

**SUPERINTENDENT'S JANUARY 2022 REPORT  
COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary**

December saw significantly less snowfall than normal and temperatures were not consistently cold enough to get an early start for the ice season. The end of the month saw some accumulation and colder temps, which definitely brought with it a significant demand for winter recreational amenities. The Park system is truly enjoyed and loved in all seasons. We are excited to see the winter activities get started, and are already preparing and thinking about the spring thaw!

The Reindahl encampment has ended and the vast majority of clean-up work has been completed. There will be additional work in the spring, including evaluation of trees and the need for restoration of the landscape. I am proud of the efforts of the entire Parks team in working on this issue, their patience, diligence, empathy, and professionalism was notable and exemplary.

The Lake Monona Waterfront project is moving forward with some urgency and project manager Mike Sturm has laid out a framework that can deliver a master plan for this area in time to be considered as a part of the John Nolen Drive Reconstruction project. The Commission is being briefed on this at the January meeting, and staff will continue to engage with the Commission on this critically important, once in a generation opportunity for creating a more accessible, fun, and inclusive experience for all Madisonians and visitors.

Parks continues its recruitment of multiple vacant positions and it is anticipated there will be multiple positions filled over the next two months. Successful recruitments of new team members is a major priority as the challenges of keeping the system moving forward in a constantly evolving situation has placed a lot of burden on fewer than normal staff due to vacancy rates. It is a tough labor market for employers, but I believe Parks will compete for high quality talent given the significant purpose driven work we are able to do.

Future Commission Items

- Flood Mitigation Plans – The Engineering Stormwater Utility section will be engaging with the BPC over the coming months on more specific area plans after the initial consultation at the January meeting.
- Golf Enterprise Update – The golf team is working to provide both the Commission and the Golf Subcommittee and update on the Enterprise Fund and operations as the 2021 season comes to a close. The current target for this informational update is in February. This will correspond with a goal of presenting an update and additional plan details related to Glenway for 2022. The goal of this item is for the February meeting.
- Update on WPCRC expansion plans – Funding for design and development work is included in the Parks Division's 2022 Capital Budget request, with construction funding in 2023. Staff anticipates briefing the Commission on this important project in February or March.

- Donor Recognition and Partnership Policies – The Long Range Planning Subcommittee is commencing work around the issues of donor recognition and partnership policies over the first few meetings of 2022. The hope is to have a draft policy for feedback in the first half of 2022.
- 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 April 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 2022.
- Based on the situation related to the boat left illegally moored at Marshall and other corresponding regulatory issues related to boat launches and mooring, staff are working to consider potential ordinance and policy changes that would improve the outcomes for the public in our management of these amenities. I expect some level of ordinance revision to be needed on this front, with an arrival date to the BPC of potentially the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2022.

### Personnel Updates

#### New Hires & Promotions:

- Tanya Zastrow started as Olbrich Botanical Gardens Director on Nov 1.
- Jay Schotzko was promoted from Landscape Maintenance Worker to Operations Leadworker in West Parks on Nov 29.
- John Ringwood was promoted from Seasonal Ranger to Permanent Ranger on Dec 13.

#### Departures:

- Mark Crosby resigned from his position as Athletic Scheduling Lead Worker on Nov 4.
- Jake Schneider resigned from his position as Central Parks Supervisor on Nov 5.
- Bill Christoph retired from his position as Carpenter on was Dec 7<sup>th</sup> after 30 years of service with the Parks Division
- New Lor resigned from his position as Facilities Maintenance Mechanic on December 17.
- Kelli Lamberty retired from her position as Community Events and Street Use Coordinator on Jan 7, 2022 after 24 years of service.

## Section reports

### **Park Operations**

#### **Conservation:**

- Completed pre-season ski trail maintenance and preparation at all sites, and made several improvements at Elver and Turville to allow for better grooming and improved skier experience.
- Burned brush piles generated throughout the year by invasive species control work at Cherokee Marsh, Knollwood, Stricker's Pond and Turville Point.
- Collaborated with MadNorSki volunteers to identify and post designated snowshoe trails at Elver Park.

#### **Construction:**

- Worked with Streets staff to transport over 3,500 yards of donated topsoil to a storage site for future use.
- Completed safety audits on the new playgrounds.

#### **Facilities:**

- Completed the regular seasonal facility start-up tasks required for winter recreation, and completed modifications to rental facilities to support our COVID response.
- Completed pier and park sign restoration work.

#### **General Parks:**

- Prepared hockey and general ice rinks for the season.
- Spread native seed in prairies at Lake Edge and Kingston Onyx parks, and cleared invasive plants from the prairies at Apple Ridge and 1000 Oaks parks.
- Completed leaf clean up at Forest Hill Cemetery using the new leaf pan attachment. This resulted in a far more efficient collection process than the bailing that has been used for many years.
- The Parks Operations staff came together as a team to clean up litter at Reindahl Park in support of the TPE closure. Turf and prairie restorations will occur when weather is favorable for planting.

#### **Mall Concourse:**

- Completed leaf clean up, sidewalk cold patching, and bus shelter power washing.
- Placement of Madison BID "Shine On" lighting and décor continued, and the Madison Night Market extended into December for the first time.
- Worked on a planter lighting project that will be finished in mid-January to add to the décor.

## **Planning and Development**

### **Madison Senior Center Courtyard:**

- The Madison Senior Center courtyard is scheduled for transfer to the Parks Division as a public park. The half-acre courtyard includes table and bench seating, raised planters, site lighting, and existing trees and shrubs. The change in oversight and responsibility is to partially address downtown Madison's parkland deficiency. Due to the age of the courtyard improvements, Parks is undertaking a reconstruction project prior to its opening as a public space. In November, Parks issued an RFP for community engagement and design services. Three proposals were received, and Saiki Design was recently selected to lead the project for the Parks Division. Community outreach will begin in March, with construction scheduled for 2023.

### **Sport Courts 2022**

- The 2022 Sport Court Resurfacing contract is anticipated to be bid in late January and will include color coating, crack repair, striping and power washing of acrylic surface sport courts (tennis/pickleball/basketball) at Allied, Elver, James Madison, Olbrich, Tenney, Westmorland and Wexford Parks.