

SUPERINTENDENT'S SEPTEMBER 2018 REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Parks Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary

July and August were busy months for the Parks Division. This summary, along with some sections of this report, are abbreviated due to the major flooding issues encountered beginning August 22nd. The Parks Division took action to protect vulnerable park properties and then became the leaders in the City's sandbagging operation. Our staff led the delivery of tens of thousands of sand bags and coordinated directly with the National Guard to ensure they were equipped to assist others in preparing for flooding. Overall, the Parks Division contributed more than 1,000 hours towards this work.

The section reports below highlight the significant efforts undertaken by the Park Operations and Olbrich branches of Parks in July/August. The Community Services team had a busy two months as well. Events in parks and on streets continue to grow in number and complexity. Despite the weather, almost all major events were able to occur as planned. The Aquatics program has gone well this year, with the Pool being very successful in regard to attendance and programming provided. Beaches were impacted by a sizable number of closures, but during the hot stretch were mostly open and guarded.

Parks Planning and Development staff have been busy working on numerous projects. Updates on most of the work PPD is working on can be found at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects>. Over the next few months PPD staff will be working to finalize the Park and Open Space Plan as it goes through the City Commission/Committee process and is ultimately adopted by the Common Council. The POSP is critical to us as it will guide our work planning over the next five years.

WRITTEN REPORT OF SUPERVISOR'S ACTIVITIES

EAST PARKS – KRISTIN MATHEWS, INTERIM SUPERVISOR

With a lot of rain again in July, it was a challenge to stay on top of mowing, flail mowing and field maintenance. Athletics did manage to get in almost every game without having to rain them out, so kudos to the crew!

We have depleted our overtime budget for working on EAB stumps, so we will have to finish them during regular work hours. Our collaboration with Streets to pick up garbage at our small parks is working well. We are now running recycling with our own truck on Thursdays.

We have starting losing some hourly employees as they head back to school and have 1 more permanent and 1 Parks Worker vacancy as well. The majority of our time since Wednesday evening, August 22nd has been focused on helping with the flooding and sandbagging operations in coordination with Streets.

CENTRAL PARKS & MALL CONCOURSE – CHAD HUGHES, SUPERVISOR

Central Parks

Report from Central could not be completed due to the significant work related to the flooding.

Mall Maintenance:

Excessive rain throughout the month of August has made the downtown cleaner than usual. Plants did not have to be watered as much as usual, and the irrigation systems have been routinely shut off to that unnecessary water was not wasted. Planters and turf were fertilized before the rains enhancing the colorful displays. Mall Concourse workers, as well as other Parks workers, contributed in preparing for possible flooding by sand bagging areas throughout the Isthmus.

Despite the rain, downtown events continued. However, Live on King had to be moved indoors two out of their three August concerts. The Madison Mini Marathon was well attended the weekend combined with the Pride Parade and Peace Park Movie Night. Jazz at Five continued its perennial concerts on Wednesdays following Concerts on the Square.

General maintenance of the downtown area continues throughout the month. Light pole painting on State Street has also kept the crew busy with a break from the usual maintenance. Seasonal help will be missed, as two seasonals head back to school.

September will be busy with Taste of Madison kicking off the month followed by Ironman weekend. The downtown area will have plenty of cleanup for the next month!

WEST PARKS & FOREST HILL CEMETERY – LAURA BAUER, SUPERVISOR

The main news to report from August was the severe storm that struck the night of August 20. Several inches of rain fell on the west side, flooding low-lying areas of parks, washing out gravel paths and embankments, and turning playgrounds into wading pools. Water levels on the west side subsided within days, but the situation only got steadily worse for downtown and east-side parks, and West staff was pressed into service beginning August 23 for sandbagging operations at Tenney and James Madison parks. A full-scale flood response quickly followed, with most and sometimes all staff diverted to sandbag filling and delivery operations. That response continued around the clock for days with help from local inmates and the National Guard while the weather forecast was carefully watched.

Regular business at Forest Hill Cemetery:

The irrigation work at Forest Hill really has gone on all summer, and as of this writing, the contractor still has work to finish up. We never expected it to go on this long, and we're truly sorry to have inconvenienced families and friends for nearly an entire summer.

The Library's AnjiPlay series has wrapped up for the season. While staff report fascination with the program, they also report that the equipment is extremely heavy and difficult to fit in the trailer. Some evenings there weren't many helpers, so it was very difficult to pack up. In regular cemetery business, during the month of August there were five full-size burials and 14 cremains burials.

Summit Maintenance:

The return of the rain coincided with the flood, and we again find ourselves behind in mowing many of our parks. Being useful in an emergency is an honor and a privilege and an easy prioritization to make. We'll be able to catch up on mowing when property is safe again.

Work on two of the three Summit buildings continues. The roof of our cold storage building has been removed and the walls are being raised. The new underground drainage situation installed by Engineering can hardly be expected to handle the 9.5" we got on the 20th, but it's a vast improvement over the old system of quick-to-plug surface drains. We look forward to less ice in the yard (and inside the building!) this coming winter. As the summer ends and the weather cools, we certainly expect park use to continue. Weekend trash collection and shelter cleaning will continue up until the time the shelters are winterized.

CONSERVATION – PAUL QUINLAN, SUPERVISOR

Invasive plant control and plant community maintenance this month included mowing brush at Heritage Prairie and Cherokee Marsh, and treating re-sprouts of invasive woody species at Cherokee Marsh and Stricker's Pond. Staff mowed all trails and trimmed woody growth where needed, including along a fence line at Heritage Sanctuary and along a sidewalk at Owen. Minor trail improvements were made at Elvehjem, Knollwood and Sandburg, and more serious erosion damage was repaired at Owen following a series of intense rain events. Our Operation Fresh Start crew assisted staff with trail improvement projects at Elvehjem and Sandburg Woods, and assisted volunteers from Wild Warner with invasive species control at Warner Park.

I attended the summer meeting of the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council, as well as a meeting organized by UW Madison Arboretum staff to foster discussion and collaboration among land managers who use volunteers to help conduct ecological restoration. I also met with volunteers at Bear Mound Park to discuss restoration efforts there, and developed specifications for invasive woody species removal contracts at Cherokee Marsh and Edna Taylor.

OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS – ROBERTA SLADKY

Visitor comment:

“Rode BCycle to gardens and was amazed. Extremely beautiful and free. So many amazing plants labeled and artfully displayed. Thai garden was stellar and water Displays so peaceful. Art was fun as well! Very nice garden and so fun to bike around the lake to get to it via marked trails.” 8/10/2018

July 2018 Numbers

OBG Attendance (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants)	2018	2017	Previous 5 yrs avg
July 1 – 31	51,957	44,229	40,905
YTD July 31	199,655	191,700	
OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories (unaudited)			
	YTD 7/31/18	YTD 7/31/17	
Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD	\$41,376	\$38,332	
Room Rentals YTD*	\$57,249***	\$72,877	
Catering Percentage Revenue YTD**	\$7,821	\$11,858	
TOTAL YTD	\$106,446	\$123,067	

*accrued at time of booking – up to 21 months before the rental date, ** accrued on a monthly basis following each catered rental
***no atrium weddings booked for 2019 (revenue would begin in March 2018)

September 2018 Public Events at Olbrich Botanical Gardens call **608-246-4550** for more information or visit www.olbrich.org/events

Ground Breaking Ceremony Sept 6 @ 5 pm

Staff, Board members, and city officials have been working since 2012 to prepare for this moment for Olbrich Botanical Garden's future. This is the first building growth since 1991 (during which time attendance has more than doubled). Staff, volunteers, partner organizations, etc will be inconvenienced for the next 12 – 14 months – the results will be worth it.

GLEAM: Art in a New Light

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays
In September, 7:30 – 10:30 pm (last ticket sold at 10:00 pm)
In October, 6:30 – 9:30 (last ticket sold at 9:00 pm)

Member Movie Night: Coco

Friday, September 7, 2018

Rain Date: September 14

(doors open @ 6:30 pm, movie starts @ 7:30 pm)

Spend an evening with your family under the stars on Olbrich's great lawn watching a movie on the big screen! Bring a blanket, lawn chairs and a picnic for the evening. Free viewing of GLEAM: Art in a New Light for members.

CRACKLE: FIRE & FROTH

Fri, Sept. 28, 2018 & Fri, Oct. 5, 2018

Online Ticket Sales Start September 4

Free! Sunday Guided Garden Strolls @ 1:30 & 3:00 pm thru October 14

Tram service ends Labor Day (construction will impact the tram path after September 10)

Olbrich's Education Programs –September Highlights 608/246-4550 for class information/registration or visit <http://www.olbrich.org/education/classes.cfm>.

Night Photography GLEAM and GLEAM Walks with David Wells Olbrich's GLEAM: Art in a New Light Artistic Director, David Wells, provides in-depth information about the installations, artists, and the artistic process. Photographers are invited to exclusive photo shoots of GLEAM with instructors who can provide tips and answer questions about night photography. These two programs require advance registration and are held on various Tuesday evenings during September & early October.

FORESTRY – MARLA EDDY
Prepared by Craig Klinke

Forestry Section	Total Trees	Total Hours
Cycle Pruning	0	0
Pruned by Request	307	636
Small Tree Pruning Cycle	135	43.5
Tree Removal	156	587
Ash Preemptive Removals	312	1064
Storm Work/Hangers		238
EAB Treatment		32

* Note: Data above does not include the entire month of August

No cycle pruning took place in the month of August. The east unit was able to complete a little small tree cycle pruning. EAB treatments were completed on August 3rd. We treated 3,478 trees this year. Staff have been pulled away from core forestry work to assist with flood response. We have been helping General Parks with Sandbagging operations.

Forestry Specialists have been working on nuisance abatement calls and sidewalk inspections in Alder District 3. They have been monitoring engineering reconstruction projects to make sure streets trees are preserved. Finally, they spent a significant amount of time scheduling tree replacements for fall of this year and spring of 2019.