



# WILDWOOD

April 19, 2022

## MEMORANDUM

To: Planning and 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  
Steve Cross, City Administrator  
John A. Young, City Attorney  
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works  
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks  
Kristin Naeger, Recreation Specialist

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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 City's Action Plan 2018. This summary reflects major items that have been the focus of the City, since the Committee's March 2022 meeting:

### **Wildwood Celebration Commission Meeting**

- The Wildwood Celebration Commission met on April 6, 2022, in virtual format.
- The Commission continues preparation/planning for the 2022 Celebrate Wildwood Event.
- The venue, theme of event, and parade details were the major focuses of discussion.
- The next meeting of the Wildwood Celebration Commission will be May 4, 2022 and will include a tour of the event grounds.

### **The 2022 Wildwood Cabin Fever Hiking Challenge**

- The City, once again hosted the Cabin Fever Hiking Challenge, instead of the single day Cabin Fever Hiking Event.
- In 2022, two (2) virtual hikes were arranged for enthusiastic hikers to conquer.
- Each hike had a selfie location along the way, where participants were asked to take a photograph and submit to the Department of Planning and Parks proving they completed the course.
- Participants that completed both hikes will receive a one-of-a-kind t-shirt for their participation.

- The first hike went active on February 1, 2022, and ended on February 23, 2022.
- The three (3) mile hike had almost 400 participants.
- The second hike went active on March 1, 2022, and was 7.1 miles (plus) in length.
- Participants had until March 23, 2022 to complete the second hike, and over 280 hikers participated.

### **Lawn and Garden Summit**

- The City hosted a Lawn and Garden Summit on March 19, 2022 in Town Center. The event featured eight (8) presentations on a variety of topics that were well attended.
- The event also featured over 30 organizations distributing information, providing demonstrations, and selling goods.

### **Spring Egg Hunt**

- This event was held on Saturday, April 9, 2022.
- Given the success of the drive-thru Egg Hunt in 2021, the event was again held in this format, which once again proved to be very successful and enjoyable and appreciated by all of the participants. Many of the participants had young children, not yet old enough for vaccination.
- The City received 14,000 eggs packaged in bags of fifteen (15) each.
- The event included a costumed bunny, clowns, balloon artists, and music provided by the City.

### **Wildwood Farms Community Garden**

- Sixteen (16) garden plots were available for new gardeners and filled by applicants previously waitlisted.
- The Arbor Day Garden Event is scheduled for April 29, 2022, will host St. Louis Master Gardener, Betty Struckhoff, speaking on the subject of *Landscaping with Native Trees and Shrubs* and a tree planting will take place in front of the Community Garden. This event will also fulfill the City's Tree City U.S.A. requirements for an Arbor Day related event.
- The first newsletter of the season will be distributed to the gardeners this week.

### **Plein Air Art Event**

- The Plein Air event will take place on May 7, 2022.
- "En plein air is a French term that translates literally as 'in the open air.'" This type of artwork is completed on location, while outdoors.
- Registration opened on April 4, 2022 and there are 26 registrants to date.

### **Upcoming City Events**

April 29, 2022	Community Garden Arbor Day Celebration
May 7, 2022	Plein Air Art Event
May 20, 2022	Music on Main – Dr. Zhivegas
June 4, 2022	Greenrock Trail Challenge (National Trails Day)

**CONTACT INFORMATION >>>** If any of the Committee 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.