



December 2020 Parks & Rec Report

Director's Report:

With a new year comes new opportunities, adventures, and hopefully, a return to 'normalcy' for everyone. Looking back at a difficult 2020 I'm extremely proud of our Parks and Recreation Team. Sometimes during the most trying of times you see true strength shine through. To quote Michael Jordan, "Obstacles don't have to stop you, if you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it or work around it," Your entire Parks and Recreation Team did just that and will continue to give a 100% regardless of the situations surrounding all of us.

During the month of December the citizens of Wilsonville stepped up like no other place I've ever seen. This was exemplified when our annual Toy Drive brought in over 500 presents for kids in real need. Staff also implemented a new program called "Stockings for Seniors". This program asked residents to provide Holiday Stockings for elderly encountering difficult times. The Wilsonville community filled up and brought in over 100 stockings. Just another reason it makes me proud to live in this City.

Other programs that were quite successful the last month of 2020, were the Gingerbread Hunt (over 60 families participated), Holiday Cookie Making Contest (over 30 people joined in), the winter gnome virtual crafting event (170+ views) and staff, I mean Santa, received over 90 letters. These letters were answered via hand written responses from one of our special elves Brenda Howe. Great job Brenda!!!

Programs and other accomplishments that stood out in 2020, included cooking and home delivering over 22,000 meals. Several virtual, drive-thru and socially distanced programs including a very popular free pumpkin give away.

Although pointed out in prior reports, I believe it is worth mentioning again the outstanding achievements of our park crew. These include a new Dog Park, a fully accessible surface and swing at Murase, new play amenities at Park at Merryfield and of course the best holiday lights ever on display at Town Center Park.

Once again we are all looking forward to 2021, and hope to see all of you taking part in one of our many activities, events or simply enjoying time in one of the safest and best parks offered anywhere. Happy New Year Wilsonville.

-Mike McCarty

Recreation Updates:

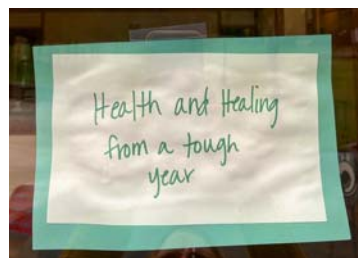
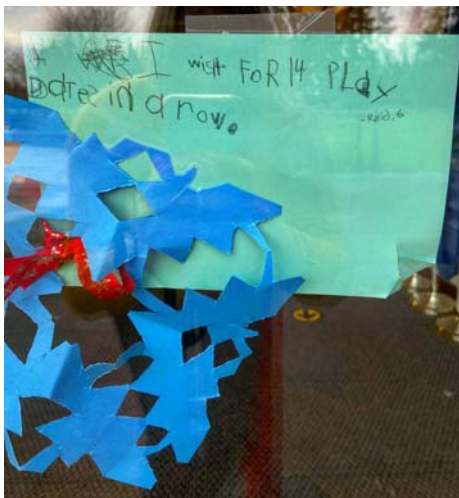
Virtual Crafting– Winter Gnomes: A virtual crafting event took place, as part of the larger Winterfest on Sunday, December 20 on Facebook Live. Recreation Coordinator, Erica Behler gave a tutorial on how to create a winter gnome! Overall attendance was good and the video has 170+ views. The video is saved on Facebook for anyone who would like to learn at a later date.



Letters to Santa: From November 30 through December 14, letters to Santa were collected in our big 'Letters to Santa' mailbox at the Parks and Rec Admin Building. Wilsonville residents who turned in a letter to Santa (and included a return address) by December 14 received a hand-written reply letter to their home! Letters to Santa templates and crayons were made available for pick-up, at no cost, at the Parks and Rec Admin Building. In total, over 90 personalized letters were sent to Wilsonville kids before Christmas.

The Hunt for the Gingerbread Family: Between December 4 and December 20, a series of Gingerbread people were hidden throughout Wilsonville as part of a scavenger hunt activity for Winterfest. Clues to find the hidden gingerbread family members were posted to the event website and social media. Participants were asked to take a picture of at least 5 gingerbread people and show Parks and Rec staff their pictures either in person or by email. Those that found at least 5 gingerbread were entered to win a \$100 REI gift card. Over 60 families participated in the scavenger hunt. Those who sent in their pictures by email, often left comments about how grateful they were for this organized activity, and that they really enjoyed getting outside with their family.

Holiday Toy Drive and Senior Stockings: The Parks and Recreation Department collected new toys through December 8 and holiday stockings for local seniors through December 11. Toys were driven to Clackamas County Compassion in Action for distribution. This year we collected a total of 500 toys and over 100 stockings for seniors.



Wishes for Wilsonville Snowflakes: "Wishes for Wilsonville" snowflake craft packets were made available, at no charge, at the Parks and Rec Admin Building in December. Community members created their 2021 wish for Wilsonville and brought them to the Admin building to be displayed in our windows facing town center park. Reid, Age 6 wrote, "I wish for 14 play dates in a row".

Community Center Updates:



Drive-Thru events and Stocking Distribution:

- 90 community members attended the Community Center's drive thru holiday event. Attendees were gifted a holiday goodie bag, tree ornament, arts, crafts and a festive cookie made by the Center's nutrition staff. Response from the community was great with numerous emails and voicemails coming in to thank Center staff. One read, "Thank you for doing this. My husband and I have been staying at home for 9 months. It was fun to get out today. And you were the first to wish us "Merry Christmas"! With another stating, "Thank you so much! We loved all the goodies and are so grateful! The people there were so nice, too!!!!"
- Through the generosity of community members 102 Senior Stockings went out to recipients of the Community Center's Home Delivered Meal Program. The festive stockings were filled with everyday essentials like soap and toothpaste as well as holiday goodies such as candies, ornaments and holiday themed crafts and word searches. SMART Drivers helped to deliver the stockings as part of their daily meal routes.



Parks Maintenance Updates:

Mechanical Controls:

Parks maintenance team members spent time in December starting to prep the fields in Memorial Park for the potential upcoming sports season. Below is a before and after of a mechanical control method for removing grass over growth on the infields. The team is proud to utilize many mechanical methods of weed control in the parks.



Landscape Refresh:

Memorial Parks main parking lot has been the focus of some updating over the past month. Proper pruning of plants, removal of leaf over burden and landscaping with river rock has helped to transform some of the landscape beds in Memorial. Long term the increased attention, new rock coverage and proper maintenance will help to reduce workload and assist in limiting pesticide use in these areas.



Ongoing and Upcoming:

The Search for Cupid's Hearts: Beginning Tuesday, February 2, eight red hearts will be hidden throughout Wilsonville. Clues to the locations of "Cupid's Hearts" will be posted to social media (on Facebook @WilsonvilleParksandRec and Instagram @wvparksandrec). Find at least five of the eight hearts, show proof by sending in your photos to Recreation Coordinator Erica Behler at cupidsharts@ci.wilsonville.or.us and be entered to win a kids Valentine's basket valued at \$50. Two winners will be chosen at random and announced on Friday, Feb. 12

Community Valentine's for Frontline Workers and Senior Caregivers: Wilsonville Parks and Recreation would like to invite you to create a Valentine's Card for those who deserve it most- our Frontline Workers and Senior Caregivers. Beginning January 11, come by the Parks and Rec Admin Building (29600 SW Park Place) to pick up your DIY Valentine's Card kit. Kits are available for pick up Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm. Return your card by Friday, February 5 so we can get it out to our brave and deserving Valentines.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: The Parks and Recreation Advisory board will meet via zoom on January 14t at 4pm. The meeting agenda includes officer appointments, a mid-year staff report, and an initial discussion about board goals for 2021.

Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board: Recreation Coordinator, Erica Behler is working with the newly appointed board members of the Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board to schedule their first meeting. The board will work with a facilitator to create a strategy and work plan, as well as receive training on Roberts Rules of Order.