

SUPERINTENDENT'S OCTOBER 2018 REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary

This month's report has a slightly different face as staff continue to work towards improving the report in a manner that provides important information to the Commission and public, while also balancing the amount of staff time devoted to producing duplicative or less valuable information. The new format will include monthly staffing updates for all permanent staff hires as well as a section focusing on future items coming to the Commission over the next few months. Key section updates will still be provided by all sections each month, with a major branch of the Parks Division providing a more detailed update on a revolving basis. This month Planning and Development's update is included with more detail. This update shows the projects and their status for all Planning and Development projects in 2018. Staff looks forward to continuing to develop this report to meet the needs of the Commission and the public.

Permanent Staffing Changes:

- Kristin Mathews was promoted to East Parks Supervisor in late September.

Future Commission Items

- James Madison Park Master Plan will be on the agenda for the BPC over the next few months. This project has been focused on creating a vision for the park for the next 50 years. The project has featured extensive public engagement and has went through a number of iterations based upon feedback.
- Urban Forestry Taskforce – The Urban Forestry Taskforce is likely to have a completed report with recommendations in early 2019.
- IPM Taskforce – The IPM taskforce has begun meeting and will have recommendations for consideration in 2019.
- Golf – The future of golf is still a critically important issue that must be addressed in order to address and create a sustainable future for golf.
- Dog Policy – Parks staff feels that updates need to occur prior to the spring of 2019 in relationship to policies regarding dogs in parks.

Section Updates

Operations/Forestry:

- Five members of Parks' supervisory team attended the National Recreation and Parks Conference in Indianapolis. We look forward to using what they learned to further improve the system.
- Parks staff from all sections spent approximately 4,000 hours on flood response since August 20. Efforts included delivering sandbags, clean-up of debris as well as preparing documentation for FEMA purposes.
- Conservation staff received training on ArcGIS and began mapping maintenance areas, burn units, trails, etc. in conservation parks. This will correspond with the management plans that are being developed for each of the parks.

- Construction is nearing completion on the Junction Ridge Park expansion project. The field and prairie will be seeded by the end of October.
- Facilities Maintenance relocated Olbrich hoop houses and have them ready for winter.
- Forestry staff and Landscape Maintenance Workers are finalizing tree orders for fall planting season. A substantial amount of grate trees will be replaced this fall, which will lengthen the planting season.
- Engineering-led building improvement projects at Summit Maintenance Facility are progressing well. We look forward to their completion.
- Mall Crew will prepare for Freakfest throughout the coming month.

Olbrich Gardens:

- Construction has begun in earnest for the Learning Center and production greenhouses
- Colten Blackburn, Bolz Conservatory Curator, has identified a candidate to replace Cindy Cary, Tropical Plant and Wildlife Assistant -- a 20 year OBS staff member who retired at the end of August
- The 'Garden to Glass Experience', part of the Greater Madison Convention and Visitors' Bureau Great Experiences Project launches in October.

Community Services:

- Connecting Children to Nature – In October Parks and Public Health will conduct site visits and gather feedback at the seven early childcare centers where nature play was installed in the summer/fall of 2017. Many of the nature play elements were built by Wanda Fullmore Interns in the Goodman maintenance shop with assistance from Parks staff.
- Ranger Hiring – Permanent part time ranger hiring has undergone an equity analysis and is open for applicants to apply through October 9.
- Trucks and Treasures - Approximately 1,900 people attended the event at Reindahl Park on Saturday, September 22.
- The Shelter reservation season is nearing a close. There have been nearly 300 picnic shelters and greater than 1600 main shelters reserved in 2018. Lottery Day, the first day to begin reserving in 2019, will be on Tuesday, November 13.