

**SUPERINTENDENT'S AUGUST 2021 REPORT
COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary**

With mainly sunny days and dry weather, park usage continues to be at an all-time high. The return of many annual events, plus shelter reservations and athletic events is keeping front office, special events and field staff busy. The dry weather has also allowed operations staff to focus on outstanding work orders and preventative maintenance, rather than mowing grass.

Carts in Parks kicked off on Sunday, July 25 and by all accounts the program has been extremely successful and well-received by the community and food cart owners. Goats in parks continues this year, grazing more than 17 acres. Olbrich's Home Garden Tour, July 9-10, had record attendance with 1,650 guests touring 8 stunning home gardens.

A new gaga ball pit was installed at Olbrich and Penn parks. Goodman Pool hosted the 11-12 year old girls preliminaries in the All-City Swim Meeting in July. The Pool continues to be busy with recreation swim, tot and lap swims. Additional lifeguards were hired and allowed for the addition of weekend guards at Bernie's Beach in August. Speaking of Bernie's Beach, an accessible mat was installed with guidance and consultation from the community and DCR. Sina Davis Movies in the Park is seeing good attendance and partnerships with neighborhood associations and other City agencies.

Fall is fast approaching and staff is preparing for the change of season. September's annual Trucks & Treasures will take place in Door Creek Park, a move from Reindahl Park as the unauthorized encampment at the park continues to expand as policymaker decisions are stalled.

Future Commission Items

- Parks Division Equity Plan – Staff continue implementation of the Parks Equity Team's Equity in Action Plan. A key part of the implementation of this plan is to engage with the Commission on this plan and the corresponding work that will be happening. This is anticipated to occur in August or September.
- Golf Enterprise Update – Staff will be working to provide both the Commission and the Golf Subcommittee and update on the Enterprise Fund and operations. The current target for this informational update is in September.
- 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 the fall of 2021.
- Capital Budget and Operating Budget Update – The Capital Budget request has been submitted and the team is working on the operating budget submission to the Mayor now. An overview of the submissions will be provided to the Commission in the next few months.

Personnel Updates

Zach Watson started on July 26 as the Program Coordinator for WPCRC. The Program Coordinator position was created in partnership with the City's Racial Equity & Social Justice Initiative (RESJI) to provide free or low-cost programs for Northside teens and families

Section reports

Park Operations

Conservation

- Continued to work on controlling Japanese hedge parsley and sweet clover at several parks this month, and cut taller buckthorn in prescribed grazing units at Turville Point.
- With permission from Wisconsin Historical Society, staff relocated a portion of trail at Edna Taylor to restore a “loop” in the northeast portion of the park while avoiding burial mounds.
- Goats completed grazing 17 acres at Turville Point, six acres at Owen, and then moved to Acewood. Another herd continues to graze at Knollwood.

Construction

- Completed the pad for a memorial bench at Sugar Maple Park and began work on the nature play area at Paunack Park and the new path at Orlando Bell Park.
- Improved the playgrounds at Olive-Jones and Shorewood Forest parks by adding mulch, and installed a new swing at Ontario Park.

Facilities

- Focused primarily on daily work orders, inspections, and preventive maintenance.
- Power washed and painted picnic shelters at Everglade, Wirth, Elver and Goodman.
- Constructed a new kiosk for Owl Creek Park.

General Parks

- Staff continued to support summer maintenance as well as summer event preparation and clean up. Events included Opera in the Park at Garner, Mad City Disc Golf tournament at Elver, Bacon and Brew at McPike, the CrossFit event at Olbrich, and the Summer Event Series at Leopold Park, to name a few.
- The new Warner Park beach shelter is now reservable, and East Parks has assumed responsibility for cleaning the facility.

Mall Concourse

- Daily maintenance requirements increased with the return of downtown events including Maxwell Street Days, Art Fair Off the Square, and activities at Peace Park, Top of State Street, and Rotary Plaza.
- Replaced and updated the plantings at Peace Park and increased watering all plants due to the dry weather conditions. The planters continue to survive and look good.

Community Services – Christopher Peguero

Customer Service (Mark Crosby)

- Permit sales have begun to slow but continue to come in. Nearing record sales for all annual permit types. 2021 permit sales continue until Nov. 15 when we begin selling 2022 permits.

PERMIT GROUP	2019			2020			2021		
	Annual	Daily	Fee	Annual	Daily	Fee	Annual	Daily	Fee
Disc Golf	1,470	5,284	\$85,235.31	1,908	3,279	\$92,269.50	2,271	1,726	\$99,254.00
Dog (Park/Reg)	7,962	590	\$223,627.33	9,225	200	\$257,663.67	9,064	153	\$262,309.00
Lake Access	3,004	4,561	\$142,482.12	6,728	2,044	\$188,999.85	5,762	1,226	\$172,547.00
Ski Trail	1,474	967	\$47,126.50	1,501	1,017	\$48,712.01	3,632	1,143	\$108,544.00
	13,910	11,402	\$498,471.26	19,362	6,540	\$587,645.03	20,729	4,248	\$642,654.00

- Shelter & Athletic Reservations continue. About five shelter reservations have cancelled due to rising COVID-19 concerns.

Community Events (Kelli Lamberty)

- Carts in Parks and the Latino Chamber of Commerce (LCC) Plaza Community Markets at Penn Park started up July 24th. We're gaining valuable information and experience in how Madison Parks can work to support programs like these.
- Street Use and Park event permit applications, inquiries and requests continue to come in at a brisk pace.
- We're starting to finalize data collection for programs and policies put in place for events and activities during COVID and plan to provide a report on their effectiveness.

Recreation Services (Tracey Hartley)

- Summer is moving along with the Sina Davis Movies in the Park Program. 21 movies occurring with an average of 50 people attending. The City of Madison Public Library with Story time ahead of the movies is going over well and a new addition will be the City of Madison Clerk's Office joining with voting information at the Park. Parks collaborated with the DNR to offer Learn to Fish and we had 12 people attend the event at Marshall Park on July 28 with one person catching a fish. Next Learn to Fish will be at Filene Park on August 18.

Goodman Pool (Christopher Peguero)

- All city swim meet took place on July 30 and went well.
- The last session of swim lessons start on Aug 9th.
- Life guarding classes started on Aug 2nd.

Rangers (Joanne Austin)

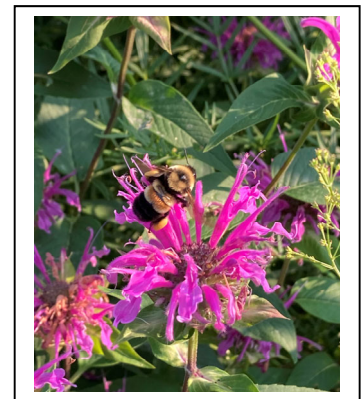
- We are excited to report that an additional hourly ranger will soon be joining our section. She has been an hourly ranger with Waukesha County since 2013, so she will bring great skills and experience to complement our strong ranger team.

Warner Park Community Recreation Center (Terrence Thompson)

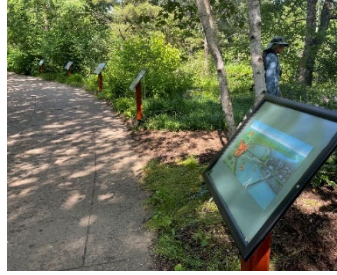
- WPCRC is excited to announce the hiring of Zach Watson for the Program Coordinator position. Zach started on July 26, 2021. The Program Coordinator position was created in partnership with the City's Racial Equity & Social Justice Initiative (RESJI) to provide free or low-cost programs for Northside teens and families.
- WPCRC will be collecting back-to-school supplies on August 2-16, 2021. Donations will be distributed at the Northside Increase the Peace block party at Vera Court on August 17, 2021.
- WPCRC Family Fun Night returns on the second Friday each month starting September 10, 2021, from 5:30pm-8pm. WPCRC will be open for a night of family fun featuring bouncy houses, art and pottery projects, bingo, gym activities, movie screenings, and more.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

- **Attendance, Rentals, and Weddings.** Total attendance for June 2021 was 28,756 visitors; 6,015 visitors enjoyed the Bolz Conservatory. With gathering restrictions lifted in June, interest in rentals increased immediately. The new wedding season started in June, with only four open Saturdays available through October that can still be booked with weddings. The first month with our new format has worked well.
- **Outdoor Gardens.** Horticulture staff were very excited to confirm the siting of endangered Rusty Patch Bumble Bees in the Sunken Garden. Staff and their Garden Scout Volunteer Crew are using an app developed for them to track insect photos and activity in the gardens, creating a phenology of both beneficial insects and pests. Channel 3 featured a segment on Olbrich and our bug-friendly gardens. <https://www.channel3000.com/olbrich-botanical-gardens-focuses-on-bugs/>
- **Bolz Conservatory/Production Greenhouse.** In the greenhouses, fall crops have sized up enough to be moved outside until they are ready to be planted in the outdoor gardens.



- **Programs & Exhibitions.** Olbrich's Home Garden Tour, July 9-10, had record attendance with 1,650 guests touring 8 stunning home gardens. Outdoor garden **Pollinator Activities for Families** continue with 'I Spy' Pollinators, (June 21 to July 31) and StoryWalk featuring Señorita Mariposa (July 12 to August 8), a bilingual children's book that celebrates the monarch butterflies' epic migration. Youth librarians from the Madison Public Library kicked off the StoryWalk with a pop-up pollinator themed craft at the Gardens. The librarians also created pollinator book displays at the public libraries that promotes the StoryWalk. In an outreach effort, up to 50 copies of Señorita Mariposa are being donated to local little free libraries that planted milkweeds around their little library.



- **Personnel.** Roberta Sladky, Olbrich's Garden Director, retired on June 26, after 15 years of dedicated service. The posting for a new Garden Director closed on July 19; leadership from Madison Parks and the Olbrich Botanical Society Board of Directors are collaborating to screen and hire for this position.