

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S OCTOBER 2020 REPORT**

### **COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

#### **Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary**

The early Fall has been good weather wise for people getting outdoors and enjoying the park system. With limited rain and warmer than average temperatures, we are continuing to see the system maintain busier than normal. The seasonal staff have started to leave for the year and we recognize and value their diligent efforts to provide public recreational outlets during this trying year. This reduction in staffing, along with weather changes, does mean that restrooms and facilities are starting to close as we transition. Staff is working to prepare for a challenging winter season and will be seeking opportunities to provide safe and accessible winter recreation.

Community Service staff are working to establish youth focused programming on the Northside with the continued lack of access to the Center. The plan is to work on programming in Warner Park using the shelter and with partner support from the Mallards to host safe programming for teens at the Duck Blind as well.

Golf continues to produce favorable results year-to-date, though we are still uncertain of what the comprehensive net income will be. Rounds are up 27% and revenue from rounds is up 21%. We are hopeful for a successful fall season as many traditional fall recreational and entertainment outlets will not be available due to the pandemic and we may continue to fill that need.

#### **Future Commission Items**

- IPM Taskforce – The IPM taskforce work has been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff is hopeful that work will continue this fall with a target of reporting out over the winter.
- Staff is working with many of our contractual partners regarding their agreements with the City. Most of the partners have expressed concerns about the terms of the agreements given the inability to operate normally, or in some cases, at all. Staff expects a significant number of modifications to come to the Commission this fall.
- The Vilas Park Master Plan continues to be developed with significant public engagement on final draft plans ongoing this Fall.
- The Law Park Master Plan process is also continuing and an update to the Commission will occur in the next two to three months.

## Section reports

### **Operations**

#### Conservation

- Staff worked on late-season herbicide treatments to honeysuckle re-sprouts, Japanese knotweed, crown vetch, and porcelain berry at Cherokee Marsh, Elvehjem, and Owen.
- Conducted Jumping Worm surveys throughout the conservation parks to map and monitor their presence and range within the parks. Staff visited several parks with UW Arboretum Ecologist Brad Herrick, who researches jumping worms in our area, to discern damage caused by European earthworms versus jumping worms.

#### Construction

- Completed a number of construction projects including removing the pea gravel from the old playground from Flad Park in preparation of the new pollinator garden, work on the new woodland Hills playground, built an earth beam at Zook Park and work on a drainage swale and rain garden at Galaxy Park divert water from neighboring properties.

#### Facilities

- Performed seasonal winterizing of facilities, shelters and the Goodman pool.
- Completed work installing the Cherokee Marsh kiosks, replaced the barn door at Reindahl and made roof repairs to Garner, Lakeview heights and Demetral parks
- Constructed benches and picnic tables for Parks Foundation for placement at Wingra, Linden Grove, Glenwood Children's, and Garner parks.

#### General Parks

- Mowed temporary Cyclocross tracks at Hill Creek, Olin, Aldo Leopold Olbrich, and Door Creek Parks to support this outdoor activity.
- Worked on the aeration and fertilization of athletic field's City wide for MUFA, soccer, football, baseball and cricket fields.
- Worked on grubbing EAB stumps at various parks and Monona Golf Course.
- Collected prairie seeds in collaboration with Engineering and spread the seeds in meadow areas.

#### Mall Concourse

- Mall Concourse continued with no events due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A second round of riots has kept plywood on businesses. However, later in the month, plywood has been coming down, including the plywood protecting the Peace Park Visitor Center.
- Seasonal decorative banners were changed to autumn, and fall turf preparations have begun. Aerating, overseeding, and fertilizing the turf continued through the month, to keep the turf healthy over the winter. Forestry started replanting State Street, which was quite vacant of trees due to many trees being removed due to Emerald Ash Borer.

## Planning and Development

### Upcoming Public Engagement Dates

- 2021 Playground Workshop #1 – Oct 27
- Law Park Public Information Meeting – Oct 29
- Vilas Park CPAG and RRG – Oct 14
- Madison Bicycle Adventure Trail, three identical public meetings – Oct 13, 15, and 28

### Playgrounds Update

- The following playground replacements are completed, Sheridan Triangle, Wingra Park, Hillington, Eagle Trace and Woodland Hills Park.
- Playground replacements under construction include Brentwood Park, Windom Way Park and Whitetail Ridge Park.
- Replacements to be built this fall yet include Morrison, Orlando Bell Park and Galaxy Park.

### East Side Off-Leash Dog Exercise Area

- The east side dog park survey closed on September 26<sup>th</sup> and the results have been downloaded and compiled. In general, opposition and support appear to be relatively evenly split throughout the survey responses. Parks staff also reviewed the email and phone correspondence received to date. From the Parks Division's perspective, neither option has definitive community support to move forward in the approval process. The community feedback has been saved to the file and Parks will continue to explore other potential east side locations in the future.

### North Star Dog Park

- The North Star Dog Park opened to the public in late September.