

SUPERINTENDENT'S JULY 2022 REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary

June was a very busy month for Parks. The Pool opened, the Warner Clean Beach system started operations, multiple positions were filled, and we have crossed over the peak grass growing season. There have been significant efforts made to move the organization forward in a more equitable and sustainable manner. As we prepare our operating budget submission, we are focusing on securing resources to move us forward. We are working to build into the base budget some of the staff needed to support our work. This would be through reallocation of resources within the budget. We will also be seeking resources to support the pending growth in the system from the absorption of the Town of Madison. Finally, we are hopeful to put forth a supplemental that focuses us forward on volunteer engagement, support, and coordination.

For Golf, we were pleased to welcome golfers back to The Glen on July 1st. With the reopening, we are hopeful we can make up some of the modest gap we have in rounds and revenue from 2021. Revenue did get to the \$2M level on July 7th, which is just behind the July 4th goal for the Enterprise. It looks promising that this year will be a profitable one for the third year in a row, which is unprecedented in available records.

In good news, we are seeing fewer staff absences related to Covid from the last month. Unfortunately, the seasonal staffing issues have made it a challenge to meet our desired levels of service. We have been unable to provide lifeguarding services. Community Services and Operations are continuing to work together to try and provide as good of a beach experience as we can given these constraints. I am very proud of the team's efforts to sustain our impact through this very challenging environment.

The Olin Park Facility project continues on track and MMSD has signed its lease for space in the building. They have a goal of joining us at the facility by early October. MSCR would not have an immediate programming plan for the facility, as that would likely commence with their winter offerings.

Future Commission Items

- Flood Mitigation Plans – The Engineering Stormwater Utility section will be engaging with the BPC over the next year on more specific area plans as follow up to their presentation at the January meeting.
- Golf Enterprise Update – In addition to the ongoing work around the Glen Golf Park, including updating the clubhouse, the Golf Team is working to continue engagement around the potential for changes at Yahara and the subsequent needs for the entire Golf program.

- Land Management Plan Update – The Parks Division team will be working over the coming months to conceptualize opportunities to improve land management standards and the corresponding plan moving forward. The Plan has done a lot of good to move the system forward, but the team feels it is reasonable and appropriate to focus resources on continuous improvement efforts in this area by working with Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee over the coming six to nine months. An anticipated timeframe for the Commission to review a draft update to the Plan is fall of 2022.
- Operating Budget Service Level Briefing – The team is working to prepare a presentation to the Board on service level changes based on final outcomes of the budget process. As currently resourced, there will be reductions in services from historic norms in aquatics and operations that will have an impact. Given the reductions are mostly in hourly staffing the impacts are a challenge to plan for with specificity, but will create challenges for hours of coverage for lifeguards at beaches, mowing and trimming operations, restroom and shelter date availability, as well as impacts on general maintenance support for the park system. The goal is to present information on this prior to budget adoption in the Fall.

Personnel Updates

New Hires & Promotions:

- Adam Ottman was promoted from seasonal laborer to Parks Maintenance Worker at the Mall Concourse. He started his new role on June 27, 2022.
- Zach Madison was promoted from seasonal laborer to Parks Maintenance Worker at the Mall Concourse. He starts his new role on July 11, 2022.
- Gabriel Dommerhausen was promoted from seasonal laborer to Parks Maintenance Worker in Central Parks. He starts his new role on June 27, 2022.
- Steve Ansoerge was hired as Parks Maintenance Worker at West Parks. He will be working at Forest Hill Cemetery and starts his new role on July 11, 2022.
- Ryan Antoine was hired as Parks Maintenance Worker at West Parks. He started his new role on July 11, 2022.
- Chris Daggett was promoted from permanent part-time (1.0) Parks Worker in West Parks to full-time Park Maintenance Worker in West Parks. He starts this role on June 27, 2022.
- Liz Todd was promoted from permanent part-time (.75) Parks Worker in Central Parks to full-time (1.0) Parks Worker in West Parks. She started her new role on June 27, 2022.

Departures:

- Kim Owens has resigned her position as Account Clerk 3. Her last official day with Parks was June 24; however, she has graciously agreed to continue to support payroll functions for the next several pay periods.
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Section reports

Operations (Greg Genin)

Conservation:

- Continued to work on invasive species control at several parks, mowed and trimmed vegetation to maintain trails and spent several days cleaning up from the storms.
- Placed coyote decoys, treated turf with anthraquinone repellent, and monitored and hazed Canada Geese at select parks and beaches.
- Prescribed goat grazing resumed. Herds are being rotated through 60 acres across eight parks this year: Acewood, Cherokee Marsh South Unit, Door Creek, Edna Taylor, Knollwood, Owen, Prairie Ridge, and Turville Point.
- Contractors planted native shrubs at Acewood and Owen.

Construction:

- Poured bench pads, restored volleyball courts, prepared the beaches for the season, and completed landscape work at the skate park and disc golf sites.
- Continued the safety-critical playground route inspections and maintenance.

Facilities:

- Completed Goodman pool and splash pad annual startup and began the daily inspections of the pool, splash pads, fountains, and new clean beach systems.
- Worked on painting and remodeling The Glen clubhouse and patio area.
- Worked with facility engineering on planning for projects at Reindahl splash pad, Brittingham rowing club, Gates of Heaven, and the Olin facility.

General Parks:

- Focused on storm clean-up efforts and the normal high-demand spring work of turf, athletic field, and shelter maintenance.
- Hosted several large park events including the US Women's Disc Golf Championship and a Juneteenth celebration.
- Completed preparations for the inaugural season of the Black Men's Coalition of Madison little league baseball group.
- Completed spring tree planting and started planting bed beautification maintenance.
- Approximately 45 volunteers from various area businesses, organized by the Clean Lakes Alliance in coordination with Wild Warner, Madison Parks, and MSCR, performed a large garbage cleanup around the Warner Park lagoon.

Mall Concourse:

- Worked on mowing, weeding, deadheading bulbs, and storm clean-up.
- Pulled the spring annuals and Olbrich Gardens planted the summer annuals.
- Supported the increase in work related to summer events including Madison Night Market, Live on King, Safety Saturday, Cows on the Concourse, and the Farmer's Market.

Planning and Development (Ann Freiwald)

- **WPCRC Expansion:** The Warner Park Community Recreation Center expansion project is moving forward. In early May, the City released a Request for Proposals to prospective design consultant teams to lead the community engagement and design of the facility expansion. We received two proposals in response to the RFP, and the evaluation panel recommended Engberg Anderson Architects for contract award. The contract is currently routing through the City approval process, with work with the consultant team anticipated to begin in mid-July. The focus of the expansion project is an 8,000 sf addition that includes a second gymnasium and additional restroom/locker room facilities. Pre-design community engagement will occur this summer, with preliminary design beginning in early fall.
- **Madison Senior Center Courtyard:** Early this spring, Parks staff and Saiki Design held two community outreach sessions for the Senior Center renovation project. The courtyard is scheduled for transfer to the Parks Division to address downtown parkland deficiencies, and the 1/4 acre plaza requires renovation. In addition to the community meetings, Parks received initial public input through an online survey and suggestion boxes at the Senior Center and Capitol Centre Apartments. The Saiki team developed two concept options based on the input received and presented the plans at two outreach meetings in late June. Parks staff, Saiki representatives, and the district alder were present to discuss the options and answer questions. The team is refining the favored concept based on public comments and will present the proposed courtyard redesign to the Urban Design Commission in late July. The project is scheduled for public works bidding in early 2023, with construction starting in the fourth quarter of next year.
- **The Rennebohm Park (west) tennis courts** are all but gone! In late June, Parks Construction staff mobilized to the park and had the court fencing, net posts and about



1/2 of the asphalt demolished in about 48 hours. Work by Parks staff will continue there through mid-July as they haul out the old asphalt for recycling at Yahara Materials and gravel base for re-use elsewhere – in-house demo can provide a substantial cost savings to projects and allows construction work to progress faster once underway. The Public Works project to reconstruct the courts is currently out to bid and is anticipated to start in mid-August. The courts will include dual-striping for both tennis and pickleball play upon completion.”