



WILDWOOD

May 16, 2023

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

Re: **Update on In-Person and Virtual Recreation Programs (Wards – All)**

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 April 2023 meeting:

Wildwood Celebration Commission Meeting

- The Commission met on Thursday, May 11, 2023, to discuss sponsorship levels including the potential to accept in-kind donations, and the theme for this year's event.
- The Commission is scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

Hometown Heroes Banner Program

- The inaugural installation of the Hometown Heroes banners is currently on display along Manchester Road (between Eatherton Road and Taylor Road). They will be removed in mid-June, for re-installation for Veterans Day.
- The program launched on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022, and nine (9) hero banners and one (1) business sponsorship banner were purchased. Additionally, the Department purchased a "Thank You For Your Service!" banner with the Wildwood logo and informational banners featuring QR Codes to promote the program.
- In anticipation of interest generated from the display, the Department has opened applications for 2024 banners and/or sponsorship opportunities, which will remain open until February 2024.

Route 66 Scavenger Hunt

- The Route 66 Scavenger Hunt took place during the month of April, during which participants were challenged to solve clues pertaining to Wildwood's Route 66 landmarks.
- Local businesses donated thousands of dollars in prizes and winners were announced in May. The student members of the taskforce presented a \$150.00 gift card for Vittoria, one of Wildwood's newest restaurants, to the first-place winner during a Facebook live event on May 25, 2023.

Plein Air Art Event

- Wildwood's Plein Air Art Event took place on May 6, 2023, and had fifty-eight (58) registrations.
- 'En plein air' is a French term that translates literally to 'in the open air', and this type of artwork is completed outdoors on location.
- The artwork submitted is on display at City Hall and available for purchase until July 7, 2023. Winners will be announced at City Hall on June 14, 2023.

Music on Main Concert Series

- This free concert series takes place on the third Friday of the month throughout the summer and ends with a 'Back to School Party' in August. The concerts will be held on Main Street, between Fountain Place and Eastgate Lane, in the open field east of the B & B Theatre, beginning at 6:45 p.m. and are generally over around 9:00 p.m.
- The Music on Main Concert Series continues to be a community favorite event. This year's concert series was scheduled to kick off with The Fabulous Motown Revue on May 19, 2023, but unfortunately, was cancelled due to rain.
- The rest of the 2023 Music on Main concert schedule is:
 - Friday, June 16th - Griffin and the Gargoyles
 - Friday, July 21st - Dr. Zhivegas
 - Friday, August 18th - (Back to School Party) - LustreLights

Grand Re-Opening of Bluff View Park

- After nearly a year of construction, renovations of Bluff View Park have been completed and were worth the wait. The park now features an improved parking area, several small pavilions, trail improvements, and covered seating areas at the bluff to enjoy the view.
- Wildwood Team Members, Council Members, and residents gathered at Bluff View Park on May 22, 2023 for the official ribbon cutting event and enjoyed ice cream from Silver Spoon Ice Cream and Sweets.

Wildwood Farmers Market

- The 2022 Wildwood Farmers Market Season kicked off on Saturday, May 27, 2023, and will be held every Saturday through the first part of October. The market is located in the Wildwood Town Center, on the public plaza area 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. Although the season is just two (2) weeks in, the amount of vendors has set records in terms of their total.

Green Rock Trail Challenge

- The Green Rock Trail Challenge took place on June 3, 2023, starting and ending at the Muckerman Shelter, in Greensfelder County Park, where registrants enjoyed snacks before and lunch after the hike.
- Given the great reviews from the 2022 event, the 7.9-mile hike remained the same as last year, and again received nothing but positive feedback, despite the hot day.

- The event had eighty-three (83) registrants, of which, eighty (80) participants braved the heat to enjoy the hike.

Annual Photography Contest

- The City's Annual Photography Contest opened for 2023 submissions on June 1, 2023, and ends on June 22, 2023. All entries will be placed on the City's website and open to a vote of the public from July 5, 2023 through July 19, 2023.
- The professional judging will be completed by August 2, 2023, with winners announced on the City's website.
- The City will not be printing a calendar for 2024, as in the past few years, but the winning photographs will be used on the website, social media, print publications, and in other exciting new ways.

Pop-Up Playdate

- The City hosted an impromptu Pop-Up Playdate for the kids at Community Park on June 7, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., by the pavilion and playground.
- The event included kids crafts and sidewalk chalk, as well as a foam cannon and light snacks.
- The turnout was significant, with well over one-hundred (100) kids in attendance and everyone had a great time!

Music in the Garden

Wildwood Farms Community Garden will host a Music in the Garden work event on June 28, 2023, with a performance by Julie Lynch. The Lions Club will be on hand to grill hotdogs for all to enjoy. Fifty (50) gardeners signed up to work in the garden and plan to promote the evening to Wildwood residents closer to the date.

- The next work event, Watermelon Social, is scheduled for August 9, 2023. This event will be a social event, with a little caretaking around the garden.

2023 Family Swimming Pool Passes

Again, in 2023, the City of Wildwood has partnered with the Cities of Ellisville and Ballwin to provide access to their outdoor swimming pool facilities. Ellisville and Ballwin continue to be great partners and afford Wildwood residents a wonderful opportunity to ensure fun in the sun in 2023!

Upcoming City Events

June 1-22, 2023	Wildwood Photography Contest
June 14, 2023	Plein Air Artist Awards Ceremony
June 16, 2023	Music on Main Summer Concert (Griffin and the Gargoyles)
June 28, 2023	Music in the Garden, at Wildwood Farms Community Garden (Julie Lynch)

CONTACT INFORMATION >>> If any City Council Member should have other questions or comments before tonight's meeting about this information, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. This item is on tonight's Work Session Agenda under 'For Information.'

but can be discussed, if any City Council Members would request such. Thank you for your review of this information.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY OF WILDWOOD

Don Bartoni, Chair*

Planning and Parks Committee

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
Thomas Lee, Interim City Administrator
John A. Young, City Attorney
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.