

**Superintendent's Report
Parks Operations Monthly Highlights
(April 2023)**

Conservation:

- Joined forces with the general parks Ecology Team to implement the prescribed fire program throughout the system. Long established prairie plantings (managed meadows) at Blackhawk, Flagstone and Huegel burned for the first time this spring. Staff and contractors also completed burns at Cherokee Marsh North and South Units, Door Creek, Edna Taylor, Kennedy, Prairie Ridge, Secret Places, Stricker's Pond, Turville Point, and the Olin Park savanna.
- Sowed native seed mixes at Cherokee Marsh, Heritage Prairie, Prairie Ridge, and Stricker's Pond.

Construction:

- Completed installation of sign posts and signs on the Cannonball Path, reconditioned sections of gravel roads at Cherokee Marsh, and delivered mulch and topsoil for the annual spring clean-up.
- Installed the new gaga ball pit at Olive Jones Park.
- Began the seasonal playground inspections, which will be supported by seasonal staff.

Facilities:

- Worked on seasonal preparations including installation of piers and re-starting the water service at shelters, restrooms and stadiums.
- Worked on multiple capital projects at the Warner Park stadium, including painting restrooms, rebuilding the dugout steps and benches, and upgrading lighting.
- Completed installation of the new inclusive railing at one of the Warner Park boat launch piers. The Yahara Fishing Club designed the railing and funded the project through a donation to the Madison Parks Foundation.

General Parks:

- Started mowing operations and shelter cleaning for the season.
- Performed the spring cleanup work on planted beds in medians, in support of the new Public Works approach to median maintenance.
- Supported three micro-learning sessions for staff development including a review of the Parks Land Management Plan, top ten invasive species in the parks, and a review of the findings of a UW Madison student study on snakes in parks.
- Began seasonal planting with a total of 178 trees and shrubs targeted for this spring.
- Two large events were held at Warner Park. Lake Edge Elementary School held an Earth Day event at which approximately 250 students cleaned up litter and planted an oak tree south of the rainbow shelter. Mayor Rhodes-Conway attended the event. The annual Bird and Nature Festival drew an estimated 800-1,000 people to the rainbow shelter to see live hawks, owls and eagles presented by Open Door Bird Sanctuary. The event also included 40 other nature-oriented groups providing educational exhibits and materials, and hands-on nature activities for kids.

Mall Concourse:

- Removed over 12" of snow and planted pansies in 116 planters this month; an example of the weather extremes and the impact they had on the work requirements.
- Began replacing bike racks, benches, and trash cans that were damaged or in poor condition, and started the sidewalk power washing program on State Street and the expansion area.
- Reinstalled the Visitor Center Booth at the Top of State Street in preparation for upcoming events.