

JUNE 2014 WRITTEN REPORT OF SUPERVISOR'S ACTIVITIES EAST PARKS – CRAIG KLINKE, SUPERVISOR

As usual, May was a very busy month for Park Operations. It's always challenging to try to stay caught up with mowing and string trimming responsibilities this time of year. The grass growth rates are very high and the dandelions grow even faster. That being said, all of our routes have been mowed every 7-10 days and in some cases, even more frequent than that. We've focused additional resources on keeping up our athletic fields to make sure that paying users have a good experience playing on our fields.

Breese Stevens has been heavily used this spring as well. In addition to soccer, we have regularly scheduled games for the Madison Radicals (ultimate Frisbee) and we hosted The National Rugby Tournament the weekend of 5/31-6/1. It's been a challenge to paint lines for three different sports that use different field dimensions in one location.

Our Athletic Leadworker position has been filled and Mark Kiesow has begun working for us. Mark has a solid background in sports fields and turf management and is a welcome addition to our team. In addition to having responsibility for East Park fields, Mark will be looking at the entire park system. He will be rotating fields in and out of play and will be working to improve the turf, and thus, the playability of Park athletic fields system wide.

The 21 individuals we hired as seasonal laborers have all been trained and have started working for us. We have a great group of employees this year and they have done exceptionally well learning how to run the equipment and what do mow on the mowing routes. It's great that we are fully staffed as we move into the busy month of June.

WEST PARKS – LISA LASCHINGER, SUPERVISOR

Although May started off slow, it certainly did not end that way, as summer is here! We welcomed new and returning seasonals throughout the month, and we went through orientation and hands-on training with all of them. Crews worked hard at weeding, pruning and laying sod at the pool. In addition, we cleaned up the beaches for Memorial Day weekend. Prior to Memorial Day, we sent four seasonals to the Cemetery to help with string trimming. Our recycling program started Memorial Day weekend as well.

We are now at full strength with our seasonal staff with the exception of a student starting in Mid-June. Reservations have picked up dramatically throughout the month. Crews continue to do their best to keep up with the mowing and string trimming, but the grass and dandelions are growing so quickly that it's proving to be very difficult. We started out June by helping prepare for Ride the Drive. In addition, we are kicking off our spring field mowing operations, starting at Olin. We will also be continuing our weekly beach and volleyball court raking at a number of parks.

As we move farther into June, we will finish preparing the pool and Cypress Spray Park for their big openings. We will be doing some work at Penn prior to Juneteenth. In addition, we will be putting numerous resources into getting our parks in the fireworks viewing areas ready for Rhythm and Booms at its new location off John Nolan Drive. We will be providing trash and recycling, as well as restroom cleaning services for numerous parks in the surrounding area during the event. We are anticipating working along with many volunteers to clean up following the fireworks. It will be a month full of fun and excitement and is sure to pass quickly!

CONSERVATION – RUSS HEFTY

Warmer and drier weather allowed us to complete 5 additional prescribed burns in early May. That brought our total to 13 prescribed burns completed this spring. Many of our burns were focused in oak savanna/woodland restoration units. This is necessary follow up management to move forward with large scale restorations at Cherokee Marsh, Edna Taylor, and Prairie Ridge parks.

Follow up management in our oak woodland restoration focus areas also involves proactively managing herbaceous exotic species. Thinning the tree canopy increases the light reaching the ground which stimulates the growth of both native and exotic species. Park staff, contractors, and Operation Fresh Start youth crew focused control efforts on garlic mustard, dames rocket, reed canary grass. Native seed mixes were added to these areas to increase biodiversity.

It appears that red-headed woodpeckers are nesting in the mechanically thinned oak woodlands at North Cherokee. This species requires open canopy woodland to meet its habitat requirements. It is a species of special concern due to dwindling numbers in Wisconsin and the Midwest. We hoped to attract them eventually, but to have them appear so quickly is very exciting.

MALL CONCOURSE – TOM SKAIFE, SUPERVISOR; LAURA BAUER, LEADSWORKER

Mowing is in full swing downtown in the Mall Concourse service area. The crew has been cutting everything weekly, and it's the season when it's very difficult to keep up with the grass growth. We've been getting adequate rain, but even so we'll soon be programming the irrigation, as the elevated grass planters dry out quickly.

We've been working hard at weed control in the daylily beds in the middle of the 100 block of Wisconsin Avenue, and we'll soon be mulching the beds. We'll also program the irrigation again – the watering heads, when installed, were not ideally placed, but they still provide some moisture for the plants.

Sidewalk washing is ongoing, as in recent months. We've been working around some pavement repair projects meant to address the disintegration of the aggregate around many of the sidewalk joints. We hope the repairs are successful, as the alternative is asphalt cold-patch in the widening cracks.

Ride the Drive Downtown kicked off the new month on June 1st. The event, though slightly scaled back, was still a success. Rain threatened all day, but the storms and the 2" of rain held off until the very end of cleanup. Materials will be sorted and put away over the next few days and the Mall shop will soon return to normal.

As we look further into June, we'll see Cows on the Concourse, Cars on State, and the first of the Concerts on the Square. Rhythm and Booms is also moving downtown from Warner Park this year, with fireworks being shot from a barge on Lake Monona. This promises to provide virtually unlimited viewing points from John Nolen Drive and all around the lake, as well as a new and challenging traffic situation on the isthmus.

OLBRICH GARDENS – ROBERTA SLADKY

The winter damage is more and more evident throughout the Gardens. It is curious that some plants one would expect to not withstand the extended cold – look great and others that one would expect to do just fine – did not survive, or are severely damaged. On your next visit, be sure to look closely. Newly planted evergreens are severely damaged throughout the Gardens and many will need to be replaced.

Spring is moving into summer and on June 1st the peonies in the Event Garden have begin their fantastic show. Bees from the onsite hives are busy visiting each blossom, as well as the blooms of other flowering shrubs, annuals and perennials. Olbrich Gardens is at its peak lushness in mid June, a great time to plan a visit!

Visitor comment from the past month :

05/07/2014 "Your staff did an AWESOME job teaching our students about plants yesterday. Thank you so much! Our children loved the experience and learned so much☺" from a grade 3 teacher – Stephens Elementary

April Numbers

OBG Attendance (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants)	2014	2013	Previous 5 yrs average
April 1 - 30	16,038	12,569	18,282
YTD April 30	68,626	52,588	
Total Member Households (individuals*) April 30	6,241 (9974)	6,475 (10,538)	

**based on the number of membership cards issued*

OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories (unaudited)	YTD 4/30/2014	YTD 4/30/2013
Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD	\$18,698	\$22,945
Room Rentals YTD*	\$48,995	\$45,602
Catering Percentage Revenue YTD**	\$4,964	\$4,538
TOTAL YTD	\$72,657	\$72,545

**accrued at time of booking – up to 21 months before the rental date, ** accrued on a monthly basis following each catered rental*

June 2014 Public Events at Olbrich Botanical Gardens call 608-246-4550 for more info

- Load-Your-Own Leaf Mulch Sale** Ongoing, daily 10 am – 4 pm
- TRAM Daily Service** through Labor Day, 10 am – 5 pm
- Madison Herb Day**, June 1, 10 am – 4 pm by the Madison Herbal Institute
- Hosta Sale**, June 1, 10 am – 2 pm by the Wisconsin Hosta Society
- Tickets on Sale** for Olbrich's Home Garden Tour: University Heights
- Rose Show**, June 15, noon – 4 pm by the Madison Rose Society
- Olbrich Closed**, June 21 for Rhapsody in Bloom preparations
- Rhapsody in Bloom**, 5 pm – 10 pm ticketed guests only
- Poetry Readings**, June 29, 1 – 4 pm by the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets

Education – June 2014 classes and programs 608/246-4550 for info/registration or visit www.olbrich.org

Wellness at the Gardens

- Yoga, Mondays 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm and Thursdays 7:30 – 8:45 am (drop in OK)
- Tai Chi Meditation, Mondays, Jun 2 – July 7, 6 – 7 pm

Garden Walks

Garden Design Walk, Wed, Jun 25, 5 – 6:30 pm
Olbrich's Night Garden Walk, Thu, Jun 26, 8:30 – 10 pm

Classes & Workshops for Adults

Common Diseases in the Vegetable Garden, Tues, Jun 10, 6:30 – 8 pm
Hand Papermaking and Paper Casting Workshop, Wed, Jun 11, 5 – 8 pm (age 9 and up with adult)
Drawing Healing Plants as a Daily Practice, Sun, Jun 15, 1 – 5 pm
Weed Cuisine: Identifying and Cooking with Weeds fr. Your Garden, Sun, Jun 15, 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Simplify Your Garden, Tues, Jun 17, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Native Shrubs – A Symbiosis of Site, Structure, & Sanctuary, Thu, Jun 19, 6:30 – 8 pm
Botanical Watercolors Workshop, Sun, Jun 22, 10 am – 4 pm
Do-It-Yourself Photovoltaics, Sun, Jun 22, 9:30 – 3:30 am
Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Bonsai, Thu, Jun 26, 6:30 – 8 pm

Learn & Play Together

Toddler Story & Stroll: Stories in the Garden with Kevin Henkes Books

Birds, Tues, Jun 10, 10 – 11 am
My Garden, Tues, Jun 17, 10 – 11 am
A Good Day, Tues, Jun 24, 10 – 11 am
Flower Fairies, Thurs, Jun 19, 6:30 – 8 pm

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – KAY RUTLEDGE

Central Park

The construction of Phase 1A was substantially complete on January 14, 2014. A few remaining punch list items are still outstanding, with full turnover to Parks staff anticipated to occur by June 17th. Construction of Phase 1B and the skate park are scheduled to occur in 2014, and a temporary crossing has been installed to correlate the necessary work with the railroad, in accordance with the OCR's recent supplemental order.

Warner Park Boat Launch Dredging

The dredging was completed by the contract completion date of January 10, 2014. The dredge spoils pile was measured in April. The contractor completed the grading of the pile in May and topped it off with 6" of fill. We are holding off on seeding at the moment because our conservation people have hired someone to truck in leftover fill from other parts of Cherokee Park before we seed.

Central Park Skate Park

A new pre-qualification category was established for skate park work with information sent out to contractors regarding this requirement. Council approved advertising plans and specifications for this project on April 29th. The project was released for bid on May 23rd and the bid opening is scheduled for June 6th. Construction is anticipated to begin by July 30th with substantial completion in November 2014.

Reservoir Park Playground

Replacement of the playground at Reservoir Park is complete.

Highland Manor Park

Project came in over budget and with only one bid. Engineering decided to split the project up into 3 contracts (Utilities, Site work and Building), and re-bid over summer. The first contract for the water main installation has been rebid, with savings due to design changes and rebidding of nearly \$50,000. The second contract for grading came in higher than estimate but was determined to be acceptable. The third contract for the storm shelter building and parking lot will be bid later this year.

Sauk Creek Park Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 1 contract. The Council approved the contract award to Madison Commercial Landscapes (low bidder at \$237,949.18) on April 29th. Paperwork has been submitted and contracts signed. A pre-construction meeting was held on May 21st; construction is anticipated to begin June 2, 2014.

Haen Family Park Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 1 contract. Please see Sauk Creek for additional details.

Droster Park Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 1 contract. Please see Sauk Creek for additional details.

Pilgrim Park Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 1 contract. Please see Sauk Creek for additional details.

Everglade Park Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 1 contract. Please see Sauk Creek for additional details.

Westport Meadows Park Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 1 contract. Please see Sauk Creek for additional details.

Splash Parks

The splash park contract for construction of the Elver and Reindahl Park splash parks has been awarded to Joe Daniels Construction for the low bid amount of \$1,340,576.75. Construction for the Reindahl Splash Park began on April 21, with construction for the Elver Splash Park beginning on April 28. The domepack and reservoir have been installed at Elver Park and the building footings along with some of the spray features have been installed at Reindahl. Construction is on schedule and is anticipated to be completed by mid-August.

Breese Stevens Field Lighting/Sound System Improvements

The contractor started work in early January. Project was substantially complete as of May 24th, other than punch list items.

Lucy Lincoln Hiestand Playground

Staff presented plans to replace the playground at Lucy Lincoln Hiestand Park for approval to the Board of Public Works on May 7th. Plans and specifications will be advertised to bid on June 6th and improvements will be constructed as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 2 contract.

Huegel Park Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 2 contract. Please see Lucy Lincoln Hiestand for additional details.

Burrows Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 2 contract. Please see Lucy Lincoln Hiestand for additional details.

Fisher Street Park

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 2 contract. Please see Lucy Lincoln Hiestand for additional details.

Aldo Leopold Shelter

Staff has begun preliminary design development for the addition of a shelter at Aldo Leopold Park. The shelter installation is being funded by a Community Development Block Grant, so additional requirements and procedures are required to use these funds. A meeting with the neighborhood association to discuss the plans is anticipated this summer.

Bowman Field

Forward Electric has completed the first phase of this project. The second phase will include new light fixtures and refurbishing the existing poles in the fall of 2014. Strand has been hired to complete the plans and specifications for the second phase. During the interim between phases the field lights will continue to be served by the existing electrical system.

Athletic Field Lighting Upgrades

Equipment to retrofit some of our athletic field lighting with “Control Link” – a program that will allow us to control (turn on/off) the lights from a computer terminal – arrived the first week of December. To start, we will be retrofitting the lighting systems for Elver softball and Demetral softball. Park Operations hopes to install the systems spring of 2014.

Tenney Park – Marston and Sherman Avenue Bridges

The pre-construction meeting was held on April 30th. Joe Daniels Construction Co., Inc started the project the first week of May. The Marston St bridge has been cleaned, the top of the parapet walls have been removed and they have started forming for replacement. They are also working on the mock ups for color and texture approval.

Brittingham Park at Proudfit

The design is complete and staff is working with Engineering to put together the necessary paperwork for submission to the OCR for the railroad crossing. Construction documents are being developed and the project is expected to be released for bid June 20th with bids opened on July 11th. Construction for the park portion of the work is anticipated to be completed in this fall.

Hoyt Park

Clearing and Phase 1 of the fence repairs was completed in November. Staff is working on the design for Phase 2 fence repairs to be completed Summer 2014.

Westside Dog Parks

New dog parks have been approved for both Walnut Grove Park (the old skating area), and Odana School Park. Odana School Dog Park is done with only some minor landscaping remaining. The construction crew mobilized to start Walnut Grove the last week of May. The erosion control is in and the new asphalt path has been cut out.

Park Paving – 2014

The 2014 Park Paving contract plans and specifications have been completed and were advertised on May 2nd. Construction of the various projects will start in late summer; included in this paving contract are the following:

- Re-construction of the Tenney Park Beach parking lot. The existing lot was very inefficient as far as asphalt surfacing is concerned. Our reconstruction will lessen the amount of asphalt by 40% and we will only lose 5 parking stalls.
- Installation of a culvert crossing and accessible asphalt path at Lucy Lincoln Heistand Park. The crossing and path will greatly improve the connectivity in the park. Presently park users have to walk through the ditch to go from one activity to another. The culvert and path will now connect the play area and softball diamond with the basketball court and community gardens.
- Installation of a new accessible asphalt path at Churchill Heights Park that will meander through the park connecting all of the park facilities.
- Re-construction of the asphalt path system at Kennedy Park. The existing asphalt path will be pulverized and kept in place adding 3" to the existing gravel base course. A new 3" layer of asphalt will be laid on the old pulverized surface and topsoil, seed and matting will be feathered in on each side.
- Installation of an asphalt path connecting the existing asphalt path with the new dog park gate at Walnut Grove Park
- Small connector asphalt paths to playgrounds in Spring Harbor, Olbrich, Glacier Hill, Valley Ridge, and Heritage Heights Parks.

Bids came in May 23rd. The low bid was Badgerland Construction at \$252,289.00, right on our estimate of \$250,000.00. Contract award will move forward for approval in June.

Yahara River Bank Stabilization / Olbrich Park Canoe Launch

Staff is working with City Engineering on improvements to the Yahara River to stabilize the stream bank where the existing wooden retaining walls are deteriorating. Bids were opened May 9th and came in significantly higher than the estimates for the combined contract with the Olbrich Canoe Launch. Instead of rebidding the entire project, the Yahara portion will move forward and we'll look for design changes to save costs on the Olbrich Canoe Launch. This project is managed by City Engineering in partnership with Parks staff.

Forest Hill Cemetery

Masonry repairs continued in 2013 for the buildings at Forest Hill Cemetery. Joe Daniels Construction completed work on the Chapel and the Receiving Vault. While the work on the Chapel is holding up well, some of the mortar applied on the Receiving Vault will need to be replaced as the temperatures were too cold for this work to bond correctly. This project is managed by City Facilities Management in partnership with Parks staff. Staff is also working with cemetery staff and Feick Design – an irrigation design company - to come up with a new waterline system for the cemetery.

Garver Mill

The RFP was brought to the Park Commission in March for discussion. This project is managed by City Facilities Management in partnership with Parks staff. The Office of Real Estate Services and City Planning are also working on this project.

James Madison Park Shelter

Destree Design was hired to perform an assessment of the existing shelter at James Madison Park. The final report includes recommendations for three levels of improvements; shelter stabilization, current code requirements, and potential build-out improvements. Staff and Destree Design held a neighborhood input meeting on October 23, 2013. At this meeting a wide variety of opinions regarding improvements to the park and shelter were expressed. An web-based park usage survey is being developed for James Madison Park which may also be utilized for other parks in the future. A draft of the survey tool has been developed and is under review internally.

Breese Stevens Field Artificial Turf

The project was out for bid as of May 2nd, with bids due May 23rd. The month of May was spent working with turf suppliers and contractors assuring they successfully completed the pre-qualification requirements so that they would be eligible to bid on the project. We received 4 bids for the contract. All bids were under the consultant's estimate of \$1,200,000.00. The low bid was H&H Civil Construction at \$729,843.15. The contract award is moving forward for approval.

2014 Park Landscaping

The landscaping contract was split into three contracts: the 2014 Spring Parks Landscaping and Maintenance Contract, the 2014 Fall Parks Landscaping and Maintenance Contract, and the 2014 Parking and Water Utility Landscaping and Maintenance Contract. The 2014 Springs Parks Landscaping Contract was awarded to Living Landscape, LLC for the low bid amount of \$75,261.70. The 2014 Fall Parks Landscaping and Maintenance Contract was awarded to Dan Larsen Landscaping, Inc. for the low bid amount of \$25,861.00. The 2014 Parking and Water Utility Landscaping and Maintenance Contract was awarded to Madison Commercial Landscapes for the low bid amount of \$47,725.75. Construction for the 2014 Spring Parks Landscaping and Maintenance Contract has begun and is anticipated to be completed by July 1st. Construction for the 2014 Parking and Water Utility Landscaping and Maintenance Contract will begin on June 9th and is anticipated to be completed by July 1st.

Yahara Hills Clubhouse

Parks staff met with Facilities Management to begin initial design development for the improvements to the Yahara Hills Clubhouse. Potential improvements include replacement of the roof with additional insulation and other improvements to the building envelope to improve energy-efficiency for winter operations in the future. An evaluation of the HVAC system is also underway. This project is managed by City Facilities Management in partnership with Parks staff.

Bill Kettle Field

City staff have been working with Dane County regarding the expansion of the landfill (Bill Kettle Field is located along the northeastern edge of the landfill). Due to the expansion, additional land is needed and Dane County would like to purchase Bill Kettle Field to expand the landfill to the east and relocate their stormwater ponds to the north and south. Dane County will also purchase a portion of the property owned by the Streets Division along the southeastern edge of the landfill, along with easements needed to complete the landfill expansion and stormwater-related improvements. Parks staff is working with user groups regarding potential opportunities to move their activity to other locations.

Other Projects

- Staff is working with neighborhood representatives and volunteers to coordinate improvements for a variety of parks including Reynolds Park, James Madison Park, Spring Harbor Park, Nakoma Park and Linden Grove Park.
- Participated in Neighborhood Resource Teams and/or Neighborhood Development Plans for Owls Creek, Arbor Hills/Leopold, University/Hill Farms and Hoyt Park.
- Parks lighting projects are underway to replace lighting with more energy-efficient fixtures. Replacements have been completed at Olbrich Botanical Complex, Brittingham, and Goodman Building B. This project is managed by City Facilities Management in partnership with Parks staff; Parks Operations staff is replacing the fixtures as the new fixtures arrive.
- Received bids on April 24th for the removal/replacement of softball backstops that are in disrepair in Walnut Grove, Badger and Oak Park Heights Parks. Low bid was Qual-Line Fence Corp at \$1,908.00 each. The work has been contracted and should be completed this summer.
- Working with a fencing contractor on the repair of tennis court fencing that has heaved (to the point that tennis balls can escape the playing surface) at Wexford Park.
- Staff is working on a landscape restoration plan for the cleared slope area proximate to James Madison Park

2013 Park Ranger calls for service- for comparison

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year to date
Alcohol Related issues	6	3	2	10	18	23	23	8	11	8	0	0	112
Behavioral Ban	0	1	0	2	7	26	17	6	16	6	1	0	82
Check Area	26	13	10	29	55	82	152	104	66	51	41	28	657
Damage to property	4	4	0	5	4	4	6	4	4	5	3	1	44
Dog violation	6	4	18	37	34	21	11	13	4	4	7	1	160
Drugs	0	0	2	1	3	1	7	4	4	1	0	0	23
Graffiti	1	0	3	6	13	7	7	6	4	5	0	0	52
No permanent Address issue	11	19	9	12	10	38	28	21	21	9	2	3	183
Incident	13	11	2	4	3	7	10	3	10	8	0	0	71
Misc	1	0	1	2	6	23	2	10	6	1	4	2	58
Not open/ closed	1	8	8	18	18	21	15	22	23	25	7	12	178
Parking issue	9	20	11	12	69	50	67	41	23	19	5	0	326
Sport without reservation	0	0	1	29	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	33

**WARNER PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER – JACOB TISUE
15 Year Anniversary Promotions**

In 2014, WPCRC will be celebrating its 15 year anniversary with monthly promotions, events, and the launch of new year-long family programs. We have already successfully launched a few months worth and they were well received by the members and the public. Below are the promotional listings as worded in the marketing material:

March

Gear up for March Madness by coming in and playing some hoops! In celebration of our 15th year anniversary and the Madness of March – we are launching a new time dedicated to adult basketball, known as Northside Pickup. Every Sunday from 2:00pm-4:30pm, the gym is dedicated to adult pickup games.

April

Free coffee Mondays! Wake up from the weekend with a free cup of coffee at the WPCRC. Coffee is free all day, each Monday of April. Limit – 2 cups per guest.

May

Bring a friend Friday! Bring a guest for free on Fridays in the month of May. Enjoy the open gym time, work out in the fitness room, or play some pool in the game room. No WPCRC ID card required for the free guest.

June

Madison Mallards vs. Battle Creek Bombers – Wednesday, June 18, 7:05pm
Celebrate our 15 year anniversary at the Duck Pond for the Warner Park Community Recreation Center night at the ballpark! Stop by the WPCRC for ticket information.

