



WILDWOOD

June 20, 2023

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
Thomas Lee, Interim 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
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner
Kristin Naeger, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Stacy Chanski, Recreation Specialist

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 May 2023 meeting:

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 were 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 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, 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. Although the season is just two (2) weeks in, the number 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 complete the hike.

Wildwood Celebration Commission Meeting

- The Commission met on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, to discuss selection of subthemes for this year's main theme, "This Is My Wildwood", as well as parade components, and event promotion efforts.

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 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 have registered for this work day 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.

Pedestrian Bridge Opening

- Construction of the pedestrian bridge, located between the Manors at the Meadows of Cherry Hills and the Enclaves at Cherry Hills subdivisions, has been completed and not only increases connectivity, but also turned out to be a beautiful addition to the surrounding area.
- The bridge has been very well received by the surrounding residents and the City has heard nothing but positive feedback since its opening!

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 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.