

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOVEMBER 2018 REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary

This month's report is the second month of our work to modify the reporting structure to provide important information to the Commission and public, while also focusing on efficient utilization of staff time. The new format includes monthly staffing updates for all permanent staff as well as a section focusing on future items likely coming to the Commission over the next few months.

Key section updates will be provided by all sections each month, with a major branch or two of the Parks Division providing a more detailed update. This month's more detailed updates are from Community Services and Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Staff looks forward to continuing to work with the Commission on the report to maximize benefits for the public.

Permanent Staffing Changes:

- Greg Genin joined our team as the new Parks Operation Manager. His first day was 10/29/18. Greg has extensive experience in operations and fleet management. He also has significant knowledge and skills in continuous process improvement work.

Future Commission Items

- James Madison Park Master Plan – will be on the agenda in December. Sarah Lerner has led this intensive planning effort to set a vision for this loved downtown park for the next 50 years.
- Urban Forestry Taskforce – The Urban Forestry Taskforce is likely to have a completed report with recommendations in early 2019.
- IPM Taskforce – The IPM taskforce has begun meeting and will have recommendations for consideration in 2019.
- Golf – As the 2018 Golf season concludes, staff is working to prepare a report to update the Commission, Golf Subcommittee, the Council, and the public
- Dog Policy – Parks staff feels that updates need to occur prior to the spring of 2019 in relationship to policies regarding dogs in parks. Staff is working on some early concepts to review with the Commission, subcommittee, and the public.

Section Updates

Planning and Development:

- Construction is underway at the skate park in McPike Park, we are adding a spectator seating area.
- Our first public meeting regarding the 2019 playgrounds was very well attended, we had to add chairs due to high interest in the Segoe and Slater Park playgrounds.
- Corey Stelljes and Lisa Laschinger attended the Trail Lab in Bentonville, Arkansas and learned how to create a model trail community, a group of Park Division staff will be building off of those ideas and considering a single track network for the City of Madison.
- We have a series of public meetings coming up over the next few months regarding playground design and park master planning, feel free to attend if you would like to see planners in action.

Operations/Forestry:

- General Parks staff have begun helping collect sandbags along with the Streets and Engineering Divisions and will continue to do so through the month of September.
- Conservation staff worked with Friends of Cherokee Marsh to complete the first draft of Cherokee Marsh South Unit management plan.
- Construction's Playground crew began work on Ocean Road Park. They removed the old playground and are installing the new system completely in-house.
- Forestry has begun fall planting routes. Due to a large number of grate trees, they expect the planting to take a little longer this fall.
- Freakfest operations went well thanks to the direction and effort from Mall staff as well as Central and East Parks.
- Facilities Maintenance staff are in the process of winterizing all shelters and drinking fountains.
- New for this fall, we are allowing reservations at Elver, Tenney and Vilas through Thanksgiving weekend.