



**Umatilla Parks and Recreation Director's Report
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
January - February 2023**

Staff Recognition:

An organization's staff is its most valuable resource. That is true for the City of Umatilla Parks and Recreation Department. We are currently working on multiple complex projects with competing deadlines. I am proud and honored to work with such a great team. As we plan and prepare for Landing Days, Rock the Locks, community events, golf tournaments, recreation programs and much more, our team has been eager to take on new responsibilities and help one another. It takes all three divisions working together, with support from other city departments, to make these events a success. Umatilla is fortunate to have such dedicated, passionate and engaging employees.

Arbor Day Grant/Tree City USA:

To maintain Tree City USA status, the City hosts and Arbor Day event each year. I am pleased to announce that Noemy Vega, Recreation Coordinator, wrote and received a \$750 grant to purchase trees and supplies for the Arbor Day celebration. The event is scheduled for Friday, April 28th at the Big River Golf Course. It will include volunteers planting trees. Students from McNary are invited to attend to learn more about trees and the environment.

Landing Days:

The department is currently busy planning Landing Days in cooperation with the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce and other departments in the City. The event is scheduled for the 23rd & 24th of June. A more expensive update will be provided as the event gets closer.

Mural Project:

The City adopted a 6 by 26 mural plan to install six (6) murals around the city by 2026. Noemy Vega is currently working on the first project to be installed on the concession building at Nugent Park. The Parks and Recreation Committee is invited to review the proposals as the de facto public art committee. The theme for the mural is "Celebrating Recreation in Umatilla." In order to review proposals, the committee may need to meet in April.

Rock the Locks:

Ticket sales for Rock the Lock (RTL) began in February. Ticket sales have exceeded \$100,000. These sales were generated from organic communication through the Rock the Locks Facebook page and word of mouth. The City is preparing a marketing campaign in the coming months. In addition to ticket sales, nearly 100 people have filled out applications to volunteer at the event. As was mentioned in the Big River Golf Course division report, the City also held a community meeting in February to address neighborhood questions about event logistics. Beyond the future community meetings, the Department is working with City Administration on FAQ info videos to explain items like the transportation plan and sound management. This information will be disseminated through the City's website and social media outlets. Due to the size of the event, all division in the department are providing support to the planning and coordination. The Marina & RV park staff is helping with sponsorship and answering the

RTL phone line. Recreation staff is working on sponsor packets, vendor registration and packets, volunteer registration, FAQ videos, and media/communications. The Big River Golf Course staff is fielding questions about the event from the public and the course members.

Community Gardens:

Luke Romero, Recreation Coordinator, is working on a community garden proposal. Currently, a site plan is in development. Once the plan is finalized, it will be presented at a public meeting for citizen engagement. The proposed garden location is at the tennis court park in McNary (see attached). The proposal is still in draft format. Following the initial community meeting, staff will make any necessary revisions to the plan and move forward with implementation.

Marina & RV Park Development:

The City is submitting a grant to the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) for the next phase of the Marina & RV Park development. The funding request includes archeological and hydrologic studies related to the proposed plans.

Nugent Park Boat Launch and Parking Lot Improvements:

The department is also working on an OSMB grant to match FEMA funds to make improvements to the Nugent Park Boat launch and parking area. This will create better vehicular circulation and an improved boat launch site.