## **Recreation Division**



### Memo

To: Jen Wills

From: Rec Staff

**Date:** November 14th, 2018

**Re:** October Report

# OCTOBER DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

#### 2018 Goals

I. Connect the CommunityII. Quality ExperienceIII. Vision 2025

#### Foundation:

- The foundation voted and approved motions to pursue or support several grant opportunities in collaboration with Longview Parks and Recreation.
  - The foundation applied for a grant from Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund in the amount of \$29,000 to fund a renovated kitchen/multi-use space at The Boulevard Teen Center. The space is currently used for storage, a laptop lab, and a kitchen; however it lacks adequate outlets, an oven, stovetop, dishwasher, cabinetry or countertop space for any of those purposes. The Teen Center program has recently offered some pilot "Life Skills" classes which have been very successful, particularly cooking classes, and would like to develop a Cooking Class series which utilizes produce grown in the Teen Center garden to teach basic culinary, kitchen safety, and nutrition to local teens.
  - The foundation is pursuing a match grant to upgrade the Teen Center garden. The garden will need to be relocated if plans for the basketball court continue to move forward, so the foundation is seeking a crowd-funding grant through

SeedMoney (<a href="https://donate.seedmoney.org/2423/the-boulevard-teen-center-life-skills-garden">https://donate.seedmoney.org/2423/the-boulevard-teen-center-life-skills-garden</a>) to raise \$1200.00 total for relocation and expansion of the garden to support the Life Skills cooking classes.

The foundation voted to support an effort by RU40 club to fundraise for the purchase and installation of a NEOS outdoor electronic playground in a Longview Park if additional funding is required.
 Goals: I, II, III

#### • Grants/Fundraising:

- Submitted billings to and received reimbursement of \$14,502.48 from the RCO No Child Left Inside grant program for Longview Summer Kids Go Green! project. A billing for \$5,073.42 is in process, and there is \$7,712.10 remaining balance on the grant, which will be billed and reimbursed by the end of 2018.
- o Confirmed \$950 in new ad sponsorship from Girl Scouts of Southwest Washington for the upcoming Winter/Spring brochure.

Goals: I, II, III

#### Marketing:

 Work on the Winter/Spring Brochure is in full swing. Continued focus on incorporating LERN brochure design suggestions and current marketing best practices to produce an appealing, current guide of activities.

Goals: I, II, III

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#### • Community Outreach:

- o Participated in the LCC Volunteer Fair on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Made some solid contacts and hope to utilize their support at the Turkey Trot.
- Participated in the Cowlitz County Employee Benefit & Wellness Fair on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Distributed many Fall brochures and flyers for Pumpkin Pi and Turkey Trot runs.
- o Participated in the Longview Fire Open House on October 13th. Distributed many more Fall brochures and promoted upcoming runs and Breakfast with Santa.

#### Community

- There were 33 rentals at the McClelland and Woman's Club in October. This includes private, not profit and ongoing (church)
- o Teen Late Night Dance Party had 94 teens in attendance.
- Accepted the Lights On Afterschool proclamation at the City Council meeting.
   We had a family whom attends the Northlake Afterschool program accept the proclamation.
- o Recognized our Movies at the Lake sponsors at the council meeting

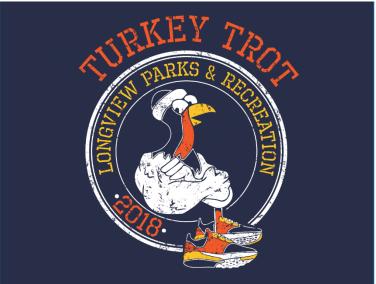
• Goals: I, II, III

#### Sports

- The Fall adult softball season ended on October 4th. This concluded a 7 month program.
- Adult Self Officiated Basketball started October 1st. 12 teams in two divisions.
   Games played at Mt Solo & Monticello
- Annual Pumpkin Pi run/walk had 61 participants on a sunny Fall day at Willow Grove Park

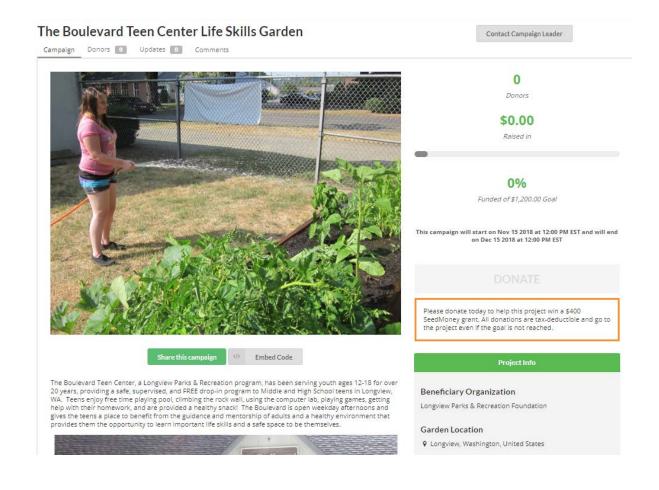
• Goals: I, II













Teens, especially those in Middle School, are an often under-served population; too old for daycare or other traditional after-school programs, they end up with hours of unstructured, unsupervised time each day after they are released from school. With a poverty rate in Longview, WA that is nearly double the national average, the Teen Center provides a much needed service for working families who may not have the means for other extracurricular activities.



Current Garden

Through the passion, knowledge, and dedication of the Teen Center staff and support and donations from community organizations and volunteers, a small garden was installed at the Boulevard a few years ago. The garden provided teens in the program the opportunity to experience caring for, growing, and harvesting their own produce. With a new basketball court on the horizon, the garden will need to be relocated, and if our campaign is successful, hopefully expanded to include an irrigation system, fencing, and with enough support, even a small greenhouse.



Future Garden Space



Goals for Future Garden Space

Ultimately, the goal is not only to continue to provide teens at the Teen Center the opportunity to experience the many benefits of gardening, but to establish a Life Skills program, hosting cooking classes with local chefs, workshops with WSU Master Gardeners, and more. Our Teens have indicated one of their favorite programs we've ever put on was a cooking course that was improvised with nothing more than a hot plate. Through these classes, teens will learn important life skills that will empower them to make healthier choices, putting them on the path to happier, healthier lives as they transition into adulthood.











