

SUPERINTENDENT'S JULY 2018 REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Parks Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary

- July is National Park & Recreation Month. The Parks team, in partnership with Madison School and Community Recreation (MSCR), have prepared a significant amount of information on programming and things to do in Parks this month. This includes the creation of a [Park and Recreation Month Website](#) that has a lot of information about things happening in Parks in July. The website has activity books for children and a schedule of a lot of the offerings that residents can enjoy in the park system this month. I highly recommend checking out this impressive listing.
- Parks staff have been busy prepping for the on-going "festival season" for events such as well-attended Shake the Lake, Opera in the Park, La Fete de Marquette, Westfest, and the return of Juneteenth to Penn Park.
- No cycle pruning or small tree cycle pruning took place in the month of June. We had a couple of storms that passed through the city such as the June 15th storm generated 60+ storm damaged trees (trees down, broken branches, etc.) that forestry responded to on June 16 and 17.
- Conservation staff worked steadily on invasive plant control and mowing (or trimming) trails in June. Follow-up passes were made through several parks to control garlic mustard, often by hand pulling.
- Students attending the Future Farmers of America state conference at Alliant Energy Center donated an afternoon of labor to work on various invasive species at Turville Point on June 11.
- Rain, rain, rain equates to fast-growing grass and closed athletic fields. The good news is recently planted sod has needed less supplemental water, and any annual plantings are doing well.
- Concert in the Gardens began at the end of June and continues on Tuesday evenings through mid-August at Olbrich Botanical Gardens.
- As we continually work on our process improvement work on this report, this month Community Services joins Planning and Development in being included only in the Highlights section of the report. This will continue in September with the Olbrich Gardens being included in the highlights section. By October, we will have a new format that includes more robust and timely information by section of the organization on a quarterly basis and also includes highlights monthly from across the Division.

Planning and Development Highlights

Construction of the first phase of improvements to Forest Hill Cemetery is scheduled to be completed by the end of July.

The Building and Construction Trades Council of South Central Wisconsin has completed their work on the refurbishment and installation of an accessible fishing pier in Vilas Park and the pier is now available for use. A ribbon-cutting will be scheduled in the near future.

Playground replacements are ongoing, tennis and sport court resurfacings will begin in July, and the Elver Accessible playground construction will begin in August after rebidding the contract. Please go to the Parks Project website for updates on other projects: www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/

Community Services Highlights

The Spring Break-A-Way 3ON3 Basketball Tournament Series ended for the season serving a total of 86 youth. On the final day, a team from Milwaukee attended the tournament. It was a positive experience for youth from both community to get to know each other. Plus, a highlight for the WPCRC kids that they win the tournament against the Milwaukee team. Through a grant from Save & Thriving Communities, WPCRC will offer a teen focused Summer Nights program at Warner Park for six Fridays from 5:00 to 8:00 pm starting July 6. The WPCRC will provide a safe and fun space for neighborhood teens with games, sports, creative arts, interactive workshops, live music, performances, and leadership development.

The Wild Rumpus program, in partnership with the Madison Public Library, is having a successful third year. The program emphasizes 'Anji Play' which emphasizes kid-led creativity, engaging with nature, and using movable parts to build and play. Wild Rumpus is at Brittingham, Haen Family, and Reindahl Parks one day each week from 5:00-7:30 pm. Attendance for the first five nights of programming is over 650 people, or 130 per night.

The Goodman Pool had an attendance of 12,220 admissions in June and reached capacity on six days. Additionally, attendance at splash parks has been high as people are using the parks to beat the heat.

WRITTEN REPORT OF SUPERVISOR'S ACTIVITIES EAST PARKS – KRISTIN MATHEWS, INTERIM SUPERVISOR

With a lot of rain again in June, it was a challenge to stay on top of mowing, flail mowing and field maintenance. Athletics did manage to get in almost every game without having to rain them out, so kudos to the crew! We finally finished hiring all of our seasonals and got them all in place by the middle of the month. But we now have two full time vacancies with one of our PMW's accepting a job with Water Utility.

We started offering overtime on the weekends to grub and fill EAB stumps. We are also starting our collaboration with Streets to pick up garbage at our small parks this week. This will enable us to free up two people for odd jobs or wherever they are needed.

East Parks are looking really good at this point. Everyone has really been pitching in to get everything to this point!

CENTRAL PARKS & MALL CONCOURSE – CHAD HUGHES, SUPERVISOR Central Parks

The rain in June made the grass grow and kept Central Parks busy with trying to keep it cut. June was a very busy time for events including the return of the Juneteenth celebration to newly renovated Penn Park. The John Nolen corridor seemed to have a large event every weekend starting out with Ride the Drive, and then Ironman and finishing the month with Shake the Lakes. Our LMW's worked on their beautification routes and plantings. Athletics was still busy with softball and baseball prep as well as field renovations as time allows. When field conditions allowed, we were able to get out and spot mow invasive plants in our no mow areas. The last two seasonal laborers came onboard giving us a full staff in June.

July is looking to start out warm and dry, which hopefully will slow the grass down so our crews can work on other tasks like pruning and weeding. The LMW's will finish their weeding round and should be able to work on some beautification projects. Athletics will remain busy and we will dedicate some time to Penn Park for the upcoming football season. Events and reservations will keep us busy along with La Fete de Marquette at McPike Park again this month.

Mall Maintenance:

The wet weather continued in the month of June, making watering plants and turf an easy chore for the Mall Concourse crew. The Olbrich Gardens Crew enriched the downtown with beautiful plants that have replaced the spring pansies. Many exotic and tropical plants now decorate the downtown to add color to the many June events such as Cars on State, the Madison Night Market, Safety Saturday, and the perennial Concerts on the Square. The downtown BID also had numerous events the month of June including Ian's Open Mic, concerts at Peace Park, and another successful Madison Night Market.

The sidewalk powerwashing program is in full gear, with much of State Street washed and gum-free. The Expansion area and Library Mall will keep the Mall Crew busy the months to follow. Bus shelter powerwashing continues, as well as powerwashing at the Top of State Street to keep the area clean for events.

Summer banners have been exchanged on the pedestrian poles, welcoming the new season to the downtown. Looking ahead, the schedule will remain full for the Mall Concourse Maintenance during the summer months.

WEST PARKS & FOREST HILL CEMETERY – LAURA BAUER, SUPERVISOR**Forest Hill Cemetery:**

Storm drain and irrigation work still continues at Forest Hill. Some hose bibs have been installed, this time on 4x4 posts, and we think they look very nice. We're eager for the work to be finished.

It continues to rain a lot and the grass continues to grow despite the record heat, and so far there's no sign of the usual summer slowdown. The good news is that the sod has needed less supplemental water, and any annual plantings around the markers are doing well.

Staff continues to mow and trim in the cemetery and on their parks route. Seasonals from Forest Hill are helping out on Sundays for the parks trash run.

In regular cemetery business, during the month of April there were six full-size burials, 14 cremains burials, and 18 niche interments (17 of these were from the Dane County Medical Examiner – they place unclaimed cremains into a niche they have purchased for this purpose).

Summit Maintenance:

Both Walnut Grove and Odana Dog Parks are open. With all the rain this spring, the new grass is doing well. Odana had some of the new seeding fenced off at first, but the fence was removed when a dog injured itself on one of the panels somehow.

Our collaboration with Streets, where they collect some of the trash in smaller parks, is working fairly well. We have had to add a few additional cans as we've found some overflow, and staff have also had to move some cans back out to the terrace where they can be reached by the trucks, but overall we're pleased with the program.

Our flail mower is spot-mowing invasives this time of year – particularly Canada thistle and wild parsnip. Later in the summer we will begin our more extensive yearly mowing.

Preparations for West Fest at Elver and Opera in the Park at Garner are beginning. Opera in the Park is well-established and predictable, but West Fest is still a pretty new event with a lot of involvement from Community Services and seems to have lots of changes every year which necessitates a lot more planning. Both events are staffed with a seasonal from West parks, who makes sure that the restrooms are kept well-stocked and is available for last minute issues.

CONSERVATION – PAUL QUINLAN, SUPERVISOR

Conservation staff worked steadily on invasive plant control and mowing (or trimming) trails in June. Follow-up passes were made through several parks to control garlic mustard, often by hand pulling. Herbicide applications were made to Asian bittersweet, burdock, dame's rocket and teasel, while sweet clover, crown vetch and wild parsnip were mowed or cut.

Contractors completed their second round of treatments on projects at Cherokee Marsh, Owen, Prairie Ridge and Turville Point. Volunteers continued to work on buckthorn at Prairie Ridge, and for two, relatively cooler, days the Operation Fresh Start crew burned some of the slash generated. OFS was also present to support the effort to clear buckthorn at Stricker's Pond as part of a Clean Lakes Alliance volunteer event on June 14. Students attending the Future Farmers of America state conference in town donated an afternoon of labor to work on various invasive species at Turville Point on June 11. Clean Lakes Alliance also assisted us this month by hosting a second event on June 28 at Turville Point to control burdock and buckthorn.

OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS – ROBERTA SLADKY

Visitor comment:

"What a great facility you have! We greatly enjoyed our stopover in Madison and this was a highlight! We hope to come back again!" Joe K., Lancaster, NY 6/26/2018

April 2018 Numbers

| OBG Attendance (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants) | 2018 | 2017 | Previous 5 yrs avg |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| May 1 – 31 | 39,080 | 39,372 | 34,427 |
| YTD May 31 | 113,064 | 119,084 | |
| OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories (unaudited) | | | |
| | YTD 5/31/18 | YTD 5/31/17 | |
| Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD | \$26,420 | \$24,993 | |
| Room Rentals YTD* | \$44,558*** | \$50,723 | |
| Catering Percentage Revenue YTD** | \$4,036 | \$3,999 | |
| TOTAL YTD | \$75,014 | \$79,715 | |

*accrued at time of booking – up to 21 months before the rental date, ** accrued on a monthly basis following each catered rental
***no atrium weddings booked for 2019 (revenue would begin in March 2018)

July 2018 Public Events at Olbrich Botanical Gardens call **608-246-4550** for more information or visit www.olbrich.org/events

Sunday Guided Garden Strolls @ 1:30 & 3:00 pm thru October 14

Tram Tours 10 am – 4 pm daily through Labor Day

Concerts in the Gardens, Tuesdays, Jun 19 – Aug 14, 7 – 8 pm

Jul 3 – **Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra**

Jul 10 – **Listening Party**

Jul 17 – **The North Westerns**

Jul 24 – **Josh Harty**

Jul 31 – **Axtell**

Iris Sale by the Madison Area Iris Society, July 13 – 15, 9 am – 5 pm

Olbrich's Home Garden Tour, Featuring *Treasures of Tenney-Lapham & Maple Bluff*

Saturday & Sunday, July 13 & 14, 9 am – 3 pm

Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies Featuring *Monarch Meet Up*

July 19 through Aug 12, 10 am – 4 pm daily

Member Day, July 18

Butterfly Action Day, August 3, 10 am – 2 pm

Education Programs – July 2018 Highlights 608/246-4550 for class information/registration or visit <http://www.olbrich.org/education/classes.cfm>.

Young Writers' Camp I and High School Writers' Camp I completed in late June. Additional camps will be offered in August. This is a collaboration with the Greater Madison Writing Project that inspires students of all ages to become better writers.

Reach Dane's Head Start classrooms will continue to attend *Little Sprouts* classes in the Children's Kitchen Garden. *Little Sprouts* themes and concepts are also incorporated into the daily classroom learning by the teachers.

FORESTRY – MARLA EDDY

| Forestry Section | Total Trees | Total Hours |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cycle Pruning | 0 | 0 |
| Pruned by Request | 239 | 389 |
| Small Tree Pruning Cycle | 0 | 0 |
| Tree Removal | 285 | 906 |
| Ash Preemptive Removals | 140 | 587 |
| Storm Work/Hangers | | 376 |
| EAB Treatment | | 1293 |

No cycle pruning or small tree cycle pruning took place in the month of June. We had a couple of storms that passed through the city. For example, the June 15th storm generated 60+ storm damaged trees (trees down, broken branches, etc.) that forestry responded to on June 16 and 17. We appreciated the assistance of the Streets Division as they provided clean up support on June 16th. EAB treatments have been going well. We are observing more untreated ash street trees dead or dying which has caused us to move to those areas that need attention. You can check out the latest EAB blog on the Parks Division website.

Forestry specialists continued to monitor engineering reconstruction projects to make sure street trees are not damaged during the construction process. In addition, specialists respond to sidewalk repair issues near city trees in Alder District 16. Finally, they are busy scheduling tree replacements for fall 2018 planting season.