

SUPERINTENDENT'S APRIL 2017 REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Parks Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary
March / April 2017

- Conservation staff burned approximately 90 acres at the North and South units of Cherokee Marsh and Edna Taylor during the week of March 20.
- At the beginning of April, we will welcome our new Parks Workers as they begin their training period with us throughout the next year until being placed permanently into a section.
- The Parks Arborist Crew has been working at Yahara Hills Golf Course when ground conditions allow.
- Mall Concourse staff removed benches and bike racks in anticipation of the Capitol Square construction which began in March.
- East Forestry staff continued preemptive ash tree removals in the Eastmorland Neighborhood.
- Forestry specialists are assisting design engineers to lessen the impacts to street trees during the upcoming Engineering reconstruction season.
- Volunteer efforts include Dog Park Cleanup Day and the upcoming Earth Day Challenge.
- Olbrich Botanical Gardens attendance for February 2017 increased by more than 5,000 patrons over the same time last year.
- A groundbreaking ceremony is anticipated for the new Allied Park, located at 2370 Revival Ridge. A date will be announced soon.
- Planning staff continues data collection and engagement for the 2018-2022 Park and Open Space Plan update. The final Community Visioning Session was held at Central Library on March 23rd. Staff will be hosting three topic specific workshops in April and May focusing on specific issues related to the park system.
- New for this year, Parks staff will be determining exact field locations by marking the corners of fields to be installed by athletic clubs. This should allow us to make better use of our turf areas and eliminate any siting miscommunications.

WRITTEN REPORT OF SUPERVISOR'S ACTIVITIES

EAST PARKS – CRAIG KLINKE, SUPERVISOR.

The hockey boards are down, equipment is being changed over to summer use, and we are hiring seasonal laborers. These are all sure signs that spring must be here! Crews have been busy finishing up the shop work and we are starting to put tables and barrels back out into our parks. We've begun working on some of our softball diamonds and we are beginning to locate corners for soccer fields. The Parks Arborist Crew has been working at Yahara Golf when ground conditions permit and have been assisting Forestry when it's been too wet. Soon they will be planting trees again.

We've spent a significant amount of time hiring for several fulltime positions and many seasonal positions. At this point in time we are pleased to announce that James Van Sickle is our new Athletic Field Leadworker! James was recently promoted to this position from Central Maintenance and will be starting with us on the 10th. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience that will be put to use quickly during our busy athletic field preparation window.

The grass is already green in most locations and temperatures have been warm. I don't think any of us will be surprised if we are mowing earlier than normal this year. We're doing all we can to get ready and are excited to see more and more people in our parks again!

CENTRAL PARKS & MALL CONCOURSE – CHAD HUGHES, SUPERVISOR

Central Parks:

March has been a month of winter to spring transition. Winter gave us one final shot of snow in the middle of the month to remind us we live in Wisconsin, otherwise it was fairly uneventful. Working with the friends of the skate park group, we have been able to open up the park most days this month. Our LMW's have been working with the park arborists on ash removals on the golf courses. The PMW's have been able to get outside to perform tree pruning, boulevard and park cleanup, and basketball and tennis court

maintenance. When not able to work outside we have been busy painting tables and trash barrels and preparing machinery for spring.

April will start out as a transition month but we anticipate by the end of it we will be into spring maintenance fully. At the beginning of the month we will welcome our new Parks Workers on board as they begin their training period with us throughout the next year or so until being placed permanently into a section. Our LMW's will start staking out and planting trees, a duty that should take them into May. We will be placing more trash cans and picnic tables out in the parks in anticipation of the warmer weather. With reservations ramping up by the end of the month and the grass growing we will start to bring on seasonal and weekend staff as needed. Athletics should also be in full swing by the end of the month

Mall Maintenance:

The Capitol Square construction started in the month of March, and hopefully, with weather cooperating, it should wrap up in the early part of the summer. The crew assisted the project by removing furniture that was in the way of the construction zones. During the furniture removals, we also have started to replace rusty items such as bike racks and benches with new or refurbished ones. Powerwashing of the bus shelters and furniture has started up with the warm temperatures to clean off winter debris. Landscaping tasks have increased for the month of March, with the landscaped beds getting a new layer of mulch added which the spring bulbs will soon push through. Landscape lighting has once again been installed to the Top of State Street to welcome the festive spring mood. We will be reseeding lawns and aerating them also due to salt damage from winter operations. Pansies will soon be added to our planters to enliven the concrete jungle.

March and April are a transition months for the Mall Concourse. Snow equipment will be changed over, and John Deere machines will be taken back for Central Parks to use as mowers. Major events have started again, with the Shamrock Shuffle and St. Patrick's day parade occurring this month. Looking ahead to April, the Farmer's Market will start up again which will host numerous crowds. The sidewalk washing program will also begin, with the Capitol Square and side streets getting cleaned this year. April will definitely be a busy month for the Mall Concourse!

WEST PARKS & FOREST HILL CEMETERY – LAURA BAUER, SUPERVISOR

Forest Hill Cemetery:

April can be a challenging month for cemeteries in this part of the country. Lots of moisture in the ground means that plywood boards are necessary when equipment needs to move across turf. This can entail loading and unloading dozens of waterlogged boards every week, a time-consuming, muddy, and slippery task. Continuous rain can result not only in the need to pump out freshly dug graves, but also in collapsed sides of these graves, which can only be remedied by redigging before the burial can take place.

Even so, we generally get some beautiful spring days in April and everyone is grateful again to have an outdoor job. There's nothing like the feeling of taking a mower out to do the first cutting of the spring when that is the type of work you enjoy.

We're looking forward to the resumption of the mausoleum roof work. It will be great to have that finished and the construction vehicles and materials moved out. We also hope that some of the interior chapel stonework will receive attention this spring or summer. The exterior is in excellent shape after the recent stone and roof work, but some of the inside sandstone has disintegrated and needs to be replaced. In regular cemetery business, during the month of March there were five full-size burials and two cremains burials. There was also one cremation lot sold. We expect that this work will pick up significantly as the weather warms.

Summit Maintenance:

All the snow has now melted, and the usual amount of spring trash has become visible on medians and in parks. As always, parks crews need to pick up all this trash by hand. It is a repetitive and time-consuming job, but the results are very rewarding, both because the areas look clean, and because staff knows that every piece of trash picked up at this time of the year is a piece of trash they won't have to pick up when they begin mowing.

Athletic fields remain closed, likely into April. Aside from the soggy turf which quickly turns into mud, until the grass is actively growing it just cannot repair itself yet. Any damage done at this time of year can have a detrimental effect for the rest of the summer. Conditions permitting, we will do some aerating and overseeding of “resting” fields this spring.

New for this year, parks staff will be determining exact field locations by marking the corners of fields to be installed by clubs. This should eliminate any siting miscommunications and allow us to make better use of our turf areas.

I expect that we will begin mowing medians some time around the second week of April. We’ll likely also be starting some seasonal workers around that time, as it always seems that we especially cannot keep up with the spring grass by ourselves.

We’re wrapping up some “winter work” loose ends – painting, repairing or assembling picnic tables, painting trash cans, painting hockey boards, replacing worn tennis, volleyball, and basketball nets, and, of course, readying our mowers for the upcoming season.

Also in April, we can look forward to the shelters opening, the bubblers being turned back on, and trash cans and picnic tables being redistributed to the smaller parks.

CONSERVATION – PAUL QUINLAN, SUPERVISOR

Conservation work in early March involved some minor invasive woody species removal at Prairie Ridge and North Cherokee Marsh, debris and yard waste cleanup at South Cherokee Marsh, and firebreak prep at North Cherokee Marsh. Trails at several conservation parks were checked and cleared of downed trees. Tallgrass Restoration completed their forestry mowing and invasive woody species contract at Owen.

The spring prescribed fire season began this month, and the Conservation staff was able to burn approximately 90 acres at the North and South Units of Cherokee Marsh and at Edna Taylor Conservation Park during the week of March 20. Staff with a range of fire experience from all three general parks sections (West, Central and East) assisted with the burn at South Cherokee Marsh. This was a good opportunity for cross-training, cooperation, and capacity building, as prescribed burning could be used in rotation with mowing to maintain our managed meadows in the general parks. Thank you to all who helped!

We continue to improve our notification system for prescribed burns, and this month, selected park neighbors received postcards to remind them about burning in certain parks. A larger set of neighbors also received automated phone calls on the days we burned in their neighborhoods. Dane County Emergency Management made the phone calls possible, and the service was free to Parks, as it is already funded by taxes.

Interviews were conducted and offers extended for three seasonal Conservation Worker positions. Two of these will work directly with the Conservation section, while the third will be stationed at Hoyt Park and work in cooperation with the Friends of Hoyt Park. The positions are expected to start in April and May, respectively.

I attended the Friends of Cherokee Marsh board meeting on March 15, to share our accomplishments and plans. They indicated that they are very interested in securing grant funds and helping to further our work there. I also met with two representatives from the Friends of Olin-Turville on March 6 to discuss our plans and their concerns regarding work at this site. Finally, I spoke and corresponded with several park neighbors and members of the general public regarding a range of topics from restoration work in conservation parks to ski trail grooming to wildlife management.

OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS – ROBERTA SLADKY

Visitor comment:

“This display (Olbrich’s Spring Flower Show) is absolutely extraordinary!! The concept is so engaging and the execution is artistic as well as creative. A true balance between nature and inspired visions of fantasy!.” anon, 3/13/2017

February 2017 Numbers

OBG Attendance (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants)	2017	2016	Previous 5 yrs avg
February 1 - 28	20,856	15,461	13,243
YTD February 28	31,960	26,135	
OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories (unaudited)			
	YTD 2/28/17	YTD 2/28/16	
Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD	\$8,367	\$8,708	
Room Rentals YTD*	\$12,826	\$8,889	
Catering Percentage Revenue YTD**	\$855	\$1,234	
TOTAL YTD	\$22,088	\$18,831	

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

April 2017 Public Events at Olbrich Botanical Gardens call **608-246-4550** for more information or visit www.olbrich.org/events

Bolz Conservatory Exhibit – Light Gaps through July 16

Pansy Sale Saturday, 4/1, 10 am – 4 pm *or while supplies last,*

Madison Orchid Guild’s Orchid Sale Saturday, 4/1, 10 am – 4 pm *or while supplies last*

Wisconsin Gourd Festival – by the WI Gourd Society, Saturday, 4/8, 9 am – 4 pm

Education – April 2017 classes and programs 608/246-4550 for information/registration or visit <http://www.olbrich.org/education/classes.cfm>

Garden Walks

Spring into Gardening Walk: Get Ready for the Season, Wed, Apr 5, 5:30 – 7 pm

Early Spring Flowers Walk, Mon, Apr 17, 5:30 – 7 pm

Wellness at the Gardens

Gentle Kripalu Hatha Yoga, 5 Mondays, Mar 6 – Apr 10, 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm (new session begins April 17)

Tai Chi Meditation, Mondays March 27 – May 22, 6 – 7 pm

Brush Wlson, Sat, Apr 1, 9 am – 5 pm

Herbs & Fermentation for Digestive Health, Wed, Apr 19, 6 – 8:30 pm

Herbal First Aid: Make Your Own Kit Workshop, Sun, Apr 30, 1 – 5 pm

Classes & Workshops for Adults

Heavenly Hydrangeas, Sat, Apr 1, 1:30 – 3 pm

Weave a Heart, Tues, Apr 4, 6 – 8:30 pm

Design Inspiration for a Creative Vegetable Garden, Tues, Apr 4, 6:30 – 8:30

Gardening by the Moon, Thu, Apr 6, 6:30 – 8 pm

Container Gardening, Mon, Apr 10, 6:30 – 8 pm

New & Exciting Annuals for the Bed, Border, & Container, Tues, Apr 11, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Introduction to Macro & Close-Up Photography – Tools & Techniques, Thu, Apr 20, 6 – 9 pm

Vegetable Diseases & Their Management, Thu, Apr 20, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Etegami: Celebrate Spring with Japanese Picture Messages, Sun, Apr 23, 9 am – 5 pm

Combining Perennials for ALL Season Color, Sun, Apr 23, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Growing & Cooking with Herbs, Thu, Apr 27, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Do-It-Yourself Photovoltaics, Sun, Apr 30, 9 am – 2 pm

Wet-Felted Laminate (nuno) Scarf, Sun, Apr 30, 12:30 – 3:30 pm

Learn & Play Together

Toddler Story & Stroll: (ages 2 – 4 with an adult)

Exploring Our World:

Way Out in the Desert, Tues, Apr 4 **OR** Fri, Apr 7, 10 – 11 am,

Make Your Own Felted Heart (ages 4 - 8 with adult) Sun, Apr 30, 10 – 11:30 am

I Wonder ... Series (grades K – 3 with adult)

What is a Desert?, Fri, Apr 28, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

FORESTRY – MARLA EDDY

Forestry Section	Total Trees	Total Hours
Cycle Pruning	579	383
Pruned by Request	50	116
Small Tree Pruning Cycle	1,084	267
Tree Removal	123	424
Ash Preemptive Removals	182	503
Storm Work/Hangers		90

*partial data provided because of report due date.

Both east and the west unit were able to put some significant time into small tree cycle pruning. Also east unit continued ash preemptive removals in the east moorland neighborhood. The west unit was able to put in over 280 hours into cycle pruning. The third week of March brought some significant wind and thunderstorms which impacted the trees in our city and required our immediate attention.

Forestry specialists have been following up ash replacement inspections as well as preparing for spring planting and reserving trees for fall planting. For the upcoming engineering reconstruction season they are assisting design engineers to lessen impacts construction impacts to street trees. Specialists have also been reviewing street tree impacts for engineering's Sidewalk Program in aldermanic district 15. Private developments require forestry specialists to review the proposed plan as it relates to street tree removal and/or replacement. Finally, they are working on work order entries for upcoming ash preemptive removals.

COMMUNITY SERVICES SUMMARY – CLAIRE OLEKSIK

Warner Park Community Recreation Center – Jacob Tissue

- Warner Family Fun Nights - WPCRC have been very successful in our 3rd year of Family Fun Nights. They have become a staple of the Northside. Upcoming Dates:
 - Friday, April 14, Friday, May 12 & Friday, June 10
 - WPCRC Advisory Committee Update - Thursday, March 23Discussed 2017 expansion planning process, volunteering at WPCRC events, Northside Initiatives (NECZ, Safe and Thriving Communities Grant, Mendota Community School)
 - Next Meeting - Thursday, May 25
- SpringFest Art and Craft Fair - Saturday, April 1, 9:00am-3:00pm
 - Vendors – FULL, WPCRC will be selling concessions/lunches
- Chad Norquist, WPCRC Operations, has been asked to lead sustainable facility efforts at the Goodman Complex; including the aquatic center, maintenance facility, and outbuildings. Chad will work with the facilities crew to determine cost saving measures and develop a energy plan that makes sense for Parks. He has done excellent work on WPCRC energy consumption and has lead efforts in retrofitting all of your mechanicals and their usage.

**Recreation Services –Tracey Hartley
Programs and Events Summary**

Event	Date	Time	Location	Partners	Register	Attend	Notes
Learn To Events							
Learn to Stargaze	Monday , 3/13	7:30-8:30 pm	Warner Park Shelter	UW Space PI	14	6	
Learn to Stargaze	Monday, 4/10	8-9 pm	Elvehjem	UW Space PI	5		
Learn to Stargaze	Monday, 9/18	7-8 pm	James Madison	UW Space PI	4		
Learn to Stargaze	Monday, 10/ 9	7-8 pm	Rennebohm	UW Space PI	4		
Promotional Events							
Kids Expo	Sat, 3/4 & Sun, 3/5	10 – 4 pm	Alliant				Info tables
Volunteer Events							
Dog Park Clean Up	Saturday, 3/25	10 - 12pm	Madison Dog Parks	Dane County Parks		39	37°F and drizzling rain. Windy & Cold!
Flower Garden Program	Apps Due: Wed. 4/19		Various Madison parks				17 flower garden locations in 2016
Earth Day Challenge	Sat, 4/ 22	10 - 12pm	Various Madison Parks		~650		
Other Upcoming Events							
Bird & Nature Festival	Sun, 4/16	1pm - 4pm	Warner Park				Bounce House, Hayrides, Raptor Education Group

Volunteer Summary and Accomplishments Report 2016

Madison Parks is fortunate to have the support of hundreds of volunteers. Throughout the year, volunteers enhance our park system by removing invasive species, cleaning-up shorelines and parks, trimming trees and hedges, planting flowers, maintaining ice rinks and more. In 2016, Madison Parks had approximately 726 individual volunteers. Repeat volunteers consisted of 103 individuals, who volunteered multiple days. Volunteers provided over 4,057 hours of work in the park system.

Individuals with the most volunteer hours

- 1) Si Widstrand: 337 hours at Various Parks
- 2) Ken Schmidt: 175 hours at Wexford Park
- 3) Tim Kessenich: 118 hours at Hoyt Park

Organizations with the most volunteer hours

- 1) Westmorland Adopt Ice: 312 hours
- 2) Madison Area Weed Warriors: 245 hours
- 3) Friends of Monona Bay: 210 hours



Photo credit: Tammy Bieberstein

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number of Parks</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>
Adopt Ice	Jan & Feb	7	25
Dog Park Clean-Up	Sat, Mar 26	8	76
Earth Day Challenge	Sat, Apr 23	31	186
Flower Garden Pick-up	Wed, May 11	17	33
Ride the Drive	Sun, July 31	4	91
West Fest	Sat, Aug 27	1	54
Pickleball Lessons	June 16-Sept 29	1	2 volunteer instructors
Bird & Nature Walks	Every Sunday	4	40

In early 2016, in response to feedback provided through surveys and roundtable discussions, Parks implemented several changes to the volunteer program. Parks updated the volunteer website to make it easier to find opportunities, created a new release and hour documentation forms, and made tools available for groups to borrow. The data presented above was primarily collected from volunteer hour documentation forms returned to the Parks Division by February 1, 2017. We anticipate that there are additional volunteers and hours not captured in the data. Thank you to all of the volunteers who contribute to the Madison Park system

Details on 2016 Volunteer Programs



Adopt Ice Program

January & February 2016

Locations: 7 Parks (Heritage Heights, Hillington Triangle, Nakoma, Olbrich, Rennebohm, Westmorland, and Wexford)

Total Volunteers: 25

Volunteers led groups to keep ice maintained for skating throughout the winter months

Dog Park Clean-Up

Quann Park clean up – Saturday, March 26, 2016, Goodie Bag “Stuffing Party” – Wednesday, March 30, 2016, Clean up of all other dog parks – Saturday, April 2, 2016

Locations: 8 Parks (Brittingham Park, Demetral Park, McCormick Park, Odana School Park, Quann Park, Sycamore Park, Walnut Grove Park, Warner Park)

Total Volunteers: 76

Volunteers cleaned up litter and spreading mulch throughout 8 Madison Parks dog parks.

Earth Day Challenge

Majority of Parks cleaned – Saturday, April 23, 2016

Locations: 31 Parks (Elver, Garner, Glen Oak Hills, Haen Family, Hoyt, Nakoma, Quarry, Westmorland, Wexford, Arbor Hills, Baxter, Brittingham, Indian Springs, James Madison, Law, Olin, Penn, Reynolds, Wingra, Burrows, Cherokee Marsh North Unit, Eastmorland, Edna Taylor Conservation, Elmside Circle, Elvehjem Sanctuary, Lake Edge Park, Olbrich, Sherry (O.B.), Tenney, Warner, and Yahara Place)

Total Volunteers: 186

Earth Day Challenge gave volunteers the opportunity to pick up litter, clean and rake beaches, plant trees and flowers, remove weeds and invasive species, spread mulch, and trim overhanging branches and bushes.



Flower Gardens

Flower Pick up – Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Garden Locations: 17 Park Gardens (James Madison (3), Giddings, Sauk Creek, Wexford, Reynolds, Garner, Vilas, Warner Park, Warner Beach, Nakoma, Orton, Glen Oak Hills, Klief, Forest Hill Cemetary, North Star, and Rennebohm)

Volunteer Gardeners: 33

Throughout the spring and into the fall, volunteers took on a role of creating flower beds. Their role entailed filling out a flower order form, picking up their flowers, mulching, weeding, planting, and caring for their plants

Photo credit: Ken Schmidt



Ride The Drive

Ride The Drive – Sunday, July 31, 2016

Locations: 4 Parks - Olin Park, Peace Park, Law Park, Capitol Square, Brittingham Park, and intersections

Total Volunteers: 91

Volunteers tasks included set-up, intersection guide, bike ambassador, merchandise tent, and information station.

West Fest

Saturday, August 27, 2016

Location: Elver Park

Total Volunteers: 54

Volunteers set up, assist with craft market vendors, resource tent, musical performers, senior tent, kids z and teen zone.



Photo credit: Paul Noeldn

Pickleball Lessons

Session 1 & 2: Thursday, June 16th – Thursday, July 28, 2016

Session 3&4: Thursday, August 18th – Thursday, September 29, 2016

Location: Garner Park Pickleball Courts

Total Volunteers: 2 Volunteer Instructors – Roxie and Jerry Gottsacker

Bird and Nature Walks

Occur each Sunday, year round.

Location: 4 Parks (1st Sunday: Cherokee Marsh N-Unit, 2nd Sunday: Turville Point, 3rd Sunday: Warner Park, 4th Sunday: Lakeshore Nature Preserve)

Total Volunteers: 40

Customer Service/Front Desk - Joanne Austin

2017 Shelter Reservations (processed since Lottery Day, Nov 15, 2016)

Central Shelter Reservations

Month	Brittingham	Highland manor	James Madison	Olin	Vilas
Jan-March	1	13	0	9	4
April	1	0	1	0	0
May	1	6	6	12	10
June	11	5	2	20	15
July	5	1	5	13	12
August	8	1	1	13	1
September	2	0	2	9	2
Oct-Dec	0	0	0	3	0
TOTAL	29	26	17	79	44

East Shelters Reservations

Month	Burrows	Demetral	Elvehjem	Lake Edge	Reindahl	Tenney-John Wall	Warner
Jan-March	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
April	0	2	1	0	0	3	3
May	5	1	0	0	0	10	5
June	7	4	2	3	5	16	12
July	5	3	0	0	6	7	7
August	2	2	5	0	5	10	4
September	4	1	0	0	1	7	5
Oct-Dec	0	0	0	0	0	5	8
TOTAL	23	13	8	3	17	59	45

West Shelters Reservations

Month	Elver-Old	Elver-New	Garner - Main	Garner-Upper	Hoyt-Large	Hoyt-Roys	Marshall	Renn-ebohm	West-morland
Jan-March	4	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
April	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0
May	1	1	7	4	7	1	2	4	7
June	5	9	18	6	9	2	8	17	14
July	1	4	11	5	5	0	3	10	5
August	1	4	3	2	11	1	1	8	1
Sept	2	4	5	1	3	0	1	3	2
Oct-Dec	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	15	37	44	18	39	5	15	44	30

Fun Fact: Of the 610 shelter reservations, 170 have been made online, with John Wall, Olin and Vilas being the top three that have reservations made online.

Permits Processed: Annual and Daily

Permits Processed: Annual and Daily								
2017 Totals, as of 3/20/2017*			2016 Totals			2015 Totals		
	Annual	Daily		Annual	Daily		Annual	Daily
Disc Golf	320	394	Disc Golf	1,443	6,173	Disc Golf	1,422	7,195
Dog	5,039	44	Dog	8,065	543	Dog	7,177	547
Lake	865	57	Lake	4,339	5,161	Lake	4,123	5,159
XC Ski	1325	416	XC Ski	1,318	476	XC Ski	1,828	550

*Parks began processing 2017 annual permits on December 1, 2016. Purchasing permits online has been a huge success.

Gift Certificates Processed By Year

Gift Certificates Processed By Year		
2017 (as of March 28)	2016	2015
49 (\$1,876)	137 (\$9,585)	200 (\$8,306)

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – JANET SCHMIDT

Bowman Field Baseball Backstop Netting Poles – South Side

The replacement of the Bowman baseball diamond backstop was originally scheduled to start in early May with completion by April 12, 2017. As Parks staff began working with the low bid contractor, Containment Systems out of Birmingham, Alabama, it became clear they were not prepared to complete the work as defined in the contract documents. The Parks Division is in the process of terminating their

contract and awarding the work to the subsequent low bidder, Joe Daniels Construction. The work will be rescheduled to occur in the fall of 2017 to avoid the up-coming baseball season.

Forest Hill Cemetery – Near West Side

Cemetery staff and consultants are working on a design and required permits that will address infrastructure needs at the cemetery. Improvements will include the irrigation system upgrades, storm water management improvements and reconstruction of the road system in the cemetery. A public informational meeting was held March 16th at Randall Elementary. Staff also presented to the Landmarks Commission on March 20th and received project approval. Phase 1 improvements for the irrigation and storm sewer and drainage are tentatively scheduled for summer of 2017.

Central Park – Near East Side

The City is working with WisDOT and FHWA on acquiring properties located on E. Wilson and Baldwin Streets which would complete the land acquisition for that quadrant of the park. Funds are available from a federal earmark, which would pay for the majority of the land costs. Acquisition of the properties is anticipated in late spring or early summer of 2017.

Improvements to Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park – North Unit – North Side

Final work on the lay-down of gravel for the parking lot & walking path along with the installation of a security gate and kiosk items will start up once again in late March along with finish grading and restoration seeding of the berms and stormwater detention pond.

Garver Feed Mill – East Side

Parks staff continues to work with the development team to resolve issues and work on obtaining final zoning approvals. City staff has contracted with SCS Engineers to provide environmental services including soil sampling and a material management plan for managing the contaminated soils on the site.

Tenney Park Shoreline – Near East Side

Landscaping and invasive plant removal along the shoreline began in April of 2016. Hundreds of shrubs, acres of native seed, tens of thousands of native wetland and savannah herbaceous plants, and over 150 new trees were planted in April, May and June of 2016. Invasive plant removals will continue through December 2017, along with dormant native seeding.

Brittingham Park Accessible Playground – Isthmus/Central

This project is currently out to bid and is anticipated to be opened on April 7th. Equipment to be installed as part of the project includes a fully ramp-connected main structure, along with several stand-alone pieces from a variety of manufacturers – with a focus on “side by side play”. Construction on the site is anticipated to begin in mid-June 2017 and be completed by early September.

Brittingham Park Community Garden Playground – Isthmus/Central

The neighborhood has selected 5-12 age range equipment in lime green and purple from Landscape Structures for the Community Garden playground replacement. Plans and specs are anticipated to be bid in late March 2017 as part of the 2017 – Group 2 contract and work will begin in mid-June.

Allied Park Improvements – South Side

The contract to construct the open-sided sun shelter at the park (along with two other park locations) was successfully opened on March 10th and is anticipated to be awarded to Madison Commercial Landscapes, Inc. who submitted the lowest bid of \$145,000. The installation of the playground will be the next project advertised for bid (in late March and early April) followed closely by the bid for the installation of the park's main path and basketball court, anticipated to be bid in May. The acrylic color coating of the basketball and four square courts will be done under a separate contract.

Breese Stevens Facility Plan – Isthmus/Central

The Parks Division has contracted with Isthmus Architects to prepare a facility plan for Breese Stevens Field. The facility plan will assess potential improvements to the stadium and field area based on criteria provided by Big Top Events and Parks staff. A final draft facility plan is currently being reviewed by Parks staff.

Demetral Park Adult Fitness – East Side

The installation of adult fitness equipment is anticipated to be installed in late summer 2017. Parks staff anticipates submitting a permit to the WiDNR for construction on the landfill site in late March. The location and equipment has been selected.

Esther Beach Park Improvements – South Side

Phase I of the Esther Beach Park Master Plan Implementation includes construction of the new restroom building and associated site work has begun. The contract has been awarded to the low bidder Joe Daniels Construction at \$428,888.00 with completion by May 25, 2017. The Engineering Division completed construction of a raingarden and riprap outfall as part of the Phase I improvements for Esther Beach Park in October. Phase II of the Esther Beach Park Master Plan Implementation includes upgrading stormwater facilities, shoreline repair, construction of a new canoe/kayak boat launch and reconstructing the existing parking lot. Phase II Improvements were awarded to the low bidder Drax, Inc. at \$238,112.00. The construction of Phase II Improvements are anticipated to begin in June 2017 and be complete by fall 2017.

Penn Park Improvements – South Side

The project received final approval from the Urban Design Commission on January 11, 2017. A fourth and final public input meeting was held on January 19, 2017, with neighborhood representatives confirming the final design direction. Parks staff and Destree Design are in the process of completing construction drawings for bidding. The project will be bid in two phases, one for the shelter and restroom portion of the project and a second phase for the site work and parking lot improvements. The first bid package for the renovation of the existing shelter and the new concession/restroom building was posted on March 17th with bids due April 7th. The site work bid package is scheduled for release on April 14th with bids due May 5th.

Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation – City Wide

Staff is developing a GIS-based mapping database to inventory all ash trees removed in the City of Madison park system. Installation of new trees to replace removed ash trees is underway. Living Landscapes, LLC was awarded both of the fall and spring tree installation contracts that were opened at the end of November. The trees included in these contracts replace approximately 2/3 of those removed due to EAB infestation. Work to install the trees at six parks including Brittingham, Demetral, Olbrich, Reindahl, Sycamore and Warner Parks were completed in June and work to install trees at Elver, Garner, Goodman, Marshall, Olin, Thut and Vilas Parks was completed at the end of October. Both of the contracts include a maintenance year (2017) to help ensure establishment of the trees.

Sugar Maple Park – Far West Side

Rough grading work at the site began in July along with the installation of stormwater lines and inlets. A new path and half basketball court and sun shelter will be constructed with this project. Paving of the path and half basketball court were completed in November. Due to a backlog with the playground equipment supplier, the remaining work will not be completed until early spring.

Waldorf Park Preliminary Park Development – West Side

Site and grading plans are being developed with rough grading and drainage improvements anticipated in summer of 2017. Construction of park amenities and improvements is scheduled throughout the summer of 2017. The construction of the playground at the park will be part of the 2017 – Group 2 contract, which is anticipated to be bid in late March and early April.

Goodman Ice Rink (Franklin Field) - Central/South

Staff is working on design to modify and replace the lighting at the existing ice rink at Goodman (Franklin Field). Work will include replacement of the existing lights with new electric and poles, modifying the existing outlet structure to Wingra Creek used to drain the rink, and possible demolition of the existing warming shelter. A public information meeting was held on January 18th. The storm sewer project has been bid and the City has selected R.P. Cattell Inc as the contractor. Start work is expected in June 2017 and cost is \$33,325.00. The lighting contract is being bid.

2018-2022 Park and Open Space Plan – City Wide

Staff has begun the data collection and engagement for the 2018-2022 Park and Open Space Plan (POSP) Update. This phase of the POSP includes participating in the engagement process of Imagine Madison; focus group meetings with neighborhood/community centers and youth through partnerships with the University of Wisconsin Madison Department of Landscape Architecture and Public Health; coordinating volunteer efforts for field validated System for Observing Play and Recreation in Communities – which has resulted in over 600 observations; review of existing facility uses and reservations; surveys and discussions with existing recreational organizations; and online and paper comment cards at park events as well as nine (9) libraries, thirteen (13) community centers and the senior center to gather input on recreation preferences which and has collected over 900 comment cards at these locations and events. Staff has issued a recreational league use survey to over 130 organizations that reserve parks facilities. Staff has also issued a community-wide survey. This survey was made available online on January 27, 2017 and closed on March 24, 2017 and has received 1608 responses.

Staff has held all five (5) Community Visioning Sessions. These sessions were held on January 31, 2017 (Warner Park Recreation Center), February 6, 2017 (Whitehorse Middle School), February 13, 2017 (The Village on Park), March 1, 2017 (Alicia Ashman Library) and March 23, 2017 (Central Library).

Staff will be hosting three Park and Open Space Plan workshops in April and May that will focus on specific issues related to the park system. These workshops are “Hip Hop” PARKitecture Workshop on April 22nd, Panel Discussion: Madison Parks and Resiliency in the Era of Climate Change on May 18th, and Discover Madison Parks! Workshop: Connecting Kids to Nature on May 21st.

Staff will also be working with the University of Wisconsin Department of Landscape Architecture to hold six (6) focus group discussions with groups and community organizations including the Madison Senior Center, Kennedy Heights Community Center, North East Senior Coalition, Badger Rock Neighborhood Center, Meadowood Community Center, and East Madison Community Center.

Yahara Place Park Shoreline Improvements – Central/East

Staff is working with the Engineering Division to remove the existing steel bulkhead's at Yahara Place Park and to install a stone revetment canoe/kayak launch. A public input meeting for this event was held on Tuesday, May 28th. It is anticipated that construction will occur in July 2017.

Tenney Park (Island Playground) – Central/East

Staff held a playground workshop on November 19th to talk about Tenney Park playground replacement. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2017 (Group 3 Playground Contract). Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on January 18th. Plans and specs are anticipated to be bid on April 28, 2017.

Brigham Park Playground - East

Staff held a playground workshop on November 19th to talk about Brigham Park playground replacement. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2017 (Group 3 Playground Contract). Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on December 21st. Plans and specs are anticipated to be bid on April 28, 2017.

Lake Edge Park Playground - East

Staff will held playground workshop on November 19th to talk about Lake Edge Park playground replacement. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2017 (Group 3 Playground Contract). Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on January 10th. Plans and specs are anticipated to be bid on April 28, 2017.

McGinnis Park Playground - East

Staff will held a playground workshop on November 19th to talk about McGinnis Park playground replacement. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2017 (Group 3 Playground Contract). Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on January 23rd. Plans and specs are anticipated to be bid on April 28, 2017.

Zook Park Playground - West

Staff held a playground workshop on October 19th to discuss the playground replacements at Baxter, Westmorland, Sunset and Zook Parks. A second neighborhood input meeting was held on December 7th to review the playground design options specific to Zook Park. Meeting attendees selected a 5-12 age range play structure from Playworld for the park. This project will be done in-house with Parks Construction staff.

Sunset Park Playground - West

Staff held a playground workshop on October 19th to discuss the playground replacements at Baxter, Westmorland, Sunset and Zook Parks. A second public input meeting was held on December 15th to review the playground design options specific to Sunset Park. Meeting attendees selected a 5-12 age range play structure from Playcraft Systems for the park. The neighborhood anticipates raising an additional \$9,000 to add a small, nature-based play area to the overall playground replacement project. This project will be bid for construction in 2017 as part of the Group 1 Playground Contract. Plans and specifications were released for bidding on March 17th with bids due April 7th.

Westmorland Park Playground - West

Staff held a playground workshop on October 19th to discuss the playground replacements at Baxter, Westmorland, Sunset and Zook Parks. A second public input meeting was held on January 10th to review the playground designs specific to Westmorland Park. Meeting attendees selected a 5-12 age range play structure from Landscape Structures Systems for the park. The neighborhood anticipates raising an additional \$15,000 to add a nature-based play area to the overall playground replacement project. This project will be bid for construction in 2017 as part of the Group 1 Playground Contract. Plans and specifications were released for bidding on March 17th with bids due April 7th.

Baxter Park Playground - South

Staff held a playground workshop on October 19th to discuss the playground replacements at Baxter, Westmorland, Sunset and Zook Parks. A second public input meeting is scheduled for February 1 to review the playground designs specific to Baxter Park. This project will be bid for construction in 2017 as part of the Group 1 Playground Contract. Plans and specifications were released for bidding on March 17th with bids due April 7th.

Bordner Park Playground – West

Staff held a playground workshop on November 3rd to discuss the playground replacements at Bordner, Country Grove and Wexford Parks as well as the new playground coming to Waldorf Park. A second public input meeting was held November 17th to review the playground designs specific to Bordner Park. This project will be bid for construction in 2017 as part of the Group 2 Playground Contract. Plans and specs are anticipated to be released for bidding in April 2017.

Country Grove Park Playground – West

Staff held a playground workshop on November 3rd to discuss the playground replacements at Bordner, Country Grove and Wexford Parks as well as the new playground coming to Waldorf Park. A second public input meeting was held December 1st to review the playground designs specific to Country Grove Park. This project will be bid for construction in 2017 as part of the Group 2 Playground Contract. Plans and specs are anticipated to be released for bidding in April 2017.

Waldorf Park Playground – West

Staff held a playground workshop on November 3rd to discuss the playground replacements at Bordner, Country Grove and Wexford Parks as well as the new playground coming to Waldorf Park. A second public input meeting was held December 6th to review the playground designs specific to Waldorf Park. This project will be bid for construction in 2017 as part of the Group 2 Playground Contract. Plans and specs are anticipated to be released for bidding in April 2017.

Wexford Park Playground – West

Staff held a playground workshop on November 3rd to discuss the playground replacements at Bordner, Country Grove and Wexford Parks as well as the new playground coming to Waldorf Park. At the workshop session, Wexford was represented by a single resident and as such, a second or “re-do” of the

workshop meeting was held December 15th to go over the items originally discussed at the workshop. Happily, this second session had over 30 attendees and a follow-up meeting was held January 19th to review the playground designs specific to Wexford Park. This project will be bid for construction in 2017 as part of the Group 2 Playground Contract. Plans and specs are anticipated to be released for bidding in April 2017.

Reynolds Park Tennis - Near East

Staff issued a Request for Quotation for a modular athletic court surfacing for the existing tennis courts at Reynolds Park. The contract was awarded to CDC Holdings Co – Sport Court WI for \$50,013.50. Staff presented this project at the Tenney Lapham Neighborhood Association Meeting on September 8, 2016. This court will be installed in spring 2017.

2017 Tennis and Basketball Court Improvements – City Wide

Staff is developing the plans and specifications for the 2017 Tennis and Basketball Court Improvements including the following acrylic sport courts: Burr Jones Basketball courts, Heritage Heights Park tennis courts, Vilas Park tennis courts, Westmorland Park tennis courts, Reindahl Park pickleball line painting and Waunona Park pickleball line painting. Fahrner Asphalt Sealers was the low bidder with a bid of \$48,419.60. Construction is anticipated to begin in May and be completed by mid-June.

2017 Parks Division Landscaping – City Wide

The 2017 Parks Division Landscaping contract has been awarded to Dan Larsen Landscaping, Inc. of Cedarburg, WI, who submitted the lowest qualified bid of \$38,056.00 for landscaping improvements and installations at the following parks: Cherokee, Glenway Golf course, Lerdahl, O.B. Sherry, Quaker, Sugar Maple, Waunona and Washington Manor. Work on the contract is anticipated to begin in early May.

2017 Parks Division Rain Garden Management – City Wide

The 2017 Parks Division Rain Garden Management contract has been awarded to Tallgrass Restoration, LLC, who submitted the lowest qualified bid of \$22,960.39 to perform invasive species management and rain-garden and prairie species installations at the following parks: Door Creek, James Madison (at two locations) and Walnut Grove. Work on the contract is anticipated to begin in early May.

2017 Parks Division Sun Shelters Installation – West Side

The 2017 Parks Division Sun Shelters Installation contract was successfully opened on March 10th with a total of three bids received. The contract is anticipated to be awarded to the lowest bidder Madison Commercial Landscapes, Inc.. The contract includes the installation of new, reservable, open-sided sun shelters at Allied, Norman Clayton and Sauk Creek Parks. Work on the contract is anticipated to begin in May at the Allied Park site.

James Madison Park Master Plan and Shelter Design- Near East

Staff is developing a RFP for master planning and shelter building design services for James Madison Park. The RFP is anticipated to be advertised in spring 2017.

Vilas Park Fishing Pier- Near West

Parks staff will be working with Building and Construction Trades Council of South Central Wisconsin to install an accessible fishing pier in Vilas Park on Lake Wingra. A design for a pier and abutment have been completed and a permit applied for with WDNR. Building trades is currently working on selecting a contractor to complete the work. Building Trades Council will be responsible for refurbishing an existing City owned pier for use on the site.

Park Paving 2017 – City Wide

Staff is developing the plans and specifications for the 2017 Paving Contract which includes construction of paths at Waldorf Park, Allied Park, and Garner Park as well as basketball courts at Allied, Waldorf, Arbor Hills, Lerdahl, and Westchester Gardens Park. Plans and specifications are anticipated to be advertised in May.

Gates of Heaven Improvements - Central

Gates of Heaven flooring replacement is scheduled for 2017 in conjunction with exterior improvements being completed by Engineering staff. Staff will work with the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) to determine if a more durable variety of flooring will be allowed since Gates of Heaven is on the National Register.

Other Projects

- Staff is coordinating with volunteers at Glenwood Park for implementation of volunteer-led projects.
- Staff is working with Engineering for shoreline projects at Wingra Park.
- Staff is working with the Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee on drafting policies related Ice Rinks and Ice Rink volunteer groups.
- Parks Staff is working with Engineering staff to site locations within park properties that may utilize photo voltaic (solar) equipment to help reduce energy costs in future years. 2016 locations included Warner Park and Yahara Hills Golf Course.
- Staff will be working with Engineering on the Warner Park Lagoon Planning Grant. The first public input meeting was held in late winter of 2016.
- Staff is working with a group of area residents interested in determining the feasibility of rehabilitating (either through adaptive re-use or restoration) the Annie Stewart Memorial fountain at Vilas Park. InSite Consulting Architects will prepare a Preliminary Assessment that will provide guidance on the fountain restoration.
- Staff is working with the University Hill Neighborhood Association to install table tennis and bench improvements as part of a grant obtained by City Planning for neighborhood improvements.
- Staff will be working with Engineering on the Warner Park Breakwater and Dredging and Boat Launch Repair project, which has been bid.
- Staff is working in conjunction with Engineering, Planning and Traffic Engineering on the Blair Street/John Nolen Drive corridor plan, which also includes Law Park in the study area.
- Staff is working with the Madison Food Policy group on a report to identify potential community garden locations in the University Hills Neighborhood.
- Staff is working with the City Attorney's office on updating the Madison General Ordinances to allow for Temporary Land Use permits and Art Installation permits for private access and work in parks.
- Staff is working with Olbrich Botanical Society and Engineering for the proposed Olbrich Garden expansion.
- Staff is working with Engineering on the proposed Atwood Avenue improvements, which include improvements in Olbrich Park.
- Staff is working with Veridian Homes on concepts for a proposed park in 1000 Oaks subdivision.
- Staff is working with Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District on the design and construction of the new pump station and restroom being constructed at Marshall Park.
- Staff are working with City Planning and with residents of the Eken Park and Pennsylvania Park neighborhoods to identify projects at the respective parks that can be constructed with funding provided by Planning through Community Block Development Grants (CDBG).
- Staff are working with neighboring residents to Vilas Park to determine a possible edible landscape installation at the park.
- Staff is reviewing potential options for new dog parks in accordance with the recently adopted dog park policy.

Projects Completed in 2017