

Prescribed grazing, utilizing goats, will once again occur in select parks: Acewood, Knollwood, Olin, and Turville Point Conservation Parks and Greenside Park. Grazing is an important management tool for natural areas, and a key component of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan. Advantages to grazing include reducing the need for chemical control methods, minimizing erosion risks, and improved access to difficult terrain. Parks saw promising results from prescribed grazing in 2020. Ideally, grazing will occur several times to maximize effectiveness.



The Warner Park beach shelter construction is complete, with landscaping expected to be completed in early June. The new shelter features restrooms, exterior showers, an area for seating, and space to accommodate a clean beach system. The parking lot has also been updated to include bioretention basins.



The Tenney Park beach shelter replacement project is currently undergoing site plan review by city agency staff after receiving the Certificate of Appropriateness from the Landmarks Commission, which asked that the final color selection for the new structure be determined through neighborhood input. Attendees from the public input meeting and Tenney-Latham Neighborhood Association chose "Tarrytown Green" for the new building, which was found to be the original trim color of the nearby Ferry building (located at the corner of Marston & Sherman Ave).



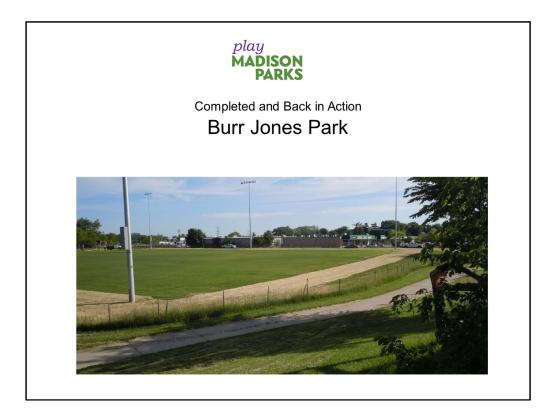
Construction of an open-sided, reservable sun shelter is currently underway at Galaxy Park (132 Milky Way) by Madison Commercial Landscapes, Inc. the shelter is anticipated to be completed at the end of May and joins the recent playground (2020) and stormwater improvement amenities at the park.



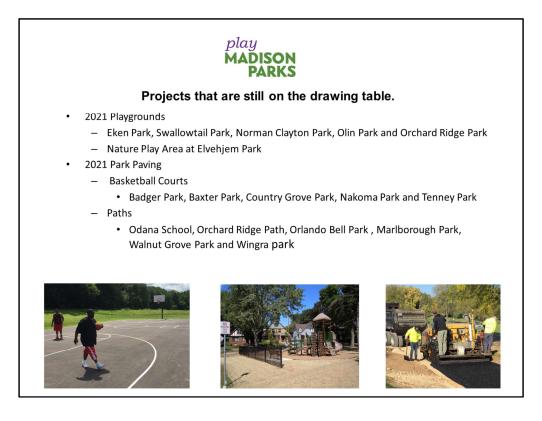
The architectural consultant team is preparing final construction drawings for the building and site renovations. The project is on schedule for public works letting in June, with construction anticipated to begin in early September. As part of the Wisconsin Medical Society property acquisition, the parcels associated with the facility are being re-zoned from Suburban Employment to Parks and Recreation. The Plan Commission and Common Council approved the zoning map amendment and conditional use of the building for park purposes in April.



Parks Division is proposing to implement the master plan approved in 2020 for Orchard Ridge Park. The 2021 improvements will include the installation of a new paved path and bio retention basin or rain garden in the park. The existing play equipment in the park will be removed and replaced with new equipment at a location off of the paved path loop. Grading and drainage improvements will be included and result in a more usable and sustainable space.



The majority of the park improvements at Burr Jones Park were completed in spring 2020, including the new parking lot, basketball court, athletic field lighting system, and field restoration. The remaining work includes landscape installation at the parking lot and along the Yahara River. The athletic fields and lighting system are currently available for reservations and use. MUFA anticipates scheduling regular evening games at the park later this summer.



A few things to look for in the coming construction season.

New playgrounds are being designed for Eken Park, Swallowtail Park, Norman Clayton Park, and Orchard Ridge Park.

New basketball courts at five parks, including an improvement that was suggested by students at Badger Rock school for a full court basketball court at Badger Park. Path and drainage improvements at six parks, including the repair of a perennial problem at Marlborough. Which will be a relief to me.