



Parks and Recreation Report | December 2024

Director's Report

This month marked another successful toy drive with over 500 toys donated! A big thank you to the community for stepping up again this year!

Another annual tradition this month was our annual Community Tree Lighting event held on December 5. It was a festive, well attended event that consisted of many great singing and dancing performances and, of course, the lighting of the tree by City Council President Kristin Akervall. A big thank you to all that attended and showed their support for the performers! Of course, this event would not be nearly as special without all of the hard work of our dedicated parks team who installs all of the beautiful lighting and decorations. It truly is a team effort and I am always grateful to be a part of it.

In other happenings, light renovations have been completed on the Art Tech building, which we are now internally referring to as Park Tech, as the Parks Maintenance Team has moved their operations into that space. Part of the impetus for this move was the recent opening of the interpretive center at the Parks and Rec Admin Building which leaves very little space for event staging and storage. The new space will also provide room for our Parks team to grow as we take on more park properties in the future.

The Community Center Nutrition team continues to provide a high level of service to the community through it's in person and home delivered meals program, hitting new highs for both services during the busy holiday season. Also, in December, the Community Center kitchen received several new appliances through a grant award. Thank you for a wonderful Holiday season, Wilsonville.

~Kris Ammerman

Community Center & Recreation Updates

Community Tree Lighting

The annual Community Tree Lighting was held in December in Town Center Park. New this year, the Recreation team rented a large covered tent for more weather proof space, which held a craft area, and a pictures with Santa Station. Then, Council President, Kristin Akervall gave the countdown to the lighting of the holiday tree, and all went off without a hitch! This event continues to grow, and the team is looking at ways to expand the event in 2025.

Letters to Santa

The annual holiday tradition continued again this year as some of our youngest community members dropped off their handwritten letters to Santa in the big red mailbox at the Parks and Recreation Office. All participants who included their return mailing address on their letter received a letter back in the mail from Santa. Santa mailed out nearly 100 letters this year, and he shared with the Parks and Recreation team that he loves to read all the letters from the community.

Toy Drive

This year, the Community Center was the collection point for the popular annual toy drive. The Wilsonville community came together and made 2024 another successful year with over 500 toys donated. The new toys were then distributed through Clackamas Compassion in Action and the Family Empowerment Center.

Senior Stockings

Once again, the community came together to provide overflowing stockings of holiday treats and goodies for the 85 individuals on the City's home delivered meal program, plus an additional 110 stockings which were given to members of the Center's congregate lunch program and residents at local care facilities.



Holiday Lunch and Party

Over 90 community members came to the Community Center for a festive holiday lunch and 60 stayed for the Wilsonville Community Seniors Inc holiday party. The party included a performance by the Wilsonville Ukulele Group, holiday sing-a-longs, crafts, a white elephant gift exchange and everyone went home with a goodie bag.

New Community Center Appliances

The Community Center was the proud recipient of a State of Oregon grant in the amount of \$25,000. The grant, intended to help increase efficiencies in the State's senior lunch programs, helped to fund the purchase of a double door convection oven, five tray steam table, three door commercial refrigeration and a commercial ice maker. The new appliances replaced aging and inefficient appliances and were delivered and installed in December.



Arts Updates

This month staff posted the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) seeking talented artist(s) and/or artist (team(s)) to create a new and engaging public artwork(s) for Boones Ferry Park with theme “Essence of the River,” which ties back to the Boones Ferry Park Masterplan. Staff determined three (3) viable zones for public art and artists are able to focus on one zone or multiple. The RFQ was previously reviewed at two Arts, Culture and Heritage Commission (ACHC) meetings. This is an exciting opportunity and the first large-scale public art project since the inception of the ACHC as well as the adoption of the City’s Public Art Policy and Guidelines.



Interpretive Center Lighting Upgrade

The Korean War Memorial Foundation of Oregon, in partnership with the City, upgraded the lighting in the recently opened Korean War Memorial Interpretive Center. The new lighting, which is flush to the ceiling as opposed to the previous drop-down track lighting, better illuminates the space and allows clear visual lines to the images of Korean War veterans which circle the top of the Center.



Board Highlights

Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission (ACHC)

At the December ACHC meeting the Commission received presentations from the three (3) Community Cultural Events and Programs Grant Applicants which included: Charbonneau Arts Association, Wilsonville Rotary Foundation, and Wilsonville STAGE. The ACHC made a motion to recommend full funding for all applicants which will get forwarded to City Council for final approval.

Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board

The Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board met on December 11. The board discussed a 2025 student delegation visit from Kitakata in either October or December of 2025. It was the last meeting for board members, Aaron Reyna and Mas Yatabe who will not continue with the board in 2025.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board did not meet in December. The next regularly schedule meeting is planned for April 10.

Upcoming Events

The Hunt for Cupid’s Hearts: January 27—February 9

Daddy Daughter Dance: February 23, 7-9pm, Wilsonville Community Center

Multicultural Dance Celebration Presented by the ACHC: April 3, 6:30—8:30pm, McMenamain’s Old Church

Community Egg Hunt: April 19, 10am, Memorial Park Sports Fields

HeARTs of Wilsonville: Many Cultures, One Heart Public Art Project, Opening Reception: April 30, 5pm—7pm, Stein Boozier Barn

WERK Day: May 10, 9-11am, Memorial Park (Complimentary Breakfast at the Community Center, 8-9 am)

Parks Updates

December was a busy month for the Parks Team. While the month was full of rain, the team worked hard to ensure the parks were safe and clean. They worked to bring together the annual tree lighting and all the decorations at Town Center that accompany that wonderful event. The team also responded to a vehicle that drove through the fence at the Memorial Dog Park. The team is also working closely with our Arts & Culture Program Coordinator to build bases for an upcoming art installation.

