



# WILDWOOD

September 20, 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, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation  
Stacy Chanski, 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 are 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 August 2022 meeting:

### **Music on Main Concert Series – Back to School Party**

- The concert was held on Friday, August 19, 2022, at 6:45 PM, where Griffin and the Gargoyles entertained a record crowd.
- The event was held in the same location as last year, at the corner of Taylor Road and Main Street, which allowed more space for the additional children's activities that began at 6:00 p.m.
- Numerous bounce houses, a climbing wall and face painters were available for the children's entertainment.
- The usual complimentary hot dogs, kettle corn, Kona shaved ice, water, and soda were enjoyed by all.
- The St. Louis County Police Department had a tent and several of its School Resource Officers (SRO) were in attendance.
- The St. Louis Children's Hospital attended, along with St. Louis Community College – Wildwood Campus, and representatives of the Rockwood School District, notably its new Superintendent, Dr. Curtis Cain, to meet and greet.

### **Early Childhood – Ride the Trains**

- This Wildwood favorite consists of boarding the miniature railcars and riding along the Al Foster Memorial Trail, and the scenic Meramec River! The kids love riding on this kid-sized train, followed by a treat and a souvenir!
- This program was held at WF&P Railroad, located at 101 Grand Avenue, Wildwood, MO 63038 on September 14, 2022, and hosted over seventy (70) participants.

### **Wildwood Celebration Commission Meeting**

- The Commission held a special meeting on August 30, 2022, to finalize the selection of a Grand Marshal for this year's parade, given the unexpected passing of Virgil Schmidt. The Commission decided to take the opportunity to honor and memorialize Mr. Schmidt, as a great representative of this community, before and after its establishment.
- The Wildwood Celebration Commission met on September 7, 2022. At this meeting, the Commission worked on finalizing details, such as the venue layout, the parade, and volunteer opportunities.

### **Celebrate Wildwood Event:**

- The 2022 Celebrate Wildwood Event is scheduled for September 24, 2022.
- There will be Arts and Crafts booths, Author booths, Non-Profit and Sponsor booths, as well as various food and drink vendors.
- Entertainment includes static displays, children's activities, two (2) musical performances, and a fireworks display.
- The Parade start will return to the Schnucks parking lot location in order to accommodate the forty-one (41) registrants to date.
- The event will be held on Main Street, between Fountain Place and Eastgate Lane, along with the open field just east of the B & B Theatre.

### **Wildwood Farms Community Garden**

- The next work event is scheduled for September 21, 2022, and will feature scarecrows and s'mores in the garden! Forty-four (44) garden members will participate in this event.
- There are seventy-nine (79) garden hopefuls on the waiting list for a garden plot.

### **Tour de Wildwood**

- Online registration is now open for Tour de Wildwood is now open, a 28-mile or 50-mile routes, starting and ending at Wildwood City Hall. This tour includes a section of Historic Route 66, as well as a visit to Babler State Park and Rockwoods Reservation Conservation Area. Riders will enjoy the beautiful fall leaves, as they ride the low-traffic roads through the hills of Wildwood followed by lunch and a raffle drawing for a bike!
- The Tour de Wildwood is a great ride and will be very enjoyable, but the hills will provide a challenge for some, while portions of the ride will be on trafficked roads. Therefore, a free Traffic Safety 101 Class is available for all participants.



- The City keeps the number of participants lower for this event, putting a cap at 300 riders, to keep the event more pleasant for both bikers and motorists. There are currently 103 registered bikers.

**Early Childhood – Pumpkin Decorating**

- The Early Childhood Recreation Program's Annual Pumpkin Decorating is back! Each child will receive their own pumpkin to decorate with an assortment of fun stickers. A yummy treat will be included! Kids and parents can stick around afterwards at the playground nearby and hang out with new friends.
- This event will consist of two (2) sessions on October 12, 2022, the first at 10:00 a.m. and one at 1:00 p.m., at Wildwood Community Park, under the pavilion closest to the playground.
- Each session will last approximately 45 minutes, followed by a small snack. Parents/guardians must stay with the child during the entire program.

**Shivering Shadows**

- Online registration is now open for the Shivering Shadows, a 7K Run/Walk event that will take place on October 28, 2022. The event is unique, in that, it will happen AT NIGHT and gradually take participants to the dark woods of Zombie Road.
- The 7K Run/Walk starts on the asphalt Hamilton Carr Trail, then transitions to the Al Foster Memorial Trail, which introduces participants to the darkness of Bluff View Trail, followed by the enchanted forest of the legendary Zombie Road, where the rocks, roots, and tree limbs seem to be alive, with invisible hands that reach out for toes and shoestrings!
- There are currently thirty (30) participants registered for the event.

**Wildwood Farmers Market**

- The 2022 Wildwood Farmers Market Season kicked off on Saturday, May 28, 2022, and is held every Saturday through the first part of October. The market is located in the Wildwood Town Center, on the public plaza area, which is located at 221 Plaza Drive.
- The Market hosts local vendors that offer everything from fresh farm produce to hot, prepared food, as well as unique handmade items, such as jewelry, art, and bath products.
- The Farmer’s Market will not be open on September 24, 2022, but you will still be able to find many of your favorite vendors nearby participating in Celebrate Wildwood! The market only has a few more week before it close for the year.
- Due to the popularity last year, the Farmer’s Market will again hold the Holiday Market in November.

**Upcoming City Events**

September 24, 2022	Celebrate Wildwood!
October 2, 2022	Tour de Wildwood
October 12, 2022	Early Childhood Recreation Program – Pumpkin Decorating
October 28, 2022	Shivering Shadows
December 3, 2022	Holiday Tree Lighting

**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.