

SUPERINTENDENT'S FEBRUARY 2015 REPORT- WRITTEN REPORT OF SUPERVISOR'S ACTIVITIES

EAST PARKS – CRAIG KLINKE, SUPERVISOR

Although warmer than normal, for the most part, January was a good month for the ice rinks. We've had great conditions at Tenney, Olbrich, and Warner. We've used the planer more in January than we typically do in an entire season. Heritage Heights, however, is still struggling. The warm temperatures and reduced availability of the water wagon has made it difficult for us to get the rink established. We do have colder temperatures predicted for the first week of February. We plan to make one last attempt at getting the rink going.

Our newly created position of Parks – Arborist II has been filled. We are working on getting equipment and other personnel in place. Starting in February we will resume preemptively removing ash trees. We will be starting on the north side and working in the golf courses as conditions allow.

Our goal moving into February is to keep the rinks open, safe, and skateable for as long as possible. We will continue to focus on snow routes as needed. The snow that fell on 1/31 and 2/1 was the first significant snow event of the season. Larger snow events always present challenges and obstacles to overcome. Fortunately, we have a talented and experienced staff that is capable of working through and overcoming challenges.

CENTRAL PARKS & MALL CONCOURSE– LISA LASCHINGER, SUPERVISOR

Central Parks:

Our winter season is off and running. Our ice rinks have been open since the first weekend in January, and they've seen a lot of use. Our seasonal employees are fully trained for ice rinks and have been a tremendous help over the weekends. The second MadCity Pond Hockey Tournament went over with very few issues, and despite temps between 35 and 40 degrees for nearly ten days, the ice fared amazingly well. We had a couple minor snow events to address, but weather-wise the month had been fairly quiet.

Heading into February, we've seen our first major snow event of the season on Super Bowl Sunday. Staff members came in early the following Monday, and had walks cleared and Vilas' rinks open by the end of their shift. A great effort was put forth by all. Looking at long range forecasts, it looks to be a little more like what we are used to for winters, in terms of snow removal. Our priorities will be our snow routes and ice rinks as usual. We will continue our EAB work and prepare tables, benches and barrels for the upcoming spring as time allows.

Mall Concourse:

Although we had a few minor snow and ice events throughout the month of January, it was still a fairly quiet month at the Mall. In addition to regular trash and recycling duties, the crew spent time cleaning bus shelters, removing graffiti and maintaining equipment. In addition, the crew took advantage of some down time to do some much needed pruning on trees within our area.

February started off with the biggest snow event of the year. We had extra coverage for Super Bowl Sunday and brought people in early the Monday following to get the walks cleared as quickly as possible. We will be having Parks' Construction help haul large piles from the snow due to the heavy volume of snow. We will have the Winter Festival February 13-15, which should draw a good crowd to the area. If long-range forecasts are correct, we'll have a few more snow events to respond to than the past couple months. Street Use Committee is back to meeting regularly, and we continue to support the Ad Hoc Restroom Committee as well.

WEST PARKS & FOREST HILL CEMETERY – LAURA BAUER, SUPERVISOR

Forest Hill Cemetery:

The season following the winter holidays is traditionally a fairly quiet one at Forest Hill. In January there were only three full-size burials, 1 cremation burial, and 2 inurnments, along with a few gravesite showings. This works out well, as it can be more difficult to schedule burials with little notice because of the extra day needed to melt the frost before a grave can be dug, and because of the extra time and effort required to clear a gravesite and surrounding area of snow.

Forest Hill staff uses this quieter time to work on trimming the trees that they can reach from the ground. Unfortunately, a large percentage of the trees are so old and so tall that they are only accessible to the Forestry section via bucket truck. Forestry has been concentrating this year on removing dead and dangerous trees, but we hope that they might be able to make some time to help us out with trimming in the next few years.

Despite the relatively light snowfall in January, staff has also been able to make significant progress in learning the plow route assigned to them. Their pickup truck is proving to be a good size for this route; it's powerful enough to move a fair amount of snow, yet considerably smaller and easier to maneuver than some of our larger plow trucks.

Summit Maintenance:

January was a very difficult month for ice maintenance. Temperatures were very often above normal and we were able to make little progress on the land rinks not yet established. It seemed that every time we got a cold day and began flooding, the sun came out and ruined all progress.

This fluctuation in temperatures has also made it difficult to maintain an appropriate water level to support the ice at Elver. The shorelines seem to thaw, then leak, then freeze up again and overflow the water onto the ice. It has been very challenging, as it seems like we never know exactly what to expect. We think the problem may be connected to the spray park construction, as this disturbed the north shoreline of the rink and changed its shape somewhat, and we hope that as the ground continues to settle, the problem may lessen.

Everyone hopes that the ice season will last at least a few more weeks, but of course we're moving into the time of year when warmer daytime temperatures can make it very difficult to build quality ice. The problem is even worse when the sun shines, and the north ends of hockey rinks can melt down to bare ground very quickly.

As we've completed most of the dormant season pruning of our oaks, ash removals will be our main focus after the ice season is finished. We'll concentrate on removing trees that are unadoptable because of condition or size, in the hopes that donors will come forward to sponsor some of the larger trees. We also expect that another stump grubber will be added to Parks' fleet. This should enable us to grub the stumps in a more timely manner.

As the ice season wraps up, we will be continuing cross-training efforts between General Parks and Forest Hill Cemetery. We will again be sending people to the cemetery to learn more about the grave opening and closing process, and cemetery staff may join us in the parks for ash removals.

CONSERVATION – RUSS HEFTY

Snow was in short supply again in January which resulted in poor conditions for cross country skiing. A storm brought 6-8 inches January 31-February 1st so we'll finally be able to groom ski trails in February.

The lack of snow did allow us to move forward with restoration projects at the North Unit of Cherokee Marsh. Park staff cut trees and invasive brush along the drainage ditches that were plugged in 2014. This is part of the process of restoring the open treeless habitat in the marsh that historically existed. Species like short-eared owls, harsh harriers, and rough-legged hawks require this type of habitat.

Park staff also worked with a leased forestry mower to cut brush to reclaim a high quality wet prairie remnant in North Cherokee. Follow up management will include a prescribed burn this spring (weather permitting) and herbicide treatment of invasive shrubs.

A private contractor cut and treated the stumps of exotic trees and brush on a 13-acre unit of north facing oak woodland. Park staff will follow up with tree canopy thinning as part of an effort to restore this oak woodland dominated by large white oaks.

All the above projects are part of a large project to restore the oak savanna / prairie / wetland habitat that existed on the land 150 years ago.

OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS – ROBERTA SLADKY

The response has been good for education classes for adults and youth for the current semester, January through May. The Tropical Explorer School program is ongoing through the end of February. Students learn about habitats and how the tropical forest habitat is different from the Wisconsin deciduous forest. Explorer programs support the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards and the Madison Metropolitan School District K-8 Science Curricula Scope and Sequence.

Winter pruning is being finished up by outdoor gardens horticulturists – while Conservatory staff are readying annuals, cuttings, etc for numerous projects including the Spring Flower Show and the outdoor gardens spring containers. In other words – getting ready for the Spring season!

Visitor comment:

1/03/2015 *"Good time. Thank you for all the hard work. Great place to visit especially for the winter blues."* Emma, Madison

December Numbers

OBG Attendance (counted from 9 – 4 only + event participants)	2014	2013	Previous 5 yrs average
December 1 - 31	30,231	21,007	22,291
YTD December 31	287,777	250,701	
Total Member Households (individuals*) December 31			

**based on the number of membership cards issued*

OBG City of Madison Major Revenue Categories (unaudited)	YTD 12/31/2014	YTD 12/31/2013
Bolz Conservatory Admission YTD	\$69,760	\$73,219
Room Rentals YTD*	\$128,376	\$119,784
Catering Percentage Revenue YTD**	\$28,636	\$28,589
TOTAL YTD	\$226,772	\$221,592

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

February 2015 Public Events at Olbrich Botanical Gardens call 608-246-4550 for more information

Bolz Conservatory Exhibit: Innovations Inspired by Rainforests, thru Mar 1, 2015 10 am – 4 pm daily --

Explore the ways rainforests have inspired objects and processes that have improved our lives.

Black Threads: Family History Quilts, The Work of African American Women in Commons through 2/28, with a program from 4 – 6:30 on Feb 28

Winter Concert Series, Sundays,

Feb 8 – Botanical Boogie, The Soggy Prairie Boys, 2 – 3:30 pm (\$2 admission at the door)

Feb 15 – NO CONCERT

Feb 22 – Hayward Williams, 2 – 3 pm, \$1 suggested donation

Garden Expo – Alliant Energy Center, Feb 13 0 15 – Visit Olbrich's Booth!

Fine Arts and Crafts Sale, Feb 14 – 15, 10 am – 4 pm

Indulgence: Wine and Chocolate Tasting, 5:30 – 8:30 pm (\$16.52 - \$26.87)

Children of the Rainforest, Saturday, Feb 28, Limanya Drum and Dance Ensemble, performances at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm (\$3 - \$5 at the door)

Education – February 2015 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, Jan 26 – Mar 16, 6 – 7 pm

Meditation and Movement in the Garden, 3rd Thursday, Feb 19, Mar 19, Apr 16, May 21

Classes & Workshops for Adults

Hypertufa Trough Workshop, Sun, Feb 8, 1 – 4 pm

Love Blooms – Seeded Paper Valentines Workshop, Tue, Feb 3, 6:30 – 8 pm

Glorious Groundcovers, Tue, Feb 3, 6:30 – 8 pm

Beginner Papermaking Workshop – Paper with Botanicals and Simple Cast Paper, Wed, Feb 4, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Growing and Preserving Unusual Fruit, Sat, Feb 7, 1 – 3 pm

Create Enchanting Globe Ice Lanterns for Your Home, Tue, Feb 10, 6:30 – 8:30

The Art of Henna, Tues, Feb 10, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Plants and Their Functionality Beyond Beauty and Food, Wed, Feb 11, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Calligraphy: The Art of Written Forms Workshop, Weds, Feb 18 & 25, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Designing Attractive Native Gardens for Home & Business, Thu, Feb 19, 6:30 – 8 pm

You CAN Draw! For the Absolute Beginner, Sun, Feb 22, 9:30 – 4:30 pm

A Tropical Twist in Your Garden, Wed, Feb 25, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Lower Maintenance Garden Design – the Mixed Border, Thu, Feb 26, 7 – 8:30 pm

Beesentation – Bees and Beekeeping Revealed, Thu, Feb 26, 6:30 – 8 pm

Learn & Play Together

Toddler Story & Stroll: Reading in the Rainforest (ages 2 – 4 with adult)

Where the Wild Things Are, Fri, Feb 6, 10 – 11 am

I Wonder Series grades K – 3 with adult

What is a Tail For? (Plant & Animal Adaptations), Fri, Feb 13, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

FORESTRY – MARLA EDDY

Forestry Section	Total Trees	Total Hours
Cycle Pruning	347	290
Pruned by Request	147	162
Small Tree Pruning Cycle	34	6
Tree Removal	37	127
Ash Preemptive Removals	49	118
Storm Work/Hangers		3
Snow Plowing		56
Snow Removal		177
Unfilled vacancy		248

You will notice in this report a new item being reported on. The new item is ash preemptive removals and the hours involved in those removals. In January we have preemptively removed 49 ash street trees. A new pocket of EAB has been found at Doncaster Park which is located just off of Nakoma Road near the Beltline. All four ash trees in this park have EAB. This discovery places EAB in every cardinal direction of the city.

The west unit has been able to devote some time to cycle tree maintenance. The east unit has primarily been working on request pruning which includes pruning trees for upcoming engineering projects. The east side seems to have more projects occurring this year.

Forestry specialists finalized spring 2015 tree orders from nurseries. The competition for tree stock is becoming fierce as many cities and villages need to reforest their community after EAB comes through their community. Also, achieving diversity in the urban forest creates a high demand for certain tree species such as hackberry, Kentucky coffee tree, ginkgo, etc.. Forestry specialists have also been involved in advising engineering on project design for the upcoming construction season.

RANGERS – JOSH SCHMITT

As indicated Park Ranger calls for service are considerably down this time of year as Park Rangers move toward Winter roles. Major goals for this time of year are snow maintenance at the Dog Parks, supporting winter shelter operations and keeping the ice skates sharp to provide an enjoyable experience for those who rent skates from parks. We have begun to plan our summer season and are looking forward to a great year in 2015.

2014 PARKS RANGER CALLS FOR SERVICE

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year to date
Alcohol Related issues	5	3	3	8	24	18	22	26	19	3	0	0	131
Behavioral Ban	0	1	0	3	12	14	2	3	6	7	0	0	48
Check Area	32	21	25	41	105	55	61	87	59	29	20	18	553
Damage to property	2	2	0	12	12	14	9	10	4	0	2	1	68
Dog violation	6	4	24	100	62	38	30	18	27	17	5	6	337
Drugs	0	1	0	4	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	12
Graffiti	2	1	1	6	3	5	7	9	14	8	3	3	62
No permanent Address issue	7	5	2	19	28	15	23	12	5	3	2	5	126

Incident	2	5	4	3	9	2	5	6	6	0	0	0		42
Maintenance needed	0	0	0	26	31	23	23	20	11	9	26	2		171
Misc	1	1	0	2	2	37	5	9	9	8	0	4		78
Not open/closed	8	6	5	17	27	26	27	22	22	7	1	1		169
Parking issue	12	2	6	26	54	24	34	26	22	6	0	10		222
Sport without reservation	0	0	8	18	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	0		32
Total reports	77	52	78	285	373	274	248	250	207	98	59	50		2051

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

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – KAY RUTLEDGE

Central Park Skate Park

Bids were received for the Central Park, Madison – Skate Park project on December 12, 2014. Four responsive contractors submitted bids for the project. Drax Construction was the low bidder with a base bid of \$980,686.00 and Alternates A and B at \$10,000 and \$25,000 respectively. The contract is currently being routed for departmental sign-offs. Construction is anticipated to start in the spring of 2015 with a substantial completion date scheduled for mid August.

Highland Manor Park

The storm shelter building is moving along. Foundation has been poured. The building is closed in as of the end of December. Plumbing and electrical work is on going inside the building.

Lucy Lincoln Hiestand Park Playground

Work for the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 2 contract was awarded to Madison Commercial Landscapes for the low bid amount of \$137,466.77. Construction will be delayed until spring due to the weather; the entire contract is anticipated to be complete by July 2015.

Fisher Street Park Playground

This playground will be replaced as part of the 2014 Playground Improvements – Group 2 contract in spring 2015. Construction will be delayed until spring due to the weather; the entire contract is anticipated to be complete by July 2015.

Bowman Field Lighting Phase Two

Joe Daniels has mobilized and removed the existing light poles. They anticipate installing the new poles in 2-3 weeks.

Forest Hill Cemetery

Working with cemetery staff and Feick Design – an irrigation design company - to replace the water line system at the cemetery. Staff is also working with City Engineering to address stormwater management issues and reconstruct the road system in the cemetery. Staff will work with Engineering over the winter to come up with designs and schedules for each project.

Brittingham Park at Proudfit

Speedway Sand and Gravel was the low bid at \$47,579. A hearing for the proposed pedestrian crossing of the existing railroad crossing was held at the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads on January 27. The draft ruling was received quickly and was favorable, with very few specific conditions. The final ruling will be issued after the notice and comment period.

Central Park

The Central Park Phase 1B work is scheduled for construction in 2015. Phase 1B includes a new park entry plaza and pedestrian railroad crossing near the E. Wilson Street intersection with Few Street. The crossing is currently open and operational; temporary asphalt has been installed until the full project can be implemented. Construction will be coordinated with the skate park project.

2014 Athletic Field Improvements

An irrigation consultant has been hired to size the water line system for the Elver Park softball diamonds. The system will be sized to ensure it is adequate for potential future irrigation of these ballfields. The consultant gave us 3 alternatives from which the maintenance staff picked the final design. The consultant is now finalizing the plan for delivery in the spring. Construction of the water line system will be completed by Park Operations staff.

Cherokee Conservation Park

A public input meeting was held jointly with city engineering on January 21, 2015 to discuss the proposed improvements to the park. The improvements include a small parking area, gravel path and an informational kiosk. The neighborhood was supportive of the improvements; Park Operations' construction crew will begin the construction of the gravel path in February.

Highland Manor Park Improvements

Plans and specifications were developed during December and January for the new playground, basketball court and path improvements; starting January 30th the construction documents are being advertised for bid with the bid opening date of February 20th.

James Madison Park

The online visitor input survey closed on November 28th and received 133 responses. Staff will utilize results from the online survey, as well as hardcopies received from Central Library and the Children's Museum to assist in planning efforts for the park.

Yahara Hills Clubhouse Improvements

Park staff is working with City Facilities Management on a series of clubhouse improvement projects for Yahara Hills. Projects include roof, window and HVAC improvements. Construction is complete on the roof with final walk through scheduled for February 3rd. Window replacement is now out for bid and will open on February 20th. Work is planned to start on November 16th or possibly sooner if the golf season ends earlier. In addition, plans and specs are being developed by Hein Engineering for the HVAC upgrade of the clubhouse. This contract will be out for bid mid-February with work to start on November 2nd (HVAC work between 11/2 and 11/16 will not interfere with the golf season).

Lake Edge Park Shelter

Staff is working with Facilities Management on the design/construction of the new Lake Edge Park Shelter. Parks and Facilities Management staff held a public input meeting regarding the project on December 17th; the project was well received. The site layout and colors for materials (stone, concrete block, roof and trim colors), were discussed and consensus was reached on the selections. Soil borings were performed and Destree Architects is presently working on construction drawings. Construction is to start as soon as possible in spring 2015 with completion tentatively scheduled around Labor Day.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Work continues on building improvements at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. The projects listed below are managed by City Facilities Management in partnership with Parks staff. Hein Engineering expects to have plans and specs ready to bid for the HVAC Upgrade for Olbrich Botanical Gardens Phase I. In addition, several glass panels were replaced on the conservatory at Olbrich in December.

Garver Mill

Four submissions were received on Dec. 19th and are under review. Committee meetings have been scheduled starting in January to evaluate the proposals. Presentations by the firms were given on January 22nd.

Wingra Creek Parkway

Staff is working with City Engineering on the Phase 3 Wingra Creek Parkway improvements. The stretch of creek that will be improved is from the railroad bridge just south and west of Goodman Maintenance Facility to Olin Avenue (approximately 2,000 linear feet of creek). Improvements will include dredging to an approximate depth of 5 ft; creating meanders through the installation of littoral shelves; bank stabilization and a canoe launch. The contract has been awarded and permits received. Speedway has mobilized and work has begun on the project. This project is managed by City Engineering in partnership with Parks staff.

Tenney Park Shoreline

Staff is working with City Engineering on shoreline improvements to address erosion along the Tenney Park lagoon. Staff met with members of the Tenney Lapham Neighborhood Association and the Friends of the Yahara River Parkway on October 22nd and attended the Tenney Lapham Neighborhood Association Meeting on December 11th. A public input meeting was held on January 13, 2015. Design and permitting is underway and work is anticipated to start on July 6th. This project is managed by City Engineering in partnership with Parks staff.

Dog Park Improvements

Improvements may include fencing and paving improvements at Sycamore Park and Warner Park, with the potential of including some improvements to Demetral dog park as funding permits. Design development is underway. Plans and specs are anticipated to be advertised to bid in early spring.

Nakoma Park Improvements

The stone stairs at the western entrance to Nakoma Park along Cherokee Drive are deteriorating. Design firm InSite Architects has started working on plans and specs for this project. This project is managed by City Facilities Management in partnership with Parks staff.

Stevens Street Park Improvements

The second public input meeting was held on December 10th to review two proposed playground designs. In addition to the playground equipment, other improvements will be made to the park including a new seating area and resurfacing the basketball court. Plans and specs have been completed and the Group 1 Playground Contract has been advertised for bid.

Flad Park Playground

The second public input meeting was held on October 29th to review playground designs. Construction of the playground is anticipated to occur in the spring of 2015 as part of the Group 1 Playground Contract; see Stevens Street Park Improvements above for additional details.

High Point Park Playground

The second public input meeting was held on October 21st to review playground designs. Construction of the playground is anticipated to occur in the spring of 2015 as part of the Group 1 Playground Contract; see Stevens Street Park Improvements above for additional details.

Waltham Park Improvements

The second public input meeting was held on December 2nd. Construction of the playground is anticipated to occur in the spring of 2015 as part of the Group 1 Playground Contract. Other improvements include resurfacing the existing path system and re-building the basketball court. The re-construction of the path and basketball court is anticipated to occur in the summer of 2015 as part of the 2015 Park Paving Contract; design is underway for this contract.

Sunridge Park Playground

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on December 4th. This project will be combined into a contract with other playgrounds and bid out for construction in 2015 (Group 2 Playground Contract). Plans and specs are anticipated to be advertised to bid in early March.

Junction Ridge Park Improvements

Staff held a public input meeting on October 7th to discuss the proposed playground replacement at Junction Ridge Park. Staff will hold a second meeting to review playground designs on February 3, 2015. Construction of the playground is anticipated to occur in the summer of 2015 as part of the Group 2 Playground Contract. Other improvements include reconstructing the basketball court as part of the 2015 Park Paving Contract.

Demetral Park Playground

Staff held a public input meeting on October 20th to discuss the proposed playground replacement at Demetral Park. Staff held a second meeting to review playground designs on January 12, 2015. Construction of the playground is anticipated to occur in the summer of 2015 as part of the Group 2 Playground Contract. Plans and specs are anticipated to be advertised to bid in early March.

Arbor Hills Park Playground

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on December 15th. Construction of the playground is anticipated to occur in the summer of 2015 as part of the Group 2 Playground Contract. Plans and specs are anticipated to be advertised to bid in early March.

Tenney Park Beach Playground

Staff held a second public input meeting to review playground designs on January 13, 2015. Construction of the playground is anticipated to occur in the summer of 2015 as part of the Group 2 Playground Contract. Plans and specs are anticipated to be advertised to bid in early March.

Badger Park Playground

The public meetings to review and select a playground design for the park were completed in December. Construction of the playground is anticipated to occur in the late summer of 2015 as part of the Group 3 Playground Contract.

Bernie's Beach Park Playground

The public meetings to review and select a playground design for the park were completed in December. Construction of the playground is anticipated to occur in the late summer of 2015 as part of the Group 3 Playground Contract.

Brittingham Park Playground

Staff held a second public input meeting on January 14th to discuss the project and review playground designs. A third meeting will be held for this project in late February to discuss options for the main playground area at the park. Construction of the Brittingham Beach playground will potentially occur in the late summer of 2015 as part of the Group 3 Playground Contract.

Improvements to Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park – North Unit and Cherokee Park

Parks staff held a public meeting together with City Engineering staff on January 21, 2015 to discuss the planned improvements to Cherokee Park and Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park – North Unit. At the meeting City Engineering staff presented information on the planned improvements to the existing, informal boat launch in Cherokee Park near the intersection of Burning Wood Way and Mosinee Lane which are anticipated in spring 2015. Parks staff then described the plans for the addition of a gravel parking area, kiosk and trail improvements at the N. Sherman entrance to the conservation park which will begin in February with work on the trail improvements.

Owls Creek Park

The City of Madison closed on vacant properties adjacent to the park in December and Parks staff attended a meeting of the Owls Creek NRT to discuss ideas for the planning process for the addition of six lots to the park. The first public input meeting to begin the park master plan process for Owls Creek Park is scheduled for February 12th.

Breese Stevens Field Artificial Turf

Phase 2 of the synthetic turf improvements will include the installation of a 10' asphalt maintenance road around the new synthetic turf field. As a part of this contract a concrete pad will also be installed under the press box. This work will be included as a part of our annual paving contract (Park Paving 2015). An RFQ (Request for Quotes), was sent out at the end of January for the repair of some of the historic terra cotta roof tiles at Breese Stevens Field that have developed cracks. These tiles will be repaired during the summer of 2015.

2015 Tennis and Basketball Court Resurfacing

Staff is developing plans and specifications for improvements to tennis courts at Olbrich, Elvehjem, Waunona, Westhaven Trails and Rennebohm Parks and basketball courts at Warner, Westhaven Trails, and Woodland Hills Parks. This project was advertised to bid starting on January 30, 2015.

2015 Spring Parks Division & Water Utility Landscaping

The plans and specs for this project to install plants at multiple parks and water utility sites were approved by the Board of Public Works on January 21st and will go to Common Council for approval to advertise on February 3, 2015. Advertisement of the bid documents will be conducted in February, and bids will be due and awarded in March.

2015 Parks Division Tree Planting

The plans and specs for this project to install trees at multiple park properties were approved by the Board of Public Works on January 21st and will go to Common Council for approval to advertise on February 3, 2015. Advertisement of the bid documents will be conducted in February, and bids will be due and awarded in March.

Allied Drive Improvements

Working with the Allied Drive NRT (Neighborhood Resource Team), and staff on the siting of park improvements in the neighborhood as approved in the 2015 Capital Budget.

Demetral Park

Working with Engineering staff on park and bike path improvements in the Demetral Park/Packers Avenue area.

Forest Hill Cemetery Buildings

Work continues on building improvements at Forest Hill Cemetery. The projects listed below are managed by City Facilities Management in partnership with Parks staff. For the John Catlin Chapel Roof Replacement, Design firm InSite Architects is working on plans and specs; the 50% review meeting will take place this Friday. Approval to advertise plans and specifications is scheduled to go to the Board of Public Works in February with the first ad in March. Work to start in early June. For the office repointing, building elevations on AutoCAD have been prepared with areas of repair noted. This project will go out for bid sometime in late February or early March. Facilities Management staff is in the process of selecting the design firm for the Mausoleum Building Envelope Repairs; of the 10 proposals received, three finalists were selected and were requested to provide proposals for the pre-design study. A final selection will be made based on the proposal cost and the firms qualifications. This should be completed by mid-February.

Other Projects

- Staff is working with the Lucia Crest neighborhood on the installation of fruit and nut trees on the west end of Lucia Crest Park as part of a City Planning grant. The location has been approved by the Parks Superintendent; requested tree species and the management plan have been reviewed. Additional edible species approved by Habitat Stewardship and the Park Commission.
- Staff is working with City Engineering on stabilizing the shoreline along the Yahara River at East Main. These repairs are anticipated to be completed this winter by City Engineering staff; plantings will be part of the Spring Landscaping Contract.

- Staff is working on outfitting the concessions room with equipment and wi-fi for the newly completed splash park building at Reindahl Park.
- Working with Water Utility staff and the local bike pole club on the design and purchase of a pre-fabricated set of dasher boards that will convert one of the tennis courts on the roof of Reynolds Field Water Utility Well into a bike polo rink.
- An RFQ went out at the end of January for the repair of an electrical line at Warner Park Softball Complex. The primary line for diamond #2 was cut by the contractor working on the Warner Park Cunette project last fall. The repairs will be complete prior to the start of the 2015 softball season.
- Participated in Neighborhood Resource Teams and/or Neighborhood Development Plans for Owls Creek, Arbor Hills/Leopold, Allied Drive, Worthington and University/Hill Farms.
- Working with the Mayor's office on ordering a memorial bench to be delivered to Freiburg, Germany as a part of a bench exchange with Freiburg, one of our sister cities.