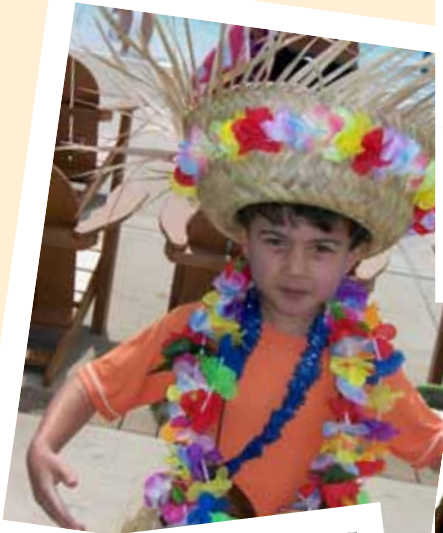


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**MADISON
PARKS**



MADISON PARKS DIVISION 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

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A DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS



MANAGING OUR COMMUNITY'S INVESTMENTS

Madison Parks Welcomed Several New Parks and Facilities

- Door Creek Park: Graded area for soccer fields, paved existing limestone path, constructed accessible path to playground, added accessible play components, and completed segment of the cross country ski trails.
- Breese Stevens Field: Reconstructed entrance patios at Mifflin/Patterson and Patterson/East Washington intersections and installed new press box. The elevated press box will allow people to film and monitor the field 12 feet above the ground.
- Warner Park: Completed Phase II construction of parking lot redesign. Warner Park Baseball Stadium won Ballpark Digest's Ballpark Renovation of the Year Award. The renovations come with a green, resource conscience approach, costing a little under \$2 million, and recycling parts of the old stadium throughout the park.
- James Madison Park: Reconstructed shoreline from Bernard Boathouse north to Blount St extended; replaced Bernard Boathouse roof; opened the shelter to rentals for the first time in almost 15 years.
- Brittingham Park: Boathouse interior work completed including restrooms, outside drinking fountain, and resurfaced existing tennis courts.
- Olive Jones Park: New tot playground was installed with an improved amphitheater space.
- Edward Klief Park: Completed a full redevelopment of the park with a new playground, corner seating area, volleyball court and kickball field.
- Meadowood Park: Installed a new playground, basketball court area and a drinking fountain.
- Rennebohm Park: Installed a new asphalt trail system.



WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS



Hundreds of volunteers descended upon a quiet east side park in the early morning of October 6, 2011. Their mission – build a brand new playground from the ground up – and do it all before 2:30p.m.!

The journey to the new Wirth Court playground, 61 Waubesa Street, when the Goodman Community Center was awarded a KaBOOM! grant. In August, children and their parents were invited to a “Design Day” where they drew up plans for their own dream park. Thanks to the generous donation of a \$75,000 KaBOOM! playground by Kraft Foods Foundation and the combined efforts of Kraft Foods/Oscar Mayer Madison employees, as well as Goodman Community Center employees, Madison Parks employees, volunteers, and neighbors, the new playground was built and installed in less than six hours.

Volunteers from all over the community came out on October 6 to assist with this updated version of a barn-raising. Erica from Kraft Foods, participating in her 2nd KaBOOM! Build Day said, “I’m planning on bringing my kids here. I think they will love it.” And 8 year old Jasmeen added, “It sounded fun, and I’m excited to help out other kids to have their own park.” Kinaan, Jasmeen’s older brother and neighborhood student added, “My mom signed me up and I was like OK!, It’s pretty cool!”

In addition to the play equipment being built, several other ‘side’ projects were completed that added a unique flair to the park: new benches, two new trees, playing boards painted and added to the picnic tables and mosaic

tile river. The Hippo at Wirth Court Park (or known locally as ‘Hippo Park’) now has a river running around it. Thanks to the efforts of the Art teacher at Lowell Elementary School, and the students, 125 tiles were designed, decorated and installed.

On October 10 the partners and the neighborhood kids celebrated the grand opening of the park. It was thrilling for the kids to be among the first to play on the new playground that was designed by them and built by their parents and friends!

Wirth Court Park, 61 Waubesa Street is located on Madison’s east side near Goodman Community Center.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

- In February 2011, Wisconsin Legislators introduced a bill that touched off months of protests around the Capitol Square and later on city owned property on East Washington Ave. The parks staff remained professional throughout the protests by continuing to do their job of providing services to the State Street/ Mall Concourse area, as well as special clean up duties at the Occupy Madison location.
- The **University of Wisconsin Women's Hockey team** held a special Meet and Greet event at Vilas Park. Several hundred people showed up to support the team on their way to a national championship, and enjoy an afternoon of skating on a frozen pond.
- **One Day - Two Parties!** On February 12, 2011 the weather was cooperative that Madison Parks was able to host not one, but two winter parties: Toast To Tenney ice skating party and a Moonlight Ski Party at Turville Woods. Both events had a turn out of over 200 people who came out to enjoy a beautiful winter day in Madison Parks!



Madison Parks Recognizes Partners and Volunteers

Madison Parks hosted a recognition dinner to celebrate the 2011 accomplishments and achievements of its large partner and volunteer corps.

- Volunteer of the Year - Joanne Walker
- Volunteer Group of the Year - Friends of Monona Bay
- Partner of the Year - Madison Police Dept.
- Sponsor of the Year - Oscar Mayer/Kraft Foods
- Project of the Year - Tenney Park Shelter Group
- Spirit of Service Award - Jean Sweet

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

John Wall Family Pavilion in Tenney Park

For the last 4 years a group of Tenney Park neighbors, called the Tenney Park Shelter Group, have been raising money to build a new shelter at Tenney Park. The original shelter was almost 60 years old, and was showing its age. Now, thanks to donations from the community, in particular the John Wall Family, the group met their goal. The pavilion opened to the public on December 3 with special guest former Olympian Beth Heiden-Reid.

The historic Tenney Park is a popular gathering place for not only the surrounding neighborhood, but for the city as a whole. It is undoubtedly the most popular ice skating location in the city with over 22,000 people enjoying the frozen lagoon each season and over 90 special event rentals each year. The John Wall Family Pavilion in Tenney Park was open for the winter ice skating season, and is available for rentals for weddings, family reunions and events beginning in 2012.



Gates of Heaven - 40 years in James Madison Park

The 40th anniversary celebration of the moving of one of Madison's most historic buildings to its new James Madison Park location was held on July 17, 2011. Built nearly 150 years ago, it was the first synagogue to exist in Madison.

Due to its place on the National Register of Historic Places, it was also the first building to be moved in the history of Madison on July 17th, 1971.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Olbrich Botanical Gardens celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Bolz Conservatory in 2011. A reunion luncheon was held for former staff and volunteers, donors to the project and other members of the community who were involved at the time. Attendees were able to reminisce about the efforts to bring a 10,000 square foot tropical paradise to Madison. A nationally recognized speaker, Dr. Margaret Lowman, gave two presentations November 12 to two different audiences. She presented "*Monkeys, Millipedes, and Medicine – Meet Canopy Meg*" to a family audience with rave reviews and an opportunity for children to learn more about scientific work in the tropics. She presented "*Out on a Limb – Exploring Tropical Rainforest Canopies*" to an adult and teen audience. She was able to demonstrate that forest canopies provide ecological services to all ecological regions particularly when talking about climate. She also demonstrated to the audience that intact diverse tropical forests are healthy for the local populations and showcased projects where she has engaged local people in her efforts to save the forests.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



In 2011 Madison Parks staff provided quality customer service in reserving and preparing the site, delivering equipment and hosting: Parks special events – 116; Shelter Reservations– 1205; Gates of Heaven - 205; Soccer – 800 dates; Softball – 1850; Tennis dates/courts – 3048; Ultimate Frisbee – 862; Kickball – 196; Football games – 141; Touch football – 37; Lacrosse – 55; Cricket – 52; Baseball – 146; Day Camps – 46; Basketball Tournament– 1; Flag Rugby - 4.

2011 NEW EVENT: On Saturday, September 17th, the City of Madison Parks hosted the **Big Rig Gig** at the Goodman Pool parking lot. The event allowed children and adults alike to tour the various large vehicles the City of Madison utilizes, including fire trucks, buses, police cars, tractors, snow plows, garbage trucks, front loaders and much much more! Fourteen vehicles were on display. The sounds of honking horns rang out as kids climbed into the vehicles, posed for pictures, and learned about the marvelous machinery the City employees use every day.

The event was a tremendous success, with a turnout of approximately 2000 people. Kids loved all of the exploring they could do while the parents were treated to great photo opportunities, leaving wonderful memories

for years to come. City Staff who drive the vehicles were also on hand to answer questions and discuss their jobs. One parent mentioned that her son had been “waiting for weeks for this day” while another commented on how “great it is that Madison Parks went out of their way on a Saturday morning to provide such a fun event for the kids.”

Goodman Pool had over 67,500 swimmers visit over an 11 week season. Over 1600 youth took a swimming lesson; over 400 of which were on scholarship.

Warner Park Community Recreation Center had 292,977 visitors come through the door to either take a recreation class from Madison School Community Recreation, use the exercise room/gymnasium, obtain senior services from the North East Side Senior Coalition, or to use the community rooms for their special event.

The Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association awarded the Madison Parks Division a Silver Star Award of Excellence for Youth Recreation Programming for the Goodman Pool Waves Swim Team. The Goodman Pool Waves was developed through a strategic community partnership between the Shelley Glover Sports Education Foundation (SGSEF), Madison Parks, and the Robert D. and Irwin A. Goodman Foundation. A key strategic SGSEF initiative in 2011 was to realize the development of a competitive swim team at Goodman Pool that could compete within the Madison All-City Swim League. This initiative’s goal was to bring youth who primarily swim at the public pool and may not have any experience with swim teams the opportunity to enjoy the physical, mental and emotional benefits inherent in participating on a swim team.



CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES



- Led 7 public nature hikes, called Exploring Madison's Wildside with average attendance of 25 people at each event.
- Filled 2,000 ft. of drainage ditches in Cherokee's East Marsh acquisition to restore wetland habitat. This project, done in partnership with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, was phase I of a multi-year project designed to restore the hydrology and biological diversity of these formerly farmed wetlands.
- Implemented shoreline buffer plantings at Cherokee, Acewood, and Vilas parks. A total of 4435 individual prairie plants were installed along 1,000 ft. of water front. Plantings will increase diversity, beautify the parks, stabilize the shoreline, and discourage the movement of giant Canada geese.
- Moved forward on a large scale oak savanna restoration project at Turville Point Conservation Park with controlled burns, exotic shrub control, and the addition of native seeds to increase plant diversity.
- Awarded a \$10,000 grant from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to move forward with a 13-acre oak savanna restoration at Edna Taylor Conservation Park.

- Improved landscape screen in Olbrich Park along Atwood from Walter Street to the boat launch. The area was overgrown with invasive and poor quality vegetation. It was an eyesore as it collected garbage and debris, and provided a screen for unwanted activities that were occurring there. Cleared out invasive brush and created a view of the lake from the ball diamonds at Olbrich Park.
- Increased exotic shrub management efforts by using a forestry mower at Prairie Ridge, Owen, and Cherokee Marsh Conservation Parks. A total of 43 acres (oak woodland and wetland habitats) were cleared using this mechanical management tool.
- Resurveyed the American Lotus beds planted in the Upper Yahara River in Cherokee Marsh. Coverage of this plant has increased from 42 acres in 2009 to 80 acres in 2011. Sediment trapped by these plant beds has helped to stabilize the floating shoreline along the river, and keep nutrients in the sediment out of Lake Mendota.



The Madison Parks Forestry Section celebrated 22 years as a Tree City USA. The forestry section planted 2,121 street trees, pruned over 11,200 trees, responded to 633 tree emergencies and 3,204 customer service calls. In 2011, the Forestry Section celebrated Arbor Day with Falk Elementary, Lowell Elementary, Kennedy Elementary, Muir Elementary, Georgia O'Keefe Middle School and Lakeview Elementary Schools.

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We are proud to serve as a
Division of the City of Madison
Paul Soglin, Mayor
Kevin Briski, Parks Superintendent



Madison Parks Vision

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

