

2005 Annual Report

City of Madison Parks



Olbrich Botanical Gardens



James Madison Park



Warner Park



Tenney Park

Madison Parks are for all seasons.



Dominion Park Grand Opening



Goodman Pool Groundbreaking, June 29, 2005

Irwin A. & Robert D. Goodman Pool

Held the official ground-breaking of the Irwin A. & Robert D. Goodman Swimming Pool, Madison's first public swimming pool on June 29, 2005. The Parks Division also renamed Franklin Field Park & Maintenance Facility, the location of the swimming pool, to Goodman Park and Goodman Maintenance Facility. Irwin and Robert Goodman donated \$2.7 million dollars for the construction of the pool. The Pool Finance Committee, Pool Committee and the Madison Parks Foundation completed the fund-raising of \$4 million of the \$5 million needed to build the pool. The Parks Foundation & the Shelly Glover Foundation continued their efforts throughout the year to raise money for swimming scholarships.

B.L.A.S.T. Program

The BLAST (Beginning Lifeguard Aquatic Skills Training) program began in December 2005. Young people of all races, backgrounds, and swimming skills were recruited to participate in this free program. The goal of BLAST is that at the end of the program, participants' aquatic skills would be at a level that allowed them to enter the American Red Cross Lifeguard Training class. Upon successful completion of this ARC class, the candidates would then be eligible to apply for lifeguard positions at Goodman Pool.

Park Ranger Program

Implemented a new Park Ranger program. The park rangers were responsible for educating park patrons on park rules and regulations, assisting customers with problems they may have encountered with their shelter reservation and locking up the restrooms and shelters at night. Park Rangers worked from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend and were on-duty weekday evenings and all day on the weekends. The Park Ranger programs not only increased our customers' satisfaction with their park experience, but also led to decreased incidents of vandalism and graffiti.

Park Projects

- ◆ Opened 5 new parks in 2005: Dominion Park, Sandstone Park, Hill Creek Park, North-east Open Space, and Midtown Commons. Secured funding in the 2006 budget to open 5 new parks: Veterans Memorial Park, Secret Places Park, Sauk Heights Park, Church Hill Heights Park and Grandview Commons Park.
- ◆ Received a grant from the Graham Martin Foundation for the installation of 3 rain gardens in Madison Parks. Agrecol installed Rain Gardens in Brittingham Park, Warner Park and Olin-Turville Park.
- ◆ Worked with the management of the Madison Mallards to continue improvements to the Warner Park 'Duck Pond.' A larger concession area was built in the 'Duck Blind.' The Madison Mallards set attendance records for the Northwoods League by drawing 201,000 spectators.



St. Patrick's Day Parade, Capitol Square

Special Events

Hosted 157 events on State Street/Mall Concourse & 91 events in general parks, 258 reservations at the Gates of Heaven Synagogue, 1608 general park shelter reservations, 1105 on weekends and 503 on weekdays.

Recreation in Madison Parks

1641 soccer games, 1269 softball games, 2170 tennis matches, 335 dates for ultimate frisbee, 196 dates for kickball, 90 football games and practices, 33 rugby games, 22 lacrosse games, 30 cricket matches, 292 baseball games, 527 playground and day camps, 1 basketball tournament, and 1 Australian rules football game

State Street/Mall Concourse Maintenance

- ◆ 200 block of State Street was completed.
- ◆ Awarded the Downtown Community Asset Award by Downtown Madison, Inc.
- ◆ Worked over 90 hours of overtime for Halloween 2005.



Softball Game at Olbrich Park

Warner Park Community Recreation Center

- ◆ 268,358 visitors – a 7% increase from 2004.
- ◆ 25% participation by people of color
- ◆ 1,325 facility reservations, of which 47% were free.
- ◆ 64% HUD compliance of the 51% required.
- ◆ Held first annual Circle of Friends fundraiser for Northside pool.
- ◆ Established a weekly Northside neighborhood center night

Golf Program

2005 marked the third year in a row that rounds were down and the golf program did not make a profit. The increasing numbers of golf courses in the area have negatively impacted the sale of rounds at the public courses. In 2003, golf had 112,397 18-hole rounds. In 2005, rounds were down to 97,213.

Beach Program

2005 continued a 2 decade-long decline in beach users. In 1987 there were 255,922 beach users, in 1995 there were 80,578 beach users, and in 2005 there were 25,210 beach users.

Forestry Program

- ◆ The Forestry staff planted 1,818 trees in the spring. Fall planting was cancelled due to staffing and emergency storm work..
- ◆ Responded to 4,026 service calls: 3,336 for pruning, removal or pest problems, 639 for emergencies and 51 for traffic sign clearance.
- ◆ Awarded Tree City USA for the 16th year and held 4 Arbor Day tree plantings.
- ◆ For the first time since 2000, Forestry staff filled several previously held vacancies in September 2005. Six staff were promoted and six arborists vacancies were filled.
- ◆ Received a DNR Urban Forestry matching grant of \$25,000 to replant 442 street trees lost in the 2004 tornado area.



Halloween at WPCRC



Yahara Hills Golf Course

Financial Support

- ◆ Received financial support of \$80,500 from numerous individuals and neighborhood associations to improve their neighborhood parks. These supporters include: \$2,700 for Carpenter-Ridgeway Park, \$3,500 for Morrison Park, \$5,250 for Rennebohm Park, \$13,000 for Hill Creek Park, \$4,500 for Dominion Park, \$6,400 for Wexford Park, and \$10,500 for memorial trees, benches, & a pier.
- ◆ The Madison Parks Foundation ended 2004 with \$130,000 in total gifts, and ended 2005 with \$3,000,000 in total gifts.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

- ◆ Celebrated the opening of the new Rose Garden on June 19. The Prairie style garden features environmentally friendly shrub roses blended with perennials, annuals, flowering shrubs, grasses and ornamental trees.
- ◆ Awarded the 2005 Garden of Excellence award by the American Public Garden Association. This national award recognizes one public garden each year which best exemplifies the highest standards of horticultural practices and has shown a commitment to supporting and demonstrating the best gardening practices.
- ◆ 675 individuals and 16 groups volunteered 26,000 hours.
- ◆ Nearly 250,000 people visited Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Conservation Parks

- ◆ Continued work on the Yahara River/Cherokee Marsh wetland restoration. Received a \$17,000 grant from the Madison Community Foundation and a \$25,000 two-year grant (2004-2005) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Over 60 acres of wetland restoration were underway by the year's end.
- ◆ Continued long-standing and valuable partnership with Operation Fresh Start. Over 2,240 hours were spent working on numerous conservation park projects.



Yahara River/Cherokee Marsh



Rose Garden in Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Madison Parks Overview

Madison is a unique city, built on an isthmus between Lakes Monona and Mendota. With over 255 parks and 6000 acres of parkland, Madison is known not only for its natural beauty but also for its abundance of outdoor activities.

The recreational opportunities are plentiful: championship golf courses, soccer and softball fields, bike paths, a botanical garden, conservation parks, a community-recreation center, and, of course, the lakes – complete with beaches and boat launch/storage areas.

We invite you to enjoy our scenic parks from dawn to dusk year round. You will discover why Madison is one of the top cities in the nation to live, work and play.

Diverse Responsibilities

The City of Madison Parks Division operates and maintains public park areas and facilities, city forestry, median strips and greenways, Forest Hill Cemetery, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 4 public golf courses, 13 public beaches, 18 reservable park shelters, Warner Park Community Recreation Center, public boat launches and boat storage/mooring facilities, dog parks, conservation parks, athletic facilities, and the downtown Mall/Concourse facilities and events.

Parks Division Staff

The Madison Parks Staff includes 167 permanent staff, 250 seasonal staff and 2,500 volunteers who work cooperatively with the Madison community, Park Commission, elected officials, and City management to provide exceptional services to our community.

2005 Retirements

Joe Agnes, WPCRC Maintenance Mechanic 2, 9 years service
William Dennis, Maintenance Mechanic 2, 31 years service
Johnell Hunt, West Parks Equipment Operator 2, 32 years service
James J. Johnson, Olbrich Lead Gardener, 36 years service
Mark Peterson, Administration Services Manager, 30 years service
Stephen Shaw, East Parks Leadsworker, 35 years service
Kenneth Smith, East Athletic Field Caretaker, 33 years service
John Wilson, East Parks Leadsworker, 27 years service

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Fiesta Hispana



Girl Power at WPCRC



Lifeguard Training