

2020 Beautification Projects

As with everything else, Covid-19 impacted Madison Parks' ability to work on a number of Beautification projects in 2020. In spite of the challenges, we completed a few significant projects as well as invested in materials for projects in 2021. While all projects served to enhance the aesthetics of the park landscape, pretty well all of the projects achieve the broader goal of increasing biodiversity and serve as habitat for numerous flora and fauna in the future.

- **Flad Park** – Parks staff from several departments converted an old pea gravel playground pit into a 1500 square foot pollinator garden. This garden was planted with over 800 plugs and 22 different species of pollinator friendly plants.

Before



After



- **Period Gardens** – Annual flowers and materials are purchased each year for Period Gardens Park. This project is entirely volunteer driven, as annual flowers and mulch are purchased to enhance beauty of this historic garden.
- **Native seeding** – Native seed mixes were purchased and sowed at numerous locations including Olin Park, Giddings Park and Vilas Park. Additional seed was purchased at the end of the year for 2021 spring plantings. Seed purchases include short grass prairie mixes, pollinator friendly mixes and shady woodland mixes.
- **Flower bulbs** – Thousands of flower bulbs were purchased in the fall and planted in park signature sign beds throughout the city. Many of the bulbs flower in the spring which should give the planting beds a burst of color and continue to produce for years to come.

- **Portland Park** - The Neighborhood around Portland Park wanted a no mow/prairie around the perimeter of the park to keep mowers away from their fences. The front hillside of the park was planted with 768 prairie plugs representing 21 species to give a more immediate impact of flowers from the roadside to the park after the original seed that was put down failed to germinate properly. The photo below was taken following completion of the Portland Park project. We look forward to watching the planting grow and develop.



2021 Plans

Looking forward to 2021, we expect to use the Beautification funds for the following purposes:

- Period Gardens plantings
- Spring flower bulbs in planting beds – Examples of species include Crocus, Daffodil, Scilla, Tulips
- Perennial flowers, shrubs and trees for new and established planting beds
- Native seeds mixes for prairie areas
- Seeds and plants for shoreline restoration, ex. Esther Beach

