

Come out and

PLAY

play
**MADISON
PARKS**

March 2013

A monthly newsletter created by the City of Madison Parks Division

Ride the Drive

Back for TWO Events in 2013

The City of Madison and Madison Parks are pleased to bring Ride the Drive, presented by Trek, back for its fifth year! We will be hosting Ride the Drive-Downtown on June 2nd from 10am to 3pm and Ride the Drive Westside August 18th from 10am – 3pm.

Ride the Drive was inspired by the Ciclovía in Bogota, Colombia, where city streets are closed to car traffic to allow people to participate in all kinds of free health and community-oriented events. In celebration of Madison's commitment to bicycling and healthy lifestyles, Madison hosted its first Ride the Drive in 2009. After four years of successful events, we are proud to continue this Madison tradition.

Ride the Drive is a community event that turns Madison's signature streets into a public promenade that is open to cyclists, walkers, rollerbladers, and residents out to enjoy car-free streets. These popular events have drawn over 20,000 attendees. Ride the Drive is more than just a bike ride - with music, activities, and fun stopping points along the way - there is something for everyone.



Ride the Drive - 2013

June 2, 10a.m. - 3p.m. - DOWNTOWN
August 18, 10a.m.-3p.m. - WESTSIDE

www.cityofmadison.com/ridethedrive

The Downtown route will be the same as last year's, featuring the iconic streets downtown is known for, including Capitol Square, East Washington, and John Nolen Drive. The Westside Ride the Drive will have more of a Block Party feel, highlighting the neighborhoods surrounding Regent St. and South Hill Dr. Complete maps of the Ride the Drive Routes can be found on the Ride the Drive Website.

There are many different ways for the community to get involved in this year's Ride the Drive. Corporations are welcome to help sponsor the event, while local businesses and organizations can host an activity or have a booth along the route. There are also many volunteer opportunities for individuals to get involved. And of course, we invite all to come out and Ride the Drive. The event is free and open to the public.

For a list of all the volunteer roles available and more information about Ride the Drive, please visit www.cityofmadison.com/ridethedrive



Meet the Pro/Beat the Pro

Welcome our new PGA Pro Ian Nicoll and beat him at his own game

Event Details: Saturday, March 30, 11a.m. – 2p.m.
Odana Hills Golf Course, 4635 Odana Road
\$5 admission – gets bowl of chili, one beverage, two chances for closest to the pin

Madison Parks is pleased to announce our Meet the Pro/Beat the Pro event on Saturday, March 30 from 11am-2pm at Odana Hills Golf Course.

As our new PGA golf pro gets settled in Madison it is time for him to meet and compete with local golfers. Dust off skills for chances to win a free round of golf with a chipping and/or putting contest. Come and meet our new PGA Class A Pro, Ian Nicoll as well as say hello to the many familiar faces of the assistant pros. All attendees will receive a coupon for a large bucket of range balls and will be entered into a drawing for a grand prize of a free four-some at any Madison Parks Golf Course with cart included. This event will include plenty of time to get to know our new pro. Chili and one beverage of your choice (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) are included in admission.

“We are excited to introduce our new golf pro to the Madison golfing community with this great event. It also serves to kick off another exciting season for our four courses. We look forward to continuing to provide affordable and convenient golfing opportunities for Madisonians for years to come,” says Kevin Briski Superintendent of Madison Parks.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to meet other Madison golfers and introduce yourself to the new PGA pro. Golfers of all skill levels are encouraged to attend. This event promises to be one people will be talking about all season, so don't miss out!



Meet the Beat the PRO
Meet Golf Madison Parks New PGA Pro

March 30, 2013 11a.m. – 2p.m.
Odana Hills Golf Course

Visit www.CityOfMadison.com/Parks

LIKE us on Facebook! Madison Parks has created a NEW GOLF Facebook page – just for Madison Parks golf courses. Be sure to LIKE us! Keep your eye out for specials, promotions and events throughout the year!
www.facebook.com/MadisonParksGolf



golf
**MADISON
PARKS**

Welcome to Ian Nicoll Golf Madison Parks new PGA Pro

Ian grew up playing golf and working in a country club in Westfield, Massachusetts. Like many PGA professionals, it was after graduating from college, Westfield State College with a Business Administration degree, he decided to make golf not only his passion, but also his profession.

As Ian worked his way up the PGA ranks from Assistant Pro, to Apprentice to finally, PGA Class A Professional, he worked in a variety of golf course settings. In 1996 he worked as a Tournament Coordinator at TPC (Tournament Players Club) Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. In 2002 he was hired as the general manager and director of golf at the Golf Club of Jacksonville, in Jacksonville, FL and also oversaw the course and management at TPC Heron Bay, FL and later at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Illinois.

Kids to Kids Garage Sale

New in 2013 - TWO Kids to Kids Garage Sale Events AND the Big Rig Gig!

- Sunday, May 5, 9:00am – Noon
Elver Park, 1250 McKenna Boulevard
- Saturday, September 21, 9:00am – Noon
Warner Park, 2930 North Sherman Avenue



Is the toy box overflowing with old, forgotten toys? Or are the kids' closets bursting at the seams with clothes that don't fit? Why not sell it all at a garage sale just for kids! Madison Parks is pleased to announce the annual Kids to Kids Garage Sale to take place on Sunday, May 5th at Elver Park. New this year, is the addition of a second Garage Sale at Warner Park on Saturday, September 21st.

Youth and families are invited to reserve a space to sell their own items to other kids. Individuals may sell items such as toys, games, dress-up attire, books, bikes, DVDs, and other like items. There will be approximately 60 booths available at each location. Whether you attend one or both of the events, this is a great way to get rid of or find great deals on slightly used clothes, games, books, toys, electronics, puzzles, etc.



This year, the Kids to Kids Garage Sales will also feature the Big Rig Gig. Don't miss the thrilling opportunity to get up close and personal with Madison's premier public service vehicles and equipment. Big Rigs including a fire engine, dump truck, police car, construction equipment and much more will be on display for kids and adults alike to climb on and explore. Make sure to bring the camera!

To Reserve a Space

For youth or parents of youth wishing to reserve a space to sell their items, please find more information at the Kids to Kids Garage Sale website at www.cityofmadison.com/parks/kids/garageSale.cfm

Big Rig Gig

New in 2013 - Big Rig Gig held along with the Kids to Kids Garage Sale!

- Sunday, May 5, 9:00am – Noon
Elver Park, 1250 McKenna Blvd.
- Saturday, September 21, 9:00am – Noon
Warner Park, 2930 N. Sherman Ave.

What is the Big Rig Gig?

A showcase of Madison's premiere public services, employees and equipment.

Fire Engines.. Dump Trucks..Front Loaders..Skid Steers..Tractors!

Do your kids get excited when they see a big dump truck rumbling by or police car flying down the street? Put your imagination in gear, grab your Bob the Builder hard hat – and head on down to Madison Parks events featuring, the Big Rig Gig.

Kids of all ages can climb on, explore, and get up close with their favorite big rigs including a skid steer, snow plow, tractor, cherry picker, front loader, fire engine, dump truck, police car, construction trucks, and much more!

For more information visit:

www.cityofmadison.com/parks/kids/BigRigGig.cfm



SpringFest Arts & Craft Fair April 6, 9a.m.-3p.m.

Come to Warner Park Community Recreation Center for the annual SpringFest Arts & Craft Fair.

Over 100 crafters from around the area will be selling their wares. There will be crafts, country crafts, wood crafts, wreaths, baskets, jewelry and much, much more.

- Admission is \$1.
- Food and beverages will be available.
- Door Prizes! Entertainment!
- Plenty of free parking.



Fresh Air Craft Fair - May 11

Fresh Air Craft Fair Hosted by Madison Parks
Saturday, May 11th, 10am-3pm
Elver Park, 1250 McKenna Boulevard, Madison, WI

Madison Parks is pleased to present The Fresh Air Craft Fair, an exciting new event for spring 2013. The Fresh Air Craft Fair will host regional artists selling jewelry, pottery, paper crafts, and much more.

As the largest of Madison's community parks, at 227 acres, Elver Park is the premiere location to hold this outdoor event. With activities such as kite flying and hayrides as well as kids crafts, live music, and food, The Fresh Air Craft Fair is the perfect way to enjoy the warm spring weather and celebrate Mother's Day.

"Madison Parks is so excited to be able to give area artists an outlet to showcase their fantastic work," says Anne Whisner event coordinator for the Madison Parks Division.

Artists and crafters are invited to participate by reserving a 10X10 space to sell their own unique arts, crafts, and other handmade goods. Artists wishing to reserve a space can do so at the Fresh Air Craft Fair webpage. There is a \$40 fee per space and no equipment is provided. All are encouraged to register early, as there are a limited number of booth spaces available.

Fresh Air Craft Fair website: www.cityofmadison.com/parks/celebrate/CraftFair.cfm

Dog Park Clean up Rescheduled for April 13

The City of Madison Parks Division is changing the Dog Park Clean up Day from the original schedule date of March 30 to a new date of April 13. By pushing back the date a few weeks, the hope is that warmer temperatures will finally arrive and melt the snow and ice in the parks .

Dog lovers and environmental stewards are encouraged to visit any of the following locations to beautify Madison's six off-leash dog parks: Warner, Quann, Sycamore, Brittingham, Detremal, and McCormick.



Walk with a Doc - Spring Walks

Thank you Dr. Laura Houser for leading Walk with a Doc last Saturday! A crowd of community walkers gathered at Olbrich Botanical Gardens to hear Dr. Houser speak about mindfulness. We learned about the importance of focusing on our breathing to calm and focus the mind. One technique was to sit, cross legged on the floor and place your hands on your stomach and concentrate on the movement of the stomach with each inhale and exhale.



Dr. Houser also explained an analogy used in schools to help children calm themselves and refocus. She explained that our minds are full of swirling thoughts, like a snow globe shaken up. When we are mindful, we do not erase the thoughts; we acknowledge them and then let them pass. Like a settled snow globe, the thoughts still remain in our minds, but they do not consume us.

Additionally, Dr. Houser spoke of using all of our senses during our walk: sight, hearing, touch, and smell. Olbrich Botanical Gardens provided a perfect back drop for the walk. We felt the cold air on our face, we heard a lone crane flying overhead, inside the conservatory we were able to see all of the plants, and inside the Spring Show we got to smell spring flowers!

Join us at our next Walk with a Doc Event on April 17, 6:30p.m. at Tenney Park Beach. Join Dr. Bradford Meyers and Gretchen Geist, RN, MSN from Dean Clinic-East as they lead a discussion on diabetes with an emphasis on prevention. They will touch on diabetes management as well, so come with questions! After the discussion, we will enjoy a walk along the bike trail along the Yahara River Parkway as we enjoy the sights and sounds of spring!

Be sure to check out our upcoming Walk with a Doc events: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/celebrate/walkwithadoc.cfm>



Spring Flower Show – Wisconsin Woodlands

Through March 24, 2013, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily

Spring Show Plant Sale, March 25

Escape from the winter doldrums at Olbrich Botanical Gardens' indoor Spring Flower Show: Wisconsin Woodlands. The show immerses visitors in the colors and scents of a spring garden while strolling through Wisconsin's woodlands. From Horicon Marsh to Mirror Lake, Blue Mounds and Wildcat Mountain, Olbrich's interpretation of woodland scenes from around Wisconsin offers a glimpse into spring. More than 20 paintings, sculptures, and metal artwork from local artist Bill Wilkie complement the beautiful spring flowers that include tulips, daffodils, primroses, hyacinth, azalea, and more!

The show runs through March 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. This event is a fundraiser for the Gardens and a \$2 admission donation is suggested. Some pieces of art are for sale with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the Gardens;

inquire in Olbrich's Growing Gifts shop. Select plants from the Spring Flower show will go on sale on Monday, March 25 starting at 12 p.m., while supplies last.

Volunteer Celebration Awards

These awards were presented at the March 4, 2013 Volunteer Recognition Event.

Individual Volunteer of the Year – Sarah Brooks

As a master gardener who has been involved for over 15 years, Sarah Brooks has spent countless hours each spring beautifying the entrance of Forest Hill Cemetery. As a volunteer flower gardener, Sarah has been responsible for planting and maintaining beautiful flower beds each year. In addition she also has been delighting the community with colorful, creative and surprise art installations that add a whimsical, magical touch at the Forest Hill Cemetery and as part of Ride the Drive. “It is truly amazing how many people stop in to comment about how it always puts a smile on their face as they pass by on their way to and from work,” Kevin Sorenson said. “My personal favorite was the giant asparagus spears that looked to be straight out of Jack and the Beanstalk!”

Volunteer Group of the Year – Friends of Cherokee Marsh

Formed in 2006, the Friends of Cherokee Marsh has maintained their pledge to protect, preserve and restore the beauty, value and health of the Cherokee Marsh and upper Yahara watershed. Their tireless advocacy and volunteer efforts have supported land acquisition, enhanced restoration efforts, and inspired pride in conservation parks and native wetlands. They’ve written numerous articles in the Northside News educating the public about the unique natural values of the Cherokee Marsh, and have organized numerous restoration projects. The Friends of Cherokee Marsh are a great example to follow in the preservation of our wonderful conservation parks.

Madison Park Spirit of Service Award – Mary Caulfield

The Spirit of Service award is awarded based on extraordinary commitment to Madison Parks as well as showcasing leadership, inspiration, enthusiasm and contribution to the betterment of Madison Parks. Mary Caulfield has been a volunteer since 1982 and a lifelong advocate for Parks in the Waunona Neighborhood. Spending countless hours coordinating efforts and volunteers in Paunack, Waunona and Thut Parks, and Esther Beach, Mary’s diligent efforts have been far reaching. She was instrumental in the support for new playground equipment and amenities at Thut Park. Additionally, she has coordinated Earth Day projects and the planting of several trees and flower beds. Her leadership has kept others involved and helped maintain great recreational parks and outlets for her neighborhood parks.

Madison Parks Corporate Sponsor of the Year – 105.5 FM Triple M

Since the event began in 2009, Triple M has been a Champion of Ride the Drive. They have help spread the word far and wide by serving as the main media sponsor for each event. Not only do they help to promote the event to their listening community, but also are instrumental in coordinating and providing musical entertainment and an emcee for the event. In addition, to supporting special events, the Triple M Green Team has supported Madison Parks through volunteerism over the years. Volunteers have assisted at the Goodman Pool and other parks clean up projects.

Thank you to Fresh Madison Market for sponsoring and catering the volunteer dinner celebration. The food was described as ‘scrumptious, delicious, and delightful.’ We thank Fresh Madison Market for their support of Madison Parks and our volunteers!



Madison Parks Partner of the Year - Shelley Glover Sports Education Foundation

Dedicated to promoting athleticism, leadership and entrepreneurial skills to youth of all ages and abilities, the Shelley Glover Foundation has engaged and impacted the community in a positive light. The Shelley Glover Foundation has been instrumental in supporting the Goodman Waves Swim Team, the city of Madison’s only public pool swim team, and the Goodman Pool through scholarships for swim lessons, swim team memberships, and pool memberships for children in need who attend the Goodman Pool. Each year, the Foundation hosts the Kids Swimming for Kids program and over 500 children from area pools and swim clubs participate in swim-a-thons to raise the money to provide scholarships. These scholarships went to support 40% of the swimmers for the Goodman Pool swim team.

Thank you Bill Barker!

After 10 years as a mainstay on the Madison Parks Commission, Bill Barker will be stepping down from his post in late April. Barker joined the commission in 2003 and served several years as president of the commission. To say that he will be missed is a big understatement.

During his time on the Parks Commission, Bill devoted countless hours and attended hundreds of meetings. He put his heart and soul into making Madison's park system one of the best in the country. He served on the commission's Long-Range Planning Committee and the Olbrich Botanical Society's Board. He was also an active member of other committees dealing with topics like creating a new Central Park and deciding what to do with the city's Garver property.



On his Facebook page, Bill describes himself as a “dirt-worshipping tree hugger” and “a happy optimist.” And judging from quotes on his Facebook page, he hasn't lost that optimistic, can-do spirit. Here are a few examples:

- “We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.” (Abraham Lincoln)
- “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.” (Dr. Seuss)
- “We are confronted by insurmountable opportunities.” (Pogo)

Bill was born in Trion, Georgia, and graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in zoology. He later completed his PhD at that same university, and joined the University of Wisconsin staff in 1991. He is currently associate dean for research and technology transfer.

But Bill Barker was never just a talking head tree hugger; this is a guy who doesn't mind getting his hands dirty and callused. He chaired the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee to enhance and protect Picnic Point. Removing invasives, taking out buckhorn and doing the real work for Mother Nature are all part of Bill's genetic make-up.

“Bill keeps us honest,” said parks commissioner Madelyn Leopold. “He's the voice for natural areas, open spaces, diversity and intelligent science. He doesn't hesitate to ask tough questions and to speak his mind. Our parks have been the beneficiary of his intelligence and consistent commitment. It's been a privilege to serve with him.”

I'll second that motion. Good luck, you old Tree Hugger.

- David Wallner, President of the Madison Parks Commission

Earth Day Challenge

April 27, 2013, 10 a.m. to noon

As the season slowly transitions to spring, it's time to start thinking about ways to brighten up our city from the tracks of a gloomy, grey winter! The City of Madison Parks Division will be hosting its 17th annual Earth Day Challenge on April 27, 2013. Join us in celebrating Earth Day with some spring cleaning at our city's parks.

Madison Parks will be hosting eight volunteer projects throughout the city, but many neighborhood associations, Parks Friends groups, and others will be hosting projects throughout the city as well. Projects may include, but are not limited to: picking-up trash, removing invasive species, weeding, and mulching.

Volunteers can get involved in one of two ways for the Earth Day Challenge:

1.) **Host a Project:** Register to host a volunteer project in your neighborhood park. The volunteer project organizer will lead the project and get others to assist with parks beautifications projects.

2.) **Volunteer at a Hosted Project:** Madison Parks will be leading projects at eight parks in Madison, including but not limited to Elver, Vilas, Olin, and Warner Parks. Sign up on line for the project that matches your location and project preferences. Individuals, families, groups, and corporations are all encouraged to participate.

Visit our website at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/celebrate/earthdayChallenge.cfm> for more information and for a complete list of hosted Earth Day Challenge projects. Please direct any questions you may have to the Parks Office at parksvolunteer@cityofmadison.com.



Employee of the Month Ben Jackson



The Madison Parks Division Employee of the Month program recognizes employees who have exhibited outstanding performance in the areas of customer service, leadership, work ethic or have represented themselves as an exemplary Parks Ambassador.

Ben Jackson is a Park Ranger for Madison's over 265 city owned parks. He patrols and polices every one, despite the huge number. "Even though I was born here, sometimes I have to look up the parks to find them," he admits. Ben has worked for the Parks Department since the 1990's, although he decided to take a few years off to be a stay-at-home dad. Three years ago he re-joined the department and he openly admits a great love for this job.

"I just do my job the best I can," says Ben, "I give 110% all the time." His hard work has clearly paid off as Ben becomes the first part-time employee to ever win the Employee of the Month award. His award comes after Ben made news for going above and beyond his duties. When he found the possessions of two homeless people he did everything he could to be sure they got back to their rightful owners. He felt it was his responsibility to see they could find their possessions. "Madison Parks is known for our amazing employees," says Kevin Briski Parks Superintendant, "but even with our reputation Ben manages to shine as example of a great Park Ranger."

Ben was born and raised in the Madison area where he went to Madison West High school. He continued his studies at Edgewood College as a Business major and Computer minor. His work for the city started when Ben worked at the boat launches and concessions on the lake. "I love being outdoors and meeting the public," says Ben of his current position, "You meet a wide variety of people on this job." In fact, one of Ben's favorite parts of being on the job is the people. Meeting Madisonians and talking with them is one of Ben's specialties. "I always say 'Treat everyone with respect, if you give them respect you will get it back.'"

In his free time Ben loves doing everything outdoorsy from hiking and camping to hunting and fishing. He also works as a Boy Scout master and is proud to announce that his son recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Congratulations Ben!

Goodman Pool WAVES - informational meeting on April 3, 6:30p.m.

The Goodman Waves invite all prospective swim team members to an Informational Meeting on Monday, April 3 at 6:30p.m. at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive. The meeting is designed to be a Q&A for parents, swim team members, learn about scholarship opportunities, meet the coach – see what being a part of the Waves is all about!! The Waves Swim Team is open to youth ages 6-18.

For more information visit:
www.cityofmadison.com/parks/pool/swimTeam.cfm

VISION:

To provide the ideal system of parks, natural resources and recreation opportunities which will enhance the quality of life for everyone.

PARKS DIVISION

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