

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – JUNE ACTIVITIES, 2011**

### **EAST PARKS – CRAIG KLINKE, EAST PARKS GENERAL SUPERVISOR**

As usual for this time of year, the majority of our time has been spent on mowing. Grass growth rates are still pretty high. Despite this, we still have been keeping up quite well. Mowing routes have been completed in less than seven days. The following are some of the other activities we have been working on.

#### **General**

- Filling in ruts and plow damage from the winter
- Adding soil and seed to the Gates of Heaven landscaping
- Mowing thistles that have been growing in no-mow areas
- Removing graffiti
- Pruning trees
- Mulching
- Weeding beds
- Rhythm and Booms preparation

#### **Athletics**

- Prepping softball diamonds for MSCR
- Applying roundup at Warner and Olbrich to control weeds
- Maintaining soccer fields for league play
- Fixing volleyball and tennis court nets
- Aerating soccer fields

### **WEST PARKS – KRISTIN MATHEWS, INTERIM WEST PARKS GENERAL SUPERVISOR**

June was a very busy month with all of the mowing crews trying to keep up with the grass routes and string trimming. We also helped with weeding and mulching the pool before the opening date. East Parks lent us a hand with that task.

Four of our full timers and two seasonal employees helped with the *Lands End* shoreline cleanup. They were a great group of volunteers and accomplished a lot. We are continuing to recycle every Monday. The athletic field crew is extremely busy with ball diamonds and soccer fields. One of the crews finished trimming and removing invasives along all of Midvale Blvd. It's a noticeable improvement.

We continued to do set ups for special events and reservations. We are looking forward to another good month in July.

### **MALL CONCOURSE – LAURA BAUER, INTERIM MALL CONCOURSE SUPERVISOR**

Here at Mall/Concourse, we're very pleased to report that the annual plantings in the large pots have been installed, thanks to Olbrich Garden's Jeff Epping, the staff, and the State Street interns. We look forward to watching the plants fill the pots with interesting and often unusual vegetation. We often receive compliments on the plantings, and we owe it all to Olbrich's efforts.

The hanging baskets have also been installed, though there are noticeably fewer before due to budget constraints. They still add color and interest to the streetscape.

We've begun our weekly Wednesday equipment delivery and Thursday cleanup for *Concerts on the Square*. The six-week concert series, in its 26<sup>th</sup> season, is always very popular with locals and visitors alike and serves as a showcase for the downtown area. We're privileged to work in conjunction with the Capitol and the *Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra* to continue this tradition.

July's other special events include, but are not limited to, *Art Fair On and Off the Square*, *Paddle & Portage*, and *Maxwell Street Days*

### **FOREST HILL CEMETERY – KEVIN SORENSEN**

June started out fairly wet, which made for excellent growing conditions for the grass, weeds and flowers. Most of our time has been spent trying to keep up with mowing and trimming, in addition to our burial duties. We also did a renovation project on the eroding hillside of Section 14. This major

improvement included adding dirt, tamping and then sodding. We have the same problem areas in Sections 35 and 20 and we will need to do the same thing in these areas. Other accomplishments for June include removing the grave flags put out for Memorial Day on the Veterans graves and installing a number of Veterans government markers.

Our thanks go out to the mower shop crew for keeping our equipment running when we have breakdowns and also to Forestry, for responding to tree issues as they occur. I really want to thank the Forest Hill staff. I haven't seen a group of people work so well together since I've been at the cemetery. Keep up the good work!

June staffing levels are at 6.5 permanent employees and three seasonal employees. June burial numbers, lot sales and total monthly revenue are as follows:

Interments: 20 Mausoleum Entombments: 5 Lot Sales: 9 Total Revenue: \$26,970.00

## GOLF –RAY SHANE

The City of Madison golf courses had a very good month in June. The weather cooperated and course conditions have been in excellent shape all year. Highlights for the month include the grand opening celebration of the *First Tee of South Central Wisconsin*. This event at Monona Golf Course was highlighted with a golf clinic and Q&A session by LPGA tour star Sherri Steinhauer. Tournaments for the month included the *Capitol Times Invitational* at Odana Hills and the *WI PGA Junior Championship* at Yahara Hills.

As of June 1, revenues for green fees and league fees were about \$128,000 behind 2010 levels. As of June 30th, that amount has been reduced by \$46,000. Staff is hoping for the continuation of the great golfing weather and ongoing promotions to continue to keep that difference dwindling.

Maintenance staff has been busy with the mowing and general upkeep of the courses and grounds. They are looking forward to the "normal" slow-down of growth so that special projects such as sand trap edging and tree maintenance can be completed.

Events for July include hosting a variety of golf outings; Odana Hills hosts the final round of the *Madison Men's Golf Championship*.

## OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS – ROBERTA SLADKY

### People and Gardens

*Rhapsody in Bloom*, Olbrich Botanical Gardens' gala garden party was a huge success, thanks to all of the staff and the Rhapsody in Bloom volunteer committee. This event launches the summer season and is rapidly followed by the *Home Garden Tour: Garden as Sanctuary*, July 8 and 9, and *Blooming Butterflies* July 13 through August 7. The Summer Concerts held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. continue through the end of July.

In addition, the attractions of the outdoor gardens and Bolz Conservatory continue to inspire visitors from the region and beyond as evidenced by this month's visitor comment:

#### Visitor comment from the past month:

6/22/11 "By far the best gardens I've ever seen! MUCH better than Versailles!" Michelle D. Sacramento, CA

### Numbers

OBG Attendance (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants)	2011	2010
May 1 – 31	27,140	28,286
YTD May 31	77,280	89,985
Total Member Households (individuals*) May 31	5,925 (8,795)	5,721 (8,640)

\*based on the number of membership cards issued

OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories	YTD 5/31/2011	5/30/2010
Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD	\$11,744	\$17,570
Room Rentals YTD*	\$50,680	\$67,045
Catering Percentage Revenue YTD**	\$6,517	\$6,568

\*accrued at time of booking – up to 21 months before the rental date

\*\* accrued on a monthly basis following each catered rental

Website Visits May 2011	
Total Visits	17,027
Unique Visitors	13,488
New Visits	66%

## Events

- Reflections & Interpretations: July 3 – Sept 24, Sundays, 11 am – 5 pm, Evjue Commons.
- Barbara Rewey and Sally Holl display watercolors, pastels, and prints inspired by nature.
- Bolz Conservatory closed July 11 & 12 – to prepare for Olbrich’s Blooming Butterflies
- Olbrich’s Home Garden Tour: Garden as Sanctuary, Fri, July 8, 10 am – 4 pm & Saturday, July 9, 9 am – 3 pm, Featuring gardens in west Madison and Fitchburg including HospiceCare’s peaceful and colorful gardens.
- Olbrich’s Blooming Butterflies, July 13 – August 7, 10 am – 4 pm

## Summer Concert Series – 7 pm Tuesdays, through July 26 on the Great Lawn (rain back up indoors)

- July 5, Capitol City Band (band favorites)
- July 12, Peter & Lou Berryman (folk humor)
- July 19, Ladies Must Swing (swing music)
- July 26, Marcy & the Highlights (country, blues, rock, & standards)

## Education

### Learn & Play Together

- Little Sprouts Gardening – for ages 2 – 4 with adult Thu, Jun 30 – Aug 4, 10 – 11 am,
- July 7, Wiggly Worms,
- July 14: Get Growing!,
- July 21, From Root to Flower,
- July 28, A Garden Makes a Rainbow

### Garden Explorers, drop-off classes for ages 8 – 11

- Insect Explorations - Dragonflies, Wed, Jul 27, 10 – 11:30 am

### Wellness in the Gardens

- Yoga, Mondays 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm and Thursdays, 7:30 – 8:45 am (drop in OK)
- Yin Yoga, Sundays, Jun 5 – Aug 2, 3:30 – 4:30 pm
- Moving Meditation, Mon, Jun 6 – Aug 8, 6 – 7:30 am
- Yoga Flow, Wed, Jun 8 – Aug 31, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

### Classes & Workshops for Adults

- Garden Silks: Making Silk Scarves with Botanical Dyes – for adults and youth grades 9 and up, Sun, July 17, 9 – 11 am
- Watercolor Studio Painting, Thu, July 21 – August 25, 9:30 am - noon
- Common Diseases in the Garden, Thu, July 21, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Garden Walks
- Shade Gardens Walk, Thu, Jul 14, 6:30 – 8 pm
- Garden Lighting for Residential Homeowners, Wed, Jul 27, 7:30 – 9 pm
- Hydrangeas and Summer Flowering Shrubs Walk, Thu, Jul 28, 6:30 – 8 pm

## Summer Arts For All! Co-Sponsored by VSA Arts of Wisconsin

Mosaic Suncatchers with Artist Marcia Yapp, Tues, Jul 26, Aug 2, 9, 16, 23 from 5:30 – 7 pm

## CONSERVATION – RUSS HEFTY

The youth from *Operation Fresh Start* (OFS) worked on a variety of projects throughout the Conservation Parks. They pulled and bagged garlic mustard and dames’ rocket at Kettle Pond, Heritage Sanctuary, Owen, and Turville Parks. At Turville they filled a 20 yd. dumpster with these invasive weeds.

The OFS crew installed aquatic plants in the new retention ponds at the revised parking lot at Warner Park. The plants will enhance the effectiveness of the water treatment in the ponds to catch sediment and other pollutants before it reaches the lagoon. The barrier of plants will also discourage usage by geese.

During a review of our aquatic plant restoration project in the Yahara River at Cherokee Marsh we found several areas where organic sediments have accumulated along the shoreline. Apparently, the successful establishment of aquatic plants has changed the dynamics of sediment transport in the river. Staff worked with the OFS crew to install aquatic plants (water plantain, creep spike rush, etc) in this organic "beach" to hopefully permanently anchor these sediments.

There were several significant storm events during June with strong winds that caused tree damage that needed to be removed from hiking trails. Conservation crew staff also was busy mowing and trimming trails.

The conservation crew worked with OFS at Turville to remove excess wood debris (logs) that hampers follow up management necessary as part of the oak savanna restoration project. The excessive wood debris creates barriers that inhibit the travel of fire during prescribed burns, and makes it difficult to mow exotic shrubs and weeds. Material was hauled to the nearby reduction plant where it will be chipped.

On June 9<sup>th</sup> staff led a public tour at Kettle Pond Conservation Park that was attended by 32 people.

**FORESTRY – MARLA EDDY**

Forestry Section	Total Trees	Total Hours
Cycle Pruning	23	33
Pruned by Request	613	940.75
Small Tree Pruning Cycle	227	119.75
Tree Removal	250	770
Storm Work/Hangers		339
Unfilled Vacancies		528

June was marked with a "minor" tornado on the east side. The boundaries of the damage were Monona Drive, Buckeye Road, Thompson Drive and Ferrite Drive. The Streets Division assisted the Forestry Section by helping collect wood debris while we kept the chain saws running. The majority type of tree damage was partially broken branches (aka hangers). West Forestry did have a few isolated locations of street tree damage from the storm, but it was minimal.

Pruning for the Engineering Department projects (reconstruction and resurfacing) was the top objective for both East and West Forestry in June. In addition to this, Forestry has been able to do a little cycle pruning and small tree pruning, with request work mixed in. Whereas, the east side has been only doing request work and removals.

Engineering projects and the sidewalk replacement program has kept the Forestry Specialists busy. Special projects include two tree removals for *Rhythm & Booms* at Warner Park.

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – KAY RUTLEDGE**

**James Madison Park Shoreline Improvements**

Project was completed by June 10, 2011.

**Breese Stevens Field Press Box**

Bids for the purchase of the press box came in May 13<sup>th</sup>. Low bid was JW Industries out of Green Bay, WI. Press box fabrication cost came in at \$84,850.00. A late request by the Madison Fire Department to require fire-rated lumber for fabrication increased the price by \$5,515.00, for a total of \$90,365.00. A second phase of the project (a public works contract for the coordination of delivery and installation of the structure) was put out in June with bids received on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Joe Daniels Construction was the only bidder. Due to our small window for installation, we decided to accept the single bid and rather than re-bid. Daniels bid was \$21,212.00, within the budget for the project. Anticipated time for installation is August of 2011, in between the spring and fall soccer seasons.

**Breese Stevens Entrance Improvements**

The project was approved by Landmarks Commission and other reviewing agencies. Bids were received May 27<sup>th</sup> and opened June 3, 2011. Low bidder was Raymond P. Cattell at \$141,024.80.

Construction is scheduled to begin July 18<sup>th</sup> and to be finished September 9<sup>th</sup> during the off-peak season.

### **Door Creek Soccer Fields**

A DNR permit has been submitted for the development of two adult size soccer fields at Door Creek Park. Construction is scheduled to begin in July pending DNR approval.

### **Door Creek Ski Trail**

Staff is preparing plans for neighborhood review and construction for development of Phase I of the Door Creek Ski Trails. Phase I construction will include grading and tree removal and some culvert crossings needed for the trail. A meeting was held with the adjoining neighbors on June 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the project and tree impacts; Planning and Development, Conservation and Forestry staff were in attendance to discuss the project and potential changes to the Memorandum of Understanding. The project is currently out for bid, with bids due on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Tennis Court Resurfacing**

Given the cold, wet spring, finishing this contract has been a struggle this year. The courts at Westmorland, Rennebohm and Walnut Grove have been done for a while, but the courts at Brittingham still need to be completed by the end of June. The courts were playable – cracks were repaired and the nets were back up – but the color coating had not yet been completed.

### **Burrows Park Restroom Renovation**

Burrows Park Restroom is complete and has been started up for the season. Staff is developing landscaping improvements as part of the restroom renovation.

### **Warner Park Parking Lot**

The Parks Division will be reconstructing the Warner Park parking lot in 3 phases over the next 3 years. In Phase 1, fall 2010, we replaced the storm sewer and built 2 retention ponds that will hold all of the parking lot run off prior to it going into the channel and lagoons. Phase 2 includes Bay 3 of the parking lot and the complete roadway through the parking lot. Bay 3 of Phase 2 will be completed in spring and the remainder of Phase 2 will be done after the 2011 Mallards season. Phased landscaping for the parking lot was included in the 2011 Park Landscaping Public Works Contract. The spring phase of Phase 2 has been completed; we are waiting for the end of the Mallards season to complete the rest of Phase 2.

### **Warner Park Bleacher Replacement**

This is a joint venture with the Madison Mallards – replacing the bleachers at the baseball diamond at Warner Park. Low bid was Joe Daniels Construction Co., Inc. at \$999,985.85. The project was completed on schedule (May 27<sup>th</sup>), in time for the first Mallards game on June 6th.

### **Olbrich Park Softball Light Replacement**

This project calls for the removal/replacement of the softball lights for the two easterly diamonds at Olbrich near the Walter St. parking lot. Staff is in the process of getting price comparisons from various manufacturers for reusing all of the existing poles; some of the existing poles, and/or for complete replacement. Staff is analyzing the cost/benefits of each during the next few weeks in order to come up with a bid plan. The plan is to bid this project out over the summer for fall installation.

### **Thut Park**

Staff is working with engineering to install inlets, storm structures and a berm to divert runoff from Thut Park into the Woodley Street storm sewer system. Construction schedule is dependent upon the Woodley Storm Sewer Engineering project. It is anticipated that construction of the berm, inlets and connection to the Woodley Street storm sewer will be completed this fall.

### **Tenney Park Pavilion**

The project continues to move forward; all footings have been poured and the contractor is running the utilities so that the foundation slab can be poured as well. Options for reusing the existing stone from the pillars were evaluated; the stone will be reused for the fireplace as well as all stone veneer on the exterior column areas. Staff continues to work out design details as construction issues are raised.

### **Tenney Park Maintenance Bridge**

Staff is working with the neighborhood as well as the State Historical Society on the design guidelines for the bridge. We are moving forward with hiring a consultant to design the bridge; it is anticipated that the design process will be completed in July and that the project will go out for bid in early fall with a construction schedule of spring 2012.

### **Playgrounds**

The contract has been issued and the pre-construction meeting was held with the project supervisor to strategize schedule and installations. The play equipment and site amenities have been ordered and received and the first order of rubber surfacing is also underway. The contractor began construction and installation at Meadowood Park; new equipment has been installed, including upgrades to existing equipment. The remainder of the site improvements, including the asphalt for the path and the basketball courts, will be completed after the holiday. Work also began on excavation and site preparation for installation of the Quarry Cove Playground.

### **Park Landscaping**

A joint pre-construction meeting was held with Forestry since the same contractor is planting their street trees under Contract 6645. Staff met with the contractor to locate park trees (he is wrapping up his street tree planting during most of May). The remainder of his plantings will coincide with street tree plantings in close proximity to park sites ready for trees. Installation of trees has begun for Rimrock, Burr Jones and Linden Grove Park projects. In addition, many of the park sign landscaping projects have been completed. Other work underway outside of the public works contract includes removing invasives at Glacier Hill and Sandburg Parks. Additional landscaping will be installed in these parks shortly.

### **Owls Creek Open Space**

Installation of the playground is complete. Due to the late fall start and weather conditions, some site remediation is yet to be done.

### **Olive Jones Park**

Construction began on the park improvements which includes a new toddler playground site and equipment. To create the new neighborhood park play area, retaining walls and fencing will be replaced and added as necessary. The new play area will be accessed by a permeable paver path, and the existing amphitheater will be expanded and also paved with permeable pavers. Capstones for the new walls and amphitheater and the larger pavers will be engraved to recognize the donors for the improvements at Olive Jones Park.

### **Marshall Park Dredging**

Permit for dredging was completed in mid December and sent to the DNR. In January, the DNR informed us that no dredge work could be done during the spring spawning period between March 15<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Marshall Park channel and bay, where the boat launch is, is an important spot for spawning pan fish. We also had to revise the permit in June. The revised permit is in and we are awaiting approval. The contract has been delayed until fall due to these requirements.

### **Park and Open Space Plan**

Staff met with the Long Range Planning Subcommittee on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> to go over preliminary sections of the Park and Open Space Plan. Staff is continuing to develop the plan and make revisions based on recommendations from Long Range Planning. Research and inventorying of park facilities and review of park classifications continues.

### **Other Projects**

- Finalized 2012 Capital Budget submission, working with Engineering on potential shoreline restoration projects within our parks.
- Meeting held with staff and volunteers regarding restoration efforts at Glen Oak Hills Park.
- Working with Engineering on potential bioretention areas at Spring Harbor and Indian Hills Parks.
- Received input from the DNR and the Corps of Engineers, working with Engineering on revising the plan for the stormwater ponds along Wheeler Road.

**WARNER PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER – BRAD WEISINGER**  
**Admissions and Passes**

	YTD 2010	YTD 2011	% Rev Change	% Change
Pass Plans	\$41,255.60	\$36,784.00	65%	-11%
Admissions	\$17,639.00	\$16,343.00	47%	-7%

**Facility Reservations**

Calendar Year	February Rental Totals	No. Free	% Free	Rentals	Free Rentals YTD	% Free YTD	YTD Revenue	% Rev budget
2010	85	25	29%	447	205	46%	\$30,192.50	59%
2011	109	42	39%	635	204	32%	\$35,866.25	70%

Calendar Year	YTD hrs	YTD hrly participations
2010	1162.55	57,256
2011	1450.60	83,338

YTD 2010 Age Profile

Preschool – 127; Elementary School – 83; Middle School – 129; High School – 132; Adult – 1,075; Senior 60+ 647

YTD Income Compliance

Income levels are based on households with 1-8 family members.  
 62% compliance - YTD