

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S SEPTEMBER 2023 REPORT**

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

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

August was on the warm side, with a period of some extreme heat. This led to the team focusing on making sure the Pool, beaches, and splash parks were open and available for the community to use. The precipitation was more consistent again in August, like July, which is a good thing after the May and June dry period. The extreme heat did lead to an uptick of use of the pool and splash parks, but notably golf rounds were down. Golf rounds in total are still significantly ahead of last year's record breaking pace and it is safe to say that this will be a new record in revenue for the golf enterprise. Staff have been working with Finance and the Mayor's Office in producing the soon to be released Executive Capital Budget as well as working towards the introduction of the Executive Operating Budget due in October. The Lake Monona Waterfront project is continuing to progress and the plan is to extend the Committee's existence into early next year to allow for the process to accommodate additional work in coordinating with the John Nolen Drive project. This extension is necessary even though the Committee has worked at a sustained quick pace. Ultimately, there is just too much to do and it's important enough to get it right more than just get it done. The team continues to work on recruitment of talented staff to fill our permanent and seasonal staffing vacancies. Though a lot of progress has been made, it is still a significant focal point for us and likely will be at least into early 2024.

#### Future Commission Items

- Madison Parks Foundation Cooperative Agreement – Staff have been engaging with the Foundation and anticipate an updated agreement coming back to the BPC in October.
- Fees for 2024 – Numerous staff are working diligently to update and prepare fee schedules for 2024. The goal is to balance the needs of keeping up with inflation and revenue generation with the need to provide equitable access to our facilities and programs.
- Private Art Installations - Staff receive occasional requests for art installations from the public, such as visual art, signs, murals, or sculptures. (This is not the same as artwork coming from the City's official public art collection or from the Madison Arts Commission.) Staff will be working on an official Private Art Policy and will present that to the Commission and Long Range Planning Subcommittee for approval in the coming months. Until an official policy can be approved, Parks staff will not accept any new private art proposals.
- Golf Enterprise Update – The Golf Team is working to prepare a report to the Facilities Programs and Fees Subcommittee and the Board of Park Commissioners on the past 2 years of operations as well as an outlook on future opportunities to continue to implement the Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks' recommendations. Given staff departures since the beginning of the year and budget actions, the goal is to present additional information to the BPC before the end of the year. This is in addition to the work being done to update Yahara.
- Results Madison / Division Work Plan– The City has been working on Results Madison, which moves towards a more significant utilization of data in decision-making, including budgeting for the past few years. Staff will be preparing information on this and the Parks Division's work plan to present to the Commission. The goal is to present information to the Commission in the Fall.

## Personnel Updates

### Promotions/Hires:

- Andrew Ayres has transferred from Parks Arborist 2 to Equipment Operator 3 with Construction. He started his new position on 08.21.23.
- Sarah Gorsline has accepted the Landscape Maintenance Worker position on the Parks Ecology Team position, she started her new position on 08.21.23
- Remington Caley has accepted the Golf Operations Leadworker LTE position, starting on 09.05.23.
- Jeffrey Lund has accepted the Golf Course Equipment Operator LTE position, starting on 09.05.23
- Eleanor Dutton has accepted the Golf Course Maintenance Worker LTE position, starting on 09.05.23
- Ryan Winkler has accepted the Golf Course Maintenance Worker LTE position, starting on 09.18.23
- David Vetovec has been promoted from Greenskeeper in Golf to Central Parks Supervisor. He will start his new position on 09.05.23.

## Section reports

### **Olbrich Botanical Gardens**

- **GLEAM Opens** – GLEAM, Art in a New Light opens on Saturday, August 26, 2023. A new GLEAM website was revealed for this year's exhibition. To learn more about the artists and their art installations visit: [www.olbrichgleam.org](http://www.olbrichgleam.org)
- **Cultivating Place Podcast** – Olbrich Gardens' Horticulturist Erin Presley was featured on this nationwide podcast. Listen at this [link](#) or on your favorite podcast player.
- **Hmong Garden** – Madison College Student Sabrina Her was featured in this radio interview with WORT. Sabrina worked with Horticulturist Erin Presley to create the Hmong Garden in the Herb Garden. To listen to this interview, visit this [link](#).
- **Royal Thai Pavilion & Bridge** – The roofing project for the Royal Thai Pavilion is anticipated to begin in September. This will involve building scaffolding around the structure and enclosing it. Tiles are currently being made and will be shipped to Olbrich Gardens soon. A tile event where the public can sign a tile with words of hope and peace will be planned. Tiles with visible writings from the original installation will be preserved. The Thai Bridge is currently closed due to a tree that fell on top of the bridge. It will be closed until further notice.

## **Community Services Report September 2023 – Terrence Thompson**

### **Community Events & Customer Service Events (Kelly Post)**

- Park Event and Street Use permit requests have slowed down, as they do this time of year.
- Early fall is when our team begins looking at data and process improvement opportunities from the past event season:
  - Collect, analyze events, and permit data to present end-of-year reports.
  - Update applications, websites, and processes based on lessons learned from the past season.

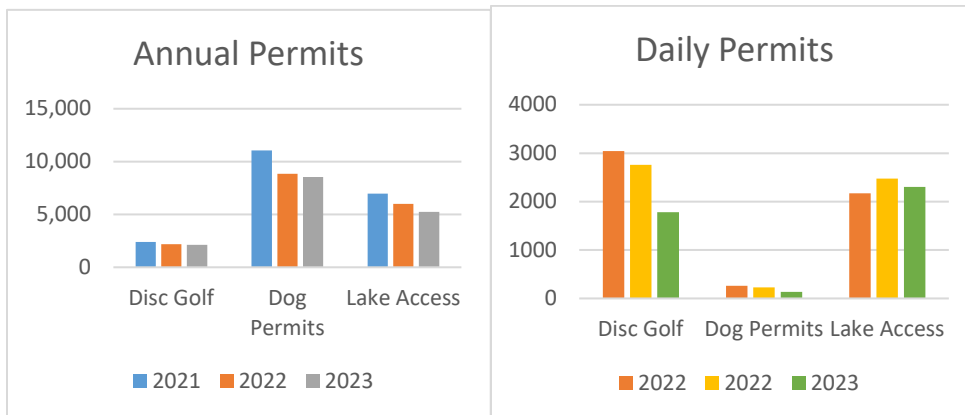
- Early Fall is also when our team begins preparing for the next year:
  - 2024 proposed Special Event fees
  - Reach out to annual events to get 2024 date requests
  - Enter 2024 Special Event date requests into our reservation system

### Parks Alive (Debra Alleyne)

- The Parks Alive AASPIRE intern, Hollyn Gaffner, successfully concluded her internship with Parks Alive and the Parks Division on August 24. Her participation proved invaluable to the success of the events. She assisted in logistical planning, community engagement, data collection, entry, and analytics. She produced an intern report summarizing what she learned from her experiences and the myriad of professionals and discussions she was privy to. We provided a valuable and worthwhile internship experience that struck a balance of educational, professional, fun, and engaging.
- The final Parks Alive event took place on August 17 at Owl Creek Park. Our research and data collection is currently being analyzed but preliminary data shows:
  - < 3,000 participants
  - Approximately 114 participants per event
  - 45 participating local organizations
  - 27 successful events
  - 96.3% satisfaction (62.% Very satisfied and 34.3% satisfied)

### Customer Service (Joanne Austin)

- Although we've experienced an extremely dry and hot summer, it's been a successful and busy season for shelter and athletic reservations. 2023 shelter reservations will soon wind down, and fall athletic reservation requests will continue to stream in. We are already beginning to review documents and prepare for the first date customers can begin reserving shelters in 2024 on Tuesday, November 14.
- Customer service staff are continually answering and responding to phone calls. Customers greatly appreciate the efficient and informative responses. Front staff received 9,093 incoming calls from April 1-August 14.
- Online annual and daily permits purchases continues to go smoothly. Annual Disc Golf and Dog Permits are valid through December 31, 2023 (Lake Access remains valid through March 31, 2024). We'll soon be ordering 2024 permits, which will be available for purchase starting November 1.



## Recreation Services & Aquatics

### Events (Tracey Hartley)

- Trucks & Treasures is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, at Warner Park. Scheduling for Fall hayrides is underway. We held a ribbon cutting for the Frautschi Family Accessible Playground at Warner Park on August 16 and will have another accessible playground ribbon cutting at Rennebom Park on September 20.

### Aquatics (Shane Martin)

- The Goodman Pool closed for the season on Sunday, August 27. We will be staffing lifeguards at 2 beaches, September 2-4, at Tenney and Vilas, from 11am-7pm. We are working on an end-of-season report highlighting several activities at the pool, data, and programming recommendations for summer 2024.
- The job posting is up to hire event and winter attendants.
- The photos below are from the Goodman Pool Olympics. The event was fun for all staff!



## Rangers & Volunteers

### Rangers (Jason Vroman)

- Rangers have been out to many of the Parks Alive events. Rangers signed up for a booth at the Worthington Park Parks Alive event and brought out a couple of baskets and discs for the kids to try. We all had a great time, and many kids tried disc golf for the first time.



- Rangers have contacted many individuals from the unhoused community and have referred nearly 80 people to our contracted City Outreach provider, Catalyst for Change. Currently, Rangers are not aware of any active camps on Parks property.



- The first Disc Golf Driving Range was opened to the public on July 29th at Hiestand Park. Rangers worked with a donor and the Madison Parks Foundation to collect the funds used to purchase materials and construct the new feature. Parks staff installed everything, and Mike Batka from Glide organized the festivities for the grand opening, which included a driving range distance competition.



### **Volunteers (John Weichelt)**

- We developed a Group Clean-Up Application form for volunteer groups. Additionally, we have secured 6 groups for August, 5 for September, and 1 in October in various parks.
- We are researching and demoing volunteer management software and working on refining the background check and community service volunteering policy.
- We are connecting with friends groups and attending meetings to gauge the group structures better.

### **Warner Park Community Recreation Center (Zach Watson)**

- The WPCRC welcomed 142 participants at the Northside Wellness Partnership (NWP) Family Fun Night on August 11. The NWP is dedicated to increasing collaboration between Northside organizations to enhance access to wellness resources to improve individual and community health awareness. The NWP plans to increase equitable access to wellness resources through research education, wellness events, and health programming on Madison's Northside.
- The WPCRC collected school supplies, clothing, and shoes through August to support the August 26 Kicks for Kids event, led by WPCRC Building Attendant Sterlyn Woods. Woods led a community initiative to ensure youth in need have the essentials to start the school year. We thank all City staff and community-serving organizations who offered supplies, services, and time to help plan and implement the event.

## Planning and Development

### Rennebohm Tennis/Pickleball Courts:



Work by Contractor Wolf Paving on the reconstruction of the west set of pickleball/tennis courts at Rennebohm Park was completed on 7/26/23.

### Rennebohm Inclusive Playground:



Work by Contractor Joe Daniels Construction Co, Inc. on the Rennebohm Park Inclusive Playground was completed on 7/31/23

## Sport Court 2023:



Work by Contractor Poblocki Paving Corporation on the 2023 Sport Court Resurfacing projects continues, with maintenance work at Bordner, Brittingham, Warner and Norman Clayton Parks completed so far. Door Creek (north), Heritage Heights, Nakoma (dual striping only) and Olbrich are still to come. The contract has a substantial completion date of 9/30/23 (Brittingham is pictured).

## Sandburg Park Skills Track:



Parks constructed a new bike skills track at Sandburg Park adjacent to Sandburg Elementary School. We worked closely with the PE teacher at the school to provide a small and fun loop for the kids. Biking is currently a new unit in PE and the kids can use school provided bikes to ride the circuit.

This is an excellent way to develop new riders and allow skill progression in a safe and fun setting. Parks mows the course and purchased the wooden boardwalk features. Volunteers from the school maintain the track.



**Parks Alive Events:**



Park planners attended 15 of the Parks Alive events, gathering information on what local residents would like to see in their parks. The events proved to be an excellent setting for conversations with kids and adults about how to improve our parks.