

SUPERINTENDENT'S FEBRUARY 2020 REPORT
COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary

2020 has started quickly with lots of projects and work plan items underway. The Management Team is focusing on work planning and standard setting work in the first quarter to better align the 2020 work of the Division to the POSP. This is critical work to moving forward with Performance Excellence work for the Division. The Management Team is looking forward to developing improved methods of reporting and engaging with the Commission around this work.

Winter recreation has been a struggle this year with the yo-yo effects of the weather. The skiing and sledding at Elver has been more consistently available due to the man-made snow and the partnership with MadNorSki and CXC. Ice rinks have been a particularly difficult challenge this year as staff has struggled to be able to safely access the ice with heavier equipment all winter.

The Commission will be considering the final major steps in the dog policy changes at the February meeting. This is the culmination of years of work by Commissioners and staff. The product is a policy that balances various competing interests and seeks to provide a high quality park system for all members of the community.

Future Commission Items

- Reindahl Park Imagination Center project – Staff is working with Library staff to determine the best course of action for presenting the Library led planning report to both the BPC and the Library Board. Currently, the concept is to hold a joint meeting for this purpose in March or April.
- IPM Taskforce – The IPM taskforce has started active work again after a brief pause to realign the group. Staff will present on the current status as a part of a land management update in April/May.
- Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks – The Task Force has been working diligently towards their goal of completing a report and recommendations by May 1st. The public engagement portion of the work will be occurring from late February through March and includes public meetings, a survey, and focus groups. Staff anticipates this timeline to be met and the Commission to review the recommendations in May and/or June.
- Staff is working with both Brittingham Boats and the Madison Mallards to extend their current agreements to ensure continuity for the future.

New Hire:

- Tyson Laux
 - Effective 01/26/2020
 - Traffic Control Maintenance Worker (shared employee between East Parks/TE)
 - Formerly worked as an Hourly employee for Water Utility and Parking Enforcement.

Retirement:

- Stephen Elmer
 - Effective 01/31/2019
 - Plumber, Fac. Maintenance
 - Original hire date 08/31/2009

Section reports

Operations

Conservation

- Groomed 1km machine made snow loop at Elver during first half of January and began grooming all cross-country ski trails after we received enough natural snow accumulation.
- Worked on reducing downed woody debris in woodland restoration area at Owen and removed buckthorn at Knollwood.

Construction

- Completed playground wood mulch replacement at all of the East and Central sites and at four West sites before the winter snow. Ten West sites remain to be completed this spring.
- Unseasonably warm weather allowed the completion of a few construction projects, which included adding a new drainage way and removing the basketball court at Sandburg Park, and installing a new berm for improved drainage at Forest Hills Cemetery.
- Assisted Streets with street snow removal and hauled snow from the Mall Concourse.

Facilities

- Completed ice rink preparation by installing walk ramps and turning on water to support flooding.
- Advanced maintenance projects including pier rebuilds and several painting projects, and finalized the lighting repair project at Peace Park.
- Coordinated the repair work needed to the Gates of Heaven basement due to the flooding caused by a blocked water pipe. Additional attention and care was needed given the historical significance of this facility.

General Parks

- The team adapted its work focus as needed this month to respond to the variably cold and unseasonably warm weather. During the warm cycles the team completed park and bike path pruning and cleanup and spread mulch at 24 playgrounds throughout the parks system. During the more traditional winter weather the team focused on ice rink maintenance and snow removal. Ice rinks were prepared and finally able to be used in the later part of January, only to thaw and freeze again, limiting skating opportunities. The lagoon skating was also restricted due to the limited ice thickness.
- Supported events including: Holiday Fantasy in Lights, which wrapped up another successful display at Olin; the Groove and Glide at Vilas; and Yahara Fishing Club free kids ice fishing event at Brittingham Park. WinterFest closed out the month.

Mall

- Snow removal and sidewalk maintenance dominated daily tasks in January due to rain, freezing rain, and snow. A couple of larger storms over weekends kept the crew busy throughout the week—pushing, piling, and hauling snow piles.
- The downtown BID's holiday event wrapped up early January, with another successful year of spectacular lighting displays. Mall Concourse events will resume in mid-March.

Planning and Development

Warner Park Shelter, Clean Beach Treatment System, Pier and Ice Access

- Several capital projects are occurring at Warner Park starting in 2020. Staff are developing plans for improvements at Warner Beach including a new beach shelter, parking lot improvements, and ADA accessibility improvements. This new shelter is the parks prototype, with an additional room to house a clean beach treatment system. This is the first site of a joint Dane County/City of Madison initiative to install new clean beach treatment systems at Madison Park beaches. Additionally, staff are developing plans for installation of a new accessible fishing pier located on the lagoon near the Warner Park shelter. This fishing pier is the first implementation of the recommendations that are being developed as part of the Warner Lagoon study. As part of installation of this fishing pier, the adjacent concrete access for ice access (used by Parks staff only) is being reconstructed.

Door Creek Park Shelter

- Staff is working with Engineering Facilities on the initial steps to build a new year-round reservable park shelter at Door Creek Park. Staff has worked with Engineering to issue a Request for Proposals for architectural and engineering services. The Door Creek Park shelter will be a new reservable space that can accommodate approximately 120 people and can host indoor and outdoor gatherings. Staff will hold a public meeting on this project in spring 2020.

Esther Beach Park

- Staff are coordinating with Tracey Hartley and the Waunona Gardening Club on a native planting installation. The plantings will be focused along the shoreline with the goal of reducing erosion and restoring native habitat.

System Wide Crack Sealing

- Starting in 2019 Parks made a commitment to systematically maintain all the asphalt in our system by crack sealing pavements at the appropriate time. Typically a new asphalt pavement can be crack sealed when it's approx. 5 -10 years old and expansion and contraction cracking patterns have been established. Crack sealing extends the life of the asphalt and saves money over the life span of the surface. The Parks crack sealing contract was combined in the larger city wide contract issued by Engineering Division in 2019. The Parks portion sealed 82 sites and was completed by Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, L.L.C. for cost of \$50,623. This year \$15,000 is budgeted for crack sealing.

Olbrich Park – Garver Lot 3 Remediation

- Parks staff reviewed existing site conditions with City Engineering and WDNR representatives to finalize remediation extents and requirements. Parks staff will hold a public meeting with area residents to review the proposed restoration approach in early 2020. Site remediation and restoration work will be publicly bid during the summer of 2020, with construction potentially starting in late 2020 and completion in 2021.