



## Parks and Recreation Report | October 2023

### Director's Report

October was a very busy month for the Parks & Recreation team. The headline event was, of course, our annual Harvest Festival that attracted folks to the Stein-Boozier Barn in Murase Plaza for a fun filled day of fall festivities. Nearly 1,200 free pumpkins were given out, setting yet another record for attendance. I am grateful to be part of a team that works so well together to plan, prepare, support and attend our large scale community events. In addition to the usual attractions, the event included local artisan vendor booths for the first time. Once again the weather cooperated and a good time was had by all.

Another major event this month was the visiting student delegation from our sister city, Kitakata, Japan. The 13 students and two chaperones were in town for nine days and were joined by the Mayor, the entire City Council and the host families for a farewell dinner (pictured above). This year marks the 35th anniversary of Wilsonville's sister city partnership with Kitakata, Japan and the relationship is still going strong.

The start of Mini-Hoopers, The Storywalk grand opening, the end of Sports Field reservations and the transition to leaf season rounds out the major happenings of the month. Looking ahead, our Community Tree Lighting, Holiday Toy Drive and Senior Stocking Stuffer programs are all right around the corner.

~Kris Ammerman

## Recreation Updates

### Another Successful Harvest Festival in the Books!

The community enjoyed the 2023 Harvest Festival at the Stein-Boozier Barn on Saturday, October 21. This event featured live music from the band Redwood Revue, horse and carriage rides, free pumpkin handouts, over 20 craft and seasonal vendors, coffee and donuts for purchase, a kids costume parade, face painting and more! A big thank you to this year's title sponsor, Nichols Family Agency.



### StoryWalk Grand Opening Event

The Wilsonville Public Library Foundation, in partnership with the Wilsonville Public Library and the Wilsonville Parks and Recreation Department, are excited to announce the opening of a brand new StoryWalk in Villebois along Coffee Lake Drive. The StoryWalk begins at the intersection of SW Coffee Lake Drive and SW Denmark Street near a small rose garden and ends at a Little Free Library on the corner of SW Coffee Lake Drive and Barber Street. A grand opening event with a ribbon cutting took place on Friday, October 13 at the start of the StoryWalk. Funding for this new community amenity came from the Community Cultural Events and Programs Grant.



### Student Delegation Arrives from Sister City

We were thrilled to host another student delegation from our sister city of Kitakata, Japan from October 28-November 5. This group, made of up 13 middle school students and their two chaperones, had the opportunity to get to know the Wilsonville community by staying with host families and spending time with local students at both Meridian Creek Middle School and Wilsonville High School. Additionally, they had the opportunity to meet City leadership, carve pumpkins, visit Triskalee Farms, hike at Silver Falls State Park, explore Powell's Books, visit the Pittock Mansion, visit the Japanese Consulate's office and more. We are grateful to everyone who was involved in making this trip special and memorable for these students, especially the Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board and Recreation Coordinator Erica Behler!



## Recreation Updates

### Mini Hoopers 1st & 2nd Grade Basketball

The Mini Hoopers basketball program for first and second graders is in full swing. This in-house youth basketball program is a noncompetitive basketball league centered around fun, skill development and fair play. It uses gym space in local elementary and middle schools. The program is run primarily with volunteer coaches, while rosters, schedules and oversight is provided by Wilsonville Parks and Recreation. Currently there are 55 first and second grade girls, 48 first grade boys and 35 second grade boys enrolled. The season will run from mid-October through early December.



### Athletic Field Reservation Season Comes to an End

After a successful season, the athletic fields are finally closed for the year as we move into the rainy season. The field rental season began in April and ran through October. Sports played on a recurring basis in Memorial Park this past year included t-ball, softball, baseball, youth soccer, adult soccer, adult softball and ultimate frisbee. A huge shout out to our Parks Maintenance team who worked incredibly hard to keep the fields in good shape for teams to play. Thank you also to all the sports organizations who choose to play their favorite sports in our park!



## Community Center Updates

### I-5 Connection is back!

The Community Center's I-5 Connection Community Chorus has returned for the first time since the pandemic. Currently, 30 individuals are gathering weekly for the all-inclusive music group open to vocalists and musicians with a variety of musical backgrounds.



### Life 101 Lecture Series

The Community Center's lecture series continued in October with the Alzheimer's Association giving a presentation on how to understand and respond to dementia-related behavior, attorney Michael Rose of Rose Elder Law presenting his "Estate Planning 101" lecture. Holistic nutritionist Samantha Romanowski sharing seasonal nutrition tips to support body and mind during the fall and winter seasons.

### Center Nutrition Program

During October the Community Center's nutrition program served 664 in-house lunch meals and 1,704 meals to home-bound clients as part of the home delivered meal program. The kitchen, and associated kitchen staff, also received a perfect score from the County as part of the quarterly health inspection.

## Board Highlights

### Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission (ACHC)

At the October ACHC meeting the Commission discussed the Boones Ferry Park Project as a potential site for a future Public Art project. Public Art would support the Boones Ferry Park Master Plan which involves an incorporation about the history of traveling the river. The Commission also received a presentation from consultant Bill Flood regarding nearby local communities' structures of public art programs, funding and staffing. Lastly, the Commission discussed options for upcoming bookings to utilize the new Performing Arts Center at the High School.

### Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board

The Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board welcomed 13 students and two chaperones from Kitakata on October 28. The group spent the week touring local attractions, shadowing students in local schools and learning about the Sister City Program. The board cannot thank the host families enough, who welcomed students and chaperones into their homes for the week.

### Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met for a normally scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 12. This meeting was a grant review meeting for the Community Opportunity Grant. Two presentations were made by grant applicants, Wilsonville Community Seniors Inc. and Wilsonville Robotics. Both groups' requests were fully funded by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

## Other Group Highlights

### Korean War Memorial Foundation of Oregon (KWMFO)

The KWMFO did not meet in October but is preparing to support the Veterans Day event on November 11 at 10:30am in Town Center Park, as well as, preparing for the opening of the Oregon Korean War Memorial Interpretive Center planned for late 2023.

### Wilsonville Community Seniors Inc.

The Board hosted their annual "Special" Senior Trip of the year which took 50 local older adults to the Columbia River Gorge. Attendees visited apple farms in Parkdale, the fish hatchery and enjoyed lunch in Cascade Locks.

## Upcoming Events

**Wilsonville Toy Drive:** November 1-December 8, 8am-5pm, Community Center

**Fill a Stocking for a Wilsonville Senior:** November 1-December 13, 8am-5pm, Community Center

**Community Tree Lighting:** November 30, 5pm-7pm, Town Center Park

**Hunt for the Holiday Symbols:** December 4-15, 8am-5pm, Various Locations

## Parks Updates

### Landscaping Through October

The Parks team spent much of October working on improving existing landscape beds across many of our parks. The team focused on native, drought tolerant plants and trees. They prioritized putting them into parks with landscape beds that have high weed pressure. These projects will not only help beautify the parks, it will also help to reduce the use of herbicides long-term. Twist Bioscience’s volunteer groups helped with this initiative at both Boones Ferry Park and Canyon Creek Park. The team is also working to selectively “Leave the Leaves.” Managing leaf material within the park instead of removing them is a great way to provide nutrition for plants and grass while minimize time spent removing leaf material as well as saving money on disposal. This initiative may be coming soon to a park near you.



*Cherry Tree Removal*



*Canyon Creek Updates*



*Leaf Management*



*Leave the Leaves*



*Volunteer Group*