



WILDWOOD

August 15, 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 July 2023 meeting:

Music on Main Concert Series – Back to School Party

- This free concert took place on Friday, August 18, 2023, at which the City provided numerous bounce houses, a climbing wall, face painters, and Juggling Jeff. The evening started with children's entertainment at 5:30 PM, followed by a great concert provided by LustreLights that began at 6:45 PM.
- The usual complimentary hot dogs, kettle corn, Kona shaved ice, water, and soda were available.
- The event hosted several of the School Resource Officers (SRO) provided by the St. Louis County Police Department, as well as the Wildwood Family YMCA, St. Louis Children's Hospital and St. Louis Community College – Wildwood Campus, who provided helpful information and swag!

Wildwood Celebration Commission Meeting

- The Commission met for its final meeting before the event on Wednesday, September 6, 2022, at which the members discussed the final details of the event, including parade details, event promotion, activities, and current vendor numbers.
- The Commission also finalized details such as volunteer schedules and layout of the event grounds.

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, Missouri 63038, on Wednesday, September 13, 2023.

Blippi and Meekah Are Coming to Wildwood!

- Blippi is an online-based child entertainer for toddlers and children up to around age five years old. The Blippi show featured a '*Blippi and Meekah In My Hometown Contest*', where Levi, a three-year-old Wildwood resident, won!
- Blippi and Meekah will be in the City for a 'Meet and Greet' event at Lafayette High School, in its theater, on Thursday, September 14, 2023.
- The event is limited to two hundred fifty seats and details for obtaining tickets are being finalized now and will be announced on social media.
- Additionally, Wildwood's contest winner, Levi, will be participating in the Celebrate Wildwood Parade!

Celebrate Wildwood Event:

- The City's largest and most anticipated event of the year, Celebrate Wildwood, is approaching quickly! It is scheduled for September 23, 2023, and will kick off with its annual parade, themed, "Wildwood: City of Parks and Trails", and entertainment, including static displays, children's activities, and two (2) musical performances throughout the day, and then ending with a grand finale 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.
- Lining the streets there will be arts and crafts booths, author booths, and non-profit, and sponsor booths, as well as various food and drink vendors located in the field surrounding the dining table.
- Additionally, the City is very excited for the long-awaited release of the recently published history book, *Celebrate the History of Wildwood, Missouri*. A tent will be dedicated for book sales and the primary author, Jill F. VonGruben, will be available to sign copies. The book is available on pre-order in both hardback or paperback and over thirty (30) copies have been sold! After the official release at the event, any remaining Limited-Edition copies, signed by the author, will be available at City Hall or via the City's website.

Celebrate Wildwood Bingo Scavenger Hunt

- This year, the City has introduced a fun new twist with a Celebrate Wildwood Bingo Scavenger Hunt, intended to spark excitement leading up to the event, as well as encourage Wildwood residents to explore the City, and encourage attendance.
- The scavenger hunt began on August 23, 2023 and will end on September 23, 2023, at which time winners collect their prizes at the City Information Tent during Celebrate Wildwood.
- The Bingo cards are available at Wildwood City Hall, the YMCA, as part of the Fall Gazette, and the City's website. There are 24 Wildwood locations noted by picture clues on the Bingo card. Residents have to figure out the clue, go to that location, find the unique hole punch, and punch through the corresponding square.
- The City has received excellent feedback from residents thus far!

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 race day, and \$50 that night.

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.
- The Farmer's Market will not be open on September 23, 2023, but you will still be able to find many of your favorite vendors nearby participating in Celebrate Wildwood! The market only has a few more weeks before it closes for the year.
- Due to its past popularity, the Farmer's Market will again hold the Holiday Market in November.

Upcoming City Events

September 13, 2023	Early Childhood Recreation Program - Ride the Trains
September 14, 2023	Blippi and Meekah - Meet and Greet Performance
September 23, 2023	Celebrate Wildwood
October 8, 2023	Tour de Wildwood
October 11, 2023	Early Childhood Recreation Program – Pumpkin Decorating
October 27, 2023	Shivering Shadows

OTHER AND CONTACT INFORMATION >>> If any of the City Council Members have questions, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. This item is part of tonight's Work Session Agenda, placed under 'For Information' Section, and will not be discussed, unless a Member of City Council should request such. Thank you for your review of this information.

Respectfully submitted,
CITY OF WILDWOOD
Michael Gillani, Chair*
Planning and Parks Committee

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
Kristin Naeger, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner

* 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.