

SUPERINTENDENT'S MARCH 2022 REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary

Winter is over! At least from a maintenance perspective related to winter recreational amenities. It was a good winter overall, with significantly higher than historical levels of usage. It was a good year for skating and an ok year for skiing and sledding. The snow cover we did generate, which was less than normal, held pretty well with limited significant thaws in January or February. Multiple projects are carrying on throughout the winter and more are looking forward to a start in the spring. One project of note is the Olin Park Facility. The general contractor is on pace and work is going well with limited unexpected issues. This is good news given the inflationary, labor market, and supply chain issues that are prevalent at this time. We believe the project will be completed in July, with occupancy planned for September.

The Lake Monona Waterfront project continues to move forward with the Council action expected in February to establish the Ad Hoc Committee. The appointments to the AHC are expected to occur in March, with the RFQ responses coming back to the City in April/May. The timeline for this project is tight, but it is very important to stay on track to deliver a master plan for this area in time to be considered as a part of the John Nolen Drive Reconstruction project.

The team is working to prepare for the spring/summer season. There are real and significant concerns for Parks as it relates to staffing levels for the coming season. Especially as it relates to attracting and retaining seasonal staff. We are working with the Mayor's Office, Finance Department, and Human Resources Department to develop options and tools to aide in this effort. At current staffing levels, there will absolutely be service level impacts moving into the summer.

Future Commission Items

- Flood Mitigation Plans – The Engineering Stormwater Utility section will be engaging with the BPC over the coming months 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 Glenway, the Golf Team is working to continue engagement around the potential for changes at Yahara and the subsequent needs for the entire Golf program.
- 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 and engagement strategies later this spring.
- Donor Recognition and Partnership Policies – The Long Range Planning Subcommittee is commencing work around donor recognition and partnership policies over the first few meetings of 2022. The hope is to have a draft policy for feedback in the first half 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 in May 2022.
- 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 late summer 2022.
- Based on the situation related to the boat left illegally moored at Marshall and other corresponding regulatory issues related to boat launches and mooring, staff are working to consider potential ordinance and policy changes that would improve the outcomes for the public in our management of these amenities. I expect some level of ordinance revision to be needed on this front, with an arrival date to the BPC of potentially the 3rd Quarter of 2022.

Personnel Updates

New Hires & Promotions:

- Kevin Koch was hired as Parks Equipment Mechanic in West Parks. He started on February 7, 2022.
- Kevin Goke was promoted from Permanent Ranger to Athletic Scheduler in the Customer Services Section. He is currently transitioning to his new role.
- Terrence Thompson was promoted from WPCRC Manager to Community Services Manager. He began his new role on February 21, 2022.
- Zach Watson has been provisionally appointed to WPCRC Manager as of February 21, 2022 as staff work to permanently fill the position.

Departures:

- Tom Grosse retired from his position as Mall Concourse Lead Worker after 31 years of service with the City and spending his last 5 years with the Parks Division. His last day was on January 3, 2022.
- Warren “Junior” Lyerly has retired from his position as East Parks Lead Worker after 34 years of service. His last day with Parks will be on March 28, 2022.
- Christopher Peguero will be leaving his position as Assistant Parks Superintendent. His last day with Parks will be March 11, 2022.

Section reports

Community Services Report March 2022 – Christopher Peguero

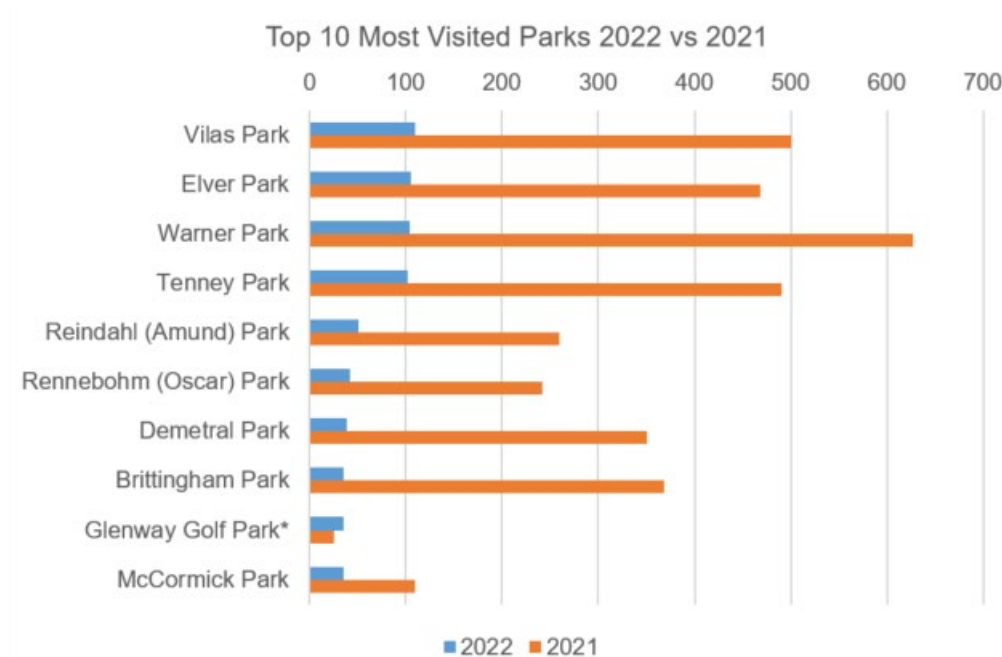
Customer Service Front Staff (Joanne Austin):

- Ranger Kevin Goke has been hired as the new Front Desk Lead. His knowledge of the Parks system will be invaluable for this new role. He officially starts March 7.
- Unfortunately, snow conditions were not extremely favorable for cross-country ski enthusiasts this winter.

PERMIT GROUP	2020			2021			2022		
	Annual	Daily	Fee	Annual	Daily	Fee	Annual	Daily	Fee
Ski Trail	1,501	1,017	\$48,712.01	3,632	1,150	\$108,593.00	2,537	410	\$72,881.00
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Rangers (Joanne Austin):

- Recruitment for hourly Rangers is underway and the training schedule for these new recruits is being developed. Thorough training generally consists of 96 classroom hours and 120 field-training hours. Rangers must to be well trained before they run solo in the parks.
- Rangers are off to a great start in visiting the numerous parks that exist in Madison. Below are the top 10 most visited Parks so far in 2022. Rangers have made numerous visits to Glenway Golf Park since January to best educate and remind public users to remain off the turf until renovation is complete.



Warner Park Community Recreation Center (Terrence Thompson):

- The City of Madison Women’s Initiatives Committee (WIC) selected WPCRC Facility Rental Coordinator Jamie Pratt to receive a 2022 WICY (wick-e) award. The WICY awards recognize women who lead by example and go above and beyond to improve work culture, break glass ceilings, challenge social norms and stereotypes, provide creative solutions for their team, and advocate for better lives for women in the City. During Women’s History Month in March, the WIC will be featuring the work of City of Madison women employees making an impact in their own way at the City.

Recreation Services Coordinator (Tracey Hartley):

- Winter Recreation has wrapped up for the season. Below is a comparison from the 2019/2020, 2020/2021, and 2021/2022 season based on number of rentals.

	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020
Skate Hourly	10,132	10,279	6,143
Hockey Stick	704	579	692
Ski Hourly	1,607	4,668	1,538
*Ski Daily	22	73	n/a
*Ski Weekly	7	22	n/a
Snowshoe Hourly	162	320	224
*Snowshoe Daily	3	5	n/a
Sled Hourly	433	936	668
Sled Purchase	8	23	2

Events

Skate Cinema Space Jam- A New Legacy
Tenney Park, 2/12 47 people attended

Learning Series update:

- Learn to Play Hockey: partner, Madison Capitols
Tenney Park, 1/16 39 registered and 46 participants in total
- Learn to Cold Weather Camp, volunteer, Sean Anderson, Certified Wilderness First Responder
Vilas Park, 2/26 20 registered and 15 people in attendance

Upcoming activities & events

Learn to build a birdhouse, gardening series, Rethink Trash, Dance mini-series, and more...

Dog Park Clean up 4/2

Earth Day Challenge 4/23

Bird and Nature Festival 4/24

Community Events (Kelly Post):

- Community Event requests and applications are coming in daily. This time of year includes a lot of communication with annual event applicants as well as new ones; explaining permitting processes for Park events, Community/Neighborhood events, and Street Use events. We are also seeing requests for day camps and classes in parks. Having available those two pilot permits for this summer is already proving to be necessary and valuable.
- The Carts in Parks pilot program is moving along nicely. I am working closely with the Meghan Blake-Horst in the Economic Development Division to finalize the details of the 2022 program. We are meeting with Community Organizations to determine their capacities for hosting events and how the Carts in Parks program can help to support their missions. We are also analyzing which parks will be activated this summer to determine placement of food carts for daily vending.

Planning and Development

New Staff Member Hannah Penn, Hourly GIS Specialist:

Hannah Penn joined Parks last month as our GIS Specialist. So far, she has assisted Operations with some long standing mapping needs and transferred our park system wall map from AutoCAD to GIS. She will play a key role in our Cityworks start up and the update to the POSP, as well as continue to assist Operations staff with on-going mapping needs.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

On February 14, 2022 Olbrich Botanical Gardens hosted the annual volunteer appreciation. Over 100 volunteers attended along with staff. In addition, Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway and Parks Superintendent Eric Knepp expressed their appreciation for the volunteers. Mayor Rhodes-Conway wrote about the event in her blog foundonline [here](#).

On February 2, 2022, Olbrich Botanical Society was awarded a grant for \$145,650 from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism. The grant funds site improvements for accessibility and will include an exit turnstile that is accessible, upgraded paths, and more. To learn more about this award visit this [link](#).

On February 19, 2022, Olbrich Botanical Gardens hosted an Open House and Iron Pour event. This unique event highlighted Olbrich while collaborating with local FelineStudios. Artists from across the state participated in the Iron Pour. In addition, Garver Feed Mill hosted an aerobic circus performance along with the Winter Farmer's Market. The combined events provided visitors with opportunities to stay all day

