

MAY 2014 WRITTEN REPORT OF SUPERVISOR'S ACTIVITIES EAST PARKS – CRAIG KLINKE, SUPERVISOR

April proved to be a busy month for our staff. It's the time of year when weather changes and people get out into the parks again. We've completed installing garbage cans, picnic tables, and benches into all of our parks. We have 7 soccer fields installed and have 6 more to do the week of the 28th. The shelters and bathrooms have been thoroughly cleaned and are now open 7 days a week. We hosted many Earth Day Projects and had over 100 people help pick up trash, mulch beds, pull invasives, and help make our parks look great. High school softball started and MSCR's season will begin soon. Breese Stevens will be open for the season starting May 3rd. Warner Park had two new trees get planted to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day.

We'll soon be calling seasonal employees back to get ready for the busy mowing season that is approaching very quickly. We've started our weekend operations to make sure facilities are clean and ready for reservations. We've completed interviews and hope to have our new Athletic Leadworker start work in May as well. It's a busy time of year, but we've all been looking forward to it.

CENTRAL PARKS – LISA LASCHINGER, SUPERVISOR

April was a very busy month for us as we began to really gear up for the season. Crews spent a great deal of time learning new routes and preparing them for the mowing season. We cut back many perennials and continued with leaf clean-up at Goodman pool and James Madison Park to name just a couple. We've set out all of our tables and barrels as park usage has steadily increased over the last month. The month had ups and downs as far as the weather went that had us closing and opening fields on a nearly daily basis.

Our Earth Day Challenge was a success, as the day could not have been more perfect for all the volunteers to come out and enjoy the parks while they worked to beautify them. Parks staff lead projects at Olin and Vilas and volunteers lead numerous projects throughout the City. At Olin, volunteers cut back perennials, raked leaves, mulched planting beds and picked trash. At Vilas, crews worked to rake up grass clippings left along the shoreline from the ice season, picked trash, and cleaned up the playground.

We are in the process of welcoming new and returning seasonal staff to our team. We held our annual spring orientation on May 1 for those who are with us now. By early June, we will be at full staffing levels. We will be conducting a second orientation for the students who will be joining us later. The training process continues as we begin our mowing operations, and familiarize all of our staff with our procedures.

As we head into May, people are looking forward to warmer temps and activity in the parks has picked up significantly. The softball and baseball season have officially begun, and we will be preparing the diamonds daily for the games. Staff will be showcasing equipment at the Big Rig Gig on May 10. It will be a very busy month with graduation parties and Memorial Day activities and we will be increasing our weekend staffing levels accordingly. We will finish preparing the pool for its opening by the end of the month. In addition, we will be starting up our recycling program in time for Memorial Day weekend. Summer is finally here and we're looking forward to it!

CONSERVATION – RUSS HEFTY

Wet and cool conditions hampered spring operations in the conservation parks. In spite of less than favorable weather we accomplished 8 controlled burns. We are hoping to complete several additional burns in May. The additional fire control equipment brought online has helped increase our efficiency and safety when conducting controlled burns. Having two UTV equipped with water pumps allows us to station one with each crew working the fire lines as we conduct the burns. They are also helpful in "mop up" operations after the burn is complete dousing smoldering logs in the burn unit.

On May 19th twenty volunteers planted 200 native shrubs at North Cherokee as part of our Earth Day celebration. This hedge row planting will provide wildlife habitat while establishing a natural screen between the park and the adjacent golf course. A big thank you to the volunteers for giving us their time on a beautiful Saturday morning!

MALL CONCOURSE – TOM SKAIFE, SUPERVISOR; LAURA BAUER, LEADSWORKER

The cool spring weather caused a planting schedule adjustment for the second year in a row, but there are finally pansies in the downtown planters again. The planting, contracted by the Business Improvement District, was done, fittingly, on Earth Day. Mall Concourse staff waters the pansies on Wednesdays, and a contractor handles this task on Mondays and Fridays. As the first flowers to be seen anywhere, they're much appreciated.

The grass is beginning to green up, and we're working on our annual spring aerating and overseeding project. Our total grass area is around an acre, but it is broken up into so many different small raised beds that it seems like much more. Getting the unwieldy aerator into and out of each bed requires two people to lift it each time, so it's a very slow and laborious process.

Our sidewalk washing program is showing good results. This is a slow process as well, but a lot of gum and an unbelievable amount of gunk are being removed. We've seen great support from the public, and especially from business owners. Everyone seems amazed at the difference between "dirty" and "clean" and we've had nothing but compliments.

The Dane County Farmer's Market is up and running again, and the summer event season has kicked off with the Crazylegs Classic. Larger events we'll see downtown in May include the Syttende Mai Run, the Madison Marathon, the People's Brat Fest. Most of the commencement ceremonies have moved from the Kohl Center to Camp Randall this spring, but we still expect to see lots of graduates and families the weekend of May 17th.

The lower four blocks of State Street are, or soon will be, exhibiting a "construction" theme. In addition to the work on the Hub building, construction on the 700 and 800 blocks of State Street begins on May 19th, and is expected to continue into the autumn. The complete redesign is the result of years of planning and collaboration with the UW, and we're very excited to see how the new spaces will be used. Current problems such as the lack of reliable electrical power, the presence of the huge, inoperable fountain, and the almost complete absence of water for cleaning and plant watering have been addressed. We anticipate that the area will be more beautiful, considerably easier to maintain, and a destination rather than just somewhere to pass through on the way to somewhere else.

OLBRICH GARDENS – ROBERTA SLADKY

The spring bulbs are bursting out everywhere. The new bulb plantings in the Serenity Meadow look fantastic – especially with the Thai sala in the background. Staff have been working hard in the outdoor gardens – I think everyone is finally convinced that spring is finally arrived. On my walk today, the star magnolias are just opening and the flowers look perfect!

The Conservatory also is particularly lush at this time of year. After the pruning there is a lot of light and the plants begin to grow very actively. Longer days help as well. We received a donation of architectural lighting for the Bolz Conservatory through the hard work of one of our Building Attendants, Dylan Jordee, who also assisted in the installation with our maintenance mechanic, Don Saunders. We now have the ability to light the structure so that the building will glow with colors at night. The lighting is all energy efficient LED's and can be programmed – once the interface is installed – to change color and intensity. Dylan does some stage lighting for bands, so you can imagine the effects!

Spring education programs are winding down, but a new catalog that covers June through December will arrive on doorsteps and on the web about May 1. A schedule with something for everyone from toddlers through adults.

Visitor comment from the past month:

4/18/14 "The Olbrich Gardens is nicer than the National Garden in Washington, DC."

Mc. (Arlington, VA)

October Numbers

OBG Attendance (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants)	2014	2013	Previous 5 yrs average
March 1 - 31	19,702	18,642	17,514
YTD February 31	43,901	39,019	
Total Member Households (individuals*) Feb 31	6,339 (10,146)	6,519 (11,475)	

*based on the number of membership cards issued

OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories (unaudited)	YTD 3/31/2014	YTD 3/31/2013
Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD	\$14,702	\$19,737
Room Rentals YTD*	\$34,677	\$38,366
Catering Percentage Revenue YTD**	\$4,627	\$4,174
TOTAL YTD	\$54,006	\$62,277

*accrued at time of booking – up to 21 months before the rental date, ** accrued on a monthly basis following each catered rental

May 2014 Public Events at Olbrich Botanical Gardens call 608-246-4550 for more info

Load-Your-Own Leaf Mulch Sale Ongoing, daily 10 am – 4 pm

TRAM Service begins weekends in May and Daily Service starts Memorial Day!

Dahlia Tuber Sale, Sun, May 4, noon-2 pm by the Badger State Dahlia Society

Olbrich Gardens Celebrates National Public Gardens Day – May 9

Olbrich's Plant Sale With the Pros, Fri, May 9, 11 am – 5 pm & Sat, May 10, 9 am – 3 pm

African Violet Sale, Sat, May 10, 9 am – 4 pm by the Sundowners and Crosstown African Violet Clubs

Mother's Day Concert, Sun, May 11, 2 – 3 pm by the New Horizons Concert Band

Bonsai Show, Sat, May 17, 9 am – 5 pm & Sun, May 18, 10 am – 4 pm

Full-Service Leaf Mulch Sale, Thurs, May 22 & Fri, May 23, noon – 5 pm

Iris Show, Sun, May 25, noon – 5 pm by the Madison Area Iris Society

Education – May 2014 classes and programs 608/246-4550 for info/registration or visit www.olbrich.org

Wellness at the Gardens

Yoga, Mondays 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm and Thursdays 7:30 – 8:45 am (drop in OK)

Tai Chi Meditation, Mondays, Mondays, Mar 24 – May 19, 6 – 7 pm

Classes & Workshops for Adults

Beyond the Photo: Creative Design with Photo References, Sunday, May 4, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Container Herb Gardening, Sunday, May 4, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Guest Author Thomas Mickey Presents America's Romance with the English Garden, Sat, May 17, 1 – 2:30 pm

Designing a Culinary Herb Garden Workshop, Sunday, May 18, 1:30 – 4:30 pm

Ornamental Container Gardens Workshop, Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Learn & Play Together

Flower Fairies, Friday, May 2, 6:30 – 8 pm, (grades K-2 with adult and 3 – 5)

Toddler Story and Stroll: Down by the Pond Series (ages 2 – 4 with adult)

Terrific Turtles, Fri, May 16, 10 – 11 am or 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Fantastic Frogs, Fri, May 23, 10 – 11 am or 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Wonderful Worms, Friday, May 30, 10 – 11 am or 12:30 – 1:30 pm

FORESTRY – MARLA EDDY

Forestry Section	Total Trees	Total Hours
Cycle Pruning	771	756
Pruned by Request	44	83
Small Tree Pruning Cycle	450	178
Tree Removals (non EAB preemptive)	103	329
Ash Preemptive Removals	11	111
Storm Work/Hangers		25.5
Tree Planting		511

Forestry continues to preemptively remove ash trees when we come across them while completing other maintenance tasks.

Both east and west units were able to accomplish a lot of cycle pruning during the first half of April. Forestry began planting on April 24th, which has been delayed a bit due to the late spring and wet weather.

Forestry Specialists were busy throughout April checking utility marks at planting sites. The Specialists also started inspecting tree root conflicts as part of the City Engineering sidewalk replacement project, as well as started reviewing street reconstruction projects that started in April.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – KAY RUTLEDGE

Central Park

The construction of Phase 1A was substantially complete on January 14, 2014. Work to be completed this spring includes fine grading and seeding adjacent to the restroom facility, pressure testing the irrigation system, and completion of punch list items from the January 14th inspection. A temporary crossing has been installed in order to correlate the necessary work with the railroad, in accordance with the OCR's recent supplemental order. Construction of Phase 1B and the skatepark are scheduled to occur in 2014.

Warner Park Boat Launch Dredging

The dredging was completed by the contract completion date of January 10, 2014. The dredge spoils pile was measured in April. The pile needs to dry out a little more then it will be topped off with 6" of fill and 6" of topsoil.

Central Park Skatepark

A new pre-qualification category has been established for skatepark work with information sent out to contractors regarding this requirement. Council approved advertising plans and specifications for this project on April 29th. The design consultant team, Stantec and MSA, are preparing final construction bid documents; first ad date for bidding is tentatively scheduled for May 16th with bids due on June 6th. Construction is anticipated to begin by July 30th with substantial completion in November 2014.

Reservoir Park Playground

Due to the early snowfall and below average temperatures, the construction deadline for Reservoir Park Playground was extended to Spring 2014. Staff continues to work with the neighborhood and the Water Utility on the restoration plans to stabilize the slopes along the reservoir in conjunction with the construction of the new Booster Pump Station at Reservoir Park.

Highland Manor Park

Project came in over budget and with only one bid. Engineering decided to split the project up into 3 contracts (Utilities, Site work and Building), and re-bid over summer. The first contract for the water main installation has been rebid, with savings due to design changes and rebidding of nearly \$50,000.

Sauk Creek Park Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 1 contract. The Council approved the contract award to Madison Commercial Landscapes (low bidder at \$237,949.18) on April 29th. The contract is being routed for signatures and the preconstruction meeting will be held in May; construction is anticipated to begin 5/30/2014.

Haen Family Park Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 1 contract. Please see Sauk Creek for additional details.

Droster Park Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 1 contract. Please see Sauk Creek for additional details.

Pilgrim Park Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 1 contract. Please see Sauk Creek for additional details.

Everglade Park Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 1 contract. Please see Sauk Creek for additional details.

Westport Meadows Park Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 1 contract. Please see Sauk Creek for additional details.

Splash Parks

The splash park contract for construction of the Elver and Reindahl Park splash parks has been awarded to Joe Daniels Construction for the low bid amount of \$1,340,576.75. Construction for the Reindahl Splash Park began on 4/21/2014, and construction for the Elver Splash Park began on 4/28/2014. A preconstruction meeting was held in the morning and the groundbreaking ceremony held in the afternoon for both splash parks at Elver Park on 4/23/2014.

Breese Stevens Field Lighting/Sound System Improvements

The contractor started work in early January. Project is 90% complete. The new poles/fixtures are up. The new audio system is in. Some minor wiring is left to do before testing and a new electrical panel may be needed as the contractor is unable to find additional breakers (they've been discontinued). Completion date for this project is May 24, 2014.

Lucy Lincoln Hiestand Playground

Neighborhood meetings have been completed and staff has begun design development for replacement of the existing playground at Lucy Lincoln Hiestand Park. Staff will be presenting plans for approval to the Board of Public Works on 5/7/2014, with advertisement to bid expected on 6/6/2014.

Huegel Park Playground

Neighborhood meetings have been completed and staff has begun design development for replacement of the existing playground at Huegel Park. Staff will be presenting plans for approval to the Board of Public Works on 5/7/2014, with advertisement to bid expected on 6/6/2014.

Burrows Playground

Neighborhood meetings have been completed and staff has begun design development for improvements to this playground. Staff will be presenting plans for approval to the Board of Public Works on 5/7/2014. Bid advertisement is expected for 6/6/2014 and improvements will be constructed as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 2 contract.

Fisher Street Playground

Neighborhood meetings have been completed and staff has begun design development for replacement of the existing playground at Fisher Street Park. Staff will be presenting plans for approval to the Board of Public Works on 5/7/2014, with advertisement to bid expected on 6/6/2014.

Aldo Leopold Shelter

Staff has begun preliminary design development for the addition of a shelter at Aldo Leopold Park. A meeting with the neighborhood association to discuss the plans is anticipated this summer.

Bowman Field

Forward Electric has installed the new conduit lines and lighting control panel at Bowman Field. Remaining work for this spring includes connecting the control panel to the new transformer and test energizing the system. The second phase of this project will include new light fixtures and refurbishing the existing poles in the fall of 2014. During the interim between phases the field lights will continue to be served by the existing electrical system.

Athletic Field Lighting Upgrades

Equipment to retrofit some of our athletic field lighting with "Control Link" – a program that will allow us to control (turn on/off) the lights from a computer terminal – arrived the first week of December. To start, we will be retrofitting the lighting systems for Elver softball and Demetral softball. Park Operations hopes to install the systems spring of 2014.

Tenney Park – Marston and Sherman Avenue Bridges

The pre-construction meeting was held on April 30th. Joe Daniels Construction Co., Inc is scheduled to start the first week of May.

Brittingham Park at Proudfit

Design is complete and staff is working with Engineering to put together the necessary paperwork for submission of the railroad crossing to the OCR. Contract documents are also being finalized for advertising the construction project to be completed in the fall.

Hoyt Park

Clearing and Phase 1 of the fence repairs was completed in November. Staff is working on the design for Phase 2 fence repairs to be completed Summer 2014.

Westside Dog Parks

New dog parks have been approved for both Walnut Grove Park (the old skating area), and Odana School Park. The infrastructure (sidewalk and fence) are installed at Odana. Our own crews have installed doggie bag dispensers, trash bins, etc. The kiosk has been ordered and will be installed the first part of May; the dog park has been opened. Work by our Construction Crew on the Walnut Grove dog park was delayed due to the wet, snowy end of November. The Construction Crew will hopefully start the grading work for this project early in 2014, with completion planned for summer.

Park Paving – 2014

The 2014 Park Paving contract plans and specifications have been completed and were advertised on May 2nd. Construction of the various projects will start in late summer. Included in this paving contract are the following:

- Re-construction of the Tenney Park Beach parking lot. The existing lot was very inefficient as far as asphalt surfacing is concerned. Our reconstruction will lessen the amount of asphalt by 40% and we will only lose 5 parking stalls.
- Installation of a culvert crossing and accessible asphalt path at Lucy Lincoln Heistand Park. The crossing and path will greatly improve the connectivity in the park. Presently park users have to walk through the ditch to go from one activity to another. The culvert and path will now connect the play area and softball diamond with the basketball court and community gardens.
- Installation of a new accessible asphalt path at Churchill Heights Park that will meander through the park connecting all of the park facilities.
- Re-construction of the asphalt path system at Kennedy Park. The existing asphalt path will be pulverized and kept in place adding 3" to the existing gravel base course. A new 3" layer of asphalt will be laid on the old pulverized surface and topsoil, seed and matting will be feathered in on each side.
- Installation of an asphalt path connecting the existing asphalt path with the new dog park gate at Walnut Grove Park
- Small connector asphalt paths to playgrounds in Spring Harbor, Olbrich, Glacier Hill, Valley Ridge, and Heritage Heights Parks.

Forest Hill Cemetery

Masonry repairs continued in 2013 for the buildings at Forest Hill Cemetery. Joe Daniels Construction completed work on the Chapel and the Receiving Vault. While the work on the Chapel is holding up well, some of the mortar applied on the Receiving Vault will need to be replaced as the temperatures were too cold for this work to bond correctly. This project is managed by City Facilities Management in partnership with Parks staff. Staff is also working with cemetery staff and Feick Design – an irrigation design company - to come up with a new waterline system for the cemetery.

Garver Mill

The RFP was brought to the Park Commission in March for discussion. This project is managed by City Facilities Management in partnership with Parks staff. The Office of Real Estate Services and City Planning are also working on this project.

Olbrich Park Canoe Launch

Staff is working with City Engineering on a canoe launch at Olbrich Park near the canoe racks. The project will be bid out as one contract with the Yahara project. Bids are due May 9th. This is a 2014 Capital Budget project that will be managed by City Engineering in partnership with Parks staff.

Yahara River Bank Stabilization

Staff is working with City Engineering on improvements to the Yahara River to stabilize the stream bank where the existing wooden retaining walls are deteriorating. The project will be bid out as one contract with the Olbrich project (see above). This project is managed by City Engineering in partnership with Parks staff.

James Madison Park Shelter

Destree Design was hired to perform an assessment of the existing shelter at James Madison Park. The final report includes recommendations for three levels of improvements; shelter stabilization, current code requirements, and potential build-out improvements; a draft of the report is under review. Staff and Destree Design held a neighborhood input meeting on October 23, 2013. At this meeting a wide variety of opinions regarding improvements to the park and shelter were expressed. Parks staff is developing an on-line survey tool to reach a larger audience for input.

Breese Stevens Field Artificial Turf

Our consultant, Graef-USA is finishing up plans and specifications the last week of April. The project will be out for bid on May 2nd with a construction start of August 4th. Bids are due May 23rd.

2014 Park Landscaping

The landscaping contract was split into three contracts: the 2014 Spring Parks Landscaping and Maintenance Contract, the 2014 Fall Parks Landscaping and Maintenance Contract, and the 2014 Parking and Water Utility Landscaping and Maintenance Contract. The 2014 Springs Parks Landscaping Contract was awarded to Living Landscape, LLC for the low bid amount of \$75,261.70. The 2014 Fall Parks Landscaping and Maintenance Contract was awarded to Dan Larsen Landscaping, Inc. for the low bid amount of \$25,861.00. The 2014 Parking and Water Utility Landscaping and Maintenance Contract was awarded to Madison Commercial Landscapes for the low bid amount of \$47,725.75. Construction for the 2014 Spring Parks Landscaping and Maintenance Contract and the 2014 Parking and Water Utility Landscaping and Maintenance Contract is anticipated to begin in May.

Yahara Hills Clubhouse

Parks staff met with Facilities Management to begin initial design development for the improvements to the Yahara Hills Clubhouse. Potential improvements include replacement of the roof with additional insulation and other improvements to the building envelope to improve energy-efficiency for winter operations in the future. An evaluation of the HVAC system is also underway. This project is managed by City Facilities Management in partnership with Parks staff.

Bill Kettle Field

City staff have been working with Dane County regarding the expansion of the landfill (Bill Kettle Field is located along the northeastern edge of the landfill). Due to the expansion, additional land is needed and Dane County would like to purchase Bill Kettle Field to expand the landfill to the east and relocate their stormwater ponds to the north and south. Dane County will also purchase a portion of the property owned by the Streets Division along the southeastern edge of the landfill, along with easements needed to complete the landfill expansion and stormwater-related improvements. Parks staff is working with user groups regarding potential opportunities to move their activity to other locations.

Other Projects

- Staff is working with neighborhood representatives and volunteers to coordinate improvements for a variety of parks including Reynolds Park, James Madison Park, Spring Harbor Park, Nakoma Park and Linden Grove Park.
- Participated in Neighborhood Resource Teams and/or Neighborhood Development Plans for Owls Creek, Arbor Hills/Leopold, University/Hill Farms and Hoyt Park.
- Parks lighting projects are underway to replace lighting with more energy-efficient fixtures. Replacements have been completed at Olbrich Botanical Complex, Brittingham, and Goodman Building B. This project is managed by City Facilities Management in partnership with Parks staff; Parks Operations staff is replacing the fixtures as the new fixtures arrive.
- Received bids on April 24th for the removal/replacement of softball backstops that are in disrepair in Walnut Grove, Badger and Oak Park Heights Parks. Low bid was Qual-Line Fence Corp at \$1,908.00 each.

2013 Park Ranger calls for service- for comparison

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year to date
Alcohol Related issues	6	3	2	10	18	23	23	8	11	8	0	0	112
Behavioral Ban	0	1	0	2	7	26	17	6	16	6	1	0	82
Check Area	26	13	10	29	55	82	152	104	66	51	41	28	657
Damage to property	4	4	0	5	4	4	6	4	4	5	3	1	44
Dog violation	6	4	18	37	34	21	11	13	4	4	7	1	160
Drugs	0	0	2	1	3	1	7	4	4	1	0	0	23
Graffiti	1	0	3	6	13	7	7	6	4	5	0	0	52
No permanent Address issue	11	19	9	12	10	38	28	21	21	9	2	3	183
Incident	13	11	2	4	3	7	10	3	10	8	0	0	71
Misc	1	0	1	2	6	23	2	10	6	1	4	2	58
Not open/ closed	1	8	8	18	18	21	15	22	23	25	7	12	178
Parking issue	9	20	11	12	69	50	67	41	23	19	5	0	326
Sport without reservation	0	0	1	29	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	33
Total reports	78	83	67	167	241	303	345	243	192	143	70	47	1979