

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S APRIL 2023 REPORT**

### **COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

#### **Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary**

Spring has definitely sprung upon us this year. With temps in the mid-70's in the first half of April, the park system is ramping up with increased usage. The team did a lot of important work in the transitional period (take a look at Olin or Harvey Schmidt Parks for significant invasive removal operations), but are now pivoting into full scale spring/summer operations. The grass isn't getting mowed right now, but given the temps, we certainly aren't far from it popping and shortly thereafter bringing that sea of yellow from dandelions that really tells us we made it through another winter. Restroom facilities are being opened, piers are going in, the golf courses are open, and flowers are being planted on State St. All of these signs of spring and summer ought to remind us to get out and enjoy nature, our City and each other. All of our seasons are special, but Madison from May to September is unmatched and our system is waiting for residents and visitors to enjoy it.

This is also the time of year where the staff are busy working on submissions for next year's budget and at the same time getting final audited financials from last year. It can be a challenge to keep up with the myriad details in making all of these processes happen, but the team is doing an excellent job. The results of 2022 are not yet firmly final, but the Parks Division had a successful year in meeting budget and the Golf Enterprise had a significant positive net income. Looking forward the 2023 budget will likely be a challenge for the team to manage as inflationary pressures continue to seep into all aspects of our operation and not all parts of the budget are keeping pace. We remain hopeful that with the Mayor's direction for the Capital Budget that allows for some room on this front we will be able to stave off longer term systemic issues from these last two years of significant inflationary pressures.

As spring springs forward, so does our team in the important work of project management and implementation to improve our system. The Lake Monona Waterfront Ad Hoc Committee continues to work diligently and will be making a selection of a preferred master plan in the near future. Country Grove shelter, Door Creek shelter, and the Warner Park Community Recreation Center expansion projects are all moving forward. The team is also producing significant progress on a number of master plans for parks including former Town properties. The fully accessible playground at Warner will be completed this spring and Rennebohm will be coming soon as well.

#### Future Commission Items

- Results Madison / Division Work Plan / Road Map– The City has been working on Results Madison, which moves towards a more significant utilization of data in decision-making, including budgeting for the past few years. Staff will be preparing information on this and the Parks Division's work plan to present to the Commission. The first step in this process will be a briefing on the structure of the Division and the corresponding report of the management team's work on creating a Division Roadmap for the year. This is expected before June.

- 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, and the work of the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee on the Plan is nearly complete. An anticipated timeframe for the Commission to review a draft update to the Plan is in May.

## Personnel Updates

### Promotions/Hires:

- Mathew Hill was hired to the Golf Programming Assistant position. He will be primarily involved with supporting clubhouse operations at Odana Hills and The Glen Golf Park. He started on March 6, 2023.
- Dan Breunig was promoted to Golf Programming Assistant. He will be primarily involved with supporting clubhouse operations at Yahara Hills and Monona Golf Courses. He started his new position on March 6, 2023.
- Marquis Sanders has been hired as the WPCRC Program Coordinator. He will lead the KNOW Program at WPCRC. He started on March 20, 2023.
- Ryan Antoine was promoted from Park Maintenance Worker in West Parks to Facilities Maintenance Worker within the Facilities Maintenance Section. He started on April 3, 2023.
- Dominic Stenson was hired as Facilities Maintenance Worker within the Facilities Maintenance Section. He will play a key role in supporting the Madison Parks Lakeside Offices. He started on April 3, 2023.

### Departures:

- Margaret Kraege has retired from her position as Parks Equipment Operator 3 within Parks Construction Section. Parks would like to thank Margaret for her 40+ years of service to The City of Madison Parks Division. Her last day with Parks was March 17, 2023.

## Section reports

### **Operations (Greg Genin)**

#### **Conservation:**

- Transitioned from winter operations and ski trail grooming to preparation for prescribed burn season and other seasonal restoration work. Postcard notifications were sent to announce prescribed burns.
- Worked with the Operation Fresh Start crew, removing honeysuckle and buckthorn, and burning brush piles at Turville Point.

**Construction:**

- Began inspecting playgrounds for the upcoming season, checking for graffiti, and broken swings, loose fasteners, and other safety related items.
- Supported the Streets Division with two general plow snow removal events, and transported street sweeper debris and sand from the Badger Road facility to the Sycamore Facility.

**Facilities:**

- Supported the seasonal closure of ice rinks.
- Began seasonal startups for some park facilities including Breese Stevens Field.
- Finalized repairs on a number of park signature signs and piers.
- Completed various upgrades at the Mallards' stadium, including a large painting project.

**General Parks:**

- Performed snow removal in response to the continued snow events.
- Performed invasive plant removal and cleanup work at a number of parks including Arbor Hills, Elver, Olin, Marlborough and Door Creek parks.
- Began summer season preparation, which included removal of the ice skating rinks, transitioning equipment to summer use, painting picnic tables and trash cans, and hiring seasonal employees.
- Supported the Owl Creek NRT community dinner. The event provided the NRT Committee an opportunity to listen to neighborhood concerns and to develop a response plan. The meeting was well attended by the community.
- Developed managed natural area restoration and beautification project plans for 2023.

**Mall Concourse:**

- Continued to clear snow and ice, and removed snow piles from the Capitol concourse.
- Started the transition to spring work, including power washing bus shelters and amenities, and adding mulch to the landscape beds.

Supported increased trash and recycling collection and sidewalk sweeping in response to major events. This month included the Shamrock Shuffle and St. Patrick's Day Parade.