



WILDWOOD

September 19, 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 August 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 bounce houses, a climbing wall, face painters, and Juggling Jeff. The evening started with children's entertainment at 5:30 PM, followed by a 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 held its final meeting before the event on Wednesday, September 6, 2022, at which the members discussed the final details of the event, including parade items, 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 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 was held at WF&P Railroad, which is located at 101 Grand Avenue, Wildwood, Missouri 63038, on Wednesday, September 13, 2023.
- All sessions were filled by the start of the 10:00 a.m. session.

Blippi and Meekah Visit Wildwood!

- Blippi is an online-based child entertainer for toddlers and children up to around five years of age. The Blippi show featured a '*Blippi and Meekah In My Hometown Contest*', where Levi, a three-year-old Wildwood resident, won!
- Blippi and Meekah hosted a 'Meet and Greet' event at Lafayette High School, in its theater, on Thursday, September 14, 2023.
- The event was limited to two hundred fifty seats and all of the tickets were claimed within minutes!
- 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 will be arts and crafts booths, author booths, non-profit booths, and sponsor booths, as well as food and drink vendors located in the field surrounding the dining tent.
- 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 attend the celebration.

- 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!

Wildwood Farms Community Garden – Cleanout Event

- On Saturday, October 7, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., the garden will host its last work day event of the 2023 season at which, gardeners will clean out the garden beds, organize the tool shed, and store the hoses. After a hard day’s work, they will celebrate the season with an apple feasting party!

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 is 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 23, 2023	Celebrate Wildwood!
October 7, 2023	Wildwood Farms Community Garden – Cleanout Event
October 8, 2023	Tour de Wildwood
October 11, 2023	Early Childhood Recreation Program – Pumpkin Decorating
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.