

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S APRIL 2016 REPORT-**

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

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

February / March 2016

- Madison Parks and Madison/Dane County Public Health hosted a planning workshop to design the vision, identify the assets / barriers and determine the next steps in the Cities Connecting Children to Nature initiative. This initiative is an exciting opportunity for Parks to build relationships with many other organizations in the area working towards the goal of connecting our kids to the outdoors.
- Parks Administration offices were relocated for approximately one month due to an incident in the City-County Building. As of Friday, April 1 staff has started returning to room 104. This was a challenging month for Parks, but with great staff and the assistance of other City agencies, the Administrative office should be back to fully operational by April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Spring clean up and maintenance are in full swing with tasks such as replacing trash barrels and picnic tables, turning on water fountains, painting and aerating fields, removing fencing and stakes, and hiring seasonal staff.
- Lisa Laschinger was promoted to Operations Manager Trainee; Andrew Peters was hired as the new playground technician

#### Recent Events:

- Volunteer cleanup events and projects began in March and included the annual Dog Park Cleanup Day on March 26 at Quann and April 2 at the 7 remaining dog parks; Stargazing at Warner was held March 14; Warner Family Fun Night on March 11; Connecting Children and Nature Kick-off Event held March 5 at WPCRC; 12<sup>th</sup> Annual SpringFest with over 700 shoppers and over 80 vendors on display at WPCRC on Saturday, April 2

#### Upcoming Events:

- Bird & Nature Festival (Earth Day, Arbor Week, Bird City) from 1-4pm on Sunday, April 17 at Warner Park; Earth Day Challenge set for Saturday, April 23 at various park locations. Tree planting with Lakeview Elementary and the Mayor on Friday, April 29 at Warner Park

### **WRITTEN REPORT OF SUPERVISOR'S ACTIVITIES**

#### **EAST PARKS – CRAIG KLINKE, SUPERVISOR.**

March's weather was pretty typical this year. We had some nice warm days along with some cold and wet ones. Ground conditions went from frozen to wet and soggy almost overnight. Our rinks are closed, the hockey boards are down, and "most" of our equipment is being converted into summer use.

As usual, we have a lot of things to work on and a small amount of time to get them done before the grass season begins. We began stump grubbing in March, however we were not able to get very far because of ground conditions. We need to aerate and overseed some fields and parks as things start to dry out. We have begun moving soccer goals around, have started finding corners of fields, and have had multiple softball groups use Olbrich as a practice facility. We are interviewing and hiring seasonal staff. Our Arborist Crew has been working on trees near paved areas (to avoid turf damage). Finally, we are working on repairing and painting tables, barrels, benches, and cans. We are looking forward to an exciting spring season. Almost half of our seasonal staff will be new this year.

#### **CENTRAL PARKS & MALL CONCOURSE– LISA LASCHINGER, SUPERVISOR**

##### **Central Parks:**

Spring has sprung throughout the parks and we will be up and running shortly for the regular season. All winter operations have been disassembled for the season, with shelters cleaned, fencing and stakes removed, and hockey boards painted and moved to storage. Picnic tables and barrels have been placed in the parks for the season. We have begun ball diamond preparations so we can have them open for play as soon as Mother Nature allows. We have had the fields closed for most of the month to protect the turf from eager users as the ground thawed and rainy conditions continue. We have begun repairing snow plow damage throughout our section. Our seasonal hiring process is well under way. We have gone through our mowing routes several times to begin picking trash, performing spring clean-up, spreading mulch and pruning on our routes. Our Landscape Maintenance Workers have begun preparing for spring tree planting as we have received our first delivery of stock.

As we begin April, crews continue to work on their routes. Shelter sides will be coming down the soon. We will receive all of our trees that are intended for Spring planting by mid-April and work to secure nursery stock for fall plantings. Crews will be doing some weed abatement at the Goodman pool and shelters before they begin to get really busy. Reservations will begin mid month as the shelters are energized for the season. We anticipate we will need to bring in seasonal staff the first half of the month as the grass has greened up and is growing quickly. As we bring in seasonals, we will conduct seasonal orientations. We're looking forward to another great season!

### **Mall Maintenance:**

March brought the construction season alive with the beginning of the Capitol Square Construction Project, which started mid-March. Removal and relocation of benches, bike racks, and trash/recycle cans in the construction area kept the crew busy. Keeping with the construction theme, the crew began sanding light poles that were not finished from last year. Damaged and rusty bike racks were taken to Graber to be refurbished and installed in the upcoming months. The new Tennant smaller sweeper received some early use in the expansion area between tighter building areas. Daily sweeping, trash removal, and recycling has kicked into high gear, with new crew members learning the equipment. All landscaped beds have been mulched, and spring bulbs have started to push through. The winter décor has been removed, including the snowflake lights and winter boughs, and the seasonal banners have been switched from winter to spring. The St. Patricks day event on the concourse was also a success with decent weather and good attendance.

Looking toward April, the Farmer's Market returns, which will be a challenge with the Capitol Square construction issues. We intend to continue our turf management program as we have done in recent years wherever we are able, however we anticipate the construction project will keep us from completing the work on the northern half of the Square for this year. Our sidewalk washing program will also begin as soon as the weather allows. All winter shifts have come to an end for the crew, and we will be starting an early trash schedule in April to help share the needs of the garbage truck with Central Parks.

### **WEST PARKS & FOREST HILL CEMETERY – LAURA BAUER, SUPERVISOR**

#### **Forest Hill Cemetery:**

Things are beginning to look spring-like at Forest Hill. Holiday decorations have been cleared away, the grass is greening up, and spring flower bulbs are poking up around lots of headstones. The flower beds at the office, the mausoleum, and within the cemetery are being cleaned up, again with the much-appreciated help of the Landscape Maintenance Workers.

It feels like the calm before the storm – very soon the grass will be growing faster than we can mow it, the graves closed over the winter will need sod, and we'll see the inevitable increase in spring cremains burials. Everything happens at once in the spring, and just as we're trying to get the cemetery in top shape for Memorial Day. We have started one seasonal already, we expect three more to arrive in the next few weeks, and yet we will still need assistance from General Parks in the weeks leading up to the holiday.

Facilities Maintenance will begin the process of turning on the water out in the cemetery after all the park shelters have been opened. The cemetery is last because there are inevitable leaks and breakages which are difficult to find and time-consuming to repair, and it's impossible to predict how long this will take. We always see a lot of pressure to have the water on before Mother's Day and crews do their best, but unfortunately this is not always feasible.

We have been seeing two neighborhood foxes in the cemetery this spring. We believe that they probably live in the woods between the maintenance barn and the Southwest Bike Path. We're always happy to see them, and staff has taken some very interesting photographs.

There were five full-size burials, three cremains burials, and no lot sales in March.

#### **Summit Maintenance**

We're watching the medians very closely. Typically we need to mow most medians a couple of times before we start mowing out in the parks, and we began to notice definite grass and weed growth during the last week of March. It looks like we may begin mowing the second week of April, though we hope that growth may be slowed by cool temperatures.

Before mowing starts, we're devoting time to spring cleanup projects in the parks, and to setting things up for the summer. Winter accumulations of leaves and debris are being blown off of stairways, tennis courts, and out of shelters. Fallen branches are being cleared away. We've also been setting out trash barrels in smaller parks, taking care to not set out more barrels than we have staff to service at this time of year.

We're also preparing to paint soccer fields and begin spring work on softball diamonds. We will be aerating and overseeding fields as soon as they dry out. We find that there is a great disparity in field conditions; some are dry enough to open, while others still have water squishing up beneath our feet.

West Parks acquired sixty new picnic tables this past year. We have completed staining and assembling the tables, and we're in the process of situating the new ones in our most-used shelters. We're certainly looking forward to having so many good-quality tables. We had to discard many older ones in the past few years – after many seasons the metal frames rust away and no amount of board replacement can save them. We hope that the galvanized frames that we've been ordering for the past fifteen years or so will last longer. Salvageable older tables are still being repaired and will be distributed to parks as we are able.

Very unfortunately, another large oak fell onto the Nakoma Park playground on the afternoon of April 2. Though there were parents and kids out playing, thankfully nobody was hurt. There was considerable damage to one of the play structures, but our new Playground Technician was at the scene early Monday morning and will order replacement parts immediately.

As we move into April, expect to see mowing crews begin work. At first, they will be joining forces to mow medians, but as more grass starts to grow, they will spread out to their respective routes and mow the parks as well. As always, we have a mix of new and returning seasonal employees. Returnees shoulder a lot of the mowing responsibilities at this time of year, as we work to get the new employees up to speed at this very busy time of year.

## OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS – ROBERTA SLADKY

### Visitor comment:

Karen Perkins of **Garden Visions Epimediums** was the Wisconsin Hard Plant Society speaker 3/16. She toured Olbrich Gardens with club officers and they reported the following: *"..was completely impressed by everything she saw. She couldn't believe the gardens were part of a city park and that Madison was willing to put the time/effort/money into such a lovely botanic garden. She lived that it was right in town. She asked many questions and made many positive comments on: sustainability, gravel gardens, plant material, accession tags, plant labels, volunteer participation, and the awesome Thai pavilion. She thought the Spring Show was wonderful and took lots of photos. She thought the gift shop was one of the nicest at any botanic garden she has visited (many – and she always checks out the gift shop). She said there were many interesting, unique items that she usually does not see in the gift shops. She spent 18 years as education director at a botanic garden in Massachusetts so was very interested in the signage around the garden and other aspects that the usual visitor might not spend much time studying....."*

### December 2015 Numbers

OBG Attendance (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants)	2016	2015	Previous 5 yrs avg
February 1 - 29	15,461	13,636	12,125
YTD February 29	26,135	24,638	
<b>Total Member Households (individuals*) December 31</b>	6,224 (9,648)	6,579 (10,575)	

*\*based on the number of membership cards issued*

OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories (unaudited)	YTD 2/29/2016	YTD 2/28/2015
Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD	\$8,708	\$9,562
Room Rentals YTD*	\$8,889	\$14,531
Catering Percentage Revenue YTD**	\$1,234	\$3,317
<b>TOTAL YTD</b>	<b>\$18,831</b>	<b>\$27,410</b>

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

**April 2016 Public Events at Olbrich Botanical Gardens** call **608-246-4550** for more information

**Bolz Conservatory Exhibit – Light Gaps**, daily through July 10

Saturday, 4/2, **Pansy Sale**, 10 am – 4 pm or while supplies last

Saturday, 4/9, **WI Gourd Festival** by the WI Gourd Society, 9 am – 5 pm

Sunday, 4/10, **Book Club Discussion: The Signature of All Things** by Elizabeth Gilbert, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

**Education – April 2016** classes and programs 608/246-4550 for information/registration or visit

<http://www.olbrich.org/education/classes.cfm>

### Wellness at the Gardens

**Yoga**, Mondays 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm – drop-in

**Tai Chi Meditation**, Mondays, Mar 28 – May 16, 6 – 7 pm

**Garden Herbs that Promote Health & Vitality**, Wed, Apr 13, 6:30 – 8 pm

**Wild Food & Wild Medicine: Hands-on, Interactive, and Fun!**, Sat, 4/30, 10 am – 4 pm

## Classes & Workshops for Adults

**Scent & Scentability: Prized Plants for Fragrance** Thu, 4/7, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Do-It-Yourself Photovoltaics**, Sun, 4/10, 9 am – 2 pm

**You CAN Draw!** Sun, 4/10, 10 am – 4 pm

**Controlling Weeds & Invasive Plants**, Tues, 4/12, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Wrapped Journal Workshop**, Tues, 4/12, 6:30 – 8:30

**Glorious Groundcovers**, Thu, 4/14, 6:30 – 8 pm

**Selecting & Growing Tropical Orchids**, Sat, 4/16, 1:30 – 3:30

**Creating Great Gardens with Grasses & Sedges**, Tues, 4/19, 6:30 – 8 pm

**Mandala Workshop**, Tues, /19, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Native Plants for Any Garden**, Thu, 4/21, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Made in the Shade: Top Plants to Conquer Shady Conditions**, Sun, 4/24, 1 – 2:30 pm

**Wet-felted Clutch Purse**, Sun, 4/24, 1 – 5 pm

**Hold 'n Fold Art Journal**, Tues, 4/16, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Growing & Cooking with Herbs**, Thu, 4/28, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

## Learn & Play Together

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

**Colors in the Rainforest**, Tue, 4/5, 10 – 11 am

**Toddler Story & Stroll: Dianna Hutts Aston Books**

**A Rock is Lively**, Fri, 4/8, 10 – 11 am

**An Egg is Quiet**, Fri, 4/15, 10 – 11 am

**A Seed is Sleepy**, Fri, 4/22, 10 – 11 am

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

**What is an Herb?** Fri, 4/1, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

## Explorer School Programs

*Explorer School Programs* for K-5 grades offered during the school year. Participating school groups benefit from engaging, hands-on learning experiences that support the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for science and supplement classroom curricula. Botany Explorer sessions are offered April 19 – May 26, 2016 and introduce students to the basic structure of plants and the role and function of seeds, stems, leaves, and flowers. (K-3 grades)

## FORESTRY – MARLA EDDY

Forestry Section	Total Trees	Total Hours
Cycle Pruning	104	85.5
Pruned by Request	291	308
Small Tree Pruning Cycle	1,194	445
Tree Removal	45	168
Ash Preemptive Removals	459	1,537
Storm Work/Hangers		160

Both work units were able to work on small tree cycle pruning. East was able to complete cycle pruning in tree district 6. West unit did not complete any district cycle pruning. Also east unit continued ash preemptive removals which included preemptive removals for upcoming sidewalk repair in alder districts 2 and 4.

Forestry specialists have been following up ash replacement inspections as well as preparing for spring planting. For the upcoming engineering reconstruction season they assisted design engineers on reconstruction projects to avoid construction damage to street trees. The Sidewalk repair program begins mid-April and forestry specialists need to inspect sites where sidewalk was heaved by street trees. Private developments have come in at a steady pace which forestry specialist reviews the proposed plan as it relates to street trees.

## **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – JANET SCHMIDT**

### **Bowman Field Baseball Backstop Netting Poles – South Side**

The four backstop netting poles at the Bowman baseball field require replacement. Strand Associates has been hired to design and prepare bid documents for the replacement poles. The project was released for bidding on January 29, with bids due February 19. Joe Daniels Construction was the low bidder \$119,460.00. This is 26% higher than the project budget and the bid was declined. The project will be redesigned and bid in an effort to deliver a project within the current funding.

### **Forest Hill Cemetery – Near West Side**

Cemetery staff and consultants are working to come up with a long range plan 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. Staff is also working on a policy paper to be presented to the Landmarks Commission for approval regarding the tree replacement procedures at the cemetery. Improvements for the irrigation and storm sewer and drainage are tentatively scheduled for 2017.

### **Central Park – Near East Side**

The Central Park Phase 1B construction is substantially complete. The work includes a new entry plaza adjacent to the recently completed skatepark and a pedestrian railroad crossing near the E. Wilson Street intersection with Few Street. The skatepark plaza, sidewalk crossings and pervious sidewalk installation on Wilson Street are done. The remaining work includes bollard installations at the Few Street Railroad Crossing.

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

Parks staff worked with Engineering staff to modify the required stormwater raingarden to allow for a feature which is more organic in form while still meeting rainwater detention requirements. Work is anticipated to start again in late April, weather permitting.

### **Lake Edge Park Shelter – East Side**

Staff is working with Facilities Management on the construction of the new Lake Edge Park Shelter. As of the end of February, all stone masonry and window framing is completed and all mechanical, electrical and plumbing equipment is installed. The contract is on schedule to be completed May 20, 2016.

### **Garver Feed Mill – East Side**

The rezoning and CSM for the project was approved by the Council on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Conversion paperwork was submitted to the DNR and has been approved. Negotiations with the Baum Development team continue. The Baum team is expected to submit revised plans in April of 2016. Staff will continue to work with the development team to resolve issues.

### **Tenney Park Shoreline – Near East Side**

Shoreline reconstruction and reconstruction of the bike path is complete. Landscaping along the shoreline through a separate Public Works Contract will begin in 2016 in April. This project is managed by City Engineering in partnership with Parks staff. The Parks Division will host a site walkthrough with members of the community to view the proposed plantings and restoration in early April.

### **Brittingham Park Playgrounds – Isthmus/Central**

Parks issued a press release at the end of February announcing that the Department of Civil Rights and the Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiatives Team (RESJI Team) equity analysis had been used to make a conscious decision for the future of the three playgrounds at the park. The release stated that a fully accessible playground will be built at the park shelter location, that the playground equipment will be replaced at the area adjacent to the community garden space and that a nature-based playground, the first within the Madison Parks system, will be installed near Brittingham Beach. Staff anticipates a public input process to select the playground equipment and nature-based features to begin in fall 2016.

### **Allied Drive Improvements – South Side**

Staff is working with the Allied Drive NRT (Neighborhood Resource Team) on the proposed park improvements in the neighborhood as approved in the 2015 Capital Budget. At their March meeting the CDA board approved the creation of a park on two of their lots in the Allied Drive neighborhood. The park design consists of a full basketball court, an asphalt path and an open play area that will also serve as a youth soccer field. A survey has been completed and an appraisal to value the property has been received and is under review. Design development is 75% complete. Staff continues to work with CDA on the land transfer and will be starting the Master Planning process in early spring.

### **Demetral Park Path Improvements – East Side**

Staff is working with City Engineering on park and bike path improvements in the Demetral Park/Packers Avenue area. A public input meeting was held on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Engineering is working on plans and specifications and construction is anticipated to start in spring of 2016.

### **Playground Workshops – City Wide**

Staff held three playground workshops that focused on several park playgrounds to provide the opportunity for neighborhoods to learn and share ideas with each other. These projects are part of the 2016 Capital Budget Submission. The first playground workshop was held on October 14<sup>th</sup> and addressed playground replacement projects at Aldo Leopold Park, Rimrock Park, Midland Park, and Raymond Ridge Park. The second playground workshop was held October 28<sup>th</sup> and addressed playground replacement projects at Kingston – Onyx Park, Honeysuckle Park, Sycamore Park, and Waunona Park. The third playground workshop was held on November 5<sup>th</sup> and addressed playground replacement projects at Lerdahl Park, Berkley Park, Westchester Gardens Park and Wheeler Heights Park. Staff also issued a request for proposals for playground designs from playground manufacturers for 2016 playground improvements. The City selected several manufacturers' designs including nature-based themed designs to present to neighborhoods as part of the 2016 playground design public input process.

### **Aldo Leopold Park Playground – South Side**

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2016 (Group 1 Playground Contract). Bids for the Group 1 Playground Contract were opened on March 4, 2016 and awarded to the low bidder Madison Commercial Landscapes for \$168,497.60.

### **Berkley Park Playground – North Side**

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2016 (Group 3 Playground Contract). Plans and specs are anticipated to be advertised to bid on April 15.

### **Cardinal Glenn Park Playground – Far West Side**

Staff held a public input meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss master plan improvements to the park. Improvements include a paved walking path, sun shelter, tree plantings, and an additional playground equipment piece targeted to the 2-5 year age range and surfacing at the playground. The improvements at this park will be completed, in part, by Parks Construction staff (playground expansion, path excavation and gravel lay-down) and as part of other Public Works contracts (asphalt paving, sun shelter installation, landscaping.)

### **Honeysuckle Park Playground – East Side**

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on October 28<sup>th</sup>. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2016 (Group 2 Playground Contract). The contract bid opening is scheduled for April 8th.

### **Kingston-Onyx Park Playground – East Side**

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Design revisions based on attendee comments have been made. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2016 (Group 2 Playground Contract). The contract bid opening is scheduled for April 8th.

### **Lerdahl Park Playground – North Side**

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on December 10<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting the neighborhood requested revisions to the design concepts shown; a third option was sent to the neighborhood at the end of December for review. The neighborhood met at the end of January at its regular association meeting to select the final design. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2016 (Group 3 Playground Contract). Plans and specs are anticipated to be advertised to bid on April 15.

### **Midland Park Playground – Central/South Side**

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2016 (Group 1 Playground Contract). Bids for the Group 1 Playground Contract were opened on March 4, 2016 and awarded to the low bidder Madison Commercial Landscapes for \$168,497.60.

### **Sycamore Park Playground – East Side**

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Design revisions based on attendee comments regarding the proposed equipment is being made. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2016 (Group 2 Playground Contract). The contract bid opening is scheduled for April 8th.

### **Rimrock Park Playground – South Side**

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on November 12<sup>th</sup>. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2016 (Group 1 Playground Contract). Bids for the Group 1 Playground Contract were opened on March 4, 2016 and awarded to the low bidder Madison Commercial Landscapes for \$168,497.60.

### **Raymond Ridge Park Playground – West Side**

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2016 (Group 1 Playground Contract). Bids for the Group 1 Playground Contract were opened on March 4, 2016 and awarded to the low bidder Madison Commercial Landscapes for \$168,497.60.

### **Waunona Park Playground – South Side**

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on December 8<sup>th</sup>. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2016 (Group 1 Playground Contract). Bids for the Group 1 Playground Contract were opened on March 4, 2016 and awarded to the low bidder Madison Commercial Landscapes for \$168,497.60.

### **Westchester Gardens Park Playground – North East Side**

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Design revisions based on attendee comments regarding the proposed equipment have been made. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2016 (Group 2 Playground Contract). The contract bid opening is scheduled for April 8th.

### **Wheeler Heights Park Playground – North Side**

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on December 17<sup>th</sup>; however, there were no attendees present for this session. At the request of the Alder, Parks staff held another meeting, on January 25<sup>th</sup> which was well-attended. The neighborhood asked for a minor revision to one of the two concepts shown which Parks staff will share with them via email for final voting purposes. A final decision on the equipment was made in early February. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2016 (Group 3 Playground Contract). Plans and specs are anticipated to be advertised to bid on April 15.

### **Esther Beach Park Improvements – South Side**

The design has begun for improvements identified in the Esther Beach Park Master Plan including a new restroom building, swings, path system, storm water improvements and improvements to the existing parking lot. Staff held a public input on the design on December 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the design. Staff submitted a conditional use application on February 3<sup>rd</sup> with which was approved by the Plan Commission on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Construction of the restroom building is anticipated in 2016. Final site improvements are anticipated spring/summer of 2017.

### **Penn Park Shelter Replacement – South Side**

A second public input meeting for the Penn Park shelter replacement was held on February 25th. Approximately 15 area representatives attended the meeting. Topics included schematic shelter options, preliminary cost estimates and feasibility studies of other potential site amenities. A third public meeting is tentatively scheduled for late April. Design development is anticipated to occur over the next 5-6 months, with project going out to bid in late 2016. Construction will begin in the spring of 2017 with project completion in the early fall.

### **2016 Garner Park Tennis to Pickleball-Court Conversion – West Side**

Staff held a public input meeting on February 22nd with the neighborhood to describe the proposal to convert the existing two-court tennis at Garner Park to six pickleball courts. Staff is also working with the pickleball interest group to meet a \$20,000 match for the project. The project will go to the Board of Public Works for approval of plans and specifications and to advertise in early April. Following notification that the group is approaching its fundraising goal, the project is anticipated to be bid in late April or early May.

### **2016 Tennis and Basketball Court Improvements – City Wide**

Plans and specifications were advertised on January 8, 2016 and were opened on January 22, 2016. The contract was awarded to low bidder Poblocki Paving for the bid amount of \$44,870.18. Construction is anticipated to begin early May, weather permitting.

### **2016 Paving Contract – City Wide**

Staff is developing the plans and specifications for the 2016 Paving Contract which includes construction of paths at Cardinal Glenn Park, reconstruction of basketball courts at Rimrock Park, Arbor Hills Park and Aldo Leopold Park, installation of an asphalt path at Village Park and pulverize and repaving the path at Westmorland Park. Plans and specifications were approved by the Board of Public Works on March 16<sup>th</sup> and will be advertised to bid on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **2016 Sun Shelters Request for Bids and Contract – City Wide**

The bid opening held on April 1<sup>st</sup> for the installation of five open-sided sun shelters at Cardinal Glenn, Junction Ridge, Owl Creek, Sauk Heights and Worthington Parks resulted in a single bid-only and was not opened at the decision of City Engineering. The project will be rebid with a special opening on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Work is scheduled to begin in late May.

### **2016 Fall Parks Division and Water Utility Landscaping Contract – City Wide**

The bid for this contract was opened on March 25<sup>th</sup> and is anticipated to be awarded to Greener Valley Landscaping, Inc. of Janesville, Wisconsin who submitted the lowest proposal at \$86,230.00.

### **2016 Parks Division Rain Garden Management Contract – City Wide**

The bid for this contract was opened on March 4<sup>th</sup> and is anticipated to be awarded to Tall Grass Restoration, Inc. of Schaumburg, Illinois who submitted the lowest proposal at \$31,005.56 for the planting and maintenance of storm water detention features at Central, Goodman and Olin Parks.

### **2016 Dog Park Improvements – City Wide**

Staff is developing plans and specifications for entrance improvements at Quann dog park. Staff met with the Dog Park User Group on September 21, 2015. Staff has submitted the required Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Development at Historic Fill Site or Licensed Landfill Exemption Application for approval for the proposed entrance improvements. Plans will be advertised to bid once the City of Madison has received permission from the DNR to proceed.

### **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 will begin in mid-May 2016.

### **Cherokee Park canoe/kayak launch – North Side**

The neighborhood continues to review and debate options for the location and type of canoe/kayak storage racks at the park. City staff will move forward with the project as originally described if the neighborhood is unable to reach a decision upon with a deadline of May.

### **Quarry Park Trails Usage Planning – South Side**

Parks staff have continued to meet with a group of volunteers from the neighborhood input meeting to further develop a trails usage plan for the park that will serve to minimize conflicts between mountain biking/bicycle use and pedestrian/dog-walking. A final on-site session of this working group was held at the end of March and the follow-up meeting with the neighborhood to share the draft trail map for review and approval is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sugar Maple Park Master Planning – Far West Side**

The neighborhood recently completed an email voting process to select the equipment to be installed at the park in summer of 2016. The developer will receive credit for the park construction that will offset the park development fees for the plat. Staff continues to coordinate with the Developer on this project. Work is anticipated to begin in late April.

### **Waldorf Park Master Planning – West Side**

Staff continues to work with City Engineering to determine grading and stormwater drainage options for the site and work out the overall project scope and feasibility. Rough grading and drainage improvements are anticipated to occur in late 2016 with construction of park improvements in 2017. Following a final determination of the site drainage option that will be used, a follow-up meeting will be held with the neighborhood in early 2016 to discuss the playground equipment options.

**Worthington Park Shelter Replacement – East Side**

A public input meeting was held on December 17<sup>th</sup> for this shelter replacement project. Plans and specifications for the shelter construction are anticipated to be advertised in May. The project will include replacement of the existing shelter and an extension of the existing asphalt path for shelter access.

**Other Projects**

- Staff is working with Engineering to develop plans for installation of a sidewalk along Drake Street at Vilas Park.
- Staff is working with Engineering to implement path improvements at Demetral Park.
- Staff is working with a consultant at Tenney Park Shelter to come up with solutions to acoustic concerns inside the shelter. The consultants have been reviewed by City Facilities Management and staff continues to explore options. Improvements are scheduled for 2017.
- Staff participated in Neighborhood Resource Teams and/or Neighborhood Development Plans for Owls Creek, Arbor Hills/Leopold, Allied Drive, Emerson East – Eken Park – Yahara Neighborhood Plan, Worthington and University/Hill Farms.
- Staff is developing a GIS-based mapping database to inventory facilities within parks including memorial plaques, benches, trees, etc.
- The City has acquired the property at 2049 Baird Street for the expansion of Penn Park. Demolition of the existing single family home is anticipated in April. Staff is working on the demolition permit.
- Staff is working on developing walking routes that incorporate paths through park properties, bike trails and sidewalks to create a series of park-oriented walking loops to be mapped via MapMyWalk (or other similar site) and serve as a means to promote Madison’s walkability.
- Staff is working with the Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee on drafting policies related to siting of dog parks and dogs in parks.
- Staff is working on outlining steps for the Park and Open Space Plan. Plan revisions will occur in 2017.
- Parks Staff is working with Engineering staff to cite locations within park properties that may utilize photo voltaic (solar) equipment to help reduce energy costs. Locations being reviewed include Warner Park and Yahara Hills Golf Course.
- Parks Staff will be working with Engineering on the Warner Park Lagoon Planning Grant. The first public input meeting will be held in late February or early March.
- Gates of Heaven flooring replacement is scheduled for late 2016. 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.

**Projects Completed in 2016**

- Yahara Hills Clubhouse Improvements – South East Side
- Parks Project website is complete and up and running. Please visit our site at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/projects> or <http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects>

**RANGER REPORT – JOSH SCHMITT**

**2015 Parks Ranger calls for service**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	.	Year to date
Animal Complaint	6	7	6	8	25	36	34	50	36	28	21	25		282
Assist Citizen				7	20	18	37	17	18	14	7	4		142
Assist Fire/ Police				2	5	5	21	6	6	3	5	1		54
Check Person				13	49	26	47	40	21	25	13	7		241
Check Area	29	26	41	57	169	212	186	370	366	279	152	143		2030
Behavioral Ban	0	0	4	6	5	8	8	10	6	0	2	0		49
Damage to property	3	0	2	10	15	14	6	12	10	5	9	6		92
Drug Investigation	0	1	1	3		3	3	3	3	7	2	0		26

Graffiti complaint	4	2	7	5	6	7	2	12	7	6	4	1		63
Intoxicated Person	0	1	5	3	1	0	4	3	0	0	2			19
Information	7	4	5	28	73	103	126	198	126	107	76	82		935
Liquor Law Violation				5	10	16	9	25	17	10	6	1		99
No permanent Address issue	4	3	3					17	17	0	0			44
Noise complaint				5	3	3	4	12	7	0	1	3		38
Parking Complaint	9	9	6	15	43	42	45	44	32	23	6	5		279
Phone Call	0	0	0	6	21	10	2	4	6	4	0	0		53
Trespass	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	8	9	0	1	0		24
Total reports	62	53	80	174	446	503	538	831	687	511	307	278		3992

### 2014 Parks Ranger calls for service

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	.	Year to date
Alcohol Related issues	5	3	3	8	24	18	22	26	19	3	0	0		131
Behavioral Ban	0	1	0	3	12	14	2	3	6	7	0	0		48
Check Area	32	21	25	41	105	55	61	87	59	29	20	18		553
Damage to property	2	2	0	12	12	14	9	10	4	0	2	1		68
Dog violation	6	4	24	100	62	38	30	18	27	17	5	6		337
Drugs	0	1	0	4	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	0		12
Graffiti	2	1	1	6	3	5	7	9	14	8	3	3		62
No permanent Address issue	7	5	2	19	28	15	23	12	5	3	2	5		126
Incident	2	5	4	3	9	2	5	6	6	0	0	0		42
Maintenance needed	0	0	0	26	31	23	23	20	11	9	26	2		171
Misc	1	1	0	2	2	37	5	9	9	8	0	4		78
Not open/closed	8	6	5	17	27	26	27	22	22	7	1	1		169
Parking issue	12	2	6	26	54	24	34	26	22	6	0	10		222
Sport without reservation	0	0	8	18	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	0		32
Total reports	77	52	78	285	373	274	248	250	207	98	59	50		2051

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#### WARNER PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER – JACOB TISUE

- Warner Family Fun Nights - WPCRC is closing in on our 2<sup>nd</sup> full school year of hosting Family Fun Nights. They have become a staple of the Northside and will continue next year starting in September. Upcoming Dates include:
  - Friday, April 8
  - Friday, May 13
  - Friday, June 10
- SpringFest Art and Craft Fair – hosted on April 2, 2016
  - We had over 80 vendors (over \$4400 revenue)
  - We had over 700 shoppers
  - Art and Craft Fairs are being analyzed to see how another similar show could be added as a possible additional revenue stream.
- WPCRC has a new Facebook page as of March 2016.
  - Find us by searching; Warner Park Community Recreation Center
- Community Outreach – WPCRC will be attending a variety of community events to better serve families and to reach out to prospective members and community agencies. At these events we will have a Madison Parks info booth, prizes, signup sheets, and information about WPCRC. A few of the upcoming events we will be set up at:
  - Sherman Middle School Family Night – March 31
  - Mendota School Family Carnival – April 19
  - Mendota PTO Rummage Sale – May 14