



September 21, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Planning/Parks Committee Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: **Update on In-Person and Virtual Recreation Programs**

cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
Administration/Public Works Committee Members
Economic Development Committee Members
Steve Cross, City Administrator
John A. Young, City Attorney

Listed below is a summary of the programs and activities the City has completed, or are currently underway, relative to implementing the goals and recommendations that were set forth for parks and recreation in the Parks Action Plan Update Committee's [Action Plan 2018](#). This summary reflects major items that have been the focus of the City, since the Committee's August 2021 meeting:

Wildwood Back to School Party:

- The first Back to School Party in almost two (2) years was held on August 20, 2021.
- Fat Pocket Played to a very large crowd at the evening concert.
- Numerous bounce houses, a climbing wall, and face painters were on site for the children's entertainment.
- The usual complimentary hot dogs, kettle corn, Kona Ice snow cones, water, and soda were available.
- Numerous compliments were received at the City Tent.

Wildwood Celebration Commission Meeting:

- The Wildwood Celebration Commission met on September 8, 2021, in virtual format.
- The final details of the 2021 Annual Celebrate Wildwood Event, to be held on September 25, 2021, were discussed at length.
- The next meeting of the Wildwood Celebration Commission will be after the September 25, 2021, event, on October 6, 2021.
- This October meeting is critical to obtain impressions from the members, while fresh in their minds

Celebrate Wildwood Event:

- The 2021 Celebrate Wildwood Event is scheduled for September 25, 2021.
- There will be 106 booths at the 2021 Celebrate Wildwood Event; several static displays; two (2) musical performances; and a fireworks display.
- The event will be held/set-up on Main Street between Fountain Place and Eastgate Lane, along with the open field just east of the B & B Theatre.
- The musical entertainment will be Teddy McCready from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the McEwyen Band from 6:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.
- Final details and organizational maps are complete.

Wildwood Senior Programing:

- Senior programming, for obvious reasons, was *put on hold* for quite some time.
- Recently, however, in-person Senior Yoga Classes have once again become available.
- Each Tuesday and Thursday seniors have the opportunity to participate in Yoga classes either in-person at a new studio or virtually.
- The general fitness classes that proved extremely popular at the Wildwood YMCA are still on hold.

Wildwood Community Garden:

- The Wildwood Community Garden still currently enjoys a very popular status.
- A *workday* at the garden, which was supported by City team members, was held on August 28, 2021.
- Thirty (30) gardeners attended the workday and weeded, mulched, trimmed, and conducted general clean-up.

Early Childhood Program Meet the Train:

- The first *in person* Early Childhood Program in almost two (2) years took place on September 15, 2021.
- Participation in the Meet the Train program was excellent, despite charging five dollars (\$5.00) to reserve a position on WF&P Railroad train.
- Weather was perfect for the event, which included a train ride, a complimentary railroad remembrance item, and snacks after the ride.
- Two (2) classes of fifty (50) participants each were scheduled for 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Pop-Up Concert:

- A pop-up concert was held on September 10, 2021, at the end of Main Street in front of Wildwood City Hall.
- Retired Wildwood Municipal Judge, Rick Brunk, and his band *Blues Plus*, played for Wildwood residents from 6:45 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.
- Food and adult drinks were available for purchase from Super Smokers BBQ, Pond Athletic Association, and Kona Ice, while soda and water were complementary to all in attendance.

Lindenwood University Conference Mountain Bike Conference Challenge:

- Lindenwood University hosted a Mountain Bike Racing Challenge Conference Meet on September 18 and 19, 2021, at and on, the Bluff View Trail System.
- This is the third time Lindenwood University has hosted this conference race on the Bluff View Trail System, after it was necessarily cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic.
- This year's event is the first time it will incorporate a two-day schedule.
- The Bluff View Trail, the Bluff View Connector Trail, and both Zombie East and West Trails were closed for public use both days, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- University teams from across the nation compete in several race options involving both men and women.
- An open division race is offered to attract racers not associated with a team.

Next City Events:

- *Celebrate Wildwood* September 25, 2021
- *Early Childhood* October 13, 2021 *Pumpkin Decorating*
- *Pop Up Tour De Wildwood* TBD (October Date)
- *Shivering Shadow 7K Run/Walk* October 29, 2021

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.