



WILDWOOD

July 18, 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, 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 June 2023 meeting:

Wildwood Farmers Market

- The 2023 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.

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 9:15 p.m.
- Griffin and the Gargoyles played to a record setting crowd in Town Center on Friday, June 16, 2023! It was a great night for live music and gathering with friends and neighbors!
- The rest of the 2023 Music on Main concert schedule is:

- Friday, July 21st - Dr. Zhivegas
- Friday, August 18th - Back to School Party - LustreLights

Wildwood Celebration Commission Meeting

- The Commission met on Thursday, July 6, 2023, to discuss various components of the event including parade details, event promotion and advertising, sponsorship solicitation letters to different partners, and an update on the Wildwood History Book, which will be released for sale at the event.

Annual Photography Contest

- The City's Annual Photography Contest opened for 2023 submissions on June 1, 2023, and ended on June 22, 2023. All entries have been posted on the City's website and open to a vote of the public between July 5, 2023 to July 19, 2023. The City received 192 photo submissions.
- The professional judging will be completed by August 2, 2023, with winners announced on the City's website no later than August 7, 2023.
- 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.

Music in the Garden

- Wildwood Farms Community Garden hosted its Music in the Garden work event on June 28, 2023, with an acoustical musical performance by Julie Lynch. The Lions Club were on hand to grill hot dogs for all to enjoy. Fifty (50) gardeners registered for this work day in the garden. The small-scale concert was promoted a few days before it, similar to the 'Pop-Up' events the City has held in previous years. Despite the heat and the poor air quality, the event was well attended by both gardeners and interested residents.
- 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!

Shivering Shadows

- Online registration is now open for the Shivering Shadows! This unique night event will take participants through the dark woods of Zombie Road (Rock Hollow Valley) on October 27, 2023.
- 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!
- The registration fee is \$40 before the race and \$50 on race day.

Upcoming City Events

July 5 – July 19, 2023	Popular voting for the 2023 Photography Contest
July 21, 2023	Music on Main Summer Concert (Dr. Zhivegas)
August 9, 2023	Watermelon Social Garden Work Event
August 18, 2023	Back to School Party (LustreLights)
September 13, 2023	Early Childhood Recreation Program (Ride the Trains)
September 23, 2023	Celebrate Wildwood

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.