



Parks and Recreation Report | December 2023

Director's Report

Since the official arrival of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Oregon (June 2022 in Forest Grove) the team has been proactively preparing for its arrival here in Wilsonville. This pest has proven deadly to all ash species in North America and Europe and it is only a matter of time before our Ash trees succumb. With that said, the team has taken action to identify those Ashes worth preserving through pesticide treatments vs. those that will be lost to EAB. The trees that are not treated should be removed prior to infestation to prevent further spread and creating hazardous conditions. As EAB overtakes a tree it creates very weak and brittle branch structure that creates hazardous conditions as the branches break and fall to the ground. With this in mind, the team has been removing Ash trees that fit the criteria and using these removals as important training opportunities for new members. The removed trees will be replaced with a variety of species to diversify our urban forest and help guard against the vulnerability of a monoculture.

On the recreation side of the department, the team wrapped up the annual toy drive, senior stocking collections, letters to Santa, and the hunt for holiday symbols scavenger hunt. These programs are always popular and once again the toy drive was a huge success thanks to the generosity of the Wilsonville community.

Grateful for a passionate and talented parks and recreation team that made 2023 a successful and memorable year!

~Kris Ammerman

Community Center & Recreation Updates

Winter/Spring 2024 Registration Now Open

The Winter/Spring 2024 Activity Guide arrived in mailboxes across Wilsonville the week of December 4. Registration opened on Monday, December 11. Camps and classes include, Barre, Yoga, Sit & Be Fit, a “Life 101” lecture series, Baking, Body Sculpt, drop-in programs, youth school break camps, and more! A full listing of classes can be found at WilsonvilleParksandRec.com/Register

Hunt for the Holiday Symbols

The popular Hunt for the Holiday Symbols scavenger hunt ran through December 17 this year. The Hunt for the Holiday Symbols is a winter holiday themed scavenger hunt that takes place around City parks and facilities in Wilsonville. Each symbol represents a corresponding winter holiday from around the globe. Clues to each symbol’s location were posted online, and participants could submit photos of all the symbols they found to be entered into a prize drawing. Three winners were chosen at random and announced the week of December 18.

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 2023 another successful year with over 600 toys donated. The new toys were then distributed through Clackamas Compassion in Action.

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.

Holidays Lunch

Over 60 community members came to the Community Center for a festive holiday lunch. Every attendee at the holiday lunch was treated to a treat-filled stocking compliments of a local business.

White Elephant Gift Exchange

Members of the Center’s congregate lunch brought their favorite “can’t live with it anymore” item for a white elephant gift game complete with their best/favorite/ugliest holiday attire.



Board Highlights

Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission (ACHC)

At the December ACHC meeting the Commission reviewed the applications that were received for Community Cultural Events & Programs (CCEP) Grant funding. Five applications were received and all applicants were in attendance to present to the Commission. The nonprofits that applied included: Charbonneau Arts Association, Siempre la Guitarra, Wilsonville Choral Arts Society, Wilsonville Rotary Foundation and Wilsonville STAGE. The Commission is excited for the opportunity to support local nonprofits with funding.

Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board

The Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board did not meet in December, however, a Cultural Awareness training will take place with Council on January 4, 2024 in preparation for the trip to Kitakata, Japan.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board did not meet in December. The next regularly schedule meeting is planned for Thursday, January 11 at 4:00 pm. It will be held at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

Other Group Highlights

Wilsonville Community Seniors Inc.

The Wilsonville Community Seniors Inc. continues to prepare for the March 9 BINGO fundraiser. There will be a 50/50 raffle and a raffle for prize baskets. The Peacemakers quilting group will be asked if they would also like to contribute items to be raffled off. The board signed and sent out holiday cards to all home delivered meal recipients.

Upcoming Events

City Hall Art Gallery Reception Honoring Artist W.S. Cranmore: January 17, 6:30pm, Wilsonville City Hall

Wilsonville Delegation to Visit Sister City: February 2-10, Kitakata, Japan

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

Community Egg Hunt: March 30, 10am, Memorial Park Sports Fields

WERK Day: May 18, 9-11am, Memorial Park (Complimentary Breakfast at the Community Center, 8-9 am)

Parks Updates

December was a landscape focused month for the Parks team. The team took on the task of removing 26 Ash Trees in Murase Plaza. These trees were proactively removed as a part of the city's Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) action plan. The team will replant 26 trees in Murase Plaza in the coming months. The team also spent time planting new native plants and trees in both the Memorial Dog Park and Memorial Nature Play area. The team also worked to upkeep parking lots and other parks infrastructure as we head into the rainy season.



Tree Removal in Murase Plaza



Tree Removal in Murase Plaza



**Adult Transition Services
working in the Dog Park**



Grade work in Memorial Park



New Plantings at Nature Play