



# WILDWOOD

January 13, 2020

## MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable City Council of the City of Wildwood, Missouri

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: **Alternative Opportunities to the Wildwood BBQ Bash Event for 2020 (Wards – All)**

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor  
Sam Anselm, City Administrator  
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  
Bree Kelchen, Recreation Specialist

### [Background >>>](#)

As the City Council is aware, the Wildwood BBQ Bash, a longtime fixture of the Fall recreation event calendar of Wildwood will not occur in 2020. A number of reasons for the cancellation of this event have been voiced in this regard, but budgetary concerns and limited profit margins for the City's partner in this event have led to this outcome. After the announcement was made, a number of social media posts were made and many expressed their disappointment the event would not be held in the City, on the last weekend of September.

The Department of Planning and Parks had noted earlier, in one (1) of the City Administrator's Weekly Update Report, that events have come and gone over the last twenty-five (25) years, some for lack of attendance, others due to changing trends, and still more relating to locations, finances, and new directions. When the Department noted such, it also identified that, as had been witnessed, despite the changes, something has replaced these events that has been as good, if not better, and addressed Wildwood resident considerations at the end. The resiliency of Wildwood in this regard has always been reflective of supportive City Councils, along with their associated decision making process.

## [Content of Tonight's Presentation >>>](#)

Although nothing can replace a large, specialty event like the Wildwood BBQ Bash, ideas have been offered for consideration to fill that void in the City's Fall Schedule. These ideas or suggestions have come from a range of sources, but have noted the desirability of events like the bash and being outdoors at this great time of year. Specifically, the ideas and suggestions the Department has been provided or shared with to date include the following:

1. A Taste of Wildwood type of event, which highlights restaurants within the City.
2. A fitness competition, similar to a biathlon or triathlon, minus the water component, wholly conducted in Community Park, with age groups and walker categories.
3. A one (1) day barbeque competition highlighting a single type of food item.
4. A new equestrian event hosted in Greensfelder Park or Bluff View Park and Rock Hollow Valley.
5. A Belleview Farms clean-up event, with food and entertainment at the end of the workday.
6. A food truck gathering, with games and music.
7. An open date is retained, with the focus of City efforts to the Celebrate Wildwood-Art Festival Event that is planned two (2) weeks later.
8. No replacement event is considered, nor planned.

Obviously, this list is not the entire universe of possible events to fill the open date and provide residents an option for additional outdoor fun. The City Council may also have certain ideas in this regard, and they can be added to this short list and explored by the Planning and Parks Committee at its next meeting at the end of this month. Therefore, the Department of Planning and Parks is seeking the input of the City Council and any options its members would like to offer in this regard.

## [Summary and Conclusion >>>](#)

If any of the City Council Members should have any questions or comments regarding this information, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. A presentation can be provided as part of tonight's meeting, if any City Council Members should request such, or certainly the Department will be available to respond to any comments or questions at that time as well. Thank you for the opportunity to present this information to the City Council on this matter.