



February 15, 2022

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
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks

Listed below is a summary of the programs and activities the City has completed, or have 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 January 2022 meeting:

Wildwood Celebration Commission Meeting:

- The Wildwood Celebration Commission met on February 2, 2022, in virtual format.
- The Commission continues preparation/planning for the 2022 Celebrate Wildwood event.
- The 2022 venue area is the main focus of attention at this time (see letter in February 14, 2022 City Council Packet).
- The next meeting of the Wildwood Celebration Commission will be March 2, 2022.

The 2022 Wildwood Frozen Feet Half Marathon

- The 2022 Wildwood Frozen Feet Half Marathon took place on January 29, 2022.
- The 2022 event lived up to its name, as the temperature at the race start was ten (10) degrees.
- One hundred forty (140) runners registered for the event and one hundred twenty (120) started the race.
- All 120 runners finished the course.
- The 2022 event had half of the usual registered runners (the race is capped at 300 participants).
- The on-going COVID issues, a new racecourse, and forecasted temperatures, likely influenced participation.
- The 140 registered runners represented thirty-three (33) cities and five (5) states.

- The runners from Missouri runners came as far as Lee Summit and Springfield. The states represented were: Missouri, Illinois, Colorado, North Carolina, and Louisiana.

The 2022 Wildwood Cabin Fever Hiking Challenge:

- The City, once again, is hosting the Cabin Fever Hiking Challenge.
- In 2022, two (2) *virtual* hikes will be arranged for enthusiastic hikers to challenge.
- The first hike went active on February 1, 2022, and takes hikers on a three (3) mile journey.
- Participants have until February 23, 2022 to complete the hike.
- The second hike will go active on March 1, 2022, and will be 7.1 miles in length.
- Participants will have until March 23, 2022 to complete the hike.
- Each hike has a *selfie location* along the way, where participants must take a photograph and submit to the Department of Planning and Parks proving they completed the course.
- Participants that complete both hikes will receive a *one-of-a-kind* t-Shirt for their participation.
- Forty (40) hikers completed the first hike during, and immediately after, the snowstorm on February 2 and 3, 2022.

Wildwood Virtual Bingo:

- A Wildwood Virtual Bingo Game was hosted on February 3, 2022.
- Forty (40) people participated in the virtual event.
- At least six (6) of the participants that participated were from other states.

Wildwood Community Garden:

- Registration for the Wildwood Community Garden opened Monday, February 14, 2022, for past garden members.
- Past garden members will have two (2) weeks to re-register for their garden plots.
- On February 28, 2022, registration will open for individuals on a waiting list for a garden plot.

Next City Events:

- The second *Cabin Fever Hiking Challenge* March 1, 2022
- The *Wildwood Centaur Time Trial* March 19, 2022
- The *Annual Wildwood Spring Egg Hunt* April 9, 2022

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.