

Monroe

City Launches New Events, Development

After hosting a successful inaugural wine festival and celebrating the opening of a new brewpub and farmer's market, the city of Monroe continues to build momentum with a pair of major development projects.

A handful of new homes already have been built, and developer R Hill Development LLC, based in Stayton, is selling build-ready lots in a subdivision called Red Hills Estates that could include up to 55 houses near the city's grade school, according to the *Register-Guard*.

With a population of 625 people, the subdivision has the potential to boost Monroe's population by nearly 25 percent. Monroe Community Development Coordinator Taylor Evans said the city's location between Eugene and Corvallis is a plus for people looking to buy a home, rent or stay for a short visit.

"I've already heard that our Airbnb rates are tremendous," she said. "I really see this as a place people want to come and hang out, especially people who visit Eugene and Corvallis. This is the perfect little hideaway."

Monroe also is updating its comprehensive plan and will finalize its Riverside District Plan by the fall of 2020. The plan outlines a timeline for developing the city's Riverside District, and how to best integrate commercial, industrial, residential, parks and public spaces as the city's population grows. Monroe received grant funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation to help develop the plan.

In addition, the city is seeing improvements to the Long Tom River at the Monroe drop structure with federal grant funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the Continuing Authorities Program. The improvements would benefit fish passage and enhance the ecosystem's health for the city's source of drinking water. The project also could include trails, boating access and a pedestrian bridge, which would help boost tourism and recreational development, City Administrator Rick Hohnbaum told the *Register-Guard*.

Evans said that while some residents were initially hesitant about some of the changes happening in Monroe, they have been pleased to see the results so far.

"The public is really excited about all these new things that are happening," she said.



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