



WILDWOOD®

December 18, 2018

The Honorable City Council
City of Wildwood, Missouri
16860 Main Street
Wildwood, Missouri 63040

Re: ***Parks and Recreation Update for Mid-October, 2018 to Mid-December, 2018***

Council Members:

Listed below is a summary of the efforts the City has completed/underway relative to implementing the goals and recommendations for parks and recreation that were set forth in the Citizens Committee for Park Progress' Action Plan (2007). This summary reflects major items that have been the focus of the City, since the Planning and Parks Committee's October 2018 meeting:

2018 Wildwood Art Festival:

- The 2018 Wildwood Art Festival was held on October 20 and 21, 2018.
- The event had sixty-one (61) artists registered, five (5) musical groups scheduled, and ten (10) food and drink booths ready to serve those in attendance.
- Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and high winds and uncomfortably cold temperatures on Saturday and Saturday evening made it difficult for the artists and influenced the attendance.
- While Sunday of the event was basically a perfect day and, due to Saturday's weather, several artists and food vendors chose not to return or left early.
- It is expected the Celebrate Wildwood Commission will make some adjustments in the 2019 event, based on what was learned this past year.

Wildwood Parks Action Plan Update Committee:

- The Action Plan Update Committee met on October 23, 2018, and December 5, 2018, at Wildwood City Hall.
- At the October 23rd meeting, final recommendation/approval was given to the 4th, and final, draft of the Action Plan Update.
- The next steps of the process were discussed at length, which include final approvals, wrap-up meetings, and the Open House Sessions for public comment.
- The Committee also discussed steps and feasibility of placing a *park sales tax* on the April 2019 ballot.
- At the December 5, 2018 meeting, the Committee discussed the comments and suggestions received during the two (2) Open House Sessions.
- The Committee approved the preparation of a 5th, and final, draft of the Wildwood Parks Action Plan Update, which included suggestions obtained during the Open House Sessions, all of which will be presented to the City Council for its review and consideration.

Wildwood Parks Action Plan Update Committee Open House Events:

- Two (2) Open House Sessions took place for the public to review the suggested updates to the 2007 Park Action Plan.
- The first event was scheduled at Rockwood Valley Middle School, on November 27, 2018, between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- The second event was scheduled at LaSalle Springs Middle School, on November 29, 2018, between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Comments and suggestions received as a result of these two (2) Open House Sessions were discussed at the December 5, 2018 Park Action Plan Update Committee meeting.

The Wildwood Greenway 5K Run/Walk:

- The Wildwood Greenway 5K Run/Walk took place on October 27, 2018.
- This year's race was the first year for it, which replaced the Route 66 5K Run/Walk.
- The event started and finished at Wildwood City Hall and traveled entirely on the Wildwood Greenway Trail System.
- The reason for the change was an effort to bolster the participation/attendance of the event, but registration was basically the same as in past years.

Scrapbooking:

- The November edition of scrapbooking took place on November 6, 2018, at Wildwood City Hall.
- Twenty-five (25) individuals participated in the November class.
- The class is held each month, except December, and very popular with many of the City's residents.

Early Childhood Recreation Program (The Zoo):

- The Early Childhood Recreation Program *The Zoo* was held on November 14, 2018.
- Only one (1) class was offered due to snow on November 15, 2018. The classes on November 14, 2018 were offered at 10:00 a.m. and another at 1:00 p.m., which took place at Wildwood City Hall.
- Each of the classes on November 14, 2018 had the maximum capacity of twenty five (25) children (plus parents).
- Representatives of the St. Louis Children's Zoo presented to the classes, providing lively discussion, small animals for the children to touch and observe, and a craft experience.

Home Alone Class

- The final *Home Alone Class* of 2018 was held on November 28, 2018, at Wildwood City Hall.
- Fourteen (14) parents and children attended the class, which took place between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
- The class is taught by staff from St. Louis Children's Hospital.

Wildwood Celebration Committee:

- The Wildwood Celebration Commission met on November 7, 2018.
- The Celebrate Wildwood Event and the Art Festival was discussed/reviewed at great length.

- The main topic of discussion was whether the events should be retained, as-is, or combined into one (1) event, once again for 2019.
- Committee Members unanimously decided to keep the events separate again for 2019.
- The Committee will not meet again until February 2019.

Pop Up Event

- A final Pop Up Event for 2018 was held on Wednesday, December 12th, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., in Community Park.
- Participants decorated cookies, drank hot cocoa, and made ornaments, while listening to a DJ spin holiday tunes.
- Attendance was approximately one hundred twenty-five (125) participants – a record.

Next City Events:

- *Babysitting 101 Class December 27, 2018*

If you should have any questions or comments in this regard, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. Thank you for your review of this information and continued support of these and other events and activities of the City.

Respectfully submitted,
CITY OF WILDWOOD

Debra Smith McCutchen, Chair*
Planning and Parks Committee

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
John A. Young, City Attorney
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works
Kathy Arnett, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks
Gary Crews, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation

* The Department of Planning and Parks developed this report, in conjunction with the Planning and Parks Committee. Content reflects the Committee's consideration of this subject and not necessarily an individual's position or opinion.