



WILDWOOD

August 15, 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 July 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.
- To date, the market has experienced great attendance, both by customers and vendors alike.

Music on Main Concert Series – Back to School Party

- This free concert takes place on Friday, August 18, 2023, at 6:45 PM, where LustreLights will entertain the crowd.
- The event will be held in the same location as last year, at the corner of Taylor Road and Main Street, which allows more space for the additional children's activities that will begin at 5:30 PM.
- Numerous bounce houses, a climbing wall, face painters, and Juggling Jeff will be on site for the children's entertainment.

- The usual complimentary hot dogs, kettle corn, Kona shaved ice, water, and soda will be available.
- The St. Louis County Police Department will have a tent and several of its School Resource Officers (SRO) will be in attendance.
- The St. Louis Children's Hospital is planning to attend along with St. Louis Community College – Wildwood Campus!

Wildwood Celebration Commission Meeting

- The Commission met on Thursday, August 2, 2023, to continue to discuss various components of the event including parade details, event promotion, activities, and an update on revenues and expenditures.
- The Commission is also working on finalizing details such as volunteer schedules and layout of the event grounds.
- The next, and final meeting before the event, of the Wildwood Celebration Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2022.

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 were posted on the City's website for a vote of the public, which concluded on July 19, 2023. The City received 192 photo submissions.
- The professional judging was completed, and winners were announced on the City's website 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.

Watermelon Social in the Garden

- A Watermelon Social work event was held on August 9, 2023, a social event, with a little caretaking around the garden.

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 will be held at WF&P Railroad, which is located at 101 Grand Avenue, Wildwood, MO 63038, on September 13, 2023.

Celebrate Wildwood Event:

- The 2023 Celebrate Wildwood Event is scheduled for September 23, 2023!
- There will be Arts and Crafts booths, Author booths, and 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 Wildwood Crossing Schnucks parking lot location and continue up to the main event grounds, located on Main Street, between Fountain Place and Eastgate Lane, along with the open field just east of the B & B Theatre.

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 Friday, 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 night.

Upcoming City Events

August 18, 2023	Back to School Party (LustreLights)
September 9, 2022	Farmer's Market – Scarecrow Making
September 13, 2023	Early Childhood Recreation Program - Ride the Trains
September 23, 2023	Celebrate Wildwood
October 11, 2023	Early Childhood Recreation Program – Pumpkin Making
October 8, 2023	Tour de Wildwood
October 27, 2023	Shivering Shadows

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.