

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S JUNE 2022 REPORT**

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

#### **Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary**

June is upon us and we have entered peak grass, tree, and plant growing season. We are also entering storm season. Throughout May we have focused our limited resources on keeping up with the most pressing items in the system. We have made efforts to ensure Forest Hill is ready for Memorial Day celebrations, the Warner Clean Beach system is up and running, guards will be at select beaches over the weekend, and the Pool has been filled. The golf courses, disc golf courses, and dog parks are busy. We are also seeing an uptick in traffic at the boat launches as the weather warms up.

As it relates to Golf, though numbers are down year over year due to wet conditions, and likely a bit of a slide in a less Covid impacted landscape, we are trending well and have generated over \$1M in revenue to date. In general a good guidepost is getting past this mark by mid-May and then to \$2M by July 4<sup>th</sup>. We are in range of that target.

Unfortunately, we are seeing an impact on the workforce from Covid related absences again. This is the biggest impact since back in February, so we are hoping it is contained and everyone is back at it feeling good over the coming month. This combined with the seasonal staffing issues have made it a challenge to meet all the demands. I am very proud of the team's efforts to sustain our impact during this time.

The project for two fully accessible playgrounds at Warner and Rennebohm hit a snag related to some bidding abnormalities this spring. We have separated the projects into two and will be issuing bids for the Warner project soon. The Olin Park Facility project continues on track and MMSD has indicated they intend to commence work on the lease area very soon. They have a goal of joining us at the facility by early October. MSCR would not have an immediate programming plan for the facility, as that would likely commence with their winter offerings.

#### Future Commission Items

- Reindahl Park Imagination Center and Master Plan Update – Parks staff are working to prepare and overview of the current plans and siting from the Imagination Center project. We plan to present, along with project staff, to the Board more information in July. We intend to then follow that up with community meetings about the siting/change as it would relate to a master plan amendment. Our hope is we can use this process to provide more clarity for everyone as it relates to Reindahl's long term future as a key park for the East side.
- Flood Mitigation Plans – The Engineering Stormwater Utility section will be engaging with the BPC over the coming months on more specific area plans as follow up to their presentation at the January meeting.
- Two naming requests have been received and will be referred to Long Range Planning in the coming month. One is for the bikepath on Yahara River Parkway and the other is for the park known currently as Kerr-McGee Park at the intersection of Jenifer and Williamson St.
- Golf Enterprise Update – In addition to the ongoing work around the Glen Golf Park, including updating the clubhouse, the Golf Team is working to continue engagement around the potential for changes at Yahara and the subsequent needs for the entire Golf program.

- Operating Budget Service Level Briefing – The team is working to prepare a presentation to the Board on service level changes based on final outcomes of the budget process. As currently resourced, there will be reductions in services from historic norms in aquatics and operations that will have an impact. Given the reductions are mostly in hourly staffing the impacts are a challenge to plan for with specificity, but will create challenges for hours of coverage for lifeguards at beaches, mowing and trimming operations, restroom and shelter date availability, as well as impacts on general maintenance support for the park system. The goal is to present information on this in July 2022.
- Land Management Plan Update – The Parks Division team will be working over the coming months to conceptualize opportunities to improve land management standards and the corresponding plan moving forward. The Plan has done a lot of good to move the system forward, but the team feels it is reasonable and appropriate to focus resources on continuous improvement efforts in this area by working with Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee over the coming six to nine months. An anticipated timeframe for the Commission to review a draft update to the Plan is late summer or early fall of 2022.

### Personnel Updates

#### New Hires & Promotions:

- Luna Collins was promoted to Administrative Clerk at the front Desk of the Parks Administrative offices. She began her new role on May 16, 2022.
- David Vetovec was hired as Greenskeeper 1 within Golf. He will start his new position on June 13.
- CJ Ryan was hired as Assistant Superintendent. Her first day with Madison Parks will be July 25, 2022.

#### Departures:

- Jon Lashua retired from his position as Parks Maintenance Worker in West Parks after 19 years of service. His last day with Madison Parks was on May 2, 2022.

### Section reports

#### **Planning and Development**

##### All Wheel Spots at Warner and Elvehjem Parks

- You may recall that last fall Madison Parks signed a MOU with Madison Skatepark Fund, which allowed them to build a small skate park (open to bikes, scooters, etc.) at two locations on old, under used pavement in the park system.
  - Warner Park All Wheel Spot. Located on an abandoned bleacher pad, this all wheel spot is nearly complete. The MSF donated over 1,100 hours of volunteer time and close to \$5,000 to complete this project.
  - Elvehjem Park All Wheel Spot. Located at the old tennis courts, this all wheel spot is not underway yet, but the MSF plans to begin construction this summer.

## Aldo Leopold Park and Recreational Biking

- Pump Track and Skills Track: The pump track and skills track are installed and ready to ride. Madison Parks continues to work with the general contractor to restore the areas around the tracks that were disturbed by the construction.
- Shred to School: Rock Solid Trail Builders have signed a contract to build the purpose built mountain biking trail that will run along the Cannonball Path and in Aldo Leopold Park connecting the neighborhood to Aldo Leopold School. This work should occur in the summer with the project completed by late fall.

## Master Planning Effort for Three Far West Parks

- A team of three Planning and Development staff are working on master plans for three new parks on Madison's far west side. The parks are Acer Park and Birchwood Point (neighborhood parks) and Acacia Ridge Park (a community park). Public engagement will occur over the summer months and we plan to bring master plans to the BPC for adoption later this fall.

## Community Services Report June 2022 – Terrence Thompson

### Community Events (Kelly Post):

Park Events: We had a successful month of May and looking forward to a very busy summer. June has some of our much-loved annual events; Loop the Lake, Paddle & Portage, Waterfront Festival, and Juneteenth Day Celebration. We are also looking forward to some new events this year; Parks Alive, Tri4School Kids Bike & Run, and the US Women's Disc Golf Championships hosted at Elver Park and Hiestand Park.

Street Use Events: June also welcomes back some of Madison's iconic Street Use events; Safety Saturday, Cows on the Concourse, Live on King Street (moved to the 100 block of MLK Jr Blvd), and Concerts on the Square.

The Park's permits that we are piloting for this summer, Classes in Parks and Day Camps/Care in Parks, are being applied for regularly and seem to be a good fit again for requests of that nature. We will be assessing these permits to see if we want them to be a permanent option and, if so, what the permanent process and fee structure should be.

Carts in Parks have begun. We have successfully connected food carts with several community events in May and will continue to do so for the summer. Food carts at events are a win-win, helping our local food cart entrepreneurs economically and adding a fun element to events. We are also starting to schedule daily vending at activated parks to offer more opportunities for the food carts.

### Warner Park Community Recreation Center (Zach Watson):

The KNOW program's Spring Break-Away 3ON3 Basketball Tournament Series has welcomed nearly 170 youth ages 11-18 over the past four weeks. For the last tournament on Friday, May 27, we will welcome UW-Madison Women's Basketball Head Coach Marisa Moseley to speak to our youth and engage during the tournament. In addition, we worked with the KNOW program participants for this year's tournament to provide scorekeeping, court management, and referee games. As a result, this season's tournament has been primarily youth-led.

Recreation Services & Aquatics (Tracey Hartley):

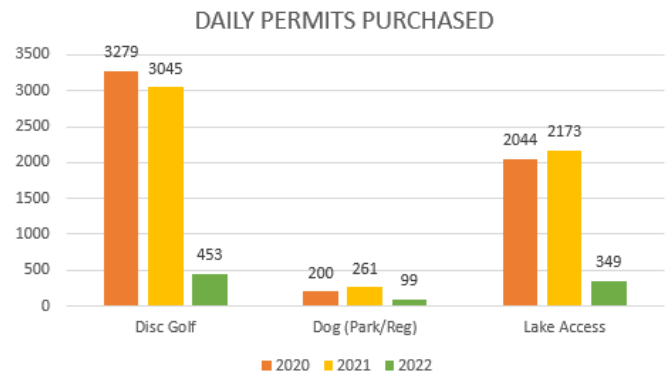
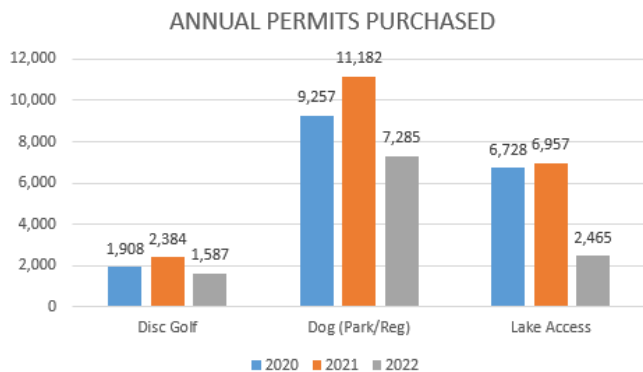
Events: Two large April events included the Earth Day Challenge and the Bird & Nature Festival. The Earth Day events had a great turnout with 899 volunteers supporting 56 City Parks. The Bird and Nature Festival encountered 554 people going through the Warner Park shelter to see the live birds of prey brought to us by Open Door Sanctuary out of Door County, WI. The Flower Garden Program will have 15 parks represented for the program this year.

Aquatics: Beaches opening Memorial Day weekend include BB Clarke, Tenney, and Vilas from 11am-7pm and Warner from 12pm-4pm. Splash Parks will also be open 10am-8pm starting Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. In addition, we will be offering a Lifeguard Training and Lifeguard Recertification Training at the Goodman Pool from June 2-5 in hopes of training new guards for our team this summer.

We are looking forward to opening the Goodman Pool on Friday, June 10 at 12pm for the season.

Customer Service (Joanne Austin):

Parks are busy with activities as we approach the summer. Shelter and athletic reservations are underway, and online permit sales are coming in each day.



Rangers (Joanne Austin):

Field training for the new hourly Rangers is underway, and they are off to an excellent start. However, staffing remains challenging as we have several vacancies to fill. In addition, Public Health Madison and Dane County provided training on Narcan, and all Rangers now carry it with them in their duty bags.

## Olbrich Botanical Gardens



- One of Olbrich's *Amorphophallus titanum*, also known as a corpse flower, bloomed starting the afternoon of May 3<sup>rd</sup> with the full bloom on May 4<sup>th</sup>. A Star Wars wedding took place in the Bolz Conservatory the evening it started to bloom. Here's a summary of the bloom event:
  - 5,527 in total attendance (May 5 – May 8)
    - Thursday, May 5 = 2,401 people (last person exited the conservatory at 10:45 p.m. and the line was cut off at 6:30/6:45 p.m.)
    - Friday, May 6 = 995 people
    - Saturday, May 7 = 993 people
    - Sunday, May 8 = 1,138 people
  - \$21,181 in total conservatory revenue
    - Thursday, May 5 = \$9,738
    - Friday, May 6 = \$4,345
    - Saturday, May 7 = \$2,382
    - Sunday, May 8 = \$4,716
  - There were a total of 18 news stories about the corpse flower.
    - WORT: [Corpse Flower To Bloom Soon at Olbrich Botanical Garden](#)
    - WKOW: [Olbrich Gardens Corpse Flower Nears Bloom](#)
    - WISC: [Corpse Flower at Olbrich Gardens Now in Bloom](#)
    - WISC: [Hundreds Line Up to Get a Whiff of the Corpse Flower](#)
    - WMTV: [Corpse Flower Stench Crashes Madison Couple's Wedding](#)
    - Isthmus.com: [Corpse Flower Blooming](#)
    - The Cap Times: [PHOTOS: Rare Corpse Flower Blooms at Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#)
    - WMTV: [Corpse Flower Blooms at Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#)
    - Yahoo!News: [Corpse Flower Blooms for First Time in 12 Years](#)
    - WBAY: [Corpse Flower Blooms at Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#)
    - Wisconsin State Journal: [Watch Now: Hundreds Turn Out for Whiff of Rare 'Corpse Flower' at Olbrich Gardens](#)
    - Madison.com: [Photos: Smelling a Rare Corpse Flower Bloom](#)
    - Kenosha News: [Watch Now: Hundreds Turn Out for Whiff of Rare 'Corpse Flower' at Olbrich Gardens](#)
    - MSN.com: [Corpse Flower Blooms for First Time in 12 Years](#)
    - WMTV: [Corpse Flower Bloom Still Partially Open at Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#)
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- Spectrum News 1: [Thousands Wait Hours to See Madison Corpse Flower in Bloom](#)
  - WMSN: [Corpse Flower at Olbrich Gardens Starting to Close](#)
  - WDJT: [Corpse Flowers Bloom in Madison](#)
- People came from as far as Wausau, La Crosse, & Green Bay, WI (maybe further) to view the flower.
  
- Interns began their internships on May 16, 2022. This year's group of interns are working in the gardens and with education. New this year is a partnership with Madison College with two students working with the Horticulture Department. Madison College interns are funded by Madison College through a grant a faculty member received.
  
- The assessment for the Royal Thai Pavilion is near completion. A public information virtual meeting is set for June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm to present the details on this restoration project. To register visit: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/olbrich-gardens-royal-thai-pavilion-condition-assessment> Access inside the Royal Thai Pavilion is restricted due to the condition of the roofing tiles.