

**SUPERINTENDENT'S MAY 2022 REPORT  
COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary**

The grass finally is growing (a little) so perhaps we can say Spring is here. Three of our golf courses have opened for the year and The Glen Golf Park is growing in nicely. Spring sports are occurring across the system and the number of birds is notable. Unfortunately, we did learn in the last month that the eagles nest at Warner failed this year. The WPCRC continues to focus on programming to connect with youth and their basketball tournaments are getting great interest this spring. The corpse flower is in bloom at Olbrich as I write this, and it really is a sight (and smell) to experience. The Aquatics team is preparing for the season, with staffing plans nearing finalization.

Operations staff are busy getting ready for the season. It has been pretty good burning weather and the teams are conducting and overseeing many acres of burning. We continue to work on improvements to our Land Management Plan and are excited to share more with the Commission in the coming months.

Along with all of the annual operational things happening, we do have a large number of significant projects occurring. The City recently received the responses to the RFQ for the Lake Monona Waterfront project. There were fourteen responses that include significant interest from firms across the United States. It is very exciting to be at this point and I believe the potential for good/better here is real for our community. Additionally, the Olin Facility project is coming along nicely with no major hiccups. At this point, we are targeting a move in early Fall.

Future Commission Items

- Lake Monona Waterfront Project Update – The Committee is created and will begin meeting this month. Staff are working to determine the appropriate time to provide a meaningful update to the Commission.
- 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.
- Two naming requests have been received and will be referred to Long Range Planning in the coming month. One is for the bikepath on Yahara River Parkway and the other is for the park known currently as Kerr-McGee Park at the intersection of Jenifer and Williamson St.
- Golf Enterprise Update – In addition to the ongoing work around the Glen Golf Park, including updating the clubhouse, the Golf Team is working to continue engagement around the potential for changes at Yahara and the subsequent needs for the entire Golf program.
- 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 July 2022.

- 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.
- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2022.

### Personnel Updates

#### New Hires & Promotions:

- Joel Ringberg was hired as Carpenter within the Parks Facilities Maintenance section. He started work on April 18, 2022.

#### Departures:

- Liz Levy will be leaving her position as Administrative Clerk at the Front Desk of the Parks Administrative offices. Her last day with Parks will be May 6, 2022.

### Section reports

#### **Park Operations**

##### **Conservation:**

- Staff conducted prescribed burns on 225 acres across ten sites this month, including four conservation parks (Cherokee Marsh North, Cherokee Marsh South, Edna Taylor and Owen) and managed meadows in six general parks (Burrows, Hudson, Mayfair, North Star, Raymond Ridge, and Reindahl). Volunteers burned native plantings at Brittingham, Kettle Pond, and Odana Hills Golf Course.
- Developed specifications, requested quotes and secured contractors for prescribed burning, spring invasive species control, native shrub installation, and prescribed grazing at several parks to support CIP work.

##### **Construction:**

- Poured concrete pads for new kiosks and benches at Edna Taylor Conservation Park and Paunack Park. One of the Paunack bench areas was designed for wheelchair access.
- Removed the old playground at Eken Park in preparation for a contractor to begin construction of the new playground.
- Resumed playground route maintenance for the season.

**Facilities:**

- Installed the main boat launch piers at Olin, Marshall, Olbrich, Warner and Tenney Parks.
- Turned the water on at shelters, restrooms, and stadiums for the season.
- Worked on capital projects including upgrades to the Marshall, Wingra, and Brittingham boathouses and the Olbrich beach house.

**General Parks:**

- Worked on preparations for the spring season, including removal of the Nice Rinks, placement of trash cans and picnic tables, fertilizing, seeding, and aerating of athletic fields; and resumed regular shelter and restroom cleaning to support park reservations.
- Conducted prescribed burns in general parks with the support of the Conservation Team.
- Landscape Maintenance Workers finalized the plan for the spring tree planting.
- Land Stewardship Technicians continued to work on general parks land management, including identifying and prioritizing prairie restoration projects.

**Mall Concourse:**

- Planted spring flowers (pansies and kale) in the planters. The daffodils and tulips planted in the flower beds last fall have begun to emerge.
- Performed spring maintenance, including power washing sidewalks and bus shelters, , making minor sidewalk repairs, and replacing damaged and rusty bike racks, benches, and trashcans.
- Prepared for the return of seasonal events by reinstalling the Visitor Center Booth at the top of State Street.

**Community Services Report May 2022 – Terrence Thompson****Warner Park Community Recreation Center (Zach Watson):**

On April 23, the WPCRC hosted the 17th Annual Spring Fest Arts and Craft Show after being canceled the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was successful and attracted 80 vendors with 660 attendees. On April 29, the WPCRC hosted the 4th Annual Spring Break-A-Way 3ON3 Basketball Tournament. 47 teens participated in the first tournament. The event included a 3-point contest with catering from Melly Mel's Soul Food. The tournament runs on Friday nights, April 29-May 27.

**Recreation Services & Aquatics (Shane Martin):**

**Recreation Services:** We hosted the Earth Day Challenge on April 23 and Bird and Nature Festival on April 24. Both events were well attended and saw large numbers of the community show up for an evening of fun in parks. The Earth Day Challenge incorporated 58 parks and hundreds of volunteers.

**Aquatics:** We are currently planning our dates to get all of the beaches set up and cleaned. We plan to have at least two beaches staffed on Memorial Day weekend and subsequent weekends until June 10. In addition, we are having another hiring event on May 21 to recertify and hire more lifeguards for the summer. There will be another lifeguarding class at the beginning of June before the Goodman Pool opens.

**Community Events (Kelly Post):**

**Park Events:** We have already issued over 70 park event permits and have started June events. That number is outpacing 2019 by almost double the permits for January-May (37 permits). In addition, we have received an additional 50 applications waiting to be processed and have spoken with or received annual date request forms from over 90 more event organizers.

- 2022 estimated Park Event permits = 220
- 2021 Park Event permits = 191
- 2019 park Event permits = 175

**Street Use Events:** Most of our annual events that close a street are planning to return in 2022 after a couple of years of postponements and cancellations. Crazylegs Classic, Live on King Street, Safety Saturday, Taste of Madison, and Art Fair On the Square, to name a few. These iconic Madison events in our parks and on public right-of-ways help to define our community, celebrate the traditions and cultures of our residents, instill civic pride, and add to the economic prosperity of our City. We are so glad they are coming back!

**Customer Service Front Staff (Joanne Austin):**

**Watercraft Storage Update:** Of the 426 storage rack spaces (canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards) throughout the Parks system, 335 are returning storage users for 2022. Sixteen watercraft spaces are being held for two groups, the Goodman Center and Friends of Starkweather Creek, as their agreements are being renewed. Of the 30 mooring locations off Marshall Park, 27 are returning agreement holders. Due to demand, we anticipate all of these spaces will be filled before summer starts.

**Permits (Disc Golf, Dog and Lake Access Update:** Both annual and daily permit purchases are well underway. Purchasing online is still going well.

Permit Type	2020		2021		2022	
	Annual	Daily	Annual	Daily	Annual	Daily
Disc Golf	1908	3279	2384	3045	981	215
Dog (Park/Reg)	9263	200	11175	261	6628	75
Lake Access	6728	2044	6957	2173	1441	104

**Rangers (Joanne Austin):**

Four new hourly Rangers started on April 18. Their training is underway and we are excited to have them join the team.



## Olbrich Botanical Gardens



- One of Olbrich's *Amorphophallus titanum*, also known as a corpse flower, is blooming. The full bloom is anticipated for the last week of April or first week of May.



- Staff and volunteers completed a spring cleaning of insect hotels by removing all the hollow stems and replacing them with new cleared ones. Bring on the bees!



- On February 14, 2022 Olbrich volunteers gathered to learn about the updates and changes to the outside gardens. Missed out? The presentations are available for viewing on the [Olbrich Youtube page](#). Volunteer Greeters gathered on Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> to receive updates that they can then share with Olbrich guests.