

SUPERINTENDENT'S MARCH 2019 REPORT COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary

Winter is still with us as we move into March. Staff are still maintaining the ice rinks and ski trails the first week of March, but we will need to start moving away from this work in preparation for the long awaited spring. Staff have discussed the concept of working through the Commission to determine if there is a need to set a clear transition date between seasons as we are witnessing a significant change in climate patterns and less predictable weather. The resource intensity of maintaining ice into mid-March is high and combined with the need to prepare for the spring (e.g. equipment conversion, work plans), we are facing a bit of a dilemma in how to manage this transition for the 2nd time in the last few years.

As the transition to spring happens (it will), staff are working on a large number of 2019 projects. We are also working on preparation of the 2020 Capital Budget submission which is due in early May. The recently adopted POSP is the guiding document for our work in setting project priorities for 2020 and beyond.

Permanent Staffing Changes:

- Robert Templeton retired from Central Parks as a Parks Maintenance Worker after 33 years of service to the City of Madison.
- Tom Skaife is retiring in March as the Facilities Maintenance Supervisor after 32 years of service.
- Spencer Werner was promoted from Landscape Maintenance Worker to East Parks Operations Leadworker effective 2/4/19.
- January Vang joined the Parks Management Team as the new Financial and Administrative Coordinator effective 2/24/19.
- Clayton Janikowski joined the Olbrich team as the new Maintenance Mechanic 2 effective 2/24/19.
- Steven Dray and Lea Rumbolo joined the Ranger team as the new Permanent Part Time Park Rangers effective 2/24/19.
- Jon Landsverk will be leading the Facilities team as the new Facilities Maintenance Supervisor starting in March.

Future Commission Items

- Urban Forestry Taskforce – The Urban Forestry Taskforce is likely to have a completed report with recommendations in early 2019.
- IPM Taskforce – The IPM taskforce has begun meeting and will have recommendations for consideration in 2019.
- Golf – The 2018 Golf season was a very difficult one with the wettest year on record since the City has operated golf courses. Staff is working to prepare a report to update the Commission, Golf Subcommittee, the Council, and the public on the status of the Enterprise and anticipate completing this report by April, 2019.
- Dog Policy – The Long Range Planning Subcommittee has started work on reviewing the policy related to dogs in parks. Staff is hopeful that any policy changes will be brought to the Commission in the first half of the year.

- Off-Leash Dog Parks – Staff is working to determine potential off-leash improvements in the priority areas of the West side, Atwood/East Isthmus, and Far East/Grandview. The Approved Master Plan for North Star Park will address the deficiency in Grandview. Staff are working on concepts for the other two priority areas and anticipate moving forward with engagement processes in 2019.
- Capital and Operating Budgets – Parks staff will be working with President Leopold to discuss how to best present and take input from the Commission on the Division's budgets.
- Vilas Park Master Plan – The planning work for this iconic and historic Park will begin in 2019. The project is being led by Landscape Architect Kate Kane and is the process of selecting a consultant team to lead the effort. This is not anticipated to come to the Commission for approximately a year, but if Commissioners would like to know more about the project, they can contact Kate to discuss.
- 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 in March or April.
- Alliant Energy Center Master Plan / Destination District Plan – Parks staff is working with City Planning staff to prepare a presentation to the Commission on the County's work and plans for the Alliant area. Staff anticipates presenting this information in April or May.

Section Updates

Olbrich Botanical gardens:

- Construction: Installation of helical piers for the Learning Center and Greenhouse continues, working out from the innermost locations. As piers are installed, the concrete caps and foundation walls tying them together are being poured. Plumbing, heating, electrical, and fire protection trades continue to rough new services for the learning center. Fire protection was roughed in for the gift shop, Evjue Commons and staff offices.
- Bolz Conservatory: LOOK: Tropical Tesselations is ongoing through Sunday, March 24. Cocktails in the Conservatory with DJ Urbane takes place Friday, March 22 from 7 pm – 11 pm. Monday, March 25, the Bolz Conservatory will be closed for its annual maintenance shutdown – reopening Saturday, April 6.
- Outdoor Gardens: Staff have been working hard on snow and ice removal on the garden walkways without the use of salt in order to protect the plants. Periodic closures have been necessary to keep the public safe. Staff are also carrying out winter pruning throughout the gardens and will be assisted by a forestry crew on the large trees.
- Programs/Exhibitions: Plant Sale with the Pros activity is building up. Perennial potting by volunteers begins in March, and ordering and plant label printing has already begun. Summer programming is planned with Home Garden Tour moving to Stoughton in July; concerts are booked; plans for a new event, Summer Breeze, are being finalized; Blooming Butterflies is being adapted to a different configuration in the lobby (due to construction), and more.

Community Services:

- Recreation Services - Skate Cinema event had roughly 80 participants watching the show, Smallfoot on Sat. Feb. 9 at Tenney Park. A good showing of patrons for an outside Movie. We participated at the Wisconsin Fishing Expo and 1,277 people came to our booth for information. Upcoming events: Kids Expo (March 2 &3), Earth Day Challenge (Sat. April 27) and the Bird & Nature Festival (Sun. April 28).
- Community Events - In response to input received to date regarding the proposed amendments to the Street Use Ordinance, MGO 10.056, Legislative ID # 53818, a Substitute Ordinance has been prepared and approved by the sponsors. The Downtown Coordinating Committee recommended approval of the substitute, with a number of changes. The substitute amendment will be on the Transportation Planning and Policy Board on March 4. We hope to have it back at Street Use shortly after that and on to the Council for Adoption on March 19.

It seems the wintery weather has people planning for summer. We have received many event applications for both returning and new events in the past few weeks. Street Use Staff Commission meetings have full agendas and we are processing and sending out Park and Street Use Permits at a fast pace.

WPCRC - WPCRC hosted Madison's first ever Youth Police Initiative (YPI) February 18-23, 2019. Eleven WPCRC teens participated in the program and engaged in exchanges about personal experiences, made presentations about personal choices they have made, and practiced public speaking with the goal of building relationships and trust with officers who patrol their neighborhoods as well as to increase trust and decrease biases and stereotypes.

- Aquatics - Summer will be here before we know it and people have already begun to think about cooling off in our pool and lakes. We have opened registration for our swimming lessons program on February 5. In an effort to highlight our lessons teachers and drive enrollment we have registered as a site Red Cross swimming lessons site for the first time since 2012. This will allow us to train the best instructors in the area and advertise our classes on the Red Cross website.
- Park Rangers - After a lengthy and selective hiring process we have two new District Park Rangers joining our staff in March. Lea Rumbolo will be assigned to the East Parks District and brings along her experience working with the homeless community and enthusiastic spirit. Steve Dray will be assigned to the West Parks District and brings his experience working as a Seasonal Park Ranger and Sheriff's Deputy. We are excited to report these appointments and even more that we will be back at full staff going into our busy summer season. The hiring process has begun for Seasonal Park Rangers and we anticipate holding our second seasonal Park Ranger training program beginning the first week in April.
- Front Desk/Customer Service - Canoe/Kayak rack storage (354 rack spaces) – Watercraft storage agreements are valid April 1 through March 31 of the next year. 2018 lease agreement holders (expiring April 1, 2019) have all been contacted for the opportunity to either renew their agreements or inform Parks they will not be renewing. Reaching out early in the year and hearing back from those that do not intend to renew has allowed us to reach out to those on our waitlist.

- Front Desk/Athletic Reservations – Returning athletic groups with priority scheduling have entered their 2019 reservations allowing us to open the GymDandy online reservation system for others to begin reserving. GymDandy continues to work well for park staff and user groups.
- Cross-Country Ski Permits - Despite a lack of snowfall early in this winter season, we are well above previous years' sales.

2016		2017		2018		2019*	
Annual	Daily	Annual	Daily	Annual	Daily	Annual	Daily
1,318	489	1,325	500	1,277	830	1,425	707
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* As of February 21, the 2019 quantities are based on annual permits sold since November 15, 2018 and daily permits sold since January 1, 2019.

Planning and Development:

- Burr Jones Field
 - The proposed improvements at Burr Jones Park were recently approved by the Landmarks Commission and Urban Design Commission.
 - The improvements include a new parking lot, basketball court, bike path connection, re-graded athletic fields and the addition of an athletic field lighting system.
- Reynolds Park Lighting
 - Madison Parks has bike polo and recently remodeled tennis courts on the roof of the water utility building at Reynolds Park.
 - Madison has hired Strand to assess the evaluate options for adding lighting to this roof as requested by the Alder and bike polo group that uses the facility.
 - Lights were originally integrated into the design of this booster station from the 1970's (see below).



- Landscaping Contract for 2019
 - Landscaping BPW contract is out for bid right now. Bids due back on 2/21. Includes Allied Park sign bed, Olbrich Park Walter St restroom building and new parking lot, Warner Park boat launch, Mallards parking lot (includes maintenance), and some trees for Yahara PI Park.
- Odana School Park
 - The dog park expansion request for bids will be advertised in the next week or two.
 - Work should be completed by mid-summer.
- Fencing (2019)
 - Includes backstop replacements at Lerdaahl, Northland Manor, and Segoe. New fencing to keep soccer balls in the park along Portage Rd at Reindahl Park.
- Parks annual Park Paving Contract (2019)
 - The contract will include work at 5 sites. The Basketball courts will be replaced at Bordner, Sandburg, Reservoir, and Brigham Parks. These courts are some of the worst rated courts in the system and are in need of replacement in order to have a usable surface.
 - This contract will also pave the path to the new shelter at Patriot Park. This work is currently in design phase is expected to be bid in April with construction starting in May and finishing by October.
- Forest Hill Cemetery Improvements 2019
 - This is the second phase of the planned improvement in the cemetery. Additional storm sewer and roadway repaving will be done in the north half of the cemetery. This project was bid and has been awarded to Parisi Construction.
 - Work is expected to start in April and be complete by September.
- Breese Stevens Field
 - Construction is currently underway on the new concession and restroom building at the historic stadium.
 - Additional improvements to the facility include new bleacher seating, improved vendor set-up space, a new sound system and other spectator improvements in anticipation of the 2019 soccer season.
- 2019 Playground Replacements – Group 1
 - Work will be advertised beginning 3/21 and includes playground replacements at: Doncaster, Lucia Crest, Segoe, William Slater and Walnut Grove Parks.
 - Work on this contract is anticipated to begin at the end of May.
- 2019 Playground Replacements – Group 2
 - The Group 2 contract includes replacements at Penn Park, Sherry (OB) Park, Sherman Village Park, Lake View Heights Park and Hiestand Park.
- Work on the Door Creek Tennis Courts – Phase II is anticipated to begin at the end of the month (weather depending!); Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, Inc. (working with sub-contractor Qual Line Fence) submitted the low bid of \$85,230 for the project to complete the southern set of 4 tennis courts at the park.
- Vilas Park Master Plan
 - The contract is being finalized for the Vilas Park Master Plan with MSA Professional Services, Inc. who will be working with Urban Assets on the public engagement component of the project; a kick-off meeting is anticipated in March.
 - The master planning process is expected to continue until June of 2020.