

SUPERINTENDENT'S SEPTEMBER 2019 REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary

With the approach of fall, staff continue to prepare for the change of season. As mentioned in the last report, a key part of the fall season within the City is the budget process; staff will be working with the Mayor's Office and the Common Council to develop the best possible budget for the park system given the resource constraints. The Mayor's Executive 2020 Capital Budget will be released on September 3rd and budget hearings are scheduled for September 9-10, 2019. The Mayor's Executive 2020 Operating Budget will be released in October. Parks is hopeful that the budget can address some of the needs of a growing system.

It has been a busy summer in the parks system. Attendance at programs, events, and organized activities has been high, with multiple events reaching historic peaks. Unfortunately, most of this data is anecdotal and is not easily comparable across venues or types of event/program. One of the goals underway as part of the Performance Excellence Initiative is to improve and establish metrics and methods for tracking these types of data points to better inform policy decisions in the future.

Future Commission Items

- IPM Taskforce – The IPM taskforce is working to extend its work throughout 2019 to better inform recommendations. Staff will present on the current status as a part of a land management update in November.
- Golf – The Common Council adopted a resolution (File #56004) to establish a Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks at its June 18, 2019 meeting. The Task Force will begin meeting in September and will focus on making recommendations on the multiple systematic issues related to golf.
- Dog Policy – The Long Range Planning Subcommittee continues work on reviewing the policy related to dogs in parks. LRP and staff have done substantial public engagement on this issue and are continuing to work on policy recommendations.
- Off-Leash Dog Parks – Staff is continuing to work on potential off-leash improvements. Staff continue to evaluate and work with Alders on locations in the priority area of Atwood/East Isthmus. This is a particularly challenging location and staff hopes to have additional concepts for discussion in the coming months.
- Performance Excellence Initiative – Staff is working on an informational presentation to share with the Commission on the City's Performance Excellence Initiative. This is anticipated to be ready for the Commission at the October meeting.
- Alliant Energy Center Master Plan / Destination District Plan – Parks staff is working with Planning staff to prepare a presentation to the Commission on the County's work and plans for the Alliant area. This is anticipated to occur later this year.

Section reports

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

- Construction: Progress continues on both the Learning Center and the production greenhouse. The greenhouse is scheduled to be completed October 7 with the plants being moved back on October 17. The Learning Center occupancy date is November 8.
- Programs: GLEAM: Art in a New Light opens to the public on August 28 and runs Wednesday through Saturday evenings through October 26. Olbrich Botanical Society received a \$30,000 Joint Effort Marketing (JEM) grant from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism to market GLEAM in the Milwaukee market. Kudos to Katy Plantenberg, PR & Marketing Manager and Jamie Kuehn, active volunteer for writing a successful grant! It takes a lot of staff and volunteers to 'run' GLEAM for two months (48 evenings). There are 308 volunteer shifts alone, which are already 70% filled.
- Education: Youth and Family Programs staff are getting ready for fall, Ecology Explorer, K – 5 classroom program, begins October 1.
- Maintenance: Maintenance is coordinating moves out of temporary storage space – former Ace hardware basement, private garage stall, etc, into the 'battleship' which is what staff have named the new storage pole shed located east of the Garver Feed Mill. Maintenance has been a huge help in locating and repairing electric lines used for GLEAM and in repairing 8 irrigation main breaks caused by construction.

Community Services

WPCRC:

- WPCRC hosted Teen Night each Friday this summer from July 5-August 23. Teens engaged in a series of focus groups and workshops, open gym, video games, live music, and a meal while hanging out with friends. Teen Night averaged 32 participants each event and concluded with a Back to School Supply Drive and sneaker giveaway.

Recreation Services:

- Sina Davis Movies in the Park Program has been very well attended with over 2,114 people participating so far. Some parks have had refreshments brought to the park by the NRT's or neighborhood groups. A big thank you to those folks adding to the movies in the Park. By the time the program ends in early September, we will have hosted 20 different movies in 15 different parks.

Park Rangers

- For the month of August we have been focusing on proactive alcohol patrols of those parks which prohibit alcohol. Rangers have also been working with Madison Police in an effort to address some behavioral issues in Reynolds park, where a Temporary Alcohol ban was put in place in late August.

Aquatics

- The Goodman Pool has seen a very good season and is beginning to wrap up for the year. Our last day of open swim was Labor Day September 2nd. It has been a great season and we are looking forward to reflecting on the hard work our team has put in.

Park and Street Use Events:

- The number of street use applications for the Street Use Staff Commission to review at our biweekly meetings, continues at a steady pace. All our efforts in Community Events are going toward assisting, accepting, reviewing and processing applications and issuing permits for events. Being that we're at the height of the event season, we are also getting reports and following up on a variety of issues that come up for events. In the "off

season” we’ll be looking at ways to encourage organizers to be better at complying with conditions that are established for each event.

Planning and Development

North Star Dog Park

- Staff will be advertising plans and specifications for construction of a new 2 acre dog park on the northeast side of Madison. The dog park was approved as part of the North Star Park Master Plan Amendment adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners in July, 2018. This project will include a driveway shared between Water Utility and Madison Parks property and a small off-street parking lot. The site is currently an open field with gentle topography with forbs and grasses, (both native and invasive) and no existing trees. The proposed dog park will remove the invasive species, plant new trees, and preserve a large portion of the existing rolling topography. This project is anticipated to be completed in summer of 2020 and be open in fall of 2020.

Wingra Creek Parkway:

- The resurfacing of the Wingra Creek Parkway has been bid and awarded to Raymond P. Cattell, Inc. for \$230,675.80 as part of a larger Park Paving contract. This project will address much needed repaving and drainage improvements at the site and includes new curb and gutter for the length of the project. Construction is expected to begin September 16th and be complete by November 1st.

Glacier Hill Park

- The contract to construct a new, open-sided sun shelter at Glacier Hill Park has been awarded to Madison Commercial Landscapes, Inc., for \$63,972. Work on the project is anticipated to start in late September and will be completed by November 30, 2019.

Northland Manor Park

- The contract to construct the new tennis courts (with pickleball striping) at Northland Manor Park has been awarded to Drax, Inc., who submitted the low bid of \$196,663.10. Work on the project is anticipated to start in late September, with substantial completion in October and fully completed by June 2020 (2020 work is limited to color coating the asphalt courts in spring when overnight temperatures are warm enough to do this work).

Elvehjem Park Master Plan

- The second public information meeting for Elvehjem Park master plan is scheduled to be held on September 6. Parks staff will present conceptual master plans to the neighborhood for input, after which a formal report will be prepared for presentation to the Board of Park Commissioners this fall.

Burr Jones Park – Site Improvements

- The construction contract for the Burr Jones Park improvements was awarded to R. G. Huston. Improvements to the park include a new parking lot, bio retention area, basketball court, bike path connection and new athletic field lighting system. The preconstruction meeting was held the week of August 19th with work starting shortly afterward. Project completion is schedule for spring of 2020. Parks staff worked with MUFA, the Madison Ultimate Frisbee Association, who are the primary user group for the fields, and reached an agreed that league play will not start until 2021. The delay provides a full season of growth for turf establishment resulting in a more resilient play surface over time.