

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – JUNE, 2012

EAST PARKS – CRAIG KLINKE, SUPERVISOR

College students are done with school for the year and, subsequently, have returned to work. We now have 25 hourly employees working for us. As always, they are a welcome addition to our work force and will allow us to start getting caught up on our mowing responsibilities. The following are some of the other activities that we have been and/or will be working on:

Athletics

- All soccer fields are installed and being maintained
- Repairing fences at Olbrich
- Prepping Olbrich, Warner, and Demetral fields for *MSCR* and schools softball/baseball programs
- Applying *Round Up* to control weeds at diamonds
- Performing field renovations at Warner and Demetral Parks

General

- Running the packer and cleaning bathrooms seven days a week
- Preparing shelters and the Gates of Heaven for reservations
- Pruning and picking up debris that was created from storms
- Installed 30 recycling carts for our recycling program that runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day
- Mowing, string trimming, pruning, and mulching to get the parks to look the best that they can

WEST PARKS – LISA LASCHINGER, SUPERVISOR

May has passed by very quickly. Reservations and Athletics have picked up significantly, and will continue to do so. Our recycling containers are out and we will be emptying them weekly until Labor Day. In addition, by mid month West Parks should be at full staffing levels.

All hands were on deck to prepare Goodman Park for the summer, as staff from both Summit and Goodman worked together to get the park and the pool in great shape. Staff worked hard to weed and mulch the planting beds, rake the sand box and volleyball court, prune trees and shrubs, power wash the pool, and clean-up the parking lot. Their efforts paid off and the pool looks great.

In early June, staff will work together again to get Marshall Park in prime shape for all of its visitors. We will also be sprucing up Garner Park prior to *Opera in the Park*. We are all looking forward to an exciting summer.

CONSERVATION – RUSS HEFTY

We completed late spring burns at Owen and Prairie Ridge Parks to help suppress woody and exotic plant growth. A late burn damages the targeted plants, while not harming the native prairie plants. Prairie plants adapt remarkably to fire, with blooming plants re-flowering within four weeks following the burn. At Prairie Ridge, the fire also helped to prepare a seed bed by burning up the woody slash created by Forestry mowing that was done last fall. After the burn, a mix of native prairie and oak savanna species were hand sown into those areas. Native seed mixes were also sown into oak savanna restoration sites at North Cherokee and Turville Point Conservation Parks.

The conservation staff applied a foliar application of herbicide to treat woody plant re-sprouts in areas that Forestry mowed at Owen and North Cherokee. The mowing process does not eliminate woody exotics like buckthorn and honeysuckle. It is a very economical tool to clear large areas dominated by these exotic shrubs by turning them into wood chips. The alternative is to hand cut them with chainsaws which leaves a large amount of down brush, making it difficult to get into the site to perform follow up maintenance, both of which are extremely labor intensive.

Crown vetch, Japanese knotweed, garlic mustard, and dame's rocket are other exotics that we target for control this time of year. We use cultural controls (chiefly hand pulling) when plant populations are small enough to make it a viable strategy. The *Operation Fresh Start*, (OFS) crew is essential in our efforts to control garlic mustard and dame's rocket in our conservation parks. OFS also assisted with aspen control in the sand prairie in Knollwood by removing the outer bark by hand girdling.

Operation Fresh Start began working on the large project of removing 600 feet of wooden boardwalk at North Cherokee. They will replace it with an aluminum boardwalk which will be handicap accessible and virtually maintenance free.

On May 16, staff led eight people on a public walking tour of Sandburg Woods.

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

Cooperation is the word of the month at Mall/Concourse. Whether between city agencies, with private contractors, or between sections of the Parks Division itself, cooperation is really what allows things to get done downtown. We're grateful for all our partners, both public and private.

May is the month when downtown activities seem to explode – after a quiet winter and early spring, suddenly we have big events every weekend. In addition to the events held wholly in the downtown area, we also have many runs and walks which begin around the Square. This often entails street closures, bus detours, delivery of equipment, and Police Department staffing. It is truly a City-wide effort to ensure that the events run efficiently. Unfortunately, again this year we have the challenge of construction on the Capitol Loop, but temporary solutions are constantly being worked out. We do look forward to the new and improved street surface.

Ride the Drive was held the first Sunday in June. This was, as always, a great example of coordination and cooperation. Dane County even gets involved with this event, as they loan us their *Showmobile*.

Much of our summertime focus is on the care and oversight of plants. The first flowers of spring - the pansies in the planter tubs - are still doing well. Their watering is another cooperative effort with little help from the rain this spring, and they've seen very little vandalism compared to past years. The pansies will be replaced by summer annuals in late June. They were planted by Olbrich Staff, tended by Parks interns, and watered by contractors and Mall/Concourse staff. Unfortunately, there will be no hanging flower baskets this summer, as the funding for this addition has run out.

Also doing well are the new ornamental plantings in the State Street and Capitol Square beds. We were afraid that they would be promptly trampled, but so far people seem to be respecting the plants. Thanks to Jeff Epping for planning, ordering, and laying out these plants. They were then planted by Doug Duran of *Lone Oak Enterprises*. Mall/Concourse and Facilities Maintenance programs and maintains the irrigation system, and Doug continues to be otherwise responsible for the care of these plants.

We look forward to many events in the remainder of June, including the continuing *Farmer's Market*, *Safety Saturday*, the patriotic *Flag Day* ceremony and performance of the *Capitol City Band*, and the first installment of *Concerts on the Square*.

FOREST HILL CEMETERY – KEVIN SORENSEN

Once again we had beautiful weather for the Memorial Day festivities. The cemetery looked great for the thousands of visitors to Forest Hill, with many compliments received. Memorial Day starts with ceremonies at Soldier's Rest, Union Rest, and then Confederate Rest. It is always rewarding to have the grounds looking in top form as the crowds gather to honor veterans of US military services. Many of the visiting family members planted flowers at their family plots.

Thanks goes out to the many volunteers that place flags on the graves of the veterans buried at Forest Hill. Volunteers also weeded and mulched around the cemetery office and entrance area, enhancing the look as people first arrive, giving a great first impression. Thanks also goes out to the extra seasonal help provided by East and West Maintenance that did much of the string trimming. Of course, the cemetery crew deserves much of the credit for the great appearance of the grounds. This is really a team effort and is the culmination of many months of effort.

May staffing levels are at 6.5 permanent employees and three seasonal employees. May burial numbers, lot sales and total monthly revenue are as follows:

Interments: 15 Mausoleum Entombments: 1 Lot Sales: 9 Total Revenue: \$30,250.00

OLBRICH GARDENS – ROBERTA SLADKY

People and Gardens

June is usually considered the first month of summer, but the unusually warm spring we had has pushed Olbrich Gardens' bloom cycle, including the Rose Garden several weeks ahead of the "normal" time. New at the Gardens this summer is an exhibition of Robert Anderson's steel sculptures – some of them are expandable! This installation is ongoing, (even as I'm writing this) and when complete, will be a spectacular addition to the summer garden. Robert Anderson is a Wisconsin sculptor from the Door County area. The kaleidoscope was sculpted by Robert Anderson.

Rhapsody in Bloom – Olbrich’s garden gala takes place on June 16. The gardens are lovely, the food and entertainment are great; and the guests enjoy a wonderful evening with both live and silent auctions.

Visitor comments from the past month (two with a common theme from New Englanders):

5/15/2012 *World class! Right up there with anything we visited in England.* Virginia G., Barrington, RI
 5/28/2012 *What a beautiful garden. What a lot of thought & effort. If I lived here, I'd be at the gardens a lot. You've combined nature and shaping so well. I've been at lovely English gardens; I've been at gardens all over the world. This is my favorite!* John C., Leverett, MA

Numbers

OBG Attendance (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants)	2012	2011
April 1 – 30	21,453	16,094
YTD April 30	62,890	50,140
Total Member Households (individuals*) Apr 30	6,319 (9,609)	5,975 (8,961)

**based on the number of membership cards issued*

OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories	YTD 4/30/2012	YTD 4/30/2011
Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD	\$18,862	\$9,056
Room Rentals YTD*	\$46,974	\$43,516
Catering Percentage Revenue YTD**	\$3,337	\$3,809

**accrued at time of booking – up to 21 months before the rental date*

*** accrued on a monthly basis following each catered rental*

Website Visits	Apr 2012	Apr 2011
Total Visits	16,146	13,779

Events

- Evjue Commons Art Exhibit: Mark Roberts & Denise Rouleau – The Last Polaroid, through July 1, Sundays, 11 am – 5 pm,
- Bolz Conservatory Exhibit: Light Gaps, through July 15
- Guided Garden Strolls: free tours on Sundays June 3 – September 30 @ 1:30 pm and 3 pm
- Rhapsody in Bloom, Sat, June 16, 5 – 10 pm
- Summer Concerts begin Tue, June 26 and run through Tue, July 31, 7 – 8 pm

Education

Wellness at the Gardens

- Yoga, Mondays 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm and Thursdays, 7:30 – 8:45 am (drop in OK)
- Yoga Flow, Wednesdays, Jun 6 – Aug 29, 5:30 – 6:30 pm
- Moving Meditation, Mondays, Jun 11 – Aug 27, 6 – 7:30 pm
- Natural Approaches to Hormonal Balance for Youthful Aging, Thursday, 6/28, 6:30 – 8 pm

Classes & Workshops for Adults

- A Short Course on Growing and Cooking With Mint, Monday, 6/4, 6:30 – 8 pm
- Your Lawn, Your Choice: Conventional, Organic or Somewhere in Between, 6/5, 6:30 – 8 pm
- Beyond the Basics: Culinary Herbs Not to Overlook, Thursday, 6/7, 6:30 – 8 pm
- Painting the Springtime Gardens in Soft Pastel, Sunday, 6/10, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- Create a Miniature Garden, Sunday, 6/10, 1:30 – 3 pm
- Do-It-Yourself Living Succulent Picture, Tuesday, 6/12. 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Classes & Workshops for Adults, continued

- Hostas and Friends, Thursday, 6/14, 6:30 – 8 pm;
 - Succulents – Life among the Rocks and Stones, Thursday, 6/21, 6:30 – 8 pm
 - Miniature Gardening: Little Landscapes and Pint-size Plants, Sunday, 6/24, 1:30–3:30 pm
 - Garden Design Walk: Thursday, 6/28, 6:30 – 8 pm

Learn & Play Together

- Twilight in the Gardens for ages 5 – 10 (children 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult) a series of three programs – register for one or all three
- The Secret Garden, Thursday, 6/21, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
- Little Sprouts Gardening: Once Upon a Time – Stories in the Garden (for ages 2 – 4 with adult) a series of six programs – sign up for one or all six
- Jack & the Bean Stalk, Thursday, Jun 28, 10 – 11 am

FORESTRY – MARLA EDDY

Forestry Section	Total Trees	Total Hours
Cycle Pruning	45	55.25
Pruned by Request	206	305
Small Tree Pruning Cycle	16	183.5
Tree Removal	177	561
Storm Work/Hangers		313
Planting		1,496
Unfilled Vacancies		352

For the first half of May, the Forestry Section continued the spring planting season. The Forestry Section will have planted over a total of 1,400 street trees. Significant planting projects on the east side include Williamson Street, Packers Avenue, and Northport Avenue. On the west side significant projects include Pleasant View Road, Silicon Prairie Parkway, and South Point Road.

After planting, the east forestry unit began working on request tree pruning and removals. The east forestry unit did not perform any cycle tree maintenance. The west forestry unit did get to spend a little bit of time on cycle tree maintenance, otherwise they pruned trees for some engineering projects.

We had our second spring windstorm starting on May 24 that kept staff busy through the Memorial Day weekend. Wind gusts were recorded at 55 mph. Forestry Section staff responded to over 100 tree emergency calls (broken and hanging, down limbs, and down trees).

Forestry specialists continued to work on engineering reconstruction and resurfacing projects, sidewalk inspections, work orders, assisting forepersons in resolving spring planting issues, and reviewing contract tree plantings for warranty replacement.

Forestry Section seasonal staff have begun the final push for completing the street tree inventory. We estimate about 20,000 street trees will need to be inventoried to complete the street tree inventory for this year. By the end of May 2, 685 street trees had been inventoried.

GOLF – RAY SHANE

May was another good month for the Madison area golfers. The weather continued to be above normal in temperatures and below normal in precipitation. Courses are in excellent shape and the last of our seasonal employees have started on our maintenance crew. Golf has a larger percentage of new employees than “normal”, so some additional time is necessary for training and teaching the various tasks and skills.

All of the golf leagues have started play and the High School events have come to an end. Yahara hosted the *WSGA Match Play* qualifier tournament in May and will be hosting the *Wisconsin PGA Players Ability Test* this month.

Normal maintenance at all four courses and with the full staffing, we should be able to start on those special areas such as mulching, trap work, clubhouse grounds, etc. The 5-ton A/C unit at the Yahara Clubhouse had to be replaced with a new unit.

GOLF GENERAL LEDGER COMPARISON				
GLENWAY	2012	2011	2010	2009
Range: 3/1-5/31				
Green Fees	\$ 55,747.00	\$ 38,848.00	\$ 56,116.00	\$ 53,730.00
League Play	\$ 17,988.00	\$ 14,974.00	\$ 16,611.00	\$ 15,350.00
15%Rentals	\$ 198.00	\$ 151.00	\$ 227.00	\$ 210.00
11% F & B	\$ 1,078.00	\$ 775.00	\$ 945.00	\$ 929.00
	\$ 75,011.00	\$ 54,748.00	\$ 73,899.00	\$ 70,219.00

MONONA	2012	2011	2010	2009
Range: 3/1-5/31				
Green Fees	\$ 70,521.00	\$ 48,214.00	\$ 69,771.00	\$ 69,717.00
League Play	\$ 32,284.00	\$ 23,658.00	\$ 27,441.00	\$ 30,123.00
15%Rentals	\$ 2,148.00	\$ 1,413.00	\$ 2,305.00	\$ 2,350.00
11% F & B	\$ 1,756.00	\$ 1,053.00	\$ 1,598.00	\$ 1,568.00
	\$ 106,709.00	\$ 74,338.00	\$ 101,115.00	\$ 103,758.00

ODANA HILLS	2012	2011	2010	2009
Range: 3/1-5/31				
Green Fees	\$ 127,393.00	\$ 96,952.00	\$ 115,188.00	\$ 125,187.00
League Play	\$ 20,266.00	\$ 16,660.00	\$ 19,300.00	\$ 17,931.00
15%Rentals	\$ 5,957.00	\$ 4,364.00	\$ 5,211.00	\$ 5,178.00
11% F & B	\$ 4,219.00	\$ 3,223.00	\$ 3,895.00	\$ 3,749.00
	\$ 157,835.00	\$ 121,199.00	\$ 143,594.00	\$ 152,045.00

YAHARA HILLS	2012	2011	2010	2009
Range: 3/1-5/31				
Green Fees	\$ 144,462.00	\$ 88,582.00	\$ 130,159.00	\$ 105,852.00
League Play	\$ 16,682.00	\$ 19,011.00	\$ 16,168.00	\$ 19,359.00
15%Rentals	\$ 9,202.00	\$ 5,758.00	\$ 7,134.00	\$ 5,527.00
11% F & B	\$ 4,723.00	\$ 3,456.00	\$ 3,998.00	\$ 3,145.00
	\$ 175,069.00	\$ 116,807.00	\$ 157,459.00	\$ 133,883.00

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – KAY RUTLEDGE

Warner Park Parking Lot

The last phase of the Warner Park Parking Lot construction was completed on May 22, with the exception for the punch list items. Phase 3 included bay 4 (in front of the park shelter), bay 1 (in front of the Mallards office) and bay 5 (new parking bays by the soccer fields).

Quann Tennis Courts

The reconstruction of six of the 12 tennis courts at Quann Park is complete; the color was finished May 11.

Tenney Park Parking Lot

As of May 22, the new parking lot at Tenney was complete except for punch list items.

Tennis Court Resurfacing – 2012

Tennis courts that will have crack repair and color resurfacing in 2012 are: Vilas, Northland Manor and Quann Parks. Northland Manor and Quann Parks are complete; and Vilas has about two days remaining before those courts are complete. All should be finished by the June 15 completion date. Staff is also working with USTA on striping a few of our tennis courts with blended lines to be used by MSCR to teach youth tennis, and working with the local Pickle ball leagues on striping four of our existing tennis courts with secondary lines for pickle ball league play.

Playgrounds, Paths and Basketball

Substantial Completion was issued on May 21. Working on a final change order to reflect as-built quantities and will move forward with closing out the contract. We will continue to monitor conditions of turf restoration that were completed earlier this spring and address as needed.

Cherokee Park Playground

Construction began in early May and progressed well. The neighborhood asked for some additional time to evaluate the latest information on the use of rubber play surface material for the playground before it was delivered. The neighborhood reviewed the research and studies provided by staff and reaffirmed their recommendation to use rubber play surface material for this playground. With that we gave the go-ahead for the rubber to be delivered and are expecting to wrap up this project ahead of schedule.

Tenney Park Maintenance Bridge

Reviewing preliminary designs and alignments with the consultant; coordinating with the City's Historic Planner, the State and the neighborhood regarding final design options. We met with the State Historical Society on May 22 to review the preliminary design for the bridge. Construction is tentatively scheduled for this summer/fall.

Forest Hill Cemetery Water Service

We are conducting a series of meetings with park maintenance staff to come up with a new design standards and requirements for replacing the antiquated watering system at Forest Hill. Also consulting with an irrigation specialist regarding how best to move forward with implementation of the plan given the constraints of the project. We are preparing a cost estimate to budget for system replacement.

Tenney Park Tennis Court Lighting Improvements

We are working with staff to come up with a design for the replacement of the existing tennis court lights at Tenney Park. The existing system is not very energy efficient and has 12 poles. The new system will be much more energy efficient, have less trespass light and will need only four poles. Plans and specs are 90% complete. The project goes to the Board of Public Works on June 6, Common Council on June 19, with the first ad date being June 29. Bids are due July 20.

Park Landscaping

The Public Works Contract for Park Landscaping with *Dan Larsen Landscape* has begun. The Contractor has been lining up deliveries and coordinating installations with Engineering's Hwy. 113 Landscaping Contract (same contractor for both contracts). *Dan Larsen Landscaping* has completed installation of trees at Door Creek Park, installation of planting islands at the new Warner Parking Lot, installation of plantings at Warner Park Lady Liberty Statue, and installation of trees at Thut, Sandstone and Monona Parks. *Wolfe Tree Service* was contracted to remove select invasives at Heritage Heights and Giddings Parks. This work has been completed, so Larsen can move forward with the under-planting work in their contract. Additional invasives removal is also moving forward at Warner Park dog exercise area.

Olive Jones Park

Contract award approvals were completed in early May, and the contract has been routed for signatures. The Pre-Construction meeting was held on May 25, and the contractor is fulfilling his permit and product materials orders to be prepared for the short construction window. The start date for on-site construction is June 13, with completion planned by Aug. 24.

Park and Open Space Plan

The Park and Open Space Plan was approved at the May 9 Park Commission and referred to the Common Council for final recommendation. The Common Council approved and adopted the Park and Open Space Plan as a supplement to the Comprehensive Plan at the May 15 Common Council Meeting.

Hudson Park

Staff is progressing with the design for the Hudson Park beach improvements and received an approved Chapter 30 permit from the Wisconsin DNR and Army Corp. Plans and specifications for bidding will go to the Board of Public Works for approval on June 6. Construction is scheduled for the fall.

Hoyt Park Improvements

Staff continues to move forward with improvements for Hoyt Park. Improvements to date include removing invasive trees, collaborating with the Friends of Hoyt Park for a volunteer native plant installation, development and advertisement for request for quotations for planting over 2000 native woodland perennials, and collection of soil borings and a geotechnical report to assist in determining the feasibility of increasing infiltration opportunities for the parking lot redevelopment. Staff is moving forward with the design of other improvements which include fixing the existing damaged stone steps, adding a railing to all stone step staircases, repairing the damaged stone wall near the entrance, restoring the drains at the overlook, and asphalt patching.

Door Creek Park

Staff is working on developing plans and completing permits for installation of a box culvert at Door Creek Park to accommodate a link in the cross-country ski trail. This crossing will allow users to access the ski trail from a trail head at the parking lot and will continue the City's efforts to create a ski trail system at Door Creek Park. A Chapter 30 permit was submitted to the Wisconsin DNR and Army Corp. on March 2; development of construction documents is underway.

Esther Beach Master Plan

Development of a draft master plan is underway so it can be discussed further with the neighborhood. Next meeting with the neighborhood tentatively scheduled for June 20.

Blackhawk Park

Development of plans to incorporate two additional playground components and resolve drainage issues, along with a cost estimate and schedule to complete the work, is under review. The neighborhood has provided their share of the funding to move forward with the project (\$15,000); construction will be completed later this year.

Highland Manor Open Space

Grant applications were submitted for the FEMA Grant to assist with the majority of funding needed to construct a "Safe Room" Shelter in the Highland Manor Open Space. City staff will continue to provide information as requested but final awards won't be announced until October 2012. We met with Engineering staff and Highland Manor Management staff to address drainage concerns and identify solutions for future development as a park site and the potential Shelter project

Churchill Heights Park

Developing materials to request bids for construction of an open park shelter at Churchill Heights Park. Coordinating potential start dates with *Operation Fresh Start* to assemble the shelter and Parks Construction to prepare the site.

Cypress Spray Park

We prepared materials to solicit price quotes to purchase the shade canopy for the spray park. Once a vendor and structure is secured, installation specifications to assemble, construct, and perform additional site work that may be required can proceed.

Westside Dog Park

The kick-off meeting for a west side dog park(s) was held on May 17. The meeting was attended by a small, enthusiastic group of near westside dog owners. The next meeting will be scheduled in June.

Central Park

The design of the Brearly Block and Great Lawn is underway. UDC approval of the restroom building was obtained in April, and 90% construction drawings are under review. We've received a preliminary decision from the OCR in favor of the Few Street crossing, awaiting final approval. Necessary ROW acquisitions for vision triangles and other easements needed for construction are being defined.

Olbrich Park Softball Diamonds

We completed the Olbrich Park softball diamonds #1 & #2 lighting project by re-installing netting above the backstops and removing the old scoreboard. At the request of MSCR, we will be moving the outfield fence back 25' on diamond #1 so the diamond can be used for slow pitch as well as fast pitch. This project will be started after the softball season.

Other Projects

- Madison Parks received the *Madison Trust for Historic Preservation* award on May 3 for their work on restoring Breese Stevens Field.
- Working with the City's Preservation Planner and neighborhoods on installation of landmark boulders.
- Coordinated improvements to the Warner Park *Lady Liberty Plaza* for restoration and dedication of the restored plaza and structure scheduled for August 12.
- Completed a DNR Stewardship Grant Application for the Merrill Springs Park acquisition.
- Participated in Neighborhood Resource Teams and/or Neighborhood Development Plans for Owls Creek, Arbor Hills/Leopold and Hoyt Parks.

WARNER PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER – BRAD WEISINGER

Admissions and Passes

	YTD 2010	YTD 2011	% Rev Budget	Change
Pass Plans	\$32,937.00	\$34,726.00	61%	5%
Admissions	\$15,082.00	\$13,115.00	37%	-13%

Facility Reservations

Calendar Year	April Rental Totals	No. Free	% Free	Rentals	Free Rentals YTD	% Free YTD	YTD Revenue	% Rev Budget
2011	144	49	34%	526	162	31%	\$25,796.75	
2012	89	49	55%	404	186	46%	\$29,906.26	59%

Calendar Year	YTD hrs	YTD hrly participations
2011	1087.85	65,456
2012	977.70	43,192

YTD 2012 Age Profile: 2012 Jan - Apr.

Preschool – Elementary	281
Middle and High School Activity	
Middle and High School Early Release	646
Middle School Socials	930
Youth Basketball Games	1140
Youth Basketball Practices	700
Structured Service	248
Neighborhood Center Nights	130
Total Youth	4075

YTD Income Compliance – 60%

Income levels are based on households with 1 – 8 family members.

