

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S MAY 2016 REPORT**

### **COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

Madison Parks unveiled its all new responsive design website on Monday, April 18. Included in the website redesign are golf, Goodman Pool and Warner Park Community Recreation Center.

Madison Parks celebrated Earth Day and Arbor Day through numerous events, including a well-attended Bird & Nature Festival at Warner Park on Sunday, April 17 and with several tree plantings events attended by elementary school students, Parks staff, and city officials including Mayor Soglin.

Recreation Services, along with Alders Phair and McKinney are working with community members to design a summer community event happening at Elver Park on Saturday, August 27. The next design meeting is May 18.

Spring is here and folks are out and about in parks! Athletic fields are busy. We anticipate opening Bowman baseball May 11. Shelters were thoroughly cleaned and are now open 7 days a week. Field staff are also busy planting, mulching and pulling invasive species throughout parks. The hiring of seasonal staff is progressing and first-rounds of spring orientation were held. By early June, we plan to be at full staffing levels for seasonal workers.

Cemetery staff is gearing-up for the ever busy Memorial Day holiday programs in Section 35, the Union Rest and Confederate Rest sections.

Mall Concourse staff began working with Madison Police Department to manage abandoned property throughout the service area through a safe, proactive, and sensitive process.

Forestry worked on small tree cycle pruning. East forestry crews assisted East Parks with tree removals at Yahara Hills Golf Course, and removed invasive trees at Glenwood Park.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens attendance continues to grow with 18,000 visiting in March.

Planning & Development has a new employee, Corey Stelljes who began May 9. Owl Creek Ribbon Cutting is set for 6pm on Wednesday, June 22. Lake Edge Park shelter is near completion and a ribbon cutting ceremony is expected to be scheduled. The Friends of Pickleball group has successfully raised the required \$20k matching funds making the Garner Park Tennis to Pickleball-court conversion project a reality.

WPCRC Advisory Committee has a new chairperson – Nikki Sanders and new committee members – Anita Palmer. WPCRC also has a new facebook page. They'll be hosting another Saturday Night at the Movies (double feature) on May 21.

A few of the upcoming events:

Free Golf Instruction Saturdays (May 7 and May 28) are happening at various Madison Parks golf courses on various Saturdays through August. Warner Family Fun Night May 13; Learn to Identify and Remove Invasive Species will be held next Tuesday, May 17 at Olin Park; Elver Park community event design meeting May 18; Saturday Night at the Movies May 21 at WPCRC; Learn to Kayak, Tuesday June 7; Legacy Golf Outing supporting MPF Thursday, June 9.

### **WRITTEN REPORT OF SUPERVISOR'S ACTIVITIES EAST PARKS – CRAIG KLINKE, SUPERVISOR.**

April proved to be a busy month for our staff. It's the time of year when weather changes and people get out into the parks again. We've completed installing garbage cans, picnic tables, and benches into all of our parks. Our Arborist Crew is assisting Forestry with the spring planting. We have 13 soccer fields installed and have 3 more to do in a couple of weeks. The shelters and bathrooms have been thoroughly cleaned and are now open 7 days a week. We hosted many Earth Day Projects and had over 100 people help pick up trash, mulch beds, pull invasives, and help make our parks look great. Thank you volunteers! High school softball started and MSCR's season will begin on May 6th. We've been aerating and overseeding as many fields as we have time to work in. Mowing operations have started early this year. Grass, in many places, is already growing quite quickly.

We've already begun calling seasonal employees back to get ready for the busy mowing season that is approaching very quickly. Almost half of our seasonal staff is new this year. It will be challenging to get everybody trained and ready to work on their own, however, I'm confident we hired the best candidates for the job. We've started our weekend operations to make sure facilities are clean and ready for reservations. It's a busy time of year, but we've all been looking forward to it.

## **CENTRAL PARKS & MALL CONCOURSE– LISA LASCHINGER, SUPERVISOR**

### **Central Parks:**

Despite fluctuating weather conditions, we were able to get out in the parks throughout April to complete a number of projects. Crews began spring clean up and mowing on routes as well as finished delivering tables and barrels. We began gradually bringing on seasonal staff and held our first round of Spring Orientation mid-month. Athletic field work was steady with the start of High School softball, and we closed fields very few times due to rainy conditions. We made several deliveries for Earth Day Challenge groups and picked up the results of their efforts in the days following. The Landscape Maintenance Workers prepared for the spring planting season, received trees and began planting by the end of the month. In addition, we have spent a good deal of time at Bowman trying to get the baseball diamond playable following our work from last fall by rolling, topdressing, finishing up the clay work and dressing up the dugout and bull pin areas.

We have had a good number of seasonal staff start with us, and we continue to interview to fill our positions. By early June, we will be at full staffing levels. We will be conducting a second orientation for the students who will be joining us later in May. Since we have a number of new employees, the training process continues as we enter peak season for our mowing and park maintenance operations.

Moving into May, we will work to keep up with the grass and dandelion mowing. Shelter reservations and athletics have picked up significantly. MSCR will begin regular softball games throughout the first week, and we will be opening Bowman Baseball May 11—barring significant rain. Per usual, we expect an abundance of graduation parties and Memorial Day activities, and we plan to adjust weekend staffing levels accordingly. We will work to prepare the pool for the upcoming season by weeding, mulching and pruning as needed. We will be gearing up to run our recycling program for Memorial Day weekend. The Landscape Maintenance Workers will finish planting the 200 trees that are planned for the spring installations and move onto beautification projects starting with the Cemetery in time for Memorial Day weekend. We're looking forward to another great season!

### **Mall Maintenance:**

The return of the Farmer's Market highlighted the events for April, which has a different look to it with the Capitol square construction continuing. Crazylegs ended the month, also running around the construction. The flower planters are full of pansies, including the new expansion area planters to match the State Street environment. Blowing and sweeping sidewalks was a constant assignment with the lack of rain for the month. The sidewalk washing program resumed in mid-April, beginning in the Library Mall and the 200 block of State. Winter turf damage was repaired with seed and compost, and aerating the lawns was accomplished easier with the new walk-behind aerator that was purchased. We freshened up all of the landscaped beds by adding a light layer of mulch and even expanded the mulch program to include tree circles in turf areas for a crisp look. We began working with Madison Police Department to manage abandoned property throughout the service area through a safe, proactive, and sensitive process.

Daily trash/recycle pickup, blowing and sweeping sidewalks, and powerwashing will keep the crew busy throughout the month of May. We will begin full mowing operations as well as regular weeding of the entire service area as grass and weeds are starting to grow very quickly. We hope to finish the light pole painting project from last fall, as the remaining poles have been sanded and just await primer and paint. We will continue to work with MPD to manage the abandoned property concerns. Decorative lighting will be added to the Top of State Street staging areas for the upcoming programming events. Major events include the Syttende Mai Run, Madison Half Marathon and of course graduation weekend, and we will work to make sure the service area looks its best for all of our visitors. As usual, we anticipate a very lively summer Downtown, and we look forward to it!

## **WEST PARKS & FOREST HILL CEMETERY – LAURA BAUER, SUPERVISOR**

### **West Parks/Summit Maintenance:**

Mowing has started in General Parks as well. As expected, we did a round of median mowing; then on the next round we began checking parks also, and mowing what needed it. We will continue this as we move through the spring season, adding seasonals to routes as they're available.

Staff suggested a small bush-clearing project at Marshall Park near the beach this spring. It worked out that we had people available to work on this, and we think the views of the lake are greatly improved around the beach and from behind and atop the bath house. It's really one of the nicest lake views in the area, and it had been partially obstructed for years. Also in that neighborhood, we did an assessment of the street-ends along Lake Mendota Drive. Staff is very much behind the idea of keeping lake access available to those who don't own lakeshore property, and we feel that maintaining the street ends is the right thing to do. Some trimming to maintain right-of-way access is needed periodically, and we were able to get it done early this year.

Considerable aerating of playing fields, former playing fields, and dog parks has been done this spring. We're concentrating especially on "resting" athletic fields – these will also be overseeded and we will be patching bare spots.

In other athletic news, regular softball play starts on the diamonds at Elver Park on May 6; practices began on April 22.

We're wrapping up our spring table and trash barrel deliveries. This year, the majority of the tables will either be newly painted or new altogether. We've tried to situate the new ones in reservable shelters, and we've already received a couple of compliments about the nicer table conditions this year.

**Forest Hill Cemetery:**

Mowing season has begun, though it's a slow start this year due to cool temperatures at the end of April. Staff is spot-mowing and string trimming areas that are starting to grow, as well as sections where we have burials. They are also going out on their "parks route" (consisting of medians and parks near the cemetery) as time allows, though we expect that this route will be covered for a while by Summit maintenance staff when the grass growth begins to pick up at Forest Hill.

We're very aware this time of year that the Memorial Day holiday is only a few weeks away, and everyone is doing their best to keep up with maintenance the best they can. Memorial Day programs in Section 35, the Union Rest, and the Confederate Rest sections always bring lots of visitors in addition to those customary on the holiday. It's usual for seasonal staff from other Parks sections to lend a hand in the weeks preceding Memorial Day, but we certainly try to minimize this as much as we can as everyone is busy with their own work this time of year. We will also be laying sod on graves closed over the winter, but as of the end of April, the sod farms were not even cutting yet.

In regular cemetery business, April saw eight full-size burials, four cremains burials, one mausoleum inurnment, one full-size disinterment, and nine lot sales. Disinterments are very rare – in this case the decedent's family wished to have him moved from one gravesite to another in Forest Hill. It's quite a labor intensive process, involving a lot of hand digging and help from a vault company to remove the concrete vault from one grave and lower it into the next.

**OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS – ROBERTA SLADKY**

**Visitor comment:**

*"Beautiful grounds. So many spring flowers to enjoy during our stroll along the pathways. Worth visiting again & again."* Apr 22, 2016

**March 2016 Numbers**

<b>OBG Attendance</b> (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants)	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Previous 5 yrs avg</b>
March 1 - 31	18,000	17,616	17,820
YTD March 31	44,135	42,254	
<b>Total Member Households (individuals*) December 31</b>	6,224 (9,648)	6,579 (10,575)	

*\*based on the number of membership cards issued*

<b>OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories</b> (unaudited)	<b>YTD 3/31/2016</b>	<b>YTD 3/31/2015</b>
Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD	\$13,718	\$12,254
Room Rentals YTD*	\$35,548	\$37,951
Catering Percentage Revenue YTD**	\$3,305	\$4,046
<b>TOTAL YTD</b>	<b>\$52,571</b>	<b>\$54,006</b>

*\*accrued at time of booking – up to 21 months before the rental date, \*\* accrued on a monthly basis following each catered rental*

**May 2016 Public Events at Olbrich Botanical Gardens** call **608-246-4550** for more information or visit [www.olbrich.org/events](http://www.olbrich.org/events)

- Bolz Conservatory Exhibit – Light Gaps**, daily through July 10
- Olbrich's Tram Service begins Weekends Only in May**
- Dahlia Tuber Sale**, Sun. May 1, 11:30 am – 2 pm by the Badger State Dahlia Society
- Olbrich's Plant Sale With the Pros**, Fri., May 6, 11 am – 5 pm (Early Bird shopping 9 – 11 am) & Sat., May 7, 9 am – 3 pm
- Crosstown African Violet Club Sale**, Saturday, May 7, 9 am – 4 pm, by the Crosstown African Violet Club
- Mother's Day Concert**, Sun., May 8, 2 – 3 pm - New Horizons Concert Band
- Madison Poetry Annual**, Sun., May 15, noon – 4 pm by the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets
- Badger Bonsai Society Show**, Sat., May 21, 9 am – 4:30 pm and Sun., May 22, 10 am – 4:30 pm by the Badger Bonsai Society
- Iris Show**, Sun., May 29, noon – 5 pm, by the Madison Area Iris Society

**Education – May 2016** classes and programs 608/246-4550 for information/registration or visit <http://www.olbrich.org/education/classes.cfm>

## Wellness at the Gardens

**Yoga**, Mondays 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm – drop-in

**Tai Chi Meditation**, Mondays, Mar 28 – May 16, 6 – 7 pm

**Beginner's Eye: A Contemplative Photography Workshop**, Sat, May 7, 9 am – 5 pm

## Classes & Workshops for Adults

**Gardening for Hummingbirds**, Tues, 5/3, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Tree & Shrub Planting Workshop**, Tues, 5/17, 6 – 7:30 pm

**Ornamental Container Gardens Workshop**, Wed, 5/18, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Floral Pastel Interpretations**, Sun, 5/22, 10 am – 4 pm

**Etegami: Spring Japanese Picture Letter**, Sun, 5/22, 9 am – 5 pm

## Learn & Play Together

**Toddler Story & Stroll: Celebrate Spring**

**Rain**, Fri, 5/13 or Tues, 5/17, 10 – 11 am,

**Mushrooms**, Fri, 5/20 or Tues, 5/24, 10 – 11 am

**Flowers**, Fri, 5/27 or Tues, 5/31, 10 – 11 am

## Explorer School Programs

*Explorer School Programs* for K-5 grades offered during the school year. Participating school groups benefit from engaging, hands-on learning experiences that support the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for science and supplement classroom curricula. **Botany Explorer** sessions are offered April 19 – May 26, 2016 and introduce students to the basic structure of plants and the role and function of seeds, stems, leaves, and flowers. (K-3 grades)

## FORESTRY – MARLA EDDY

Forestry Section	Total Trees	Total Hours
Cycle Pruning	123	122
Pruned by Request	11	40
Small Tree Pruning Cycle	424	130
Tree Removal	57	146
Ash Preemptive Removals	94	659
Storm Work/Hangers		29
Tree Planting		1834

Both work units were able to work on small tree cycle pruning. West was able to complete some cycle pruning in tree district 11. East unit did not complete any district cycle pruning. Also the east unit continued ash preemptive removals which included preemptive removals for upcoming sidewalk repair in alder districts 2 and 4.

East forestry crews helped East parks with a tree removal project at Yahara Hills Golf, and west crews removed invasive trees at Glenwood Park.

Both crews began planting the 1,460 trees ordered for spring on April 18th. The spring planting season should hopefully be finished by the third week of May.

City Forestry celebrated Arbor Week (April 25 -29) by planting trees in Country Grove and Sandburg Parks with Chavez and Sandburg Elementary Schools. City Forestry has been awarded the 'Tree City USA' designation by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 27<sup>th</sup> year.

Forestry specialists have been dedicating much of their time to inspecting sites where sidewalks have been heaved by trees and determining if Forestry needs to be on site during construction to help guide root cutting by the contractors. Forestry specialist also inspected the planting routes prior to planting to check sites for underground utility conflicts. Private developments have come in at a steady pace which forestry specialist reviews the proposed plan as it relates to street trees.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES SUMMARY- CLAIRE OLEKSIK

May 2016 is the first month that Community Services has been included as a section in over a year. Absent from this summary of Community Services is special events and rangers.

### Front Desk (Joanne Austin)

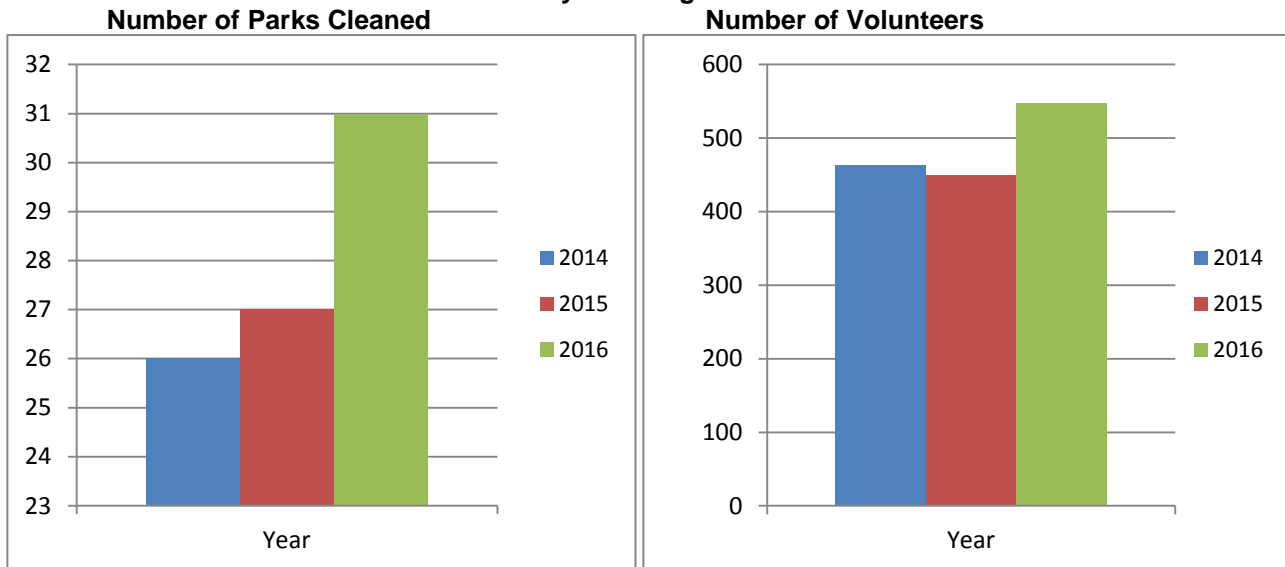
- **Large Shelter Reservations**
  - Now available for reserving online and for checking availability.
  - Total reservation counts for 2016 are 1,197, of which 78 were reserved online.
  - We are reaching our very busy graduation celebration time of year and anticipate scheduling many additional reservations.
- **Picnic Shelters – NEW this year!**
  - 374 Picnic shelter reservations have been made so far this year.
- **Permits –**
  - Daily and Annual DOG, DISC & XCOUNTRY SKI are now available for purchase online. Customers receive an email confirmation of their permit.
  - This will make it convenient for customers on site and it will diminish the number of envelopes dropped into the iron canisters at each site location.
  - Rangers will be able to view notifications on customer's mobile devices.
- **Athletic reservations**
  - Reservations have been made with greater than 75 different users.
  - Some reserve field spaces for one-time use but most reserve for the entire athletic season on multiples dates at various locations all around Madison.

### Recreation Services (Tracey Hartley)

- **Volunteers**
  - **Earth Day Challenge 2016** on April 23<sup>rd</sup> was our most successful year to date in both number of parks cleaned and number of volunteers who participated. In total, there were 31 parks that had at least one volunteer and a grand total of around 550 volunteers.
  - **Lakeview Elementary** holds an Earth Day event at Warner Park where over 125 students and teachers attend. Students prepare poems, signs, songs, and many other Earth Day related activities in preparation for the event.
  - **Volunteer focus group** led to updated website, new forms, tools and enhanced communication. Our goal is to improve information about who is in the parks, when they're in the parks and what kind of work they are doing. Due to this change, the volunteer numbers for this year will be more accurate than in previous years.
  - **Flower Garden Program** is ramping up for 2016. We have a total of 68 volunteers helping with gardens at 15 total parks. Gardeners pick up flowers ordered at Olbrich Botanical Gardens on May 11<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 1pm.
  - **Friends of Skatepark** and Parks formed a new and successful partnership this spring. The Friends Group assisted with the opening and closing of the park gate during the spring shoulder season (prior to April 15).
- **Activities**
  - **Bird & Nature Festival (April 17 1- 4pm at Warner Park)**  
Drawing around 330 people at its peak hour, this event had activities such as hayrides, bounce house, tree planting, John Muir reenactment, bird and nature walks, live music, and the main attraction was a presentation by Diane Moeller, founder of Hoo's Woods Raptor Center, who brought live birds such as a Snowy Owl and Peregrine Falcon. There was also the opportunity for many of Madison Parks partner groups which set up tables and displays for the attendees to inquire about.
  - **Safety Saturday (June 11 at 100 Block MLK)**  
Madison Parks will host a table promoting programs and events and will offer the kids a fun bean bag toss game. This is a well attended community event hosted by the Madison Fire Dept. to raise community awareness for safety and injury prevention.
  - **Dinner & A Swim (June 24, July 15, and Aug. 19 6-8 pm at Goodman Pool)**  
Madison Parks has partnered with Magic 98 to host three events this summer. These events are FREE to attend each night and food carts will be onsite for a selection of food options.

- **“Play Ball” Event (July 7 at Mallards Stadium)**  
This program was launched in 2015 by Major League Baseball and the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM). This program focuses on the sport of baseball and encourages participation for years to come. The program is open to 200 kids to participate in a baseball clinic to learn fundamentals of baseball. Providing an opportunity for kids to enjoy baseball! Madison Mallards will also offer a free ticket to the evening game for those participating.
- **Ride The Drive (July 31 at 10 am – 2pm)**  
Back for the 8<sup>th</sup> year, the route was adjusted a little bit due to the construction around the square. Trek will be back again to support the event as the title sponsor. If you volunteer at the event, Bicycle is back to offer a free 1 year memberships for folks who volunteer their time at the event. This is a wonderful draw to obtain volunteers. Gear up and bring your bike out for a fun event.
- **Elver Community Event (August 27 time TBD)**  
A new event to Madison Parks, Elver Community Event is in the beginning phases of being designed. There have been two community meetings thus far that have been open to the public to attend and discuss what activities they envision for the event. The third and final meeting will bring a more definite picture on what this event will entail. This meeting will take place at Redeemer Lutheran Church located at 1701 McKenna Blvd on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm.
- **Learn To Series (Various)**  
The “Learn To” event series is a way to give people in the Madison area a fun and free way to learn and try new activities. Upcoming events for this year will include opportunities to identify and remove invasive species, kayak, stand-up paddleboard, log rolling, pickleball, and many more to come. To host these workshops Madison Parks will partner with an organization or individual that has a passion for or specializes in the topic of choice. Partnering organizations introduce the topic, but then also can discuss opportunities to continue exploring the activity with their organization. The Parks Division supplies the venue and marketing of the event while the partnering organization will supply basic instruction, demos and other information regarding the topic targeting an audience with a beginning skill set.

### Earth Day Challenge 2016



### Warner Park Community Recreation Center (Jacob Tissue)

- **Warner Family Fun Nights**
  - WPCRC is closing in on our 2<sup>nd</sup> full school year of hosting Family Fun Nights. They have become a staple of the Northside and will continue next year starting in September.
  - Upcoming Dates include: Friday, May 13 & Friday, June 10
- **Facebook** page launched in March 2016. Find us by searching; Warner Park Community Recreation Center

- **WPCRC Advisory Committee Update**

- Last Meeting – Thursday, March 31
  - Presented outgoing Committee Chair, David Carpenter with a certificate of appreciation. March was his last meeting.
- Next Meeting - Thursday, May 26
- New Committee Chairperson – Nikki Sanders
- New Committee Member – Anita Palmer

### **Aquatics (Josh Schmitt)**

- **Splash Parks**

- Anticipate opening splash parks Memorial Day weekend
- New hours of 10 am – 7 pm, which is one hour earlier than previous years

- **Goodman Pool**

- Anticipate opening the pool on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>
- Sign up for swim lessons, Waves swim team and scholarships is underway

### **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – JANET SCHMIDT**

#### **Bowman Field Baseball Backstop Netting Poles – South Side**

The four backstop netting poles at the Bowman baseball field require replacement. Strand Associates has been hired to design and prepare bid documents for the replacement poles. The project was released for bidding on January 29, with bids due February 19. Joe Daniels Construction was the low bidder \$119,460.00. This is 26% higher than the project budget and the bid was declined. The project will be redesigned and bid in an effort to deliver a project within the current funding.

#### **Forest Hill Cemetery – Near West Side**

Cemetery staff and consultants are working to come up with a long range plan that will address infrastructure needs at the cemetery. Improvements will include the irrigation system upgrades, storm water management improvements and reconstruction of the road system in the cemetery. Staff is also working on a policy paper to be presented to the Landmarks Commission for approval regarding the tree replacement procedures at the cemetery. Improvements for the irrigation and storm sewer and drainage are tentatively scheduled for 2017.

#### **Central Park – Near East Side**

The Central Park Phase 1B construction is substantially complete. The work includes a new entry plaza adjacent to the recently completed skatepark and a pedestrian railroad crossing near the E. Wilson Street intersection with Few Street. The skatepark plaza, sidewalk crossings and pervious sidewalk installation on Wilson Street are done. The remaining work includes bollard installations at the Few Street Railroad Crossing.

#### **Improvements to Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park – North Unit – North Side**

Parks staff worked with Engineering staff to modify the required stormwater raingarden to allow for a feature which is more organic in form while still meeting rainwater detention requirements. Work is anticipated to start again in May, weather permitting.

#### **Lake Edge Park Shelter – East Side**

Staff is working with Facilities Management on the construction of the new Lake Edge Park Shelter. As of the end of February, all stone masonry and window framing is completed and all mechanical, electrical and plumbing equipment is installed. Final work and paving will be underway for an anticipated completion of May 20, 2016.

#### **Garver Feed Mill – East Side**

The rezoning and CSM for the project was approved by the Council on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Conversion paperwork was submitted to the DNR and has been approved. Negotiations with the Baum Development team continue. The Baum team is expected to submit revised plans in early May. Staff will continue to work with the development team to resolve issues.

### **Tenney Park Shoreline – Near East Side**

Shoreline reconstruction and reconstruction of the bike path is complete. Landscaping and invasive plant removal along the shoreline through a separate Public Works Contract began in April and will continue throughout the year. This project is managed by City Engineering in partnership with Parks staff. The Parks Division hosted a site walkthrough with members of the community April 8<sup>th</sup>. There were approximately 15 members of the public that attended the site walkthrough. Staff also provided a project update at the Tenney Lapham Neighborhood Association Meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>. In addition to shoreline landscaping, over 100 trees will be installed at Tenney Park in May and June of 2016.

### **Brittingham Park Playgrounds – Isthmus/Central**

Parks issued a press release at the end of February announcing that the Department of Civil Rights and the Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiatives Team (RESJI Team) equity analysis had been used to make a conscious decision for the future of the three playgrounds at the park. The release stated that a fully accessible playground will be built at the park shelter location, that the playground equipment will be replaced at the area adjacent to the community garden space and that a nature-based playground, the first within the Madison Parks system, will be installed near Brittingham Beach. Staff anticipates a public input process to select the playground equipment to begin in summer 2016, construction contracts completed in fall of 2016 and construction to begin in the spring of 2017.

### **Allied Drive Improvements – South Side**

Staff is working with the Allied Drive NRT (Neighborhood Resource Team) on the proposed park improvements in the neighborhood as approved in the 2015 Capital Budget. At their March meeting the CDA board approved the creation of a park on two of their lots in the Allied Drive neighborhood. The park design consists of a full basketball court, an asphalt path and an open play area that will also serve as a youth soccer field. A survey has been completed and an appraisal to value the property has been received and is under review. Design development is 75% complete. Staff continues to work with CDA on the land transfer and will be starting the Master Planning process in spring.

### **Demetral Park Path Improvements – East Side**

Staff is working with City Engineering on park and bike path improvements in the Demetral Park/Packers Avenue area. A public input meeting was held on October 14, 2015. Engineering is working on plans and specifications. The City will submit for a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Development at Historic Fill Site or Licensed Landfill Exemption Application for approval for the proposed bike path work. Permitting from the DNR is required for work within the landfill and may delay the project. Construction is tentatively scheduled for 2016, upon permitting from the WIDNR.

### **Playground Workshops – City Wide**

Staff held three playground workshops that focused on several park playgrounds to provide the opportunity for neighborhoods to learn and share ideas with each other. These projects are part of the 2016 Capital Budget Submission. The first playground workshop was held on October 14<sup>th</sup> and addressed playground replacement projects at Aldo Leopold Park, Rimrock Park, Midland Park, and Raymond Ridge Park. The second playground workshop was held October 28<sup>th</sup> and addressed playground replacement projects at Kingston – Onyx Park, Honeysuckle Park, Sycamore Park, and Waunona Park. The third playground workshop was held on November 5<sup>th</sup> and addressed playground replacement projects at Ler Dahl Park, Berkley Park, Westchester Gardens Park and Wheeler Heights Park. Staff also issued a request for proposals for playground designs from playground manufacturers for 2016 playground improvements. The City selected several manufacturers' designs including nature-based themed designs to present to neighborhoods as part of the 2016 playground design public input process.

### **Aldo Leopold Park Playground – South Side**

Construction for the Aldo Leopold Park Playground was awarded to Madison Commercial Landscapes as part of the Group 1 Playground Contract for \$168,497.60. Construction is anticipated to begin in early summer and be completed by fall.

### **Berkley Park Playground – North Side**

This project, together with playgrounds at two other parks, is currently out to bid as '2016 Park Playground Improvements – Group 3' and will be opened on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Construction on the playground improvements to this park is anticipated to begin in August 2016.



### **Cardinal Glenn Park Playground – Far West Side**

Improvements at this park approved as part of the master plan design and implementation will be completed, in part, by Parks Construction staff (playground expansion, path excavation and gravel lay-down) and as part of other Public Works contracts recently awarded (asphalt paving, sun shelter installation, landscaping.) Work at the park is anticipated to begin in June 2016.

### **Honeysuckle Park Playground – East Side**

This project was bid with the 2016 Park Playgrounds – Group 2 contract. Contract bids were opened on April 8<sup>th</sup> and Madison Commercial Landscapes was the low bidder at \$119,694.05. Work for the contract includes four playground replacements and is anticipated to start in mid-May.

### **Kingston-Onyx Park Playground – East Side**

This project was bid with the 2016 Park Playgrounds – Group 2 contract. Contract bids were opened on April 8<sup>th</sup> and Madison Commercial Landscapes was the low bidder at \$119,694.05. Work for the contract includes four playground replacements and is anticipated to start in mid-May.

### **Lerdahl Park Playground – North Side**

This project, together with playgrounds at two other parks, is currently out to bid as '2016 Park Playground Improvements – Group 3' and will be opened on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Construction on the playground improvements to this park is anticipated to begin in August 2016.

### **Midland Park Playground – Central/South Side**

Construction for the Midland Park Playground was awarded to Madison Commercial Landscapes as part of the Group 1 Playground Contract for \$168,497.60. Construction has begun and is anticipated to be completed in May.

### **Sycamore Park Playground – East Side**

This project was bid with the 2016 Park Playgrounds – Group 2 contract. Contract bids were opened on April 8<sup>th</sup> and Madison Commercial Landscapes was the low bidder at \$119,694.05. Work for the contract includes four playground replacements and is anticipated to start in mid-May.

### **Rimrock Park Playground – South Side**

Construction for the Rimrock Park Playground was awarded to Madison Commercial Landscapes as part of the Group 1 Playground Contract for \$168,497.60. Construction is anticipated to begin in early summer and be completed by fall.

### **Raymond Ridge Park Playground – West Side**

Construction for the Raymond Ridge Park Playground was awarded to Madison Commercial Landscapes as part of the Group 1 Playground Contract for \$168,497.60. Construction is anticipated to begin in early summer and be completed by fall.

### **Waubesa Park Playground – South Side**

Construction for the Waubesa Park Playground was awarded to Madison Commercial Landscapes as part of the Group 1 Playground Contract for \$168,497.60. Construction is anticipated to begin in early summer and be completed by fall.

### **Westchester Gardens Park Playground – North East Side**

This project was bid with the 2016 Park Playgrounds – Group 2 contract. Contract bids were opened on April 8<sup>th</sup> and Madison Commercial Landscapes was the low bidder at \$119,694.05. Work for the contract includes four playground replacements and is anticipated to start in mid-May.

### **Wheeler Heights Park Playground – North Side**

This project, together with playgrounds at two other parks, is currently out to bid as '2016 Park Playground Improvements – Group 3' and will be opened on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Construction on the playground improvements to this park is anticipated to begin in August 2016.

### **Esther Beach Park Improvements – South Side**

The design has begun for improvements identified in the Esther Beach Park Master Plan including a new restroom building, swings, path system, storm water improvements and improvements to the existing parking lot. Staff held a public input on the design on December 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the design. Staff submitted a conditional use application on February 3<sup>rd</sup> with which was approved by the Plan Commission on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Staff has submitted all applicable DNR and City of Madison permits related to shoreline grading and construction. Construction of the restroom building is anticipated to begin in 2016. Final site improvements are anticipated to begin in spring/summer of 2017.

### **Penn Park Shelter Replacement – South Side**

A second public input meeting for the Penn Park shelter replacement was held on February 25th. Approximately 15 area representatives attended the meeting. Topics included schematic shelter options, preliminary cost estimates and feasibility studies of other potential site amenities. A third public meeting is tentatively scheduled for May. An RFP will be completed in late spring and early summer to select a consultant for the design development, which is anticipated to occur over the next 7-9 months, with project going out to bid in late 2016 or early 2017. Construction will begin in 2017 with project completion in the early fall.

### **2016 Garner Park Tennis to Pickleball-Court Conversion – West Side**

The project to convert the existing two-court tennis at Garner Park to six pickleball courts is currently out to bid as '2016 Garner Park Tennis to Pickleball-Court Conversion' and will be opened on May 6th. Provided the project receives at least two qualified bids at that opening, work is anticipated to begin in early July on the project. The Friends of Pickleball group successfully fundraised the required \$20,000 match to make this project a reality!

### **2016 Tennis and Basketball Court Improvements – City Wide**

Plans and specifications were advertised on January 8, 2016 and were opened on January 22, 2016. The contract was awarded to low bidder Poblocki Paving for the bid amount of \$44,870.18. Construction is anticipated to begin early May, weather permitting.

### **2016 Paving Contract – City Wide**

Plans and specifications for the 2016 Paving Contract were advertised to bid on April 15<sup>th</sup> and will be opened on May 6<sup>th</sup>. This contract includes construction of paths at Cardinal Glenn Park, reconstruction of basketball courts at Rimrock Park and Aldo Leopold Park, installation of an asphalt path at Village Park and pulverize and repaving the path at Westmorland Park. Plans and specifications were approved by the Board of Public Works on March 16<sup>th</sup> and will be opened on May 6th.

### **2016 Sun Shelters Request for Bids and Contract – City Wide**

The rebid of the project on April 13<sup>th</sup> resulted in a successful low bid submitted by Madison Commercial Landscapes, Inc. for \$254,775.68. Work is scheduled to begin in late May at Owl Creek Park and continue through the summer at four other properties including Cardinal Glenn, Junction Ridge, Sauk Heights and Worthington Parks.

### **2016 Fall Parks Division and Water Utility Landscaping Contract – City Wide**

The bid for this contract was awarded to Greener Valley Landscaping, Inc. of Janesville, Wisconsin who submitted the lowest proposal at \$86,230.00. Work on this contract is anticipated to begin in August 2016.

### **2016 Parks Division Rain Garden Management Contract – City Wide**

The bid for this contract was awarded to Tall Grass Restoration, Inc. of Schaumburg, Illinois who submitted the lowest proposal at \$31,005.56 for the planting and maintenance of storm water detention features at Central, Goodman and Olin Parks. Work on this contract is anticipated to begin in mid-May.

### **2016 Dog Park Improvements – City Wide**

Staff is developing plans and specifications for entrance improvements at Quann dog park. Staff met with the Dog Park User Group on September 21, 2015. Staff has submitted the required Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Development at Historic Fill Site or Licensed Landfill Exemption Application for approval for the proposed entrance improvements. Plans will be advertised to bid once the City of Madison has received permission from the DNR to proceed.

### **Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation – City Wide**

Staff is developing a GIS-based mapping database to inventory all ash trees removed in the City of Madison park system. Installation of new trees to replace removed ash trees is underway. Living Landscapes, LLC was awarded both of the fall and spring tree installation contracts that were opened at the end of November. The trees included in these contracts replace approximately 2/3 of those removed due to EAB infestation. Work to install the trees will begin in mid-May 2016.

### **Cherokee Park canoe/kayak launch – North Side**

The neighborhood submitted its choice for the location of the canoe/kayak storage racks at the park, which will be located approximately 100 feet north of the existing, signed launch location which will be re-graded and improved with a gravel base. Additional native plantings will be installed near the racks by way of providing screening. Work on this project is anticipated to begin in summer 2016.

### **Quarry Park Trails Usage Planning – South Side**

Parks staff met for a final time with the neighborhood on April 25, 2016 to present a trails usage plan developed by a group of volunteers over a series of meetings which occurred in January – March. The purpose of the usage plan is to serve to minimize conflicts between mountain biking/bicycle use and pedestrian/dog-walking. The draft plan/ map was reviewed by 21 people in attendance at the public input meeting and is currently posted on the parks project website and was shared with attendees via email. Final comments are due on the plan by May 9.

### **Sugar Maple Park Master Planning – Far West Side**

The neighborhood recently completed an email voting process to select the equipment to be installed at the park in summer of 2016. The developer will receive credit for the park construction that will offset the park development fees for the plat. Staff continues to coordinate with the Developer on this project. Work is anticipated to begin in May.

### **Waldorf Park Master Planning – West Side**

New Parks staff will work with City Engineering to determine grading and stormwater drainage options for the site and work out the overall project scope and feasibility. Rough grading and drainage improvements are anticipated to occur in late 2016 with construction of park improvements in 2017. Following a final determination of the site drainage option that will be used, a follow-up meeting will be held with the neighborhood in early 2016 to discuss the playground equipment options.

### **Worthington Park Shelter Replacement – East Side**

This project was included in the **2016 Sun Shelters Request for Bids and Contract** (see above). The shelter replacement at Worthington Park is anticipated to occur in early fall of 2016.

### **Other Projects**

- Staff worked with Engineering to develop plans for installation of a sidewalk along Drake Street at Vilas Park. Construction is anticipated to begin early this summer.
- Staff is working with Engineering to implement path improvements at Demetral Park.
- Staff is working with a consultant at Tenney Park Shelter to come up with solutions to acoustic concerns inside the shelter. The consultants have been reviewed by City Facilities Management and staff continues to explore options. Improvements are scheduled for 2017.
- Staff participated in Neighborhood Resource Teams and/or Neighborhood Development Plans for Owls Creek, Arbor Hills/Leopold, Allied Drive, Emerson East – Eken Park – Yahara Neighborhood Plan, Worthington and University/Hill Farms.
- Staff is developing a GIS-based mapping database to inventory facilities within parks including memorial plaques, benches, trees, etc.
- Staff is coordinating emerald ash borer removals and replacements, and tracking proposed species to meet urban forest diversity guidelines in parks.
- The City has acquired the property at 2049 Baird Street for the expansion of Penn Park. Demolition of the existing single family home is anticipated in April. Staff is working on the demolition permit.
- Staff is working on developing walking routes that incorporate paths through park properties, bike trails and sidewalks to create a series of park-oriented walking loops to be mapped via MapMyWalk (or other similar site) and serve as a means to promote Madison's walkability.
- Staff is working with the Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee on drafting policies related to siting of dog parks and dogs in parks.
- Staff is working on outlining steps for the Park and Open Space Plan. Plan revisions will occur in 2017.
- Parks Staff is working with Engineering staff to cite locations within park properties that may utilize photo voltaic (solar) equipment to help reduce energy costs. Locations being reviewed include Warner Park and Yahara Hills Golf Course.
- Parks Staff will be working with Engineering on the Warner Park Lagoon Planning Grant. The first public input meeting will be held in late February or early March.
- Gates of Heaven flooring replacement is scheduled for late 2016. Staff will work with the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) to determine if a more durable variety of flooring will be allowed since Gates of Heaven is on the National Register.
- Staff have reviewed and approved two edible landscape permit proposals that will be installed at Hollister Avenue Triangle Park and Eken Park in May.

### **Projects Completed in 2016**

- Yahara Hills Clubhouse Improvements – South East Side
- Parks Project website is complete and up and running. Please visit our site at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/projects> or <http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects>