

SUPERINTENDENT'S JULY 2021 REPORT COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS Park Superintendent's Monthly Report Summary

The weather has certainly made it clear that summer is here. Temperatures throughout June were warmer than average and the park system is seeing sustained high utilization rates. There were concerns regarding lack of rain in June, but those concerns are being lessened with recent precipitation. Gatherings and events are returning in significant numbers as COVID cases in Dane County remain quite low. Larger scale events are moving forward over the coming months and we anticipate challenges as these occur.

The Goodman Pool has been busy with the weather and our beach and lake access points have also been well used. Permit sales continue to sustain heightened levels across Lake Access, Disc Golf, and Dog Park permits. These permits are still being sold online and staff are reviewing if this can be sustained into the future. The encampment at Reindahl Park remains an area of focus for Parks as we work to collaborate with others to try and identify a strategy to move forward. In addition, there are challenges across the system as it relates to sharing our public spaces. We are working to identify improved ways to connect with our community to create safe, affirming spaces for our community to gather and enjoy our parks and each other.

The Glenway project continues to move forward with significant work happening on the course and lots of discussion about native restoration efforts as they are starting as well. Overall, golf courses have maintained a very strong level of play with rounds topping 67,000 already this year. This puts us in a position to achieve more than 105K rounds in a year with a course mostly closed, which would be higher than the five year average for rounds in a year.

Future Commission Items

- Parks Division Equity Plan – Staff continue implementation of the Parks Equity Team's Equity in Action Plan. A key part of the implementation of this plan is to engage with the Commission on this plan and the corresponding work that will be happening. This is anticipated to occur in August or September.
- Golf Enterprise Update – Staff will be working to provide both the Commission and the Golf Subcommittee and update on the Enterprise Fund and operations. The current target for this informational update is in August.
- Update on WPCRC expansion plans – Funding for design and development work is included in the Parks Division's 2022 Capital Budget request, with construction funding in 2023. Staff anticipates briefing the Commission on this important project in the Fall of 2021.
- Capital Budget and Operating Budget Update – The Capital Budget request has been submitted and the team is working on the operating budget submission to the Mayor now. An overview of the submissions will be provided to the Commission in the next few months.

Personnel Updates

- Josh Schmitt, Recreation Services Coordinator in charge of Aquatics and Rangers, has resigned from Madison Parks.

Section reports

Park Operations

Conservation:

- Staff and volunteers worked on invasive species control at several parks, focusing on crown vetch, Japanese hedge parsley, sweet clover, and wild parsnip.
- Contractors completed treating woody species re-sprouts in burn units and mowed areas at Owen and Prairie Ridge.
- Began spot mowing brush at Cherokee Marsh, Edna Taylor and Owen.
- Goats returned for prescribed grazing at four parks this season, starting at Knollwood.
- Collected data on plant growth inside and outside of deer exclosures.

Construction:

- Started the beach repair caused by the 2018 flood, which was on hold pending FEMA approval. Repairs in process at Marshall, Spring Harbor, Tenney and Olbrich beaches.
- The team completed preparation and installation of the accessible beach mat at Bernie's Beach. The accessible mat was made possible through a donation to the Parks Foundation.
- Completed a number of capital projects including concrete pads for bike racks at Tenney, and for benches at Warner, Burrows, Wingra and Mayfair. In addition, volleyball courts were refurbished at Edward Klief, Brittingham, Olbrich, Goodman, and James Madison parks.

Facilities:

- Opened all facilities and amenities, including shelters, the Goodman Pool, splash pads, community garden irrigation systems, and drinking fountains.
- Completed capital project work including: siding and roof repair and painting at Marlborough Park, roof replacement and painting at Goodman sun shelter, and painting at Elver Park old shelter and Elvehjem shelter.

General Parks:

- Ride the Drive involved several parks and required preparation and clean up.
- Beaches opened, requiring significant staff time to clean and maintain.
- The warm, dry weather enabled staff to catch up on string trimming and other tasks.
- Chad Hughes shared his Madison Parks experience with the Wanda Fullmore interns
- The Land Stewardship Technician worked with Friends of Sycamore and the Engineering Division to rehabilitate areas of Sycamore Park into desirable prairie.

Mall Concourse:

- The Olbrich team planted annuals in the planters on the Concourse and State St.
- Flower beds and planters required daily watering due to drought-like conditions.
- Continued the sidewalk power-washing program, completing most of State Street.
- Events returned, including the Farmers Market, which required additional clean-up work.

Planning and Development

2021 Playground Replacements

- Playground contract was awarded to Madison Commercial Landscapes, parks receiving new playgrounds as part of this contract include Eken, Norman Clayton, Swallowtail and Orchard Ridge. Additionally, Parks Construction will be installing new playground at Paunack later this summer.

2021 Paving Project

- Paving project was awarded to Joe Daniels Construction Co., Inc. Parks receiving paving work this year include Badger, Baxter, Country Grove, Marlborough, Odana School, Orchard Ridge, Orlando Bell, Tenney, Walnut Grove and Wingra.