

SUPERINTENDENT'S JUNE 2025 REPORT
COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary

Summer has arrived for the Parks Division! Though the team is still working to fill a number of full-time vacancies, all sections across the Parks Division are staffed up and working to onboard seasonal employees. With schools out of session, trees and vegetation in full bloom, and the warm weather, this time of year is the busiest for our park system.

The hard work and dedication of the entire Parks Division team is on full display to benefit both residents and guests. The Goodman Pool will open June 12, Sina Davis Movies in the Parks Series start on June 16, and Parks Alive will have its first of 33 events on June 10. The golf courses are in full swing keeping relatively consistent with last year's numbers for rounds and revenue. The park system is also bustling with special events and festivals for the community to enjoy. The operations team is working hard to keep the parks safe, well-maintained and overall beautiful.

After over a year of vacancies, the Parks Planning and Development team will be fully staffed as of June 9. In the last month, three new Landscape Architects and one AASPIRE Intern have joined the team. We welcome the new Landscape Architects and are excited to get them up to speed in order to continue moving the important work of park improvements forward.

Last month, the Madison Parks Foundation held its annual Picnic in the Park at Westmorland Park, and the event highlighted the amazing work being done at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center with the Kids Need Opportunities at Warner (KNOW) program. Zach Watson and Marquis Sanders presented on behalf of the program and did an amazing job telling the story of the impact our work has in the community. The Parks Division is fortunate to have

Future Commission Items

- POSP – Long Range Planning Subcommittee has begun review of the draft document, and following final public engagement, is expected to review the final document in July. The goal is to have the final POSP to the Board of Park Commissioners in August and proceed with the adoption process in the fall.
- Madison LakeWay Partners – this important partnership will be formalized in the next month.
- Farm Leases – Parks Division staff have worked with farmers, staff from the Mayor's Office, Office of Real Estate Services, Public Health Madison & Dane County and representatives from the Food Policy Council to create and modernize a template for interim farm leases. This is expected to come before the Board of Park Commissioners in September.
- The following items to the Commission over the next year:
 - Alcohol in Parks Policy
 - Art in Parks Policy – 1 year review
 - Pay to Park in Parks Pilot
 - Olin Houses
 - Marshall Houses
 - Fall Work Plan Update

Personnel Updates

Promotions/Hires:

Brett Meinholz was promoted from Plumber to Parks Building and Trades Foreperson within the Parks Facilities Maintenance Team. Brett began his new role on May 12, 2025.

Tyler Clementi was hired as the Parks Equipment Mechanic 2 within East Parks. Tyler started on May 12, 2025.

Lisa Laschinger was moved to interim Parks Superintendent starting May 12, 2025, as Eric Knepp stepped into the Interim Metro Transit Director position.

Emma Krug was hired as Landscape Architect 1 within the Parks Planning & Development Team. Emma started on May 12, 2025.

Izabel Wilde was hired as Landscape Architect 1 within the Parks Planning & Development Team. Izzy started on May 27, 2025.

Departures:

John Gibbons resigned from his position as a Park Ranger. John's last day with Parks was on May 7, 2025. He served as a Ranger for 3 years.

Section Updates

Park Operations

Central/Ecology Team

- Performed mowing operations and athletic field preparation daily.
- Planted 38 shrubs and trees at Hiestand with volunteers help.
- Coordinated with volunteers for Garner sign bed plantings and set up the water tank for volunteers to water shrubs at Hiestand.

Conservation

- Work this month focused primarily on invasive species control. Earlier blooming species such as garlic mustard, dame's rocket and hedge parsley were targeted at most conservation parks. Staff efforts were complemented by the Operation Fresh Start crew, contracts at 8 parks, and by volunteers at Cherokee Marsh, Edna Taylor, Heritage Sanctuary, Owen, and Turville Point.
- Prescribed grazing resumed in mid-May with units at Marlborough Park, Knollwood and Turville Point.
- Outreach this month included tours of Owen and Cherokee Marsh Mendota Unit, and the annual pond exploration day at Owen with John Muir School.

Construction

- Installed flagstone steps and path for better beach access at Marshall Park.
- Installed basketball court and bench at Galaxy Park.
- Installed gravel path and pad at Britta Parkway as part of an overall garden and seating area.

East Parks

- The Ecology Team led a volunteer planting at Hiestand disc golf course. Approximately 35 native shrubs were planted as buffers between holes 2 and 5. Two volunteers were in attendance for the event.
- Warner Park prairie restoration around the sledding hill continued. The Parks Arborists used the forestry mower to grind down stumps and other wood debris from when a contractor had cleared multiple scrub areas filled with invasive and otherwise undesirable species. The areas were then overseeded by the Ecology Team.

Facilities

- Splash Pads are operational
- Goodman Pool is filled ready for opening day and splash pads are operational.
- Rennebohm Shelter is now open for public use, some warranty issues with the contractor are being worked through with staff.
- Mallards Stadium repairs were made before opening day.

Mall

- Installed the 2nd round of annual flowers at the Top of State Street and Forum of Origin.
- Downtown events continued, including Madison Night Market, Run Madtown, and UW Graduation.
- Power washing sidewalks, bus shelters and amenities increased in frequency with the warm weather.

West Monthly Report May

- Delivered mulch for numerous spring projects and volunteer events.
- Performed Memorial Day preparations in time for the holiday and scheduled events at Forest Hill.
- Cleaned up tennis courts and basketball courts including checking all nets and replace or repair as needed.

Community Services Report June 2025 – Terrence Thompson

Community Events (Kelly Post)

- The 2025 Carts in Parks program began on May 11, 2025. Madison Parks is offering various locations for food carts to sign up for a “shift” to sell food in a park. The locations we are currently offering are Elver Park, McPike Skate Park, Reindahl Park, Olbrich Park, and Vilas Beach. We will be adding Wingra Park, Brittingham Beach, and Marshall Park soon. We can add locations based on park activities, food cart requests, or resident requests throughout the season. Carts in Parks is also used for many Community events and Madison Park’s events (Glen Golf Park, Parks Alive, etc.)
- We are coordinating with many of our returning annual events like the Madison Juneteenth Celebration, Fete de Marquette, Waterfront Festival, Opera in the Park, and many more!
- We are also excited to work with new groups/events like Sessions at Garver, Wisconsin Walk4Hearing, R&B Sunday Funday, and Highside Racing Club.
- We are looking forward to a busy 2025 event season and are grateful to be a part of these amazing events that make Madison special.

Parks Alive (Debra Alleyne)

AASPIRE Intern

- We are pleased to announce that LeAnna Ung was selected as this year's Parks Alive AASPIRE intern. She recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has experience working in a similar program as a youth sports instructor. LeAnna began her internship on June 2, before other interns, to prepare for our first event on June 10. This year, we will also host a Wanda Fullmore intern.

Community-based Food Cart

- As a continuation of the NRT's community initiatives, Parks Alive aims to create as many opportunities as possible for the local community where we hold our events. This year, we are excited to introduce our first community-recommended food cart at Parks Alive. Through our NRT meetings and active community engagement, we successfully connected with Samuel Robinson of Big Eats to serve the Allied neighborhood where he resides. We hope to continue sourcing from local businesses to strengthen community ties and create job opportunities for professionals in the area.

Customer Service (Joanne Austin)

Reservations

- We had a total of 55 shelter reservations from Friday to Monday during Memorial Day Weekend. Including athletic fields and courts, the total number of reservations reached 246.

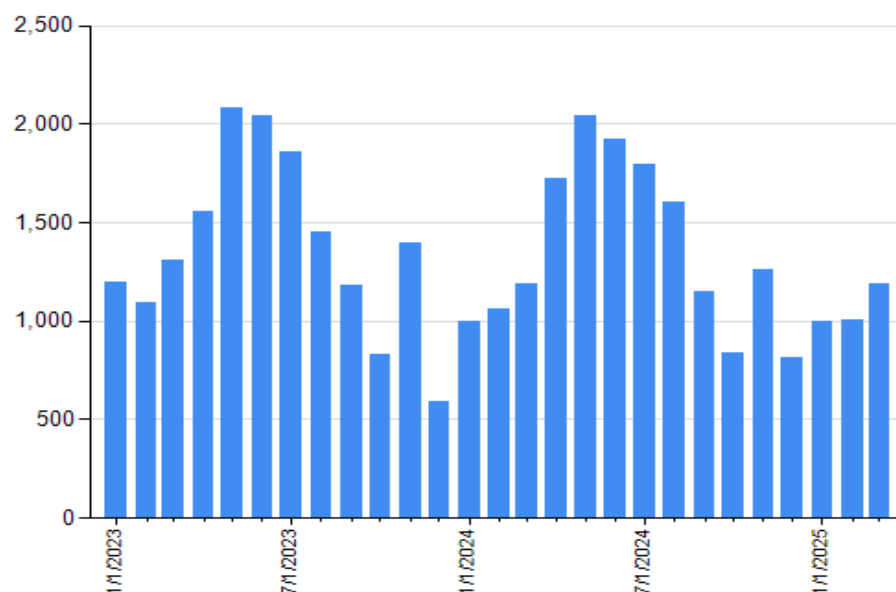
Watercraft Storage

- Out of 411 available canoe, kayak, and paddleboard storage spaces, 410 have been sold. Additionally, 26 out of 30 mooring spaces have been sold.

Incoming Calls

- We are definitely in our busy season! A big thank you to the customer service staff for managing incoming calls and emails so effectively. While we are still waiting for the total number for May, the trend appears consistent with previous years, with an estimated 2,000+ calls received.

Incoming Calls by Month



Recreation Services & Aquatics (Tracey Hartley)

Events

- Movies are planned and scheduled, with 31 films set to be shown this year. Additionally, we are in the process of hiring an Event Services Assistant. The upcoming Learning Series events will feature our partners: Madison Boats, which will provide water activities, and Mad Norski, which will offer a walking series.

Aquatics

- We are moving into the 2025 Aquatic season. We are fully staffed with lifeguards and aquatic attendants. Due to the cold temperatures before Memorial Day, rope lines will be going in the beaches the week of June 2. A new Splash Park will be opening at Rennebohm Park in July 2025. We will kick off the season with many staff training sessions, a lifeguard course, and a lifeguard instructor course taught by our Aquatic Management Team. Additionally, we will implement a new pilot program with four Attendants as Pool Monitors to ensure patrons enjoy the Goodman Pool while following the policies and procedures and mitigating youth behavior challenges.

Rangers & Volunteers

Rangers (Steve Dray)

Recruitment

- We have selected a candidate for our Hybrid Ranger / Parking Enforcement position. They will be starting in mid-June. A selection has also been made for our Lead Park Ranger position. We are waiting on a review by DCR and a background check. We are excited about what they both bring to the team. Our hourly and permanent FTE ranger positions will soon be posted for folks to apply.

Enforcement Contacts

- Rangers have had 53 enforcement contacts, resulting in 33 warnings, 14 citations, and 6 bans. Fourteen parking tickets were also issued during May.

Disc Golf

- Elver disc golf course opened in early May. Disc golfers are excited to get out and use Madison's two beautiful courses.

Volunteers (John Weichert)

Ride the Drive

- Ride the Drive volunteer registration opened in May on the Get Connected platform. We promoted Ride the Drive during a live radio interview on Magic 98, which increased public awareness and volunteer interest. The event is August 10.

Volunteer Website (Get Connected) – Ongoing Growth

- Since the March/April launch, we have reached over 700 registered volunteers. We have built automated email communications and developed a process for tracking certifications (chainsaw, herbicide, etc.). Additionally, we have begun work on tracking volunteer hours and creating reporting dashboards.

Warner Park Community Recreation Center (Zach Watson)

- Zach and Marquis presented past accomplishments and future endeavors for the KNOW Program partnership with the Madison Parks Foundation (MPF) at MPF Picnic in the Park. The event raised \$110,578.00 for the Madison Parks Foundation.
- The WPCRC Expansion Project Art Youth Group met for their final session on 5/28/25. They will provide several art projects and possible logo selections in an upcoming closeout session.
- WPCRC Expansion Update: The Geothermal installation is at the halfway point of completion; the roof has been installed, and the concrete has been poured into the new spaces. Internal work for the project will begin on June 9, 2025.

Planning and Development

As of June 9, all permanent positions in the Planning and Development section have been filled with 3 new staff members starting within the past month. The team is now fully staffed with 4 Landscape Architects and 1 Engineer. Additionally, the team has added an intern through the AASPIRE program for the summer. The team's focus continues to be fulfilling ongoing, time-sensitive tasks while onboarding new staff and growing capacity over time.

- The 2025-2030 Parks and Open Space Plan is reaching the final stretch. The plan content was approved by the Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee on May 21. Staff, along with consultant MSA, worked hard to prepare a draft of the final formatted document for LRP's June 4 meeting. The draft document will be available for public review in June, with an open house held on June 26 at Parks Lakeside Offices.
- The Madison LakeWay project reached a milestone with internal staff review of the 50% Design Development drawings. A public input meeting for the Design Development phase is now expected to be held in July.
- The new shelter buildings at Country Grove Park and Tenney Park Beach are complete and open. In addition, the new basketball court and futsal court at Country Grove Park are open.
- Construction of the Rennebohm Sprayground project is in-progress, with the contractor feverishly working towards a completion date of July 2.
- Construction of the new basketball court at Galaxy Park is complete. Planning and Development provided the design and coordinated the work with Parks Construction.
- The contractor has begun construction of three new sun shelters, starting with one in North Star Park. Sycamore Park and Kestrel Park will also receive new sun shelters this year.
- The 2024 Playgrounds contract is now complete with the contractor completing work ahead of schedule with the completion of the playground at Manchester Park. Throughout 2025, staff have been working on the public engagement and design for the 2025 playgrounds, which includes Portland Park, Kennedy Park, Skyview Park, Ontario Park, and Sandburg Park. The contract is expected to be let for bidding during this summer.
- Demolition of the buildings in the Balwin Triangle section of McPike Park is complete. One building remains, which is planned for exploration of adaptive re-use.
- Staff have begun work on contracts for yearly maintenance work, such as fencing repairs, pavement crack sealing, and pavement striping.
- The start of construction season has brought an influx of developers paying Park Impact Fees in order to obtain building permits for new residential development. All Park Impact Fee payments require staff to correspond with the developer to provide fee information and confirmation of fee amounts for payment. Payment of Park Impact Fees is typically one of the final steps for a developer prior to receiving building permits, which makes this work time-sensitive to keep developments in the City moving forward.