

MEDFORD PARKS & RECREATION

HEALTHY LIVES. HAPPY PEOPLE. STRONG COMMUNITY.

TO: Brian Sjothun, City Manager
FROM: Rich Rosenthal, Interim Parks & Recreation Director
SUBJECT: Monthly Update
DATE: Oct. 18, 2016

Recreation Division Recap

Fall Classic Sets Team-Count Record

Six of the City of Medford's eight youth baseball tournaments this year have shattered team-count records. Most recently, the eighth-annual Fall Classic youth baseball tournament at U.S. Cellular Community Park on Oct. 1-2 attracted 28 teams in U10 through U13 age groups – 11 more teams than last year's record total, a 64 percent increase. One team traveled all the way from Lodi, Calif.!



Discovery Preschool Sold Out Again

The City's Discovery Preschool began its 2016-17 school year with 26 kids enrolled in the three-day class and 22 in the two-day class. The highly sought-after program based at the Santo Community Center is again sold-out with several waitlisted candidates.

Autumn Youth Sports Programs

Over 160 kids are participating in the Department's popular Little Hoopsters, Youth Indoor Soccer and Tots Sports Sampler programs. Our staff, along with volunteer coaches and helpful parents, are molding the youth of Medford into future all-stars.



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The Fall program guide features two new programs: Junior Sluggers and the Lacrosse Clinic Series.

Junior Sluggers is an instructional T-ball league for boys and girls, ages 4-5, based at U.S. Cellular Community Park. Under the guidance of MPRD staff, the 36 participants practice together on Monday evenings and then show off their skills on the big stage in rousing T-ball games on Tuesdays.



Over 30 youngsters signed up for the lacrosse clinic series, which is conducted at Hawthorne Park on Saturday afternoons. Instruction is provided by current St. Mary's and Southern Oregon University coaches and players. The U.S. Lacrosse Association is providing equipment, free of charge, as an incentive to boost interest in the sport.



Summer Concert Series Concludes

September marked the conclusion of the annual Lithia Motors Summer Concert Series at Pear Blossom Park. Four talented musicians/bands entertained our downtown audiences on Thursday evenings.



New Community Partner Sponsorships

Resource development coordinator Alex Modrell was instrumental in cultivating the following new community partners and/or expansion of existing partnerships:

- **Remax Realty Group (Jake Jacobosky)** - new premier/preferred position advertiser at USCCP.
- **Schoolhaus Brewhaus** - title sponsor of adult kickball league.
- **Charles Point Apartments** - new sponsor of the annual Parks & Recreation coloring book.
- **Dr. West Orthodontics** - new sponsor of the annual Howl-o-ween event at Santo Community Center.
- **Field & Stream/Dick's Sporting Goods** - new sponsor of the Fall Classic Tournament.
- **Care Oregon** - new program guide advertising sponsor.

Rogue Valley Scorpions Wheelchair Basketball Team

Santo Community Center gymnasium serves as the practice facility for the nationally ranked Rogue Valley Scorpions wheelchair basketball team. The organization utilizes the gym on weekday mornings or afternoons. The Department is pleased to be an in-kind sponsor for this great program.

Park Maintenance Division Recap

All-Abilities Playground at Fichtner-Mainwaring Park

Construction of the inclusive playground at Fichtner Mainwaring Park is slated to be completed by Vitus Construction crews on Oct. 21 – just in time for the Oct. 22 ribbon-cutting ceremony. The development of the play structure was spurred by the social-media contest administered by Moda Health, Inc. last March that resulted in a \$20,000 contribution from Moda and the Portland Trail Blazers Foundation. Total cost of the new park amenity is approximately \$90,000. Pictured below: The playground parts from PlayCraft (left) and the park construction site on Oct. 10 (right).



Above: The existing playground at Fichtner-Mainwaring Park was pressure washed, resulting in a stunningly vibrant new look in advance of the Oct. 22 ribbon-cutting.

Bear Creek Park Parking Lots Restriped

All parking lots at Bear Creek Park were restriped this month. Before and after photos:



Lone Pine Park Drainage Project

A much-needed drain was installed at Lone Pine Park to address excess water running off park property toward adjacent homes. Staff reports the drain prevented flooding during the heavy rains Medford received Oct. 13-16.



Oak Street Parking Lot Tree Rounds Repurposed

Large tree rounds retained from the large Redwood tree removed from the City's Oak Street parking lot were transported to the Phoenix School District yard where they will be used in a natural-style school playground. Other portions of the same tree were transformed into a conference table in the Medford Room.



Lausmann Annex Landscaping

Landscaping beds around the Lausmann Annex were pruned and cleaned up in preparation of the opening of the new Police station. Before and after photos:



Tree and Right of Way Program Update

Fall pre-emergent herbicide application has been completed in all right-of-way areas maintained by the Department. A total of 485 pounds of herbicide was spread across 4.85 acres of right-of-way landscaping, which is intended to reduce the amount of weeds that accumulate through the winter and minimize the number of weeds that need to be mitigated in the spring.

New trees were planted in Ruhl Park, Santo Community Center, Alba Park, Bear Creek Park, Hawthorne Park, Veterans Park, Fichtner Mainwaring Park, Lone Pine Park, U.S. Cellular Community Park, Court St. Green and along West McAndrews Road.