needed some extra help this holiday season.

### Lake Oswego Teen Lounge Visit:

Parks and Recreation Director Kris Ammerman, Recreation Coordinator, Erica Behler and Program Manager Brian Stevenson took a field trip to Lake Oswego in December to tour the Lake Oswego Parks and Recreation Teen Lounge. Recreation Coordinator, Erica Behler is very interested in exploring the opportunity to create something similar in Wilsonville. The Lake Oswego Teen Center offers a safe space for teens to hang out after school, as well as provides teen specific programming opportunities like contests, dances, movie night and more. The idea for this came out of a devastating New York times article published in December that stated, “In the United States, emergency room visits for suicide attempts rose 51 percent for adolescent girls in early 2021 as compared with the same period in 2019. The figure rose four percent for boys.” Additional information about the Lake Oswego Teen Lounge may be found at <https://www.ci.oswego.or.us/parksrec/lo-teen-lounge> The Department plans to further look into opportunities and ideas for a potential Wilsonville Teen Center in the coming months.



## Community Center Updates:

**Senior Stockings:** Over 175 senior stockings were donated by the community for older adults in Wilsonville. 100+ stockings went to home-delivered meal recipients, and the remaining stockings were gifted to social service clients within the community.

**Toy Drive Pick Up:** After last minute toy donations came into the Parks and Recreation Department, the Community Center was able to offer 50+ free toys to community members who were in need.

**Caregiver Support Group kicks off:** Dementia specialist and group facilitator Scott Lichtenstein lead the discussion and shared dementia care resources and dementia communication tips. The group will also discuss long term care planning and emotional support at its monthly meeting on the First Tuesday of each month



## Board Highlights

**Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board:** The Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board met virtually with their colleagues in Japan in December to give a presentation and overview of upcoming projects and goals, including a pen-pal program which begins in January. The board also gave a presentation on winter holiday traditions.

**KWMFO:** The Korean War Memorial Foundation of Oregon (KWMFO) did not meet in December. The Interpretive Center Design Team is awaiting updated plans from Formations.

**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 four. Pre-orders are required.

## Team Updates:

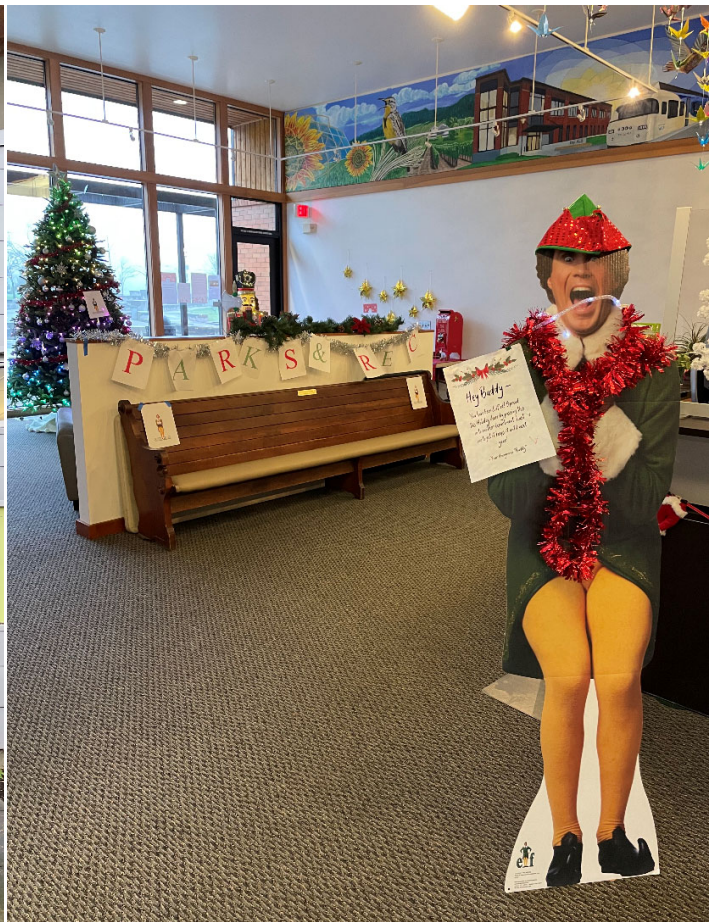
### New Holiday Traditions!

The Parks and Recreation Department started a few new holiday traditions in December. For the department holiday lunch, the team gathered at the community center for lunch and an ugly sweater contest. After lunch, many members of the department joined the seniors for a few rounds of Holiday Bingo! Bingo was a huge hit for our department, (the seniors loved having us as well) and the tradition will be carried forward for years to come.

Another fun holiday tradition, implemented by the Parks and Recreation Department this year was Buddy the Elf! Kris Ammerman, the Director of Parks and Recreation, taught us this fun tradition of 'elfing' another department. You leave a cardboard cutout of Buddy the elf at another department with treats and snacks, and a note to spread the holiday cheer on to another department. We hope that city staff enjoyed this new holiday tradition! Buddy will be sure to make an appearance next year!



## New Holiday Traditions!





## Parks Team

### Parks and Library Collaboration

The Parks and Recreation Team, Library Team and Wilsonville Public Library Foundation worked together to install five new Little Free Libraries in Wilsonville Parks. The recent park additions have been a collaborative effort and the Parks team is grateful to have new park amenities to share with the community.



### Ice Storm Tree Replant

The Parks team has been hard at work mitigating the unprecedented damage from the 2021 Ice Storm. The heavy rain and cold conditions of December did not deter the team from planting 50 new trees in parks across the city. The team will continue with plantings and plant a total of 125 trees in response to the ice storm



**Monkey Puzzle in Murase**



**Madrone in Memorial Park**