

AUGUST 2013 WRITTEN REPORT OF SUPERVISOR'S ACTIVITIES EAST PARKS – CRAIG KLINKE, SUPERVISOR

July continued to be a busy month for mowing and trimming operations. In early to mid July, grass growth was starting to slow down a little. However, with all the rain we received at the end of the month, it started to pick up again. We still managed to work on other projects though. We worked on cleaning and removing vegetation along the shore at Law Park. We did extensive work at Hiestand Disc Golf pruning back and removing vegetation that was encroaching on the tees and fairways. We began our flail mowing operation. We performed renovation work at Olbrich #5 and the four diamonds at Demetral. We also did a lot of weeding at and around park shelters and began to aerate athletic fields again.

In August, East Parks will have Operation Fresh Start begin to work on projects. We are eagerly awaiting their help as we have many fence-clearing and invasive removal projects planned. We plan to perform our annual field renovation work at Breese Stevens and the two enclosed fields at Warner. We will also be working on trying to get grass established on poorly seeded areas on Packers and Northport. Finally, we hope to have three new Parks Maintenance Workers on our crew by the end of the month. We are conducting interviews on Friday, August 2nd.

WEST PARKS – LISA LASCHINGER, SUPERVISOR

July was a beautiful month, and although we did not see any major breaks in mowing operations, we were still able to make some great progress on a number of projects. We started out the month with detailing at Elver to prepare for the fireworks, and we worked to beautify Garner prior to the Opera. We rented a forestry mower and continued the project at Marshall, although the project is still in progress, our efforts are paying off and the park is really starting to take shape. We also completed set up and take down for Meet and Eats in two locations, Southside Villager Mall and Meadowood throughout the entire month of July. In addition, crews from Olbrich have done some major work at Olin Park and Goodman Pool helping to enhance the overall beauty of both parks.

August is starting off to be yet another atypical month with cooler temps and abundant moisture. We are continuing with mowing operations as usual and completing detailing and projects as we are able. Crews are working on weeding and pruning of signature sign beds as well as shelter areas. In addition, as time allows, they are pruning trees to aid in mowing operations. Field mowing operations are in full swing, and we have begun doing some of our yearly mowing. With the summer drawing to a close, the softball season is also starting to wrap up, and due to the rainy start, has even stretched further into August than normal.

As the month progresses, we will continue with our regular operations as well as work on some beautification and special event projects throughout the system. We will be doing some fine detailing at Olin prior to the Great Taste of the Midwest. We will also be doing some project work at Vilas Park, including some weeding, pruning and mulching. We're hoping to partner with Operation Fresh Start for at least another week to tackle a few more projects. We will be working with volunteers in four of our parks, Olin, Vilas, Elver, and Brittingham, to do a variety of beautification projects for Days of Caring. In addition, we will be hosting our first Ride the Drive on the west side. Meet and Eats will wrap up at Meadowood by the end of the month. Also by the end of the month, seasonal staffing will be reduced as our students return to school.

CONSERVATION – RUSS HEFTY

Wet weather conditions continued in July. Mosquitoes and weeds thrived with the abundant rainfall (7 straight months of above normal precipitation).

Operation Fresh Start helped with the ongoing oak woodland restoration at Turville pulling countless bags of dames rocket. Japanese hedge parsley was their target at the Mendota Unit of Cherokee Marsh. They pulled hundreds of invasive cattails from the new storm water ponds at South Cherokee. Without this effort the native plantings would be overwhelmed.

Park staff was busy scouting new populations of invasives (creeping bellflower, crown vetch, knapweed, etc) throughout the conservation parks. Then staff applied targeted spot applications of herbicide to control the invasives while the populations are small. Cultural controls are used when appropriate e.g. mowing large patches of flowering sweet clover (a biennial weed) using a tractor mower. This vigilant and proactive approach is crucial to preserving the natural diversity in the conservation parks.

Trail maintenance was another focus for staff as the heavy rain caused washouts, and lush plant growth. We began repairing trail washouts by filling them with crushed limestone. Vegetation was trimmed or mowed back to maintain trail clearances for people and equipment.

Restoration activities for July included planting over 200 hardstem bulrush “buckets” in the large shallow bench (< 18 inches of water) in the western pond at South Cherokee. These were grown in 5-gallon buckets for 3 months until reaching a height of 3-4 ft. Upon planting it looks like a natural marsh that has been there for years. OFS prepared the seed bed and planted a native oak savanna seed mix at North Cherokee where the oak fence line was thinned this spring.

MALL CONCOURSE – TOM SKAIFE, SUPERVISOR; LAURA BAUER, LEADSWORKER

July is probably the busiest summer month at Mall/Concourse. Art Fair On and Off the Square, Maxwell Street Days, and four of the five Concerts on the Square took place, as well as two of the Live on King Street concerts. All of these events required delivery and pickup of trash and recycling barrels.

The summer annuals in the concrete pots are doing well. Thanks to the Olbrich staff, watering has been relatively stress-free this summer, and we certainly appreciate their help.

The “Placemaking” chalkboards remain up in the Lower Mall. In addition to ideas for the redesigned space, we’ve seen many very interesting chalk drawings. Some feature State Street and Capitol scenes with dinosaurs and a giant foot, and some, like an especially nice cosmonaut, don’t have anything to do with Madison. We wash the boards once weekly, and we did have to add three extra washings last month because of inappropriate comments. Still, this is a better reaction than we anticipated, and the comments are seen as useful. Planning staff hope to leave the boards up into the fall semester.

Coming up in July we’re looking forward to four installments of Jazz at Five, two more Majestic Live concerts, and, of course, the Taste of Madison. Aside from these special events, we’re continuing with the regular summer maintenance activities – daily trash pickup and sweeping, bus shelter cleaning, mowing and trimming, and various other requests as they arise. We expect that we will also be installing additional trash and recycling receptacles on State Street following their location by the Planning Department.

FOREST HILL CEMETERY – KEVIN SORENSEN

July continued the lush growth pattern of the 2013 season. Mowing and string trimming took the majority of our work efforts. We were able to do some backfilling and seeding projects which did show the benefits of the good growing conditions. Forestry did help us with some large tree work that we weren’t able to handle. Construction has done a good job also. They rebuilt our weeper berm that had filled with sediment. They also kept us stockpiled with shredded topsoil.

July staffing levels are at 5.5 permanent employees with one more on worker’s comp. We currently only have 2 seasonals but will have one more starting in August.

July burial numbers, lot sales and total revenue are as follows:

Interments: 18	Lots Sold: 19	Total Revenue: \$35,655.00
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OLBRICH GARDENS – ROBERTA SLADKY

Amazingly the summer is almost over. ‘Blooming Butterflies’, which ends on August 11 has been relatively smooth. The weather, compared to last summer’s scorching, dry days, has been good for garden visitors. Staff began irrigating in mid-July – a contrast to last summer as well. The Gardens are looking extremely well and if I was to single out one area (which I don’t like to do because all our garden rooms are beautiful), the Perennial Garden is looking particularly lush this week with masses of blooms on many of the tall later-season perennials featured in that garden.

Visitor comment from the past month:

This comment was forwarded by one of our Greeters: *“Group of disabled adults just left. Leader wanted us to know how thrilled she was at the treatment they received, which she said isn’t always the case. Everyone was supportive and kind.”* (6.18.13)

Numbers

OBG Attendance (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants)	2013	2012	Previous 5yrs ave.
June 1 - 30	26,123	24,878	24,426
YTD June 30	109,239	116,322	
Total Member Households (individuals*) June 30	6,459 (10,524)	6,246 (9,529)	

**based on the number of membership cards issued*

OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories (unaudited)	YTD 6/30/2013	YTD 6/30/2012
Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD	\$35,770	\$27,516
Room Rentals YTD*	\$69,902	\$67,692
Catering Percentage Revenue YTD**	\$7,705	\$7,755
TOTAL YTD	\$113,377	\$102,963

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

August Public Events at Olbrich Botanical Gardens call 608-246-4550 for more info

Wisconsin Visual Artists Exhibit of Botanical Art, Sundays, 11 am – 5 pm, Aug 4 – Oct 27

Leaf Mulch Sale – Load Your Own Bags: ongoing 10 am - 4 pm daily while supplies last

Olbrich’s Blooming Butterflies, 10 am – 4 pm daily, through Aug 11

Madison Public Library’s ‘Dig Into Reading’ Picnic and Concert, Tues, Aug 6, 6 – 8 pm by Madison Public Library

Conservatory Exhibit: Integrated Pest Management, Aug 13 – Oct 27

Daylily Sale, Sat, Aug 17, 10 am – 4 pm & Sun, Aug 18, 11 am – 3 pm by the WI Daylily Society

Dahlia Show, Sat, Aug 17, 10 am – 5 pm & Sun, Aug 18, 9 am – 4 pm by Badger State Dahlia Society

Education – August classes and programs call 608/246-4550 for info/registration or visit www.olbrich.org

Guided Garden Strolls – every Sunday, June 2 – September 20 @ 1:30 and 3:30 pm a drop-in casual overview by Olbrich’s expert volunteer guides. Each stroll is 45 – 60 minutes in length and varies by season, peak interest and bloom. Meet near the outdoor garden entrance – rain or shine. (cancelled only in the event of dangerous lightning)

NEW! Young Writer’s Summer Camp, Mon – Thurs, August 5 – 8, 9 am – 2 pm **FULL!**

Wellness at the Gardens

Yoga, Mondays 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm and Thursdays, 7:30 – 8:45 am (drop in OK)

Yogalates, Wednesdays, through Aug 28, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Tai Chi Meditation, Mondays, through Aug 12 (no class July 15), 6 – 7 pm

Garden Walks

Container Gardening Walk, Tues, Aug 13, 6:30 – 8 pm

Hydrangeas & Summer Flowering Shrubs Walk, Wed, Aug 14, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Garden Lighting for Homeowners Walk, Tues, Aug 22, 7:30 – 9 pm

Classes & Workshops for Adults

Birds, Bees, & Butterflies – Colored Pencils and Acrylics Workshop, Sat, Aug 4, 10 am – 5 pm

Nature and the Creative Process: A photographic Presentation, Mon, Aug 5, 6:30 – 8 pm

Color Theory Through Watercolor Workshop, Sun, Aug 18, 10 am – 5 pm

Drawing: Explore Your Experimental Nature, Sun, Aug 25, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Herbal Harvest Workshop, Sun, Aug 25, 2 – 4:30 pm

Learn & Play Together

Toddler Story & Stroll: Bugs in the Garden

Ladybugs, Fri, Aug 2, 10 – 11 am **FULL!**

Bees, Fri, Aug 9, 10 – 11 am **FULL!**

Little Sprouts Gardening: Stories in the Garden

Quiet in the Garden, Thu, Aug 1, 10 – 11 am **Full!**

The Little Red Hen, Thu, Aug 8, 10 – 11 am **Full!**

Curious George and the Pizza, Thu, Aug 15, 10 – 11 am **Full!**

Twilight in the Gardens: Fireflies, Fri, Aug 17, 7 – 8 pm **Full!**

FORESTRY – MARLA EDDY

Forestry Section	Total Trees	Total Hours
Cycle Pruning	231	252
Pruned by Request	406	559
Small Tree Pruning Cycle	252	41.5
Tree Removal	279	874
Storm Work/Hangers		169.5
Unfilled Vacancy		160

This month both east and west were able to complete some District cycle pruning. But only the west unit was able to do small tree cycle pruning.

The Forestry Specialists have been heavily involved in engineering street reconstruction projects and sidewalk replacement program and enforcing the tree protection standards. Also, they have been reviewing sites for tree replacement after trees have been removed.

Special projects for the month include:

- Pruning for Metro bus stops
- Pruning for southwest bike path between Park Street and Monroe Street
- Tree removal for southwest bike path
- Tree removal at Blair Gardens
- Tree removal and pruning for Period Gardens

GOLF – RAY SHANE

The month of July saw the arrival of the golfing season. Just a couple of days in the 90's and rainfall at normal levels. The much improved weather generated a much improved number of rounds played and increased revenues. Yahara Hills saw a minor decrease over July of 2012 with the other three courses above last year's figures.

The major event for the month was the hosting of the 3rd. round of the Men's City Championship at Odana Hills. Players complimented the clubhouse staff and the maintenance crew on the outstanding service and course conditions. August will bring the end of play for several of our leagues, their Championship Tournaments, but the beginning of the H.S. girls golf season.

Maintenance staff had a busy month as the adequate moisture and seasonable temperatures kept the grass growing and growing. Having the 4th of July land in the middle of the week was also a challenge for golf course maintenance. Staff has also been busy with the management of the ATC project, Verona Road Interchange and the construction of the skating pond feature at Odana.

Maintenance is currently working on repairing some irrigation leaks, removal of invasive species in our tree plantings and preparing for fall aerification. Normal fertilization, disease management and course maintenance keeps all of the staff busy. We will begin to see a reduction in both clubhouse and maintenance staff as the students make their way back to school and college life.