

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – MAY ACTIVITIES, 2011

EAST PARKS – CRAIG KLINKE

This spring's cold weather certainly stunted grass and other plant growth. This helped with our mowing efforts, because most of our seasonal staff are students and didn't start working until mid May. Now, grass growth has really taken off and we are doing our best to stay caught up. One out of five of our large, gang mowers has had mechanical problems, requiring it to be in the shop more often than we would have liked.

High school softball and baseball teams are wrapping it up for the year. We only have sectional and regional tournaments left to prepare for. What's left is to prepare the diamonds for MSCR and other recreational leagues starting in early June.

Soccer games are really increasing. We have more fields on the east side this year than ever before. Interest in soccer is becoming more popular every year. Another sport that is gaining in popularity is cricket. We will be installing a new pitch at Dominion Park soon.

So we are now in full summer mode. The parks are very busy and are getting a lot of use. Shelter reservations are increasing and we are having more large events. We look forward to the summer months and the challenges that lie ahead.

WEST PARKS – WILLIAM SCHOTT

We have had near perfect growing conditions in May. The mowing crews had a difficult time keeping up earlier in the month. Now that most of the seasonal staff are on board, we have made two to three rotations on our mowing routes.

Recycling containers were placed at the major shelters, athletic fields, and boat launches during the week before Memorial Day.

The Welder has been manufacturing boat storage racks at the request of Community Services.

By the time you read this report, I will be retired and packing for my wife's and my move to California where she accepted a position at Stanford Hospital and Clinics. I have thoroughly enjoyed my thirty six years of employment with the Madison Parks Division.

MALL CONCOURSE – LAURA BAUER

Special events certainly pick up in the Downtown area during May. In addition to the regular Farmer's Markets on Wednesdays and Saturdays, we also saw the *Syttende Mai Run*, the *Madison Marathon*, the *March for Babies*, and *Dogs on the Square*. In addition, we provided equipment for the *Rubber Ducky Race* at Burr Jones Field, as well as for *Bratfest* at Willow Island.

The annual beds around the Square have been planted by Doug Duren (contracted through the Business Improvement District), which, along with the pansy plantings, provide some much appreciated color and greenery to the Downtown area. We're looking forward to having the floral baskets hung during the first week of June, as well as having the annuals planted in our large flower pots.

Also this past month, the Downtown Volunteers were recognized by a program put on by the Business Improvement District that was held at Graze. These ambassadors certainly contribute to visitors' (and local's, too) experience. The Volunteers offer restaurant and shop recommendations, help with directions, and are eager to share a wealth of general knowledge with anyone who asks.

June kicks off in a big way with *Ride the Drive* on June 5th. This event is always a busy one for us as most of the equipment staging occurs in our shop on Fairchild Street. We are responsible for the delivery and pickup of the vast assortment of equipment, as well as many of the incidental items found to be needed during the event.

FOREST HILL CEMETERY – KEVIN SORENSEN

A beautiful, warm Memorial Day concluded with the cemetery looking great for the thousands of visitors to Forest Hill. The day starts with ceremonies at Soldier's Rest, Union Rest and then Confederate Rest. It is always rewarding to have the grounds look in top form as the crowds gather to honor veterans of the United States military services. Many of the visitors during the weekend plant flowers on their family plots.

Thanks goes out to the many volunteers that place flags by the graves of over three thousand veterans buried at Forest Hill. Volunteers also weeded and mulched around the cemetery office and entrance area, enhancing the look as people first arrive at the cemetery. Thanks goes out to East and

West Maintenance that helped string trim around the thousands of headstones and to the Streets Division for sweeping all the roadways. Of course the cemetery crew deserves much of the credit for the great appearance of the grounds. This is really the culmination of many months of work, focused on this meaningful event.

May staffing levels are now at 6.5 permanent employees and three seasonal employees. May burial numbers, lot sales and total monthly revenue are as follows:

Interments: 20 Mausoleum Entombments: 9 Lot Sales: 1 Total Revenue: \$28,244.00

GOLF –RAY SHANE

May was a continuation of our cold and wet spring. Play and revenues are down considerably, when compared to 2010. With the cool temperatures and moderate moisture, the growth or explosion peaked these past couple of weeks. Staff has been creative in sharing equipment when we have mowers down for repairs and adjusting work schedules to best utilize the mowers that are available.

The feedback from our customers has all been positive. Courses are in great shape; whatever turf loss we had from the winter has healed, and now the only missing piece is having some good weather for golf.

There have been no major issues or problems out of the ordinary. We have experienced a few more equipment breakdowns, but that can be expected as the age of our equipment only becomes greater. *Madison Gas and Electric* had to do a little excavating at Odana to replace a communication cable for their water infiltration system. Other than that, it has been business as usual.

We're expecting June to be a busy month, with the start of several junior golf programs and Monona Golf Course being the new home of *The First Tee Program*. Staff is excited to have this international program at Monona and is looking forward to working with them in introducing golf to juniors in the Madison area.

OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS – ROBERTA SLADKY

People and Gardens

Attendance has been closer to previous years' levels in May, you'll see the visitor counts next month. Over 4,000 individuals visited on Mother's Day, this is a huge attendance for one day at the Gardens – driven somewhat by the first nice weekend day we've had in a long while. Staff and volunteers continued to cope with the capricious hot and cold weather. They did this by moving the plants indoors and then outside, covering them at night for frost protection, then opening up the vents to cool the greenhouse on hot days and indoors again, protecting the plants from night-time frost.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens launched an e-newsletter in March, 2011. April's e-newsletter featured a behind-the-scenes feature article on how OBG makes leaf mulch. The newsletter generated a 35% open rate, with a 43% click-through rate, based largely on the leaf mulch article. *Patron Mail* is our e-communications service provider that specializes in serving arts organizations and nonprofit groups. *Patron Mail* provided the benchmark statistics used in the following comparisons. OBG's statistics, compared to the benchmark statistics, are very favorable. We have an overall 40% open rate, compared to an 18% benchmark and an average 10.5% click-through rate, about five times the benchmark. Feedback from *Patron Mail* has been very positive: OBG has one of the most successful early campaigns and most effective designs they've seen. Kudos to staff member Katy Plantenberg! Katy created the wonderful design template in the OBG style, and also manages the program. To sign up for OBG's e-newsletter go to www.olbrich.org and click on 'sign up for e-news'.

Visitor comment from the past month:

5/26/11 *"We (Portage Schools – John Muir) love how our field trip was run this year. We liked that the rainforest was guided the whole time, and we liked that there were volunteers to run the stations & that they were hands-on! Thanks."* John Muir School, Portage, WI (Explorer Programs were described in the May 2011 Park Commission Report. The updated curriculum was noticed by other schools as well as the John Muir School faculty who took the time to write this visitor comment)

Numbers

OBG Attendance (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants)	2011	2010
April 1 - 30	16,094	20,048
YTD April 30	50,140	61,699
Total Member Households (individuals*) April 30	5,975 (8,961)	5,632 (8,576)

**based on the number of membership cards issued*

OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories	YTD 4/30/2011	4/30/2010
Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD	\$9,056	\$14,116
Room Rentals YTD*	\$43,156	\$57,372
Catering Percentage Revenue YTD**	\$3,809	\$3,868

**accrued at time of booking – up to 21 months before the rental date*

*** accrued on a monthly basis following each catered rental*

Website Visits April 2011	
Total Visits	13,779
Unique Visitors	10,735
New Visits	65%

Events

- Landscapes for All Seasons: Sundays, 11 am – 5 pm, Evjue Commons. Natalie Sewell's fabric landscapes through June 26
- Conservatory Exhibit: Light Gaps through July 10
- Rhapsody in Bloom Benefit: A Night in the Big Easy
- Hosta Sale: Sun, June 5, 10 am – 2 pm (or while supplies last) by the WI Hosta Society
- Rose Show: Sun, Jun 19, noon – 4 pm by the Madison Rose Society
- Poetry Readings: Sun, Jun 26, 1 – 4 pm by the WI Fellowship of Poets

Summer Concert Series: Tuesdays, 7 pm - 8 pm

- June 7: WYSO Philharmonic Orchestra (orchestral music)
- June 14th Coast (Americana, rock, funk & fusion)
- June 21 Madison Municipal Band (concert band music)
- June 28 The Bar (Afro-Cuban jazz & world music)

Education

Wellness in the Gardens

- Yoga, Mondays 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm and Thursdays, 7:30 – 8:45 am (drop in OK)
- Yin Yoga, Sundays, Jun 5 – Aug 2, 3:30 – 4:30 pm
- Moving Meditation, Mon, Jun 6 – Aug 8, 6 – 7:30 am
- Naturapathic Approaches to Healthy Weight Loss, Tue, Jun 7, 6:30 – 8 pm
- Yoga Flow, Wed, Jun 8 – Aug 31, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Garden Explorers, drop-off classes for ages 8 – 11, Plant a Pizza, Sat, Jun 11, 10 – 11 am

Learn & Play Together

- Little Sprouts Gardening, for ages 2 – 4 with adult, Thu, Jun 30 – Aug 4, 10 – 11 am, June 30: Starting with Seeds

Classes & Workshops for Adults

- Way of Nature: Photography and Haiku – for adults and youth grades 9 and up, 4 Thu, Jun 2 – 23, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Watercolor Sketching in the Gardens, 6 Thu, June 9 – July 14, 9:30 am - noon
- Painting the Spring Gardens in Soft Pastel, Sun, Jun 12, 9 am – 4:30 pm, Flowering Silver Leaf Jewelry, Sun, Jun 26, 9 am – 4 pm,
- Energy Efficient Landscape Design, Mon, Jun 13, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Designing Attractive Native Gardens for Home & Business, Thu, Jun 16, 6:30 – 8 pm

Garden Walks

- Ferns: Natural History & Cultivation, Wed, Jun 15, 6 – 8 pm
- Garden Design Walk, Thu, Jun 30, 6:30 – 8 pm

Summer Arts for All! Co-Sponsored by VSA Arts of Wisconsin 608-241-2131 to register Paper Mache Flower Sculpture with Artist Joni Goldman, Tues, Jun 7, 14, 21, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

When the World Was New – Story Drama with Music and Movement, Tues, Jun 14 & 21, 1:30 – 3 pm

CONSERVATION – RUSS HEFTY

Despite the cool and wet conditions, we did manage to complete a number of controlled burns in the Conservation Parks this spring. Woodland burns were conducted at Owen, North Cherokee, and South Cherokee Parks. Prairie burns were completed at South and North Cherokee Marsh units. *Operation Fresh Start* assisted in preparing, conducting, and mopping up after these burns.

Other *Operation Fresh Start* projects included girdling aspens at the North and South Units of Cherokee Marsh, pulling garlic mustard at Owen Park and Cherokee Marsh, and planting 2,500 prairie plugs in a new managed meadow at Acewood Pond. The plantings at Acewood Pond will create an attractive vegetative buffer along the edge of the pond, and perhaps make the site less attractive for giant Canada geese.

The May 4 public hiking tour at Heritage Sanctuary was attended by 35 people. Given the cool spring weather conditions, the trilliums were just starting to bloom.

FORESTRY – MARLA EDDY

Forestry Section	Total Trees	Total Hours
Cycle Pruning	0	0
Pruned by Request	324	427.50
Small Tree Pruning Cycle	91	21
Tree Removal	99	396
Storm Work/Hangers		72
Unfilled Vacancies		456

The spring planting season ended in the early half of May. We planted just over 1,000 street trees. After the planting season, arborists went back to tree pruning requests and removals. Pruning for engineering projects have also been a top objective. No cycle pruning occurred this month. Engineering projects and the sidewalk replacement program keep the Forestry Specialists busy. The aerial treatment of gypsy moth was completed on May 24. This year the City of Madison treated 601 acres which is about a third of what we have treated in the past of couple of years. The decline in gypsy moth population was due to:

- Participating in the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program
- Wet spring weather in 2010 encouraged a natural occurring fungus that attacks the young caterpillars. This fungus is called entomophaga.
- A virus attacked young caterpillars. The virus is called the nucleopolyhedrosis virus (NPV).

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – KAY RUTLEDGE

James Madison Park Shoreline Improvements

Contractor has the rip rap along the shoreline complete and the two concrete abutments are in. They are behind schedule on the installation of the concrete inbetween the abutments and the boathouse. It has been a cold and windy spring so far and any wind out of the north, northwest, south or southwest comes into the shoreline and makes it impossible to pour the concrete along shore. We are hoping to have things wrapped up by June 10th.

Breese Stevens Field Press Box

We put out a request for proposal for the design/purchase of a pre fab press box on April 29, 2011. Bids for the purchase of the press box came in May 13th. A second phase of the project (a public works contract for the coordination of delivery and installation of the structure) will be put out in June. Anticipated time for installation is August of 2011, in between the spring and fall soccer seasons.

Breese Stevens Entrance Improvements

The project was approved by Landmarks Commission and other reviewing agencies. The first bid advertisement was Friday, May 6th; bids were received May 27th and will be opened June 3, 2011. Construction is scheduled to begin July 18th and to be finished September 9th during the off-peak season.

Door Creek Soccer Fields

A DNR permit has been submitted for the development of two adult size soccer fields at Door Creek Park. Construction is scheduled to begin in July pending DNR approval.

Door Creek Ski Trail

Staff is preparing plans for neighborhood review and construction for development of Phase I of the Door Creek Ski Trails. Phase I construction will include grading, tree removal and potential bridge construction.

Tennis Court Resurfacing

In January work was completed on a public works contract for the re-surfacing of tennis courts within our parks system. Courts to be resurfaced are in Rennebohm Park (6); Brittingham Park (4); Walnut Grove Park (2); and Westmorland Park (2). Bids were opened on April 1st. The low bid was Fahrner Asphalt Sealers. Start to work is mid May with completion in mid June.

Burrows Park Restroom Renovation

Burrows Park Restroom is complete and has been started up for the season. Staff is developing landscaping improvements as part of the restroom renovation.

Warner Park Parking Lot

The Parks Division will be reconstructing the Warner Park parking lot in 3 phases over the next 3 years. In Phase 1, fall 2010, we replaced the storm sewer and built 2 retention ponds that will hold all of the parking lot run off prior to it going into the channel and lagoons. Phase 2 includes Bay 3 of the parking lot and the complete roadway through the parking lot. Bay 3 of Phase 2 will be completed in spring and the remainder of Phase 2 will be done after the 2011 Mallards season. Phased landscaping for the parking lot was included in the 2011 Park Landscaping Public Works Contract.

Warner Park Bleacher Replacement

This is a joint venture with the Madison Mallards – replacing the bleachers at the baseball diamond at Warner Park. Low bid was Joe Daniels Construction Co., Inc. at \$999,985.85. Estimated time of completion is May 27th, in time for the first Mallards game on June 6th. The project was completed on schedule.

Olbrich Park Softball Light Replacement

Project calls for the removal/replacement of the softball lights for the two easterly diamonds at Olbrich near the Walter St. parking lot. In the process of getting price comparisons from various manufacturers for re-using all of the existing poles; some of the existing poles, and/or for complete replacement. Staff is analyzing the cost/benefits of each during the next few weeks in order to come up with a bid plan. Plan to bid this project out over the summer for fall installation.

Thut Park

Staff is working with engineering to install inlets, storm structures and a berm to divert runoff from Thut Park into the Woodley Street storm sewer system. Construction schedule is dependent upon the Woodley Storm Sewer Engineering project. It is anticipated that construction of the berm, inlets and connection to the Woodley Street storm sewer will be completed this fall.

Tenney Park Pavilion

The contractor has been submitting their materials for approval; demolition of the existing shelter was completed in April. Work was delayed while design options for dealing with the existing poor soil conditions were evaluated; some over-excavation and backfilling of clear stone was needed to provide an adequate foundation for the new shelter. Options for reusing the existing stone from the pillars are being evaluated based on the amount of stone available. Footings are being poured and construction is moving forward.

Tenney Park Maintenance Bridge

Staff is working with the neighborhood as well as the State Historical Society on the design guidelines for the bridge. It is anticipated that the design process will be completed in June and that the bridge will go out for bid in summer with a construction schedule of late fall through spring 2012.

Playgrounds

Contract has been issued and had the pre-construction meeting with the project supervisor to strategize schedule and installations. The play equipment and site amenities have been received and the first order of rubber surfacing has been ordered.

Brittingham Boathouse

Construction is complete and the Camp Randall Rowing Club is enjoying the space and improvements.

Park Landscaping

Held a joint pre-construction meeting with Forestry since the same contractor is planting their street trees under Contract 6645. Met with the contractor to locate park trees (he is wrapping up his street tree planting during most of May). The remainder of his plantings will coincide with street tree plantings in close proximity to park sites ready for trees. Staff is also working on landscaping design improvements for the Vilas Zoo Park Sign, Acewood Park Sign, Elvehjem Park Sign, and the Droster Park Sign.

Owls Creek Open Space

Installation of the playground is complete. Due to the late fall start and weather conditions, some site remediation is yet to be done.

Olive Jones Park

Revised site plan for the design of tot lot and amphitheater expansion; adjustments were made to ensure the improvements would work within the constraints of the site and existing grades. Updating quotes from vendors to move forward with purchasing to construct the project during the summer. We are coordinating with Alder, neighborhood and parent-teacher representatives, and MMSD staff on the project.

Marshall Park Dredging

Permit for dredging was completed in mid December and sent to the DNR. In January, the DNR informed us that no dredge work can be done during the spring spawning period between March 15th and May 15th; the Marshall Park channel and bay, where the boat launch is, is an important spot for spawning pan fish. The contract has been delayed until fall due to these requirements.

Park and Open Space Plan

Staff met with the Long Range Planning Subcommittee on Monday, April 25th to go over preliminary sections of the Park and Open Space Plan. Staff is continuing to develop the plan and make revisions based on recommendations from Long Range Planning. Research and inventorying of park facilities and review of park classifications continues.

Other Projects

- Met with the Cherokee neighborhood to evaluate options for the playground renovation.
- Working with Engineering staff to map all standard mowing and no mow areas in all parklands.

WARNER PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER – BRAD WEISINGER

Admissions and Passes

	YTD 2010	YTD 2010	% Rev Change	% Change
Pass Plans	\$38,507.60	\$32,937.00	58%	
Admissions	\$16,025.00	\$15,082.00	43%	-6%

Facility Reservations

Calendar Year	February Rental Totals	No. Free	% Free	Rentals	Free Rentals YTD	% Free YTD	YTD Revenue	% Rev budget
2010	87	31	36%	362	118	32%	\$27,142.50	
2011	144	49	34%	526	162	31%	\$25,796.75	51%

Calendar Year	YTD hrs	YTD hrly participations
2010	894.05	45,589
2011	1087.85	65,456

YTD 2010 Age Profile

Preschool – 125; Elementary School – 83; Middle School – 119; High School – 131; Adult – 1,043; Senior 60+ 620

YTD Income Compliance

Income levels are based on households with 1-8 family members.
61% compliance - YTD