



August 2021 Parks & Rec Report

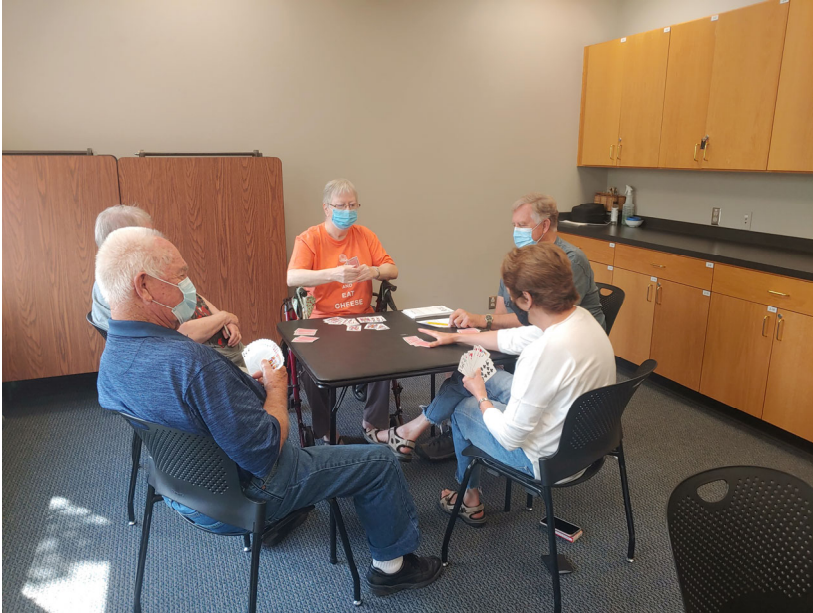
Directors Report:

I cannot believe it is September already. August was a blur of activity for us here in the Parks and Recreation Department with The Community Block Party, Movies, Concerts, facility reservations and a variety of Summer Camps. We even added a new park to our inventory! The scheduled take-over of Edelweiss Park has just finalized, so the park maintenance team will add it to its list of duties. It was not all fun and games though, as we were also hit with extreme weather events, wildfire smoke, and of course the recent surge in COVID cases. Through it all, the resiliency of the team shone through, as they were able to handle everything that was thrown their way. I am so grateful to be part of such a hard-working and dedicated group that is always eager to jump in and get the job done!

-Kris Ammerman



Community Center Updates:



Community Center

- Parks and Recreation staff was excited to open the doors of the Community Center once again in August. Drop-in programs such as the Photography group, Pinochle & Cribbage, Bridge, BINGO and Ladies Afternoon Out all returned and staff looks forward to seeing other drop-in groups as they feel comfortable returning. Unfortunately, due to the indoor mask mandate, the majority of indoor fitness classes were canceled or moved outdoors.
- Back in June of this year, the Community Center received four (4) Oculus Virtual Reality headsets from Clackamas County Behavioral Health. Since then, staff has been working to development programming using the headsets. This month, Personal Trainer Brad Moore began meeting once a week with participants to start exploring the possibilities of the headsets. The group is currently reviewing fitness “game” options with the goal of rolling out a virtual reality based fitness program at the Community Center.



Block Party Fun!



The Community Block Party—

The Community Block Party was held on Thursday, August 26 in Town Center Park. The event had a decent turnout, given the state of the pandemic, and those in attendance seemed to have a great time. The event featured the band “Samsel”, as well as professional sound company, Aloha Sound, that always does an amazing job. There were also several food trucks and a brewery on site for food and beverages. Kids enjoyed a balloon artist, glitter tattoo artist and bubble stations. Several city departments and boards also took part in the event including Public Works, Parks and Rec, the Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board, and Friends of the Library.

Movies in the Park —

Two Movies in the Park were held in August- “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” in Town Center Park and “Raya and the Last Dragon” at the Memorial Park River Shelter. A big thank you to this year’s movie Sponsor, Wilsonville Subaru, who’s sponsorship helps keep these movies free to our community. Town Center Park was a new venue for movies in the park this year, and turned out to be a great location for the community. The Parks and Rec department plans to continue to explore additional locations in the years to come.

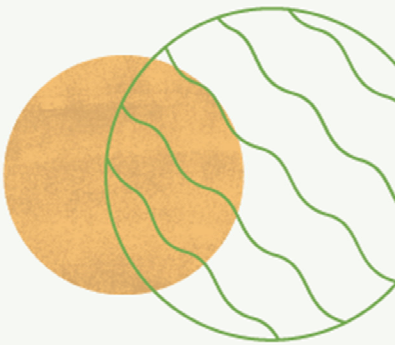


Board Highlights

Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board— The Kitakata Sister City Advisory board met in August to continue their discussions and preparations around the newly created three year work plan. The board plans to come to council work session on October 18t to present this work plan to council. Several members of the board hosted an informational table at the Block Party where they handed out brochures and Kitakata style ramen to help spread awareness about our sister city. *see new informational brochure on the following 2 pages*

Korean War Memorial Foundation of Oregon (KWMFO): Plans for the Korean War Memorial Interpretive Center are moving along. Recently, Formations, Inc., the design and build company that won the bid, sent KWMFO a “wish list” for items to be displayed in the Interpretive Center. The “wish list” includes; military-issued equipment: bayonets, knives, helmet, hat, beret, ration kit, P-38 can opener, and dog tags. Also needed are Korean War medals and ribbons given to soldiers and patches worn by soldiers. The Foundation is hoping to source these items from local veterans and the community at-large.

Wilsonville Community Seniors Inc.— The Board was excited to bring back the ever popular monthly senior trip with a trip to Oktobrefest in Mt. Angel. Unfortunately, given the large scale nature of the event, the Board decided to cancel the trip in the interest of health and safety.



About Kitakata:

Kitakata is located about 4 1/2 hours northwest of Tokyo, within the Fukushima prefecture of Japan. The climate is warm in the summer and usually receives heavy snowfall in the winter. The population of Kitakata is approximately 52,000. Kitakata is well known for its delicious ramen and beautiful lacquerware.



Current Board Members

- Jason Jones
- Sruthy Menon
- Aaron Regina - Vice Chair
- Tracy Sailors
- Dave Schalk
- Adrienne Scritsmier
- Seiji Shiratori
- Kevin Stewart
- Ashleigh Sumerlin - Chair
- Erica Behler - Staff Liaison

Emeritus Members:

- Sue Raxter
- Lois Reimer
- Bev Schalk



Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board



WILSONVILLE, OREGON
KITAKATA, JAPAN

Mission

The Sister City Advisory Board's mission is to encourage cross-cultural understanding and promote educational and economic exchange between the City of Wilsonville and their Sister City Kitakata, Japan.

Vision

The Wilsonville community celebrates our relationship with Kitakata through cultural immersion opportunities in education, food, business, and Japanese tradition.



History

The City of Wilsonville has had a Sister City relationship with the City of Kitakata, Japan since 1988. This 30+ year program. The program was long sustained through the dedication of the Wilsonville Sister City Association, a volunteer group that organized, raised funds and documented cultural exchanges prior to the establishment of this City board. In 2020/21, the City of Wilsonville transitioned this program to a city funded/supported program and established an Advisory Board to guide and support the development and activities of the Sister City Program. Historically, the cities have participated in a student exchange; local high school and middle school students from Kitakata stay with families here in Wilsonville, and students from Wilsonville stay with host families and participate in local activities in Kitakata. These exchanges have nurtured and increased understanding of different cultures, while creating wonderful memories and new friendships.

2021-2024 Goals + Actions

Goal 1: Strengthen the relationship between Kitakata and Wilsonville through the development of a shared vision and goals.

Goal 2: Increase community awareness of the Kitakata Sister City program.

Goal 3: Engage Wilsonville's youth in the Sister City Program through expanded education and offerings.

Goal 4: Develop fundraising goals and priorities for the Kitakata Sister City program.

Goal 5: Foster economic ties, make connections, and build awareness of the Sister City program in the business community.



Parks Maintenance Updates:

- Picked up boulders for nature play
- Installed memorial plaque at Courtside Park
- Installed little free library at Engelman Park
- Cleaned up Cities future pedestrian bridge property (40 yards of chipped debris and leaf material. Picked up 200 gallons of trash)



The Last Day to Enjoy Splash Pads will be Sunday, 9/12

Water features will be closed for the season beginning Monday, 9/13

Thank you for the great summer season!



Parks Maintenance Updates:

Playground Inspection and Repair is Key

A key component to the safety of Wilsonville Parks playgrounds is the parks maintenance team conducting safety inspections. In an August inspection of Murase Plaza playground, a broken slide was discovered. The issue was explored further by the team and then removed. The area was made safe with a short term fix and a replacement slide was ordered less than 24 hours after the concern was found.



Damaged Area



Short Term Fix

Nature Play Moving Forward

The Parks Maintenance team is making great progress on the Nature Play area at Memorial Park. This month brought the installation of a sandbox and cave area. The team continues to drive towards a mid October completion date so the community can enjoy it before the heavy rain arrives. Tommy Reeder and Zack Morse have been diligent in their work on the project to ensure the community has an incredible new asset that is a one of a kind play opportunity for the Wilsonville community. The Nature Play area is funded by a Wilsonville—Metro Community Enhancement grant



Sand Play Area Before



Sand Play Area After