

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – APRIL, 2012
EAST PARKS – CRAIG KLINKE, SUPERVISOR**

Spring has sprung early this year and, as a result we've been even busier than normal this season. We started our mowing operations approximately two weeks early this year. With the grass growing as quickly as it is, it's going to be a real challenge to keep up. We brought eight seasonal employees back early to help us with this task.

In addition to our mowing operations, we put all of our trash barrels and benches out. We still need to add more picnic tables to the parks, and will do so as time allows. We've been installing soccer fields and have been working on ball diamond maintenance. Our first high school softball games began the week of April 1st. In preparation, we rolled, cored, and over seeded Reynolds Field. Unfortunately, the park was in pretty bad shape due to the group that occupied the area last fall.

We are interviewing seasonal employees during the week of April 1st. Many of our staff from last year found other opportunities, so we'll have more new people than usual this season. We are looking forward to working with this new group of people. We definitely need their help.

CONSERVATION – RUSS HEFTY

The weather in March was extraordinarily warm, and numerous record high temperatures were set. Needless to say, we switched gears quickly from winter right into summer. By the end of the month plants were four to five weeks ahead of their normal growth.

We transitioned from winter maintenance we put away winter equipment for the season in to prepare out equipment for the spring burn season. We have large woodland burns planned for North Cherokee, Turville Point, and Edna Taylor Parks. These are parks where we have large scale oak savanna/woodland restoration efforts underway. Much of the month was spent preparing these areas for controlled burns. The crew walks through the sites locating potentially hazardous trees (hollow, dead, damaged trunks) and blows or rakes leaves and wood debris away from them. This reduces the risk of the trees catching on fire and creating a safety issue. We also want to preserve these resources for wildlife use.

We worked with a contractor that was hired to spray garlic mustard and dames rocket in the oak savanna restoration areas at Turville Point. Because the season advanced so quickly, it was a challenge to complete the project without impacting native species that were emerging.

We completed the hiring process for two Conservation Technicians. Brandon Mann and Jay Walters are two highly qualified individuals and will start work on April 9. They will be great additions to our staff.

MALL CONCOURSE – TOM SKAIFE, SUPERVISOR; LAURA BAUER, LEADSWORKER

The record breaking temperatures in March allowed us to get many of our spring activities started early. We were able to change the sidewalk banners before the first day of spring, and we were able to do it without having to shovel any snow to get near the poles. The sidewalk debris cleanup went quickly, as a lot less salt had been used. Trash cans that were damaged over the winter have been replaced, and additional cans have been added in the 400 and 500 blocks of State Street. We're also ahead of schedule for the spring bus shelter cleaning. We expect to be finished by the time our *Toolcats* will be needed by Forestry for their spring planting.

We began mowing during the last week of March. Although this will make for a long mowing season, it is nice to have green grass so early in the season. We also over seeded some areas on the Square where the turf was damaged by *Walkerville*. We had hoped that the grass would recover, but the stress of the camping tents, combined with the lack of irrigation where the tents were placed, seems to have been too much for the turf. We also over seeded an area on N. Pinckney, which is nearly constantly occupied by pedestrians.

In response to the shortage of downtown bicycle parking, the Bicycle Recovery Unit of the Madison Police Department has been stepping up their efforts to clear out abandoned bikes. They've been doing monthly sweeps, and their efforts really show – we're cleaning around a lot fewer rusty bikes, and there are many fewer locked to trees. We appreciate their efforts, especially since it is so difficult to find places for additional racks.

Coming up in April, look for the pansies to appear in the concrete planters just in time for the first week on the *Farmer's Market* and the *Crazylegs Run*.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS COORDINATOR – KELLI LAMBERTY
JANUARY - MARCH 2012**

2012	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	YTD
Events	0	12	6	18

Block Parties	0	0	0	0
Amp Permits	0	0	2	2
Total	0	12	8	20
2011	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	YTD
Events	0	5	2	7
Block Parties	0	1	0	1
Amp Permits	0	4	6	10
Total	0	10	8	18

APRIL EVENTS

10 & 11, Tu & W, 3:30p-7p,	Leukemia&Lymphoma: Spread the Awareness! Podium
15, 22 Su, 7a-5p	GDVC Spring Bicycle Races Research Park
16, M, 8:30a-1:30a,	Overture School show, Henry St. – W. Wash to Dayton
19, Th, 5:30-9:30	Take Back the Night - Rally & March 700 State to Capital
21, 28, Sa 6a-2p	Dane County Farmers' Market Capital Square
21, Sa, 10a-1:30p	Busking For Books 100-600 State St. (no closure)
25, W, 8a-2p	Wednesday Farmers' Market 200 MLK
25, W, 9a-3:30p	Ag Day on Campus 700 State St.
26, Th, 9a-12p	Take our Children to Work Day 200 MLK
28, Sa, 10a-Start	Crazylegs Classic Capital Square to Camp Randall
29, Su, 11a-4p	Annual Greek Week Block Party 200 Langdon

FOREST HILL CEMETERY – KEVIN SORENSEN

Since March was unusually warm, we were able get an early start on our spring cleanup. We went through the sections and picked up all of the winter decorations and many of the downed branches, sticks, and debris. We have also started clearing sections of the remaining leaves. We installed a number of military markers from fall and winter burials. We also repaired plow-damaged turf that occurred when the ground wasn't frozen.

Forest Hill staffing levels were at 6.5 permanent employees.
Burial numbers, lot sales, and total monthly revenue are as follows:

Interments: 18 Lot Sales: 12 March Revenue: \$35,275.00

OLBRICH GARDENS – ROBERTA SLADKY

People and Gardens

The very early spring has caused an explosion of blooms at Olbrich Gardens – rather than the orderly progression of blossoms we're used to from March through May. Visitors have blossomed as well, eager to see magnolias, cornelian-cherry dogwoods, flowering cherries, the Meadow Garden, and the Wildflower Garden – just some of the spectacular blooms that have been on display.

Visitor comment from the past month:

3/17/2012 "We always make the effort to stop by when we're in town. BEAUTIFUL GARDENS!!" The L's, Prescott, WI

Numbers

OBG Attendance (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants)	2012	2011
February 1 - 29	11,896	9,866
YTD Feb 29	22,681	19,62
Total Member Households (individuals*) Feb 29	6,109 (9,332)	5,801 (8,680)
Dec 1 – 31		
YTD Dec 31		
Total Member Households (individuals*) Dec 31		

*based on the number of membership cards issued

OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories	YTD 2/29/2012	YTD 2/29/2011
Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD	\$9,906	\$4,129
Room Rentals YTD*	\$12,965	\$8,341
Catering Percentage Revenue YTD**	\$1,555	\$2,516

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

** accrued on a monthly basis following each catered rental

Website Visits	Feb 2012	Feb 2011
Total Visits	13,971	10,140

Events *Bolz Conservatory Closed for spring pruning: through April 6*

- *The Last Polaroid*, Mark Roberts & Denise Rouleau – Evjue Commons Art Exhibit, Sundays, 11 am – 5 pm, April 8 – July 1,
- *Light Gaps*, Conservatory Exhibit, April 7 – July 15
- Pansy Sale, Sat. Apr 7, 10 am while supplies last
- Orchid Sale, Sat. Apr 7, 10 am – 2:30 pm or while supplies last
- Leaf Mulch Sale, Full Service, Bagged & Bulk Mulch
 - Public sale: Friday, 4/13, 2 – 5 pm
Sat, 4/14, 9 am – noon
 - Load-Your-Own begins Sat, 4/14 @ noon and continues daily
 - *Wisconsin Gourd Society Festival*, Sat, Apr 14, 9 am – 4 pm

Education

Wellness at the Gardens

- Yoga, Mondays 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm and Thursdays, 7:30 – 8:45 am (drop in OK)

Classes & Workshops for Adults

- Spring Into Gardening – Get Ready for the Season, Tue, 4/3, 5:30 – 7 pm
- Annual Grasses, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Establishing a Woodland Garden, Wed, 4/11, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Wisconsin Roses 201, Growing Florist-type Roses, Wed, 4/18, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Beautiful No-Mow Yards, Thu, 4/19, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Pruning Demonstration and Pointers, Sun, 4/22, 9 am - noon
- Spring Bulbs Garden Walk, Tue, 4/24, 5:30 – 7 pm
- Vintage Wisconsin Gardens, Tue, 4/24, 6 – 8:30 pm
- Lower-maintenance Alternatives to Your Home Landscape, Thu, 4/26, 6:30 – 8 pm
- Shady Characters, Thu, 4/26, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Art of Seeing – Garden Photography, Sat & Sun, 4/28-29, 8 am – 4:30 pm
- Silver Leaf Jewelry, Sun, 4/29, 9 am – 4 pm

Learn & Play Together

- Nighttime in the Jungle, Rainforest Sounds, (grades K – 3 with adult) Fri, Mar 2, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
- Toddler Story & Stroll, Down by the Pond (ages 2 – 4 with adult)
- Down by the Pond, Fri, 4/27, 10 – 11 am
- Terrific Turtles, Fri, 5/4, 10 – 11 am
- Fantastic Frogs, Fri, 5/11, 10 – 11 am
- Flower Fairies, Sun, 4/29, 1 – 2 pm, (Grades K-2 with an adult and grades 3 – 5)
- Twilight in the Gardens, Thu, 4/5, 7:30 – 8:30 pm, (Grades K-2 with adult and grades 3 – 5)

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT – TOM SKAIFE

The unbelievably warm weather we experienced in March had the Facilities crew second guessing our traditional time frames for opening our facilities. In the end, we held to our schedules for the most part, knowing a cold spell could cost us thousands and, in the long run, delay our opening efforts.

March Activities

- Activated irrigation at Warner Athletic Complex and Breese Stevens Stadium.
- Charged water system at Wingra Boat House.

- Reconfigured plumbing chase at Reindahl Shelter.
- Installed boat launch piers at Olin, Olbrich (Creek), Warner, Tenney, and Marshall.
- Installed kiosk/bench on Cannon Ball bike path.
- Rebuilding pier sections.
- Reconfiguring electrical distribution at Warner Stadium to better meet the needs of the Mallards.

FORESTRY – MARLA EDDY

The Forestry Section began Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) detection in mid-March. Forestry Section staff sampled five city ash trees from designated plots that are spaced at one mile intervals throughout the city limits. During the sampling, two branches located on the south side of the ash street tree are removed. The harvested branches were taken to a city facility, where the bark will be removed to search for the presence of EAB larva.

Branch sampling is a new approach when it comes to searching for EAB. This detection method provides a more sensitive measure than the visual evaluation and the purple traps (you may have seen hanging in ash trees the last few summers) we have used previously. This new method has shown to be 75 percent effective at finding EAB in low-level infestations. Identifying areas where EAB is present is the first step in taking action to suppress the population growth and spread of this insect. Incorporating branch sampling into our work will allow for better overall management of this destructive pest.

The west Forestry unit continued district cycle pruning in Forestry district 27 and small tree area Forestry district 37, as well as completing work requests. West Forestry also began pruning in advance of Engineering's street construction and resurfacing projects.

The east Forestry unit continued district cycle pruning in Forestry district 14. Crews also continued small tree area pruning in Forestry district 28. Crews continued pruning in advance of the 2012 Engineering street reconstruction projects in March, as well as completing work requests.

The Forestry Section greatly appreciated receiving some assistance from both east and parks maintenance staff. They provided staff for the Forestry clean-up crew on both the east and west side. In some instances, their assistance made the difference of having more Forestry Section arborists doing tree work, versus working on the clean-up crew.

Forestry Specialists continued working on marking engineering reconstruction projects and sidewalk replacement sites for "no root cutting" as well as responding to work requests and attending pre-construction engineering meetings.

Special projects completed include:

- Waunona Park
- Zook Park
- Ocean Park
- Renebohm Park
- Sandstone Park
- Reindahl Park
- Elvejhem Park

GOLF – RAY SHANE

March was certainly a month for record the books. The unusually warm temperatures resulted in both Odana Hills and Yahara Hills Golf Courses having the earliest opening day on record. Glenway missed the breaking the record by only one day, while Monona's record opening day of March 4th in 2000 remains the leader. Courses opened on March 14th this season, and the weather remained great for the golfers. The golf courses opened for play last year on March 31, so the majority of the green fees collected this spring will be a big benefit to the overall financial success of the program.

Staff has been extremely busy with the opening of the courses and keeping up with the fast growing turf. Seasonal staff has been called in to assist with getting the courses open and manicured.

Golf is off to a great start. The courses came through the winter in perfect condition, as golfers take advantage of this early start of the season.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – KAY RUTLEDGE

Warner Park Parking Lot

The Parks Division will be reconstructing the Warner Park parking lot in three phases over the next three years. In Phase 1, fall of 2010, we replaced the storm sewer and built two retention ponds that will hold all

of the parking lot run off prior to it going into the channel and lagoons. Bays 2 and 3, and the roadway binder were completed as a part of Phase 2 in the spring/fall 2011. Phase 3 includes bay 4 (in front of the park shelter), bay 1 (in front of the Mallards office), and bay 5 (new parking bays by the soccer fields). Favorable bids were received and the contract was awarded to *Raymond P. Cattell*. Construction started the last week of March with the installation of the construction fence and erosion control. The project should be completed by May 25, 2012.

Quann Tennis Courts

The reconstruction of six of the 12 tennis courts at Quann Park is complete. The color will be done in spring 2012, under separate contract; the refurbishing of the net posts by our staff this winter is complete. We are waiting for *Mother Nature* to cooperate with temperatures over 50 degrees (even at night), so we can start.

Cherokee Park Playground

Bids were received on March 16th and the low bidder was *Madison Commercial Landscapes*. The Public Works contract is going through the approval process. The neighborhood has exceeded their original fundraising goal of \$20,000 and is in the process of raising the remaining \$6,000 needed to purchase and install all of the playground equipment they've requested. Construction start is tentatively scheduled for early May.

Tenney Park Maintenance Bridge

We are reviewing preliminary designs and alignments with the consultant, coordinating with the City's Historic Planner, the State of Wisconsin, and the neighborhood regarding final design options. Construction is tentatively scheduled for this summer/fall.

Forest Hill Cemetery Water Service

We are conducting a series of meetings with park maintenance staff to come up with new design standards and requirements for replacing the antiquated watering system at Forest Hill. We are also consulting with an irrigation specialist regarding how best to move forward with implementation of the plan, given the constraints of the project. The process should be completed by the end of April.

Tenney Park Tennis Court Lighting Improvements

We are working with staff to come up with a design for the replacement of the existing tennis court lights at Tenney. The existing system is not very energy efficient and has 12 poles. The new system will be much more energy efficient, have less trespass light, and will need only 4 poles.

Playgrounds, Paths and Basketball

The site restoration has been completed by the contractor. We are working on a final change order to reflect as-built quantities, and will move forward with closing out the contract.

Park Landscaping

We received bids on March 2nd, and the low bidder was *Dan Larsen Landscaping*. The Public Works contract is moving forward with the final approvals and signatures. The anticipated start on some projects is expected by early/mid April. Landscaping projects include new plantings this summer in BB Clarke Beach (managed meadow along shoreline), Door Creek Park, Garner Park, Giddings Park, Heritage Heights Park, Sandstone Park, Tenney Park (after the parking lot is constructed), Thut Park and Warner Park. We are meeting with potential contractors to solicit quotes for select invasives removals prior to completing the underplanting work incorporated into the Public Works contract.

Olive Jones Park

The project includes the reconstruction of the retaining walls along the north, south, and east perimeters; replacing the remaining fence, and repaving the asphalt surface. The consultant has completed final plans and specifications and the project is out for bid. Bids are due April 6th. Construction is planned during the summer months while school is out.

Park and Open Space Plan

The draft Park and Open Space Plan was approved by the Park Commission at the March Park Commission Meeting. Revisions are being made to address Board Member comments. The next step will be introducing the plan at the Common Council.

Hudson Park

Staff is progressing with the design for the Hudson Park beach improvements and submitted a Chapter 30 permit to the Wisconsin DNR and Army Corp on February 14th. This plan was also emailed to the neighborhood. Staff will be working on the plans and specifications for bidding and for approval by the Board of Public Works on June 6th. Construction is scheduled for the fall.

Hoyt Park Improvements

Staff presented the plans for Hoyt Park improvements to the neighborhood on March 12th. Staff also worked with the alder to inform the neighborhood of the planned improvements through mailings and e-mails to listserves. Invasive tree removals as part of the *Friends of Hoyt Park* restoration efforts will be occurring in April. Staff is moving forward with the design of other improvements, which include fixing the existing damaged stone steps, adding a railing to all stone step staircases, funding the purchase of native plants to aid restoration efforts completed by the *Friends* group and volunteers, repairing the damaged stone wall near the entrance, acquiring soil borings to investigate increasing infiltration at the park, restoring the drains at the overlook, and asphalt patching.

Door Creek Park

Staff is working on designing plans and completing permits for installation of a box culvert at Door Creek Park to accommodate a ski trail. This crossing will allow users to access the ski trail from a trail head at the parking lot and will continue the City's efforts to create a ski trail system at Door Creek Park. A Chapter 30 permit was submitted to the Wisconsin DNR and Army Corp on March 2nd. Development of construction documents is underway.

Warner Park Master Plan

After meeting with the alder, staff has been developing a Request for Proposal for Consultant Service for the Warner Park Master Plan. The consultant selection process should be completed in May.

Esther Beach Master Plan

Staff met with members of the neighborhood association on January 25th to start the public input process on the plan which will incorporate the additional land acquired in 2011. Based on input received, a draft master plan will be created so that it can be discussed further with the neighborhood.

Blackhawk Park

We continuing to work with neighborhood representatives and city and park staff to provide an expanded playground and resolve current drainage issues in the playground area. We are preparing final plans to incorporate two additional playground components and resolve drainage issues, along with a cost estimate and schedule to complete the work.

Highland Manor Open Space

We are coordinating with the neighborhood representatives and City staff to develop a master plan for recreational amenities in the vacant right-of-way (which bisects diagonally through the Highland Manor neighborhood). Concepts have been developed with input from the neighborhood representative and were presented to the alder. A neighborhood meeting will be scheduled for the end of April to present the master plan concepts to the neighborhood for consensus prior to bringing the master plan to the Park Commission for approval, hopefully in May. We are continuing to work with City staff and City Attorney's office to obtain public access easements and resolve longstanding encroachment issues.

Churchill Heights Park

We are soliciting specifications and obtaining price quotes to secure materials for construction of an open park shelter at Churchill Heights Park. We are also coordinating with *Operation Fresh Start* to assemble the shelter. The site work and pouring of the concrete slab is to be completed either in-house or via contract.

Cypress Spray Park

We are soliciting specifications and price quotes to purchase and install the shade canopy for the spray park.

Other Projects

- Coordinated letters of support for DNR Stewardship Grant funding for the expansion of Esther Beach; attended Natural Resources Board meeting to speak on behalf of the project March 28th. Potential award half of appraised value (over \$400,000).
- Working on a DNR Stewardship Grant Application for the Merrill Springs Park acquisition.
- Working with Planning on the Arbor Hills/Leopold Neighborhood Plan and Hoyt Park Neighborhood Plan.
- Working with Forestry Staff to plan and prepare for Arbor Day Tree planting projects across the city, including working with volunteers on site selection.
- Soliciting pricing and working with Park Operations staff to erect a small kiosk at Thut Park.

WARNER PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER – BRAD WEISINGER

Following the *WPCRC Report* is a report on the *2011 Facility Use Study @ WPCRC*

Admissions and Passes

	YTD 2010	YTD 2011	% Rev Budget	Change
Pass Plans	\$23,643.00	\$26,544.00	47%	12%
Admissions	\$10,210.00	\$9,337.00	27%	-9%

Facility Reservations

Calendar Year	December Rental Totals	No. Free	% Free	Rentals	Free Rentals YTD	% Free YTD	YTD Revenue	% Rev Budget
2011	118	30	25%	242	69	29%	\$10,833.50	21%
2012	103	46	45%	204	86	42%	\$15,008.34	29%

Calendar Year	YTD hrs	YTD hrly participations
2011	502.55	23,317
2012	498.75	19,676

YTD 2012 Age Profile
2012 Jan-Feb.

Preschool – Elementary(totaled)	259
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Middle and High School Activity	
Middle and High School Early Release	338
Middle School Socials	480
Youth Basketball Games	1140
Youth Basketball Practices	380
Structured Service	182
Middle and High School Early Release	338
Neighborhood Center Nights	30
Total Youth	2809

YTD Income Compliance – 58%
Income levels are based on households with 1 – 8 family members.

FACILITY USE STUDY ON FOLLOWING PAGE

2011 Facility Use Study @ WPCRC		
Total Scheduled Hours	10,124	100%
	# hrs	% of hrs
RENTALS		
For-Profit	620	6.12%
Non-Profit	1,750	17.29%
Free	436	4.31%
NESCO		
NESCO, free rentals	1,275	12.59%
Daily Lunches	1,020	10.08%
OPEN GYM		
Middle and High School Early Release	42	0.41%
Early Release hours only part year in 2011		
Neighborhood Ctr Night	54	0.53%
Drop-In	1,133	11.19%
NESYB		
	278	2.75%
MADISON STARS, all youth girls		
	101	1.00%
MSCR		
Adult	1,173	11.59%
Youth	1,669	16.49%
Playroom	573	5.66%
Youth includes classes, kids kamp, socials.		
Total Scheduled Hours		
	10,124	100%
February 13, 2012, 2pm		
> WPCRC is open on average 13.30 hours a day		
> WPCRC is open on average 93 hours a week		
> In 2011 WPCRC served 292,977 people, hourly counts		
> WPCRC serves approximately 5,634 people per week		
> This equates to 61 people being in the bldg each hour		
> Adult programs equal 11.59 % of use		
> Free and Non-Profit rentals equal 34.19 % of use		
> Youth services are 38.03% of use		
> For profit rentals equal 6.12 % of use		
> NESCO lunches are 10.08% of use		