

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOVEMBER 2019 REPORT COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary

As the end of October draws near, we are starting to show the signs of Fall moving to winter. With snow starting to show up in the forecast (and on the ground), staff is focused on preparing for the winter season. The responsibility for the Parks Division for snow/ice control in the City is significant and working on efficiently and effectively managing this work with our staff is an annual endeavor. In addition to this work, staff are working diligently to button up the system through final mowing/trimming work over the past couple of weeks and winterization of the vast majority of our facilities and amenities. Numerous facilities such as athletic fields, disc golf, golf courses, and shelters are either closed for the season at this point or nearly to closure.

Permanent Staffing Changes:

New Hires:

- Nimrod Hilliard III
 - WPCRC, Custodial Worker, effective 9/23/19
 - Previously worked as an hourly employee for the Central Library
- Molly Berkholtz
 - Parks Worker, effective 11/4/19
 - Previously worked as a seasonal Forestry Specialist Assistant
- Lesther Perez
 - Central Parks, Custodial Worker, effective 11/4/19
 - Previously worked as a seasonal Arborist Assistant

Resignations:

- Mike Ring
 - Equipment Operator 2 for East Parks, effective 09/27/2019
 - Left to work for the WI DNR as a Park Manager at Gov. Nelson State Park

Future Commission Items

- IPM Taskforce – The IPM taskforce is working to extend its work throughout 2019 to better inform recommendations. Staff will present on the current status as a part of a land management update in the next couple of months.
- Golf – The Common Council adopted a resolution (File #56004) to establish a Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks at its June 18, 2019 meeting. The Task Force met in October and has published a calendar for future meeting dates through April.
- On-Leash Dogs in Parks – Staff is working on an initial recommendation for dog free parks to present to the Commission based on the recently adopted policy change.
- Performance Excellence Initiative – Staff is working on an informational presentation to share with the Commission on the City's Performance Excellence Initiative. This is anticipated to be ready for the Commission at the January meeting.
- Law Park Planning Efforts – Staff anticipates providing an update on the planning work for Law Park in December or January.

Section reports

Operations

Conservation:

- The Operation Fresh Start crew resurfaced trail segments at Owen, and collected and sowed native seeds in areas disturbed this summer as part of the ditch improvement project in the NE portion of the park.
- Volunteers completed vegetation surveys at North Cherokee Marsh and Owen, and began clearing invasive shrubs at South Cherokee Marsh.

Construction:

- Work was advanced on a number of construction projects including preparing the boulder material for the new Brittingham nature play area, leveling and seeding the new area for Olbrich Nice Rink, installing spring-toys in Hill Point playground, completing the nature play project at Williams Slater and renovation work on the Brigham basketball court.

Facilities:

- The facilities team work centered on winter preparation and preventive maintenance. The team began closing down shelters, facilities and drinking fountains, checked furnaces and started to install shelter sides. They also installed the golf simulators, removed the mooring field and turned off the Capital Square fountains for the season. The team also worked on capital improvement projects including upgrading the lighting at Forrest Hill Maintenance Building and Wexford Park and installed a new HVAC units at Forrest Hill Maintenance Building.

Forestry:

- Began the final preemptive ash removal in areas outlined in the approved Emerald Ash Borer Plan. Tree replanting at these sites will be completed over the next year and a half (starting in fall 2019). The team also completed the pre-planting work requirements and will begin planting trees planned for Fall planting.

General Parks:

- The team balanced the work required for mowing and trimming, Fall transition, events preparation and flood response efforts. Fall preparation included flail mowing meadows, top dressing softball fields with granite, turf fertilizing and overseeding, beginning leaf clean up and winter equipment preparation. The team also helped transport and store sandbags in a preemptive flood response effort. Special events support included the Hayrides occurring at Warner, Capital Square and Cherokee, preparation work for hosting Madison Parks Foundation's Picnic at Vilas Park and Freakfest including pulling plants from planters, bench and bike rack removals, and making the sidewalks safe from any tripping hazards.

Planning and Development

Wingra Creek Parkway

- The resurfacing of the Wingra Creek Parkway was completed by Raymond P. Cattell, Inc. as part of a larger Park Paving contract. This roadway was paved on 10/15 and final turf restoration is underway. This project addressed much needed repaving and drainage improvements at the site and included new curb and gutter for the length of the project.

Burr Jones Park – Site Improvements

- Major earthwork operations are underway at Burr Jones Park. Work includes preparing the subsurface grades to meet proposed elevations, installation of the new light pole footings for the athletic field lighting system and excavation of the new bio-retention stormwater basin. Construction will continue through the remainder of 2019 and into spring of 2020. Final completion is anticipated in late May 2020.

Playground Replacements 2019 – Group 2

- Recently installed playgrounds include Penn Park, OB Sherry Park and Sherman Village Park. The remaining Group 2 installations include Hiestand Park and Lake View Heights Park. All Group 2 playground replacements are expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

Playground Replacements 2020

- Staff held the first playground workshop on 10/14 for playground replacements on the west side (Hillington Green, Wingra and Woodland Hills Parks) and on 10/29 for playground replacements on the north side (Brentwood, Sheridan Triangle, Whitetail Ridge & Windom Way Parks). The third group workshop is scheduled for 11/7 for playground replacements on the east side (Galaxy, Morrison and Orlando Bell Parks). The workshops seek public input for playground surfacing type, equipment age range, equipment manufacturer, color preference and fundraising opportunities. Follow-up meetings with the individual neighborhoods to select the specific equipment to be installed at the park will be held in December and early 2020, after the capital budget is approved.

Garver Path

- Parks staff continue to work with City Engineering in planning the new bike path connection between the Garver Feed Mill site to Milwaukee Street. Based on information gathered during the project's first public meeting, staff are investigating potential adjustments to the path alignment and bridge locations. A second public meeting is tentatively planned for November for further public input. This project will be brought to the Board of Park Commissioners for approval this year. Path construction is anticipated to begin in 2021.