



Parks and Recreation Report | December 2025

Director's Report

With the departure of Kris Ammerman to Post Falls, Idaho, the recruitment for a new Parks and Recreation Director has begun. Luckily, the Department is in capable hands in the interim as Steve Rymer has taken the reigns. Steve has a long list of experiences in Parks and Recreation and City Administration and the team is excited to learn from him during this transitional period.

Speaking of new staff....

Please welcome Matt Moritz as Wilsonville's Parks Manager. His first day was Monday, January 5.

Matt comes to us from Oregon State Parks where he served as Park Manager for the State Capitol Management Unit, which includes State Capitol State Park and Willamette Mission State Park. He has also served the City of Astoria as Parks Maintenance Supervisor and Superintendent of Ocean View Cemetery. Additionally, Matt has worked as the Maintenance Supervisor for Snow Peak Campfield, located in Long Beach, WA.

Matt lives in Salem, Oregon and enjoys exploring the great outdoors with his wife and two kiddos.

He is very excited to join Team Wilsonville!



Community Center & Recreation Updates

Community Tree Lighting, Toy Drive & Letters to Santa

The annual Community Tree Lighting was held in December in Town Center Park. Due to the forecasted wet weather, the Recreation team once again rented a large covered tent for additional weather proof space, which held a craft area, and a pictures with Santa Station. Mayor O'Neil gave the countdown to the lighting of the holiday tree. A big thank you to Wilsonville Choral Arts Society Director, John Hillan-Payne for organizing this year's choir performances!

The annual Letters to Winter Wonderland 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.

This year, the Community Center was the collection point for the popular community toy drive. The Wilsonville community came together and made 2025 the biggest year yet with over 1,500 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 150 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. Another 60 attended the Wilsonville Community Seniors Inc holiday party. The party included a performance by the Wilsonville Ukulele Group, crafts, a white elephant gift exchange and everyone went home with a goodie bag.





Kitakata Sister City Visit

This December, a delegation of 14 students and two (2) chaperones from Kitakata, Japan came to Wilsonville for a visit from December 6 through 14. All members of the delegation staid with local host families. Host families go through an application process, which includes a home visit, background check, and orientation night.

During their visit, students spent time at Meridian Creek Middle School and Wilsonville High School where they shadowed students to their classes. The group also toured local area colleges like Clackamas Community College and Lewis & Clark. Oil painting, bowling, pizza making, and gingerbread house building were also on the schedule.

The Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board hosted a welcome dinner at the Wilsonville McMenamins Old Church, and a farewell dinner at the Wilsonville Community Center. Mayor O'Neil gave remarks at both events.

The week was jam packed full of activities, and while the jet lag barely wore off by the time the students had to say goodbye, it was a wonderful visit. This summer, a group of Wilsonville High School students will visit Kitakata, Japan chaperoned by the Wilsonville High School Japanese language teacher, Shinobu Chrisman. The next student delegation to Wilsonville from Kitakata will be in October 2027. Wilsonville and Kitakata will have their fortieth anniversary of the sister city relationship in October 2028. It is anticipated that an adult delegation to or from Wilsonville will take place for the 40th anniversary.



Arts Updates

This month staff prepared for the upcoming online silent auction which will consist of selling five of the ten heARTs of Wilsonville sculptures. The auction will take place online in Mid February. Staff continued to work with Julia Hunkler, who is the awarded artist for the Children's Section Murals at the Wilsonville Library, who will be submitting her design for review and approval in January. Staff is also preparing the Arts, Culture and Heritage Commission for their January Grant Review meeting as the Community Cultural Events and Programs Grant received six (6) applications.

Board Highlights

Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission

The ACHC did not meet in December.

Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board

The Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board hosted 14 students and 2 chaperones from Kitakata in December. All members of the delegation stayed with local host families. The board will meet in January to debrief the visit.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board did not meet in December

Upcoming Events

Daddy Daughter Dance: February 20, 7-9pm, Wilsonville Community Center

Community Egg Hunt: April 4, 10am, Memorial Park

WERK Day: April 25, 8am, Wilsonville Community Center



Parks Updates

December was a busy month for the Parks Team.

Preparing for tree lighting was a team effort as they set up, monitored the event and tore down all in one day!

The team handled many downed trees that occurred during the inclement weather earlier in the month.

The team was preparing for their new Parks Operations Manager to start on January 5 and are also working through their budget for fiscal year 2026-27 as they gear up for the new year!

Frog Pond Park project continues as well as the Memorial Park playground replacement with removal of the previous playground and equipment being delivered for the new playground.

