



October 18, 2022

The Honorable City Council  
City of Wildwood, Missouri  
16860 Main Street  
Wildwood, Missouri 63040

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

Council Members:

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 September 2022 meeting:

#### **Wildwood Farms Community Garden**

- The final work event was held on September 21, 2022, and featured scarecrows and s'mores in the garden! Due to high temperatures, the garden managers decided to forgo s'mores and opted for ice cream sandwiches. The event was cut short after lightning and thunder came through Wildwood. Forty-four (46) garden members participated in this event.
- There are eighty (80) garden hopefuls on the waiting list for a plot next year.

#### **Celebrate Wildwood Event:**

- The 2022 Celebrate Wildwood Event took place on September 24, 2022, and it turned out to be a beautiful day and another successful event!
- There were Fine Arts and Crafts booths, Author booths, Non-Profit and Sponsor booths, as well as a wide variety of food and drink vendors.
- Entertainment included displays, educational information, children's activities, two (2) musical performances, and a fireworks display.
- The parade started at the Schnucks in Wildwood Crossing's parking lot location in order to accommodate the forty-three (43) registrants, plus twelve (12) decorated golf carts representing the Mayor, eight (8) City Wards, the Grand Marshal, and the Celebrate Wildwood Commission Members. From the starting point, the parade made its way to the event site on Main Street, between Fountain Place and Eastgate Lane.

#### **Wildwood Celebration Commission Meeting**

- The Commission held their regular meeting on October 5, 2022, at which Members discussed the 2022 event, the feedback received by the City, and the participants' survey results.

- The Commission took action on the 2023 budget.

### **Tour de Wildwood**

- Tour de Wildwood, a 28-mile or 50-mile bike routes through the City, took place on Sunday, October 2, 2022. It started and ended at Wildwood City Hall and included a section of Historic Route 66, as well as a visit to Babler State Park and Rockwoods Reservation. Riders enjoyed the beautifully changing fall leaves, as they rode the low-traffic roads through the hills of Wildwood, which was followed by lunch and a raffle drawing for a bike (provided by Big Shark)!
- There were two hundred four (204) registered cyclists, with one hundred eighty-one (181) participated that day.

### **Dim the Lights for Birds at Night**

- World Migratory Bird Day 2022 was Saturday, October 7, 2022. The City promoted the event through email correspondence to the Wildwood Community Garden Members and posted flyers at the Wildwood parks and trailheads.

### **Early Childhood – Pumpkin Decorating**

- The Early Childhood Recreation Program's Annual Pumpkin Decorating was once again a success, with a total of 45 participants.
- The event consisted of two (2) sessions on October 12, 2022, the first at 10:00 a.m. and other at 1:00 p.m., at Wildwood Community Park, under the main pavilion, near the playground. Each session lasted approximately 45 minutes, followed by a small snack.

### **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 surrounding Zombie Road (Rock Hollow Trail).
- 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 eighty-five (85) participants registered for the event.

### **Wildwood Farmers Market**

- The 2022 Wildwood Farmers Market was once again a huge success! The season kicked off in May and ended in early October in the Wildwood Town Center.
- Although the Farmer's Market was not held on September 24<sup>th</sup>, due to Celebrate Wildwood, many of the regular vendors participated in the City's event.
- Due to the popularity last year, the Farmer's Market will again hold the Holiday Market on November 5, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Santa will be in attendance from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

### **Feed the Masses Food Drive**

- The Missouri Park and Recreation Association (MPRA) Region 4 is excited to host the 3rd Annual "Feed the Masses" Food Drive Contest this holiday season. Parks and Recreation Departments from the around the region will be competing to see which of them can collect the most food items in November to be donated to the local food bank of their choice. The department that collects the most canned goods will be crowned the 2022 Feed the Masses Champion and receive a plaque and recognition at the region meeting at the 2023 MPRA State Conference.
- The City will have collection receptacles located at City Hall from November 1 through 30, 2022.

### **Upcoming City Events**

October 28, 2022	Shivering Shadows
November 5, 2022	Holiday Market
December 3, 2022	Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

**CONTACT INFORMATION >>>** 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. This item has been placed on tonight's Work Session Agenda under 'For Information' and, if any City Council Member would like to discuss any of these items, the Departments of Planning and Parks will be available for such. Thank you for your consideration of this information.

Respectfully submitted,

### **CITY OF WILDWOOD**

Don Bartoni, Chair\*

Planning and Parks Committee

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor  
Steve Cross, City Administrator  
John A. Young, City Attorney  
Joe Vujnich, Director of Planning and Parks  
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks  
Kristin Naeger, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation  
Stacy Chanski, Recreation Specialist

\*The Department of Planning and Parks developed this report, in conjunction with the Planning and Parks Committee. Content reflects the Committee's consideration of this subject and not necessarily an individual's position or opinion.