

SUPERINTENDENT'S SEPTEMBER 2021 REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary

Parks have stayed busy through the waning days of summer. The days have been mostly dry and temperatures overall quite enjoyable. Mowing stayed lower than average with some dryness, but periodic rain has kept us busy on that front. Operations staffing is in significant declining levels as our valued seasonal staff are ending their positions for 2021. Staff are preparing for winter already (yes indeed), with discussions under way about improvements and ways to sustain a high level of recreational service while also achieving the goals for snow and ice control responsibilities across the City.

Olbrich Gardens have been busy and seeing a significant uptick in visitors. The Goodman Pool season was a success and the Waves participated in a full "almost" normal season including All-City. Goodman Pool hosted a portion of the distributed All-City event, which provided some lessons learned already as we prepare for 2023. Golf continues to be outpacing last year's record year. Disc Golf, boat launches, and dog parks have also seen continued high levels of utilization and enjoyment.

Future Commission Items

- Olbrich Path – Lakeland – Traffic Engineering, Engineering, and Parks staff have been working on alternative design options for consideration as a part of the bikepath through Olbrich Park that will be a part of the Atwood Ave. project. Anticipated to be discussed at the October meeting.
- Golf Enterprise Update – Staff will be working to provide both the Commission and the Golf Subcommittee and update on the Enterprise Fund and operations. The current target for this informational update is in November. This will correspond with a goal of presenting an update and additional plan details related to Glenway for 2022.
- Update on WPCRC expansion plans – Funding for design and development work is included in the Parks Division's 2022 Capital Budget request, with construction funding in 2023. Staff anticipates briefing the Commission on this important project in the fall of 2021.
- Parks staff are working with an inter-agency staff team to prepare a presentation on potential future vision for the Yahara properties as the interchange project commences.
- Parks has been working with MPF and a donor related to the recreational bike amenities improvements projects at four parks. With the support of the County's PARC grant, the projects are moving forward, but there is potential to receive private support at a level that would allow all four to move forward over the next three to four years. There are policy considerations that the BPC and others will need to consider related to naming rights and placement of logos onto signage. This is anticipated to come to the Commission in October.
- Parks and Real Estate have been working to acquire a high value greater than 20 acre woodlot on the City's North side. The hope is a purchase and sale agreement authorizing resolution will be coming the BPC in October to allow for acquisition in 2021.

Section reports

Community Services Report – Christopher Peguero

Customer Service (Mark Crosby):

- Shelter reservations continue with updated mask mandates for all shelters considered enclosed by PHMDC. A majority of shelters close to reservations by October 4 as restrooms are winterized.
- Fall athletics are beginning, while summer athletics come to a close. Fall ultimate, softball, flag football, kickball, youth football, and youth soccer will continue through October.
- Disc Golf, Dog Park, and Lake Access permit requests continue to come in. 2022 permit sales begin November 15. All annual permit types except for Lake Access are at all-time high, though Lake Access permits may soon surpass the previous high.

PERMIT GROUP	2017			2018			2019			2020			2021		
	Annual	Daily	Fee	Annual	Daily	Fee	Annual	Daily	Fee	Annual	Daily	Fee	Annual	Daily	Fee
Disc Golf	1,456	6,769	\$91,262.11	1,426	4,767	\$80,866.97	1,470	5,284	\$85,235.31	1,908	3,279	\$92,269.50	2,351	2,307	\$105,211.00
Dog (Park/Reg)	7,980	892	\$208,766.05	8,838	570	\$249,909.12	7,965	590	\$223,679.33	9,234	200	\$257,523.67	9,603	187	\$278,470.00
Lake Access	3,560	4,937	\$156,729.60	2,879	4,109	\$136,994.76	3,004	4,561	\$142,482.12	6,728	2,044	\$188,999.85	6,517	1,763	\$187,636.00
Ski Trail	1,325	500	\$40,401.50	1,277	830	\$40,679.06	1,474	967	\$47,126.50	1,501	1,017	\$48,712.01	3,633	1,147	\$108,602.00
	14,321	13,098	\$497,159.26	14,420	10,276	\$508,449.91	13,913	11,402	\$498,523.26	19,371	6,540	\$587,505.03	22,104	5,404	\$679,919.00

Community Events (Kelli Lamberty):

- Since PHMDC issued the indoor mask order in mid-August, we have fielded more short notice requests for events that decided to relocate outdoors. We have learned creative ways to accommodate new and changing requests for street use and park events over the last few months.
- While we continue to process applications and issue event permits for the remainder of this year’s outdoor season, we are starting to look forward. We will be contacting returning events to confirm dates and locations for their 2022 events in early October.
- We continue to compile data on the programs and policies we utilized during COVID. There will be a report of the “lessons learned” and recommendations about the initiatives going forward.

Recreation Services (Tracey Hartley):

- Movies continue into fall based on a grant from the City of Madison and support from Hugh Wing and Mary O’Donnel from Department of Planning and Community & Economic Development. An opportunity for community building with various NRT, Neighborhood Associations, and other community partners, Parks will provide another 19 movies with this offering.
- The second Learn to Fish program had 14 people attend and this location was great for catching fish! Our Wanda Fullmore intern, Katy pictured below is now done with her internship with Parks. It was great to have her on staff this summer. I have enjoyed the program and plan to continue supporting Wanda Fullmore Interns in the future.



Katy at Filene Park on August 18-Learn to Fish. New DNR fish mobile in photo

Aquatics/Goodman Pool (Jon Landsverk):

The 2021 Aquatic season ended for the pool on August 29th and for the beaches and splash pads on September 6th.

- 143 scholarships were given out for the 2021 season
- 788 kids attended swim lessons for the 2021 season
- Planning has already begun for the 2022 season
- A complete resurfacing of the Goodman pool will be starting at the end of September

Rangers (Joanne Austin):

- The busy summer season is winding down for rangers and we look forward to catching up on trainings and other projects that have remained difficult to accomplish due to staff vacancies.
- Hourly Ranger Breimon is nearing the end of basic training and will go solo very soon.
- Hourly Ranger Goss recently welcomed a new baby to his family and we are very excited for them.
- The posting for two Permanent Ranger vacancies is underway and review of the Ranger Supervisor position should soon follow.

- We are reviewing a new citation issuing system called TRACS, which provides an automated system that can greatly reduce data entry time currently required from rangers and administrative support staff.

Warner Park Community Recreation Center (Terrence Thompson):

- WPCRC collected backpacks and school supply donations and distributed them to Northside students at Vera Court, Kennedy Heights, and JP's Hair Design Back to School Free Haircuts event on August 29 for the 3rd Annual Back to School Supply Drive.
- WPCRC hosted 8 Teen Nights this summer, concluding with a Madden '22 video game tournament. Teen Nights were well attended and provide Northside teens with a safe Friday evening space to fellowship with their friends. Fall afterschool programming is off to an excellent start.
- WPCRC had a successful down week August 30-September 6, conducting annual facility maintenance on floors, carpets, bathrooms, fitness room, kitchen, and all major facility contact points.

Planning and Development

2021 PARC and Ride Grants from Dane County

- Parks received two grant awards for future Aldo Leopold Park improvements. Parks received a \$125,000 grant to help pay for the paved pump track and skills trail being constructed this fall, and a \$62,500 grant to help fund the "shred to school" trail that will be built during the 2022 construction season.

Olin Park Facility Bid Opening

- The bid opening for the Olin Park Facility Improvements construction contract was on September 9, and four contractors submitted bids. J.P. Cullen is the apparent low bidder, and a resolution for contract award will be introduced at the September 21 Common Council meeting. Construction is scheduled to begin at the Olin facility in November, with completion anticipating in July next year.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

- **Attendance.** Even without one of Madison's long-time traditions—*Blooming Butterflies* was cancelled for 2021, total attendance for July 2021 was an astounding 38,863 visitors, only about 6,000 visitors short of our pre-COVID July 2019 visitorship of 44,730.
- **Bolz Conservatory/Production Greenhouse.** Fall crop is in the process of being moved outside for the rest of its growing cycle. Greenhouse crew have received plants to start production for the coming year, including poinsettia plugs for eventual display in winter. Staff are preparing for the Bolz Conservatory's 30th Birthday this November.
- **Outdoor Gardens.** New plantings continue to beautify the new Frautschi Family Learning Center. Most recently, the rain garden and Lussier Terrace perennial plantings were installed featuring a high percentage of native plants. Visitors are exploring the rooftop,

where container plantings are filling in – one container even features swallowtail caterpillars dining on fennel. Outdoor gardens repairs and maintenance were completed including an irrigation leak that required us to dig up the path next to the Rock Garden Bridge, relocate electrical, and progress on painting the tower structure in the Tower Garden.

- **GLEAM, Art in a New Light.** GLEAM opened on Saturday, August 28. The nighttime exhibit features seven site-specific installations and several lighting effects created by GLEAM team members. GLEAM guests will access a virtual exhibit guide on their personal phones to navigate the event and learn about the art and artists (OlbrichGleam.org). Patrons purchase advanced timed tickets to regulate the visitor flow. Several additional safety practices will assist in ensuring social distancing, including a one-way designated tour route and separate entrance and exits. GLEAM is open every Wednesday – Saturday, September 1-October 30.
- **Personnel.** Madison Parks leadership and the Olbrich Botanical Society Board of Directors are collaborating to screen and hire a new Garden Director. New Building Attendant Jason Lee will start on Sept 5. Recruitment for a new Facility Maintenance Worker is underway.