



Parks and Recreation Report | April 2024

Director's Report

Spring time in Wilsonville marks the beginning of the busy season for the Parks and Recreation department. This month we held one of our largest events, the community egg hunt, pictured above. Some highlights from the event include eighteen thousand eggs with candy and prizes and Bailey the Bunny.

We also saw two significant projects come to fruition this month with the Sofia Park playground replacement and the Arboretum in Murase plaza both hosting ribbon cutting events in the same week.

It was great to have the Mayor and several City Councilors come out to support and help celebrate these wins with the team and community members.

The arboretum grand opening also served as our Arbor Day celebration as well as a "Peace Tree" dedication. The Hiroshima peace tree planted in the new arboretum just west of the Stein Boozier Barn located in Murase Plaza is a special Ginko Biloba tree that was grown from seed that survived the atomic bombing of that Japanese city in 1945. This and other seedlings like it have been planted around Oregon since 2020 to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and encourage peace. (The Arboretum was funded by the Wilsonville-Metro Community Enhancement program.)

At the event the Parks and Recreation team was also recognized by the non-profit organization Oregon Community Trees (OCT) for its outstanding work in planning, planting and stewarding our urban forest.

"Wilsonville's Parks and Recreation program leads the way in creating and sustaining a thriving urban forest, overcoming many obstacles," commented OCT's Roth. Well done team!

-Kris Ammerman

Recreation Updates

Community Garden Info Night

Program Coordinator, Laura Ruggles and Recreation Coordinator, Erica Behler held Community Garden Info night on Monday, April 22 at the Community Center. With roughly 50 gardeners in attendance, the coordinators went over garden rules and guidelines, the community service hours program, and local gardening resources such as the seed library, local gardening clubs, and the Clackamas County Master Gardener program. Attendees were seated next to their garden row neighbors and had a chance to get to know one another through a series of prompted questions such as, “What’s your favorite vegetable to grow?”, and “What’s been your biggest challenge growing at the Community Garden?”. There was also time structured into the schedule to listen to gardeners concerns, and get feedback on the recent updates to the garden, such as the color coded plot numbers. An idea posed during the meeting, that will get implemented in the coming months, was the concept of having a small produce collection bin at the Community Garden that will be donated to Wilsonville Community Sharing each week. It will be completely optional to donate, but is a great way for the gardeners to give back to the community. We hope to continue to build community at the garden through a series of work parties throughout the growing months held in May, June, July and August.



Summer Registration Now Open!

Summer registration has started off strong, with classes opening on April 8. This guide, which spans the months of May-August includes special events like Movies in the Park, July 4 Laser Light Show & Concert, Party in the Park, Juneteenth, Pride Mural Reception, Rotary Concerts, and more! Also included in the summer guide are adult fitness classes, library programs, SMART programs, and summer camps! The most popular summer camps so far include STARS Camp, YMCA “Celebrity Chefs”, Fun4All “Slime Week”, and Coyle Outdoors “Intro to Wilderness Survival Camp”. Wilsonville Parks and Recreation has so many great offerings this summer in partnership with our camp providers, make sure to check them out at WilsonvilleParksandRec.com/Register



Hand-held Summer Event Fans Now Available at the Wilsonville Parks and Rec Admin Office

Get your hand-held summer events fan for those hot summer evenings in the park! Now until supplies last at the Wilsonville Parks and Rec Admin Office, Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Don’t need a fan, no problem - stick it on the fridge so you can remember dates for events like Summer Rotary Concerts, Movies in the Park, Farmers Market and water feature dates!

Community Center Updates

AARP SMART Driver Class Fills to Capacity

In partnership with AARP, the Community Center offered the “Smart Driver” classroom course. Sixteen older adults learned how to reduce crashes, limit injury risk and were provided proven driving methods to keep them safe.

Medicare 101

Local Medicare advisors provided a workshop on the basics of Medicare and what to expect when turning 65. They also provided information on the various Medicare plans and help with prescription drugs.

“Adopt-a-Grandparent” Day

Members of the Wilsonville High School Interact Club joined Community Center attendees for “Senior Conversations” aka, “adopt-a-grandparent”. Club members had a number of conversation starters for the older adults in an effort to gain a better understanding of their life experiences. Days like this aim to build a bridge between generations and foster mutual respect and learning. Special thanks to the Wilsonville Rotary for their coordination of this fun project.



Board Highlights

Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission (ACHC)

At the April ACHC meeting the Selection Panel, consisting of the ACHC as well as members from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, met to select which artist should be awarded the temporary mural project for Pride Month. They selected local Clackamas County artist Ren Kyles to do the project and really appreciated her design. The purpose and goal of this mural project is to provide visual representation to uplift, recognize and celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community and celebrate and honor Pride Month. Following the meeting there was a gallery reception for local Wilsonville artist Jim Stears, who’s photography is currently on display at City Hall.

Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board (KSCAB)

The Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board met on April 10 to continue discussion surrounding board goals for the upcoming 2024-2025 fiscal year. The board has drafted goals under six common themes so far including;

1. Increase connections with the Aizu-Kitakata International Association
2. Engage Wilsonville Youth
3. Expand Education for the Community
4. Continue to Provide Homestay Program
5. Adjust bylaws to better position the board for Longevity
6. Strengthen Relationship among Community Resource Groups

The board will continue their goals discussion at the upcoming May meeting, and plan to present goals to the City Council in July or August.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board did not meet in April but met May 2 to award the spring cycle of the Community Opportunity Grant. The Charbonneau Country Club was awarded \$2,257 for upgrades to their community emergency radio network. Wilsonville Little League received \$10,000 for a partnership project with a local Eagle Scout to fund dugout renovations at Wood Middle School. And finally, Wilsonville Skatepark Association received \$3,000 to help offset the cost of this year's Skate Jam in Memorial Park.



Other Group Highlights

Korean War Memorial Foundation of Oregon (KWMFO)

The KWMFO is preparing for the installation of cabinets, fixtures, audio video systems and artifacts at the soon to be completed Oregon Korean War Memorial Interpretive Center. Installation is scheduled for May 8—14.

Upcoming Events

WERK Day: Saturday, May 18, at 9-10 am, Murase Plaza and Dog Park (Meet at Community Center for assignments). Complimentary breakfast beforehand from 8-9 am at the Community Center.

Goat Petting Day: Saturday, May 18 at 10 am-12 pm, Memorial Park Community Garden— look for signage

Memorial Day Ceremony: Monday, May 27 | 10 am | Oregon Korean War Memorial, Town Center Park

Mobility Month, David's Chair Program: —Sunday, June 2—by appointment. Visit WilsonvilleParksandRec.com/MobilityMonth for additional information.

Water Features Begin: May 29-September 4 | 10am-8pm daily | Town Center Park & Murase Plaza

Korean War Remembrance Ceremony and Interpretive Center opening | 10 am | Oregon Korean War Memorial, Town Center Park

July 4 Concert and Laser Light Show: Thursday, July 4 | Music begins at 8pm | Town Center Park

Movies in the Park Series: (all movies take place at dusk)

- July 12—Barbie | Town Center Park
- July 26—Elemental | Edelweiss Park
- August 9—Migration | Town Center Park
- August 23—Wish | Memorial Park River Shelter

WILSONVILLE
PARKS & RECREATION

WERK Day

Saturday, May 18
Wilsonville Community Center

7:30-8:45am Check-In
8-9am Optional Complimentary
Breakfast from the
Rotary Club of Wilsonville

9-11am WERK Day Projects
10am-12pm Goat Petting

Participants get a free \$10
game card courtesy of
BULLWINKLE'S

Parks Team Updates

Sofia Park Grand Opening

The playground at Sofia park is officially open for play! The playground features turf surfacing, an inclusive whirl spinner and many other great play features. The playground hosted a ribbon cutting in April and the team is excited to have this great playground open for the community to enjoy.



Additional Park Improvements

Many of the parks in the system received great updates during the last month. Nine new picnic tables, including three ADA accessible, were installed in Murase Plaza. These new tables replaced tables that had become unrepairable and were recently removed. Canyon Creek Park also got an in-house makeover, including new wildflower landscaping and pads for benches. The new benches will be added to the park in May.

