

SUPERINTENDENT'S OCTOBER 2022 REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary

Fall has arrived and with it the leaves are starting to drop. With the dipping temperatures, the parks team is busy preparing for the winter season. This includes significant clean-up and winterization efforts. The Facilities team has an annual challenge to beat the freeze while trying to keep as many non-heated facilities open as possible to serve the community. Fall is also a time for planting of trees and significant work on natural area management. It is also the time of the year to make final preparations for the winter recreation season. Staff are working on details related to skiing, sledding, skating, and other events to promote an active community in all seasons.

The Lake Monona Waterfront project continues to progress and the team is working closely with multiple City agencies to keep coordination and communication moving with the John Nolen reconstruction project. There was a well-attended public meeting on October 4th where the three participating firms in the design challenge got to introduce themselves to the public. There is significant excitement around this project and the Committee is doing excellent work in leading the effort.

The Mayor's Operating budget will be released in early October and with that it is only five weeks left in the process to adopt a 2023 budget for both Capital and Operating. Overall, the Parks budget conditions are looking favorable for 2023. The Commission will receive a more thorough briefing in November prior to adoption.

Future Commission Items

- Golf Enterprise Update – The Golf Team is working to prepare a report to the Golf Subcommittee, Facilities Programs and Fees Subcommittee, and the Board of Park Commissioners on the past 2 years of operations as well as an outlook on future opportunities to continue to implement the Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks' recommendations.
- 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 three months. An anticipated timeframe for the Commission to review a draft update to the Plan is fall/winter of 2022-23.
- 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.

- Subcommittee Structure and Roles – based on the conversation at the September meeting, staff expects to do more work related to the future of the BPC’s subcommittee structure. This work is rooted in the Task Force on Governmental Structure report.

Personnel Updates

Promotions/Hires:

- Zach Watson was promoted from Warner Park Community Recreation Center (WPCRC) Program Coordinator to WPCRC Facility Manager. He started his new role on September 19, 2022.
- Jay Walters has taken the position of Parks Payroll Specialist (Account Clerk 3). He started his position on September 19, 2022.
- Jazmine Bevers was hired to the Conservation Tech Trainee position. They started their new position on September 19, 2022.
- Mike Denu was hired to the Olbrich Facilities Maintenance Worker Position. He started his new position on September 26, 2022.

Section reports

Operations (Greg Genin)

Conservation:

- Completed trail improvements at Cherokee Marsh South Unit and Elvehjem Sanctuary. Gravel and water bars were added to approximately 1,000 feet of trail to reduce erosion and improve the surface for walking.
- Worked on porcelain-berry control at Owen and Asian bittersweet control at Turville Point.
- Prescribed grazing was completed for this season on September 17.
- The newly hired Conservation Technician Trainee, Jazmine Bevers, started work on September 19.

Construction:

- Completed several projects including grading and seeding the Olbrich NiceRink expansion area, pouring a new concrete donor bench pad at Manchester Park, and installing the new Elvehjem nature play area
- The team also supported the shrub and ground cover removal for the Goodman Pool landscape renovation project, removed the island from Elver parking lot, and converted a concrete patio area at Olive-Jones to turf.

Facilities:

- Performed the work required to close the pool, splash pads, and beach houses for the season and began pier removal for the winter.
- Painted the Brittingham Rowing House and offices at the Olin facility, completed the new tennis wall at Reindahl Park, built and installed the new parks signature sign at newly

named R. Richard Wagner Park, and installed new charging stations at Goodman and Summit for electric vehicles.

General Parks:

- Continued a significant focus on turf management (mowing and trimming) as the grass continued to grow rapidly because of the warm and wet weather this month.
- Provided preparation and clean up support for a number of special events including Westmorland Neighborhood Association “Summer Nights at Westmorland Park” free concert series, the Alzheimer’s and Dementia walk for research at Elver Park, Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association “Jazz in the Park”, the Central Park Sessions concerts, Trucks and Treasures at Reindahl Park, and other events.
- Staff from several of the operations sections worked together to complete the renovation on seven planting beds at Goodman Pool. The renovation added hundreds of native plants and will decrease the amount of maintenance required. A clear demonstration of the value of the One Team approach.

Mall Concourse:

- Worked on fall preparations including installing the autumn light pole banners, and aeration, overseeding, and fertilizing the turf. The Capitol Square and Peace Park lawns are healthy despite the numerous summer events.
- Supported the increase in work due to the many special events in the City, including the perennial Taste of Madison, Ironman competition, and the return of UW Football.

Planning and Development (Ann Freiwald)

- **Glenway Woods Planning Update:** Parks staff have been working with the National Parks community planner to develop a draft planning framework for Glenway Woods. The planning framework includes a vision statement, goals and management objectives as well as management strategies for the property. Parks has planned four listening sessions over three days with the public in late October. The listening sessions will be held at Sequoya Library on Oct 20, 21 and 22.
- **Town of Madison Parks:** Planning and Development staff member Sarah Grimalkin will lead a master planning process for the three Town of Madison parks coming into our parks system on Oct 31, 2022. The planning process will involve two public meetings and a survey. The final master plans will be ready for BPC review by April of 2023.