

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – AUGUST ACTIVITIES, 2011

EAST PARKS – CRAIG KLINKE

Many of our seasonal employees will have left us by the end of August. It's been another great year working with these energetic students. Some of the projects that we performed this summer (when the grass wasn't growing) include, tree pruning, mulching, weeding, fence clearing, aerating and over seeding Breese Stevens, and diamond renovation.

The recycling program is ending for the season as well. I haven't run the full report yet; however, it looks as though the amount of material collected is less than last year. Some possible explanations for this are that we didn't have Tenney shelter up and running this summer, and the construction of the Warner parking lot.

Moving forward into September we are going to perform softball diamond renovations at Warner, aerating and over seeding at Orton Park and soccer fields, and continuing our regular mowing and trash runs. I want to recognize all of the work that our seasonal employees performed. We could not get through the summer without them.

WEST PARKS – KRISTIN MATHEWS, INTERIM PARKS SUPERVISOR

With the continuation of a very dry summer, the mowing crews focused on mulching and trimming trees in the West Park routes. We also started removing woody invasive species along the shorelines. The recycling program wrapped up with the Labor Day weekend and all of the containers will have been brought in by the time this report is printed.

Our athletic field crew wrapped up play on several fields and will start reconstruction projects. The welder has been working on the stair railings at the Olive Jones playground. The mower shop mechanics have started getting machines ready for the Fall/Winter season by installing cabs on the John Deere mowers. By the end of August, we lost 10 seasonal employees due to school.

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

Although August did feel like a reprieve after the very booked up July, it was still a busy month for Mall/Concourse Maintenance. We saw the last *Concert on the Square* for the year; then went right into the *Jazz at Five* concerts. There was a large block party on King Street, as well as various other smaller events.

MSNBC and the *Ed Show* returned to E. Washington and N. Pinckney in early August. This television and radio broadcast draws a huge following and has necessitated emergency street closures. It is our understanding that they have plans to return in December. At least after one experience, everyone knows more of what to anticipate.

The University is back in session along with the very noticeable increase in the student population. Upon viewing the UW fall sports schedule, we expect to spend additional time cleaning State Street on the mornings after the football games.

Staff has been very busy trying to keep up with the volume of recyclable material deposited into the recycling cans. They seem to fill up as soon as they are emptied, and it appears the problem could be due to trash contamination. Oddly, we've also noted that the "Recyclable Materials Only" stickers on the cans are disappearing. It's hard to imagine what purpose this theft serves, and the stickers are expensive to replace.

We continue to clean up the street ends to make them safer and more accessible to a wider range of users. We have also been power-washing the especially grungy areas of the sidewalk in response to property owner requests and our own observations. We will work on both of these projects outside of our normal maintenance operations.

We're expecting three major events in September: the *Taste of Madison*, the *Ironman Wisconsin Triathlon*, and *Ride the Drive*. All of these events bring thousands of people downtown, catering to different interest groups, and providing increased maintenance demands.

FOREST HILL CEMETERY – KEVIN SORENSEN

Since dry weather conditions have slowed down the grass growth, the Forest Hill staff has been able to keep up with mowing and trimming. We've been able to go through many of the sections straightening up and leveling old markers that have heaved over the years. We've also started grubbing stumps and backfilled/seeded holes created by grubbing. The seed will require some dedicated watering in order to germinate and take hold.

Forest Hill staffing levels are at 6.5 permanent employees and three seasonal employees. August burial number, lot sales and total monthly revenue are as follows:

Interments: 16 Mausoleum Entombments: 1 Lot Sales: 10 Total Revenue: \$25,148.00

OLBRICH GARDENS – ROBERTA SLADKY

People and Gardens

September brings the *Fall Quilt and Flower Show* to Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Olbrich's special events staff, horticulture staff and the *Thursday Quilting Friends* all collaborate to bring this celebration of needlework and the fall together.

Advance sale *Crackle* tickets are now available. We have 350 tickets and they are moving quickly. *Crackle* is a new fall event, scheduled for October 21 that features bonfires, carved jack-o-lanterns, and food and beverage in the Gardens.

The *Bolz Conservatory 20th Anniversary Committee* is in the final planning stages for a weekend of events celebrating everything tropical. Mark your calendars for November 11, 12, and 13, when many of the activities are scheduled.

Visitor comment from the past month:

6/7/11 "We visited last month – had a beautiful time and couldn't find *Allium angulosum* 'Summer Beauty' – did I get the name wrong?" Jay T., Pittsburgh, PA (Schumacher library responded with correct name – *Allium tanguticum* 'Summer Beauty')

Numbers

OBG Attendance (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants)	2011	2010
July 1 - 31	38,436	40,759
YTD July 31	140,268	153,677
Total Member Households (individuals*) July 31	6,064 (9,153)	5,703 (8,641)

*based on the number of membership cards issued

OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories	YTD 7/31/2011	7/31/2010
Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD	\$25,483	\$33,065
Room Rentals YTD*	\$71,673	\$83,373
Catering Percentage Revenue YTD**	\$9,614	\$17,135

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

** accrued on a monthly basis following each catered rental

Website Visits July 2011	
Total Visits	23,507
Unique Visitors	18,452
New Visits	67%

Events

- Reflections & Interpretations: through Sept 24, Sundays, 11 am – 5 pm, Evjue Commons. Barbara Rewey and Sally Holl display watercolors, pastels, and prints inspired by nature.
- Bulk Leaf Mulch Sales; Saturdays, Sept 24, Oct 1, 8, 15 9 am – 1 pm
- Quilts in Bloom: Fall Quilt & Flower Show, Sept 24 – Oct 16, 10 am – 4 pm
- Sept 15: Submittals due for Bolz Conservatory 20th Anniversary Adult Photo Contest - see www.olbrich.org for rules and entry form.
- Sept 15: Submittals due for Bolz Conservatory 20th Anniversary Photo Essay Contest for 11 – 14 year olds – see www.olbrich.org for rules and entry form

Education

Learn & Play Together

- Toddler Story and Stroll: Autumn Adventures (for ages 2 – 4 with adult, 10 – 11 am) Tues, Sept 6 - Wind; Tues, Sept 13 - Squirrels; Tues, Sept 20 - Leaves
- Tiny Trees Yoga in the Gardens, (for ages 2 – 5 with adult) Thursdays, Sept 15 – Nov 3, 9:30 – 10:30 am
- Fall Flower Fairies, Sun, Sept 18, 1 – 2 pm (for grades K-3 with adult) FULL!

Wellness at the Gardens

- Yoga, Mondays 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm and Thursdays, 7:30 – 8:45 am (drop in OK)
- Moving Meditation, Mon, Sept 12 – Nov 7, 6 – 7:30 pm
- Yoga Flow, Wed, Sept 7 – Dec 28 (no class Nov 23), 5:30 – 6:30 pm
- Aromatherapy Embodied, Wed, Sept 7, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Naturopathic Medicine for Bone and Joint Health – Osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, and Gout, Tues, Sept 20, 6:30 – 8 pm

Classes & Workshops for Adults

- Fall Lawn Care for a Healthy Community Tues, Sept 13, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Late Blooming Perennials, Tues, Sept 20, 6:30 – 8:30 pm,
- How to Grow Beautiful African Violets, Thu, Sept 22, 6:30 – 8 pm
- Does Your Yard Make a Difference? Birdscaping in the Midwest, Sat, Sept 24, 1:30 – 3 pm
- Perception Immersion: Photography & Haiku, Sun, Sept 25, 9 am – 5 pm
- Garden Plant Architecture: Grasses, Sedges, Rushes, and Flags, Tue, Sept 27, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Garden Walks

- Perennial Plant Combinations, Thu, Sept 8, 5:30 - 7 pm
- Putting Your Garden to Bed, Thu, Sept 29, 5 – 6:30 pm

CONSERVATION – RUSS HEFTY

Staff continued to work on oak woodland restoration at Turville Point. Projects included grubbing large stumps to facilitate mowing for weed control, cutting buckthorn and black locust resprouts and following up with a herbicide treatment. A contractor sprayed herbicide to treat the buckthorn, honeysuckle, and box elder resprouts in areas that were mowed by our staff. These areas will be seeded with native grasses, sedges, and forbs in the fall.

At the Cherokee East Marsh property (east of Sherman Ave.) we worked with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to close 2,000 feet of drainage ditches. A private contractor scraped off reed canary sod used a bull dozer to fill in the ditches. This started the process of restoring the hydrology in this portion of the marsh. We will seed native grasses, sedges, and forbs on the scrape areas later this fall. This project to close the ditches in the East Marsh and restore this peat wetland habitat will be a five to ten year project. We are currently focused on closing the lateral ditches. The main conveyance ditch will not be filled until we can divert the current flow of urban stormwater that runs onto the East Marsh.

Staff trimmed up trees and brush at the North Unit of Cherokee Marsh to facilitate a new hay wagon route for this fall. The public will have an opportunity to ride through a portion of the woods (on an existing trail/service drive) and down to the shores of the Yahara River at the boathouse.

At Door Creek, staff mowed the new hiking trails and trimmed encroaching brush and trees to facilitate more use. In September, the construction crew will be grading a couple of trail connections as we continue to develop a trail system at this park. In the future, (with the installation of culvert crossings) the public will have access to additional public lands owned by Dane County Parks.

On August 6 staff led the annual Yahara River/Cherokee Marsh water tour. The Lotus Waterlilies were in full bloom providing a sensory treat for the participants.

Staff spoke to the *Yahara Lakes Advisory Group 2* on August 25, outlining the current lake level management orders' impact on the wetlands in the Upper Yahara River wetlands in Cherokee Marsh. The presentation is available online at the following link.

http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/lwr/landconservation/Cherokee_Wetlands_by_Russ_Hefty.pdf

FORESTRY – MARLA EDDY

Forestry Section	Total Trees	Total Hours
Cycle Pruning	246	363
Pruned by Request	365	580
Small Tree Pruning Cycle	292	127
Tree Removal	188	740
Storm Work/Hangers		140
Unfilled Vacancies		552

Tree removals and requests for pruning continued to keep the crews busy through the month of August. West Forestry was able to keep a crew dedicated to District tree maintenance and small tree pruning for most of the month. East Forestry was only able to dedicate one crew to perform a small amount of District tree maintenance at the end of the month. Forestry also spent 158 hours watering our spring 2011 planting route.

Engineering projects and the sidewalk replacement program kept the Forestry Specialists busy. Specialists also worked on finalizing the order for the fall planting of 794 street trees.

GOLF –RAY SHANE

With the warm and dry weather conditions, the month of August was a great time for golf. Our irrigation systems were put to the test, along with the stamina of our customers. Most of the 63 golf leagues have completed their play and have held their end of the year Championship Tournaments.

Revenue for the month of August was slightly ahead of 2010 totaling \$358,000. The total year-to-date revenue is behind 2010 levels by about \$61,000.

Upcoming events will include the continuation of High School Golf matches, outings, league play extensions and the fall promotions. Maintenance operations will focus on the aerification of turf areas and promotion of turf growth so that the courses can enter the winter season in the healthiest condition as possible.

Staffing levels are being reduced due to the continuing need to closely monitor expenses, and also because some of our staff are returning students.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – KAY RUTLEDGE

Breese Stevens Field Press Box

The press box delivery and installation went off without a hitch during the week of August 15-19. Parks staff is now moving the scoreboard, connecting the electrical, and bringing in internet.

Breese Stevens Entrance Improvements

R.P. Cattell was awarded the construction contract for the Breese Stevens Entrance Improvements. Construction has begun at the Breese Stevens entrances on the corners of East Mifflin St. and N. Patterson Ave., and N. Patterson Ave. and E. Washington Ave. The corner of E. Mifflin St. and N. Patterson Ave. has been demolished and *R.P. Cattell* has poured new concrete. Once the concrete is cured, the signage and other amenities will be installed. Construction is scheduled to be finished by September 9.

Rennebohm, Wingra, and Door Creek Path Paving

The plans for asphalt paving/construction for Rennebohm, Wingra, and Door Creek Park Paths have been bid on. The Common Council is expected to award the contract on September 6 to the apparent low bidder, *Tri-County Paving*. Construction is scheduled to start on October 3 and end on November 11.

The Wingra Park and Door Creek Park Paths paving projects involve paving asphalt over existing gravel trails. The Rennebohm Park Path paving project involves construction of a new accessible trail from Regent Street to the Rennebohm Shelter and Segoe Road. We are working with Engineering to provide access to their sewer structures as part of this project (Engineering is also providing funding for this additional work). Staff presented the Rennebohm Park Path project at a meeting with the

neighborhood on August 8.

Door Creek Athletic Fields

The construction has almost been finished on the two rectangular athletic fields at Door Creek Park. This project included submitting two permit applications to the DNR, and one permit application to the Army Corp of Engineers. This project was completed by Parks Construction.

Door Creek Ski Trail

The bids for the Phase I of the Door Creek Ski Trail were approved by the Common Council on August 2. The low bid was *Madison Commercial Landscapes* at \$41,392.50. Completion of Phase I construction will provide roughly 1.3 miles of ski trail with varied terrain. The first phase will include grading, tree removal, and the installation of a small storm sewer pipe needed for the trail. Construction is scheduled to start in October.

Wirth Court Park

The City is continuing to work with *Kaboom* and the neighborhood to prepare for the construction of the new playground equipment at Wirth Court Park. Parks staff attended *Kaboom's* Design Day on August 17; soil samples have been processed in accordance with the agreement and weekly conference calls are being held to coordinate this effort.

Managed Meadows

Planning staff will be soliciting bids for the annual managed meadow contract. This year's contract includes plantings at High Point Park, Vilas Park, Cherokee Park, and Kennedy Park.

Warner Park Parking Lot

The Parks Division will be reconstructing the Warner Park parking lot in three phases over the next three years. In Phase 1, (fall 2010), we replaced the storm sewer and built two retention ponds that will hold all of the parking lot run off prior to it going into the channel and lagoons. Phase 2 includes Bay 3 of the parking lot and the complete roadway through the parking lot. Bay 3 of Phase 2 has been completed and the remainder of Phase 2 was completed following the 2011 Mallards season. The fall part of Phase 2 is underway. The old islands have been removed and the existing asphalt has been pulverized. Preliminary gravel grades have been established, and the contractor is bringing in more gravel base throughout the area to bring the lot up to proposed grades. The tentative project schedule includes construction through September, with landscaping in October.

Olbrich Park Softball Light Replacement

As part of this contract, we are replacing the lights at two softball fields. Bids were due August 26, we received five bids and they were opened on September 2. The anticipated start of construction is mid-October.

Thut Park

Staff is working with Engineering to install inlets, storm structures, and a berm to divert runoff from Thut Park into the Woodley Street storm sewer system. The construction schedule is dependent upon the Woodley Storm Sewer Engineering project. It is anticipated that construction of the berm, inlets, and the connection to the Woodley Street storm sewer will be completed this fall.

Tenney Park Pavilion

The project continues to move forward with completion anticipated for early November. Most of the stonework has been completed and the roof trusses have been installed. The stone from the columns of the old shelter was reused to surface the lower portions of the new shelter columns, as well as the interior of the fireplace. The contractor will move forward with completing the roof and following that, the interior work will be underway.

Tenney Park Maintenance Bridge

Staff is working with the neighborhood as well as the State Historical Society on the design guidelines for the bridge. We are moving forward with hiring a consultant to design the bridge; an RFP (request for proposal) for hiring a consultant will be going out in September.

Playgrounds, Paths and Basketball

Meadowood Park and Quarry Cove playgrounds are complete, and the basketball court at Meadowood was also completed. At Klief Park the playground equipment has been installed, but additional work on the surfacing is needed before the playground can be opened. Site work also remains that includes backfill of planting beds, volleyball poles with net, and turf restoration of construction access routes. Work is underway at Odana Hills Park where an accessible path is being installed, and Meadow Ridge Park where a basketball court is being installed. Other sites included in this contract are Monona, Baxter, James Madison, and Secret Places Parks. Dane County Highway Department has begun the construction of the accessible path and bike path link to Nine Springs Trail through Baxter Park.

Park Landscaping

The landscaping project for spring 2011 has been completed. This includes landscaping for the Phase 2 Warner Parking Lot, landscaping the new patio built at the Elver Park Shelter, landscaping park signs, and new tree plantings at several parks.

Olive Jones Park

The new toddler playground has been installed and the construction of the amphitheater expansion and paving is complete. The new fencing is being installed for this phase of construction which includes the area parallel with Roby Rd. Volunteers cleaned invasive weeds and vegetation out of the shrub beds and the sign planter; these will be mulched and replanted next month. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for September 12, 2011.

Marshall Park Dredging

The contract was revised to become a joint project with Engineering. Engineering was already dredging the Spring Harbor storm sewer outfall pipe, and the Spring Harbor boat launch was conveniently adjacent. Both dredging projects will use the western end of Junction Ridge Park as the location for the dredge spoils in an area that fill is needed for a future soccer field. Parks and Engineering both received DNR matching grants to pay for up to 50% of the project. The final amount received was around 42% (Parks – \$47,725.00; Engineering – \$63,570.00). Bids were received and are scheduled for approval by the Common Council on September 6. We are on schedule to start mid-October.

Park and Open Space Plan

Staff is continuing their analysis of the results of the survey to develop the plan and make revisions based on recommendations from Long Range Planning. We are continuing to research and inventory park facilities, and review of park classifications. The next meeting with Long Range Planning is being scheduled for September/October.

Other Projects

- We are working with Parks and Engineering staff to site facilities and solicit bids for amenities to be included in the site improvements slated for the Cannonball Trail.
- We are continuing to meet with the Glen Oak Hills volunteers and the alder to gain and confirm the consensus of their management plan that has been underway for three years. They are also collecting donations to begin under-planting of native understory and canopy species as progress continues.
- We are working with the Planning Department to develop a park map and environmental education materials for Hiestand Park. Park Operations is facilitating the construction of the trail through the Conservation area.
- Planning staff has been working on identifying locations for new park signs that are for either new parks or replacements of damaged park signs. Park signs will be installed at Droster, Lucy Lincoln Heistand, Monona Golf Course, Marshall, Paunack, Patriot, North Star, Cardinal Glenn, Door Creek, Brittingham Beach, and Quarry Cove Parks.

WARNER PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER – BRAD WEISINGER

Admissions and Passes

	YTD 2010	YTD 2011	% Rev Change	% Change
Pass Plans	\$48,222.60	\$42,724.30	75%	
Admissions	\$21,288.00	\$19,638.00	56%	-7%

Facility Reservations

Calendar Year	February Rental Totals	No. Free	% Free	Rentals	Free Rentals YTD	% Free YTD	YTD Revenue	% Rev budget
2010	20	32%	592	239	40%	\$36,622.50		20
2011	33	33%	830	270	33%	\$44,216.99	87%	33

Calendar Year	YTD hrs	YTD hrly participations
2010	1,599.05	78,057
2011	2,031.60	106,057

YTD 2010 Age Profile

Preschool – 134; Elementary School – 188; Middle School – 143; High School – 149; Adult – 1,242; Senior 60+ 710

YTD Income Compliance

Income levels are based on households with 1-8 family members.
62% compliance - YTD