



It is the mission of the Urbana Park District to:

- *Improve the quality of life of its citizens through a responsive, efficient, and creative park and recreation system,*
- *Pursue excellence in a variety of programs, parks, and special facilities that contribute to the attractiveness of neighborhoods, conservation of the environment, and the overall health of the community.*

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF MEETING
URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021
7:00 PM
PLANNING & OPERATIONS FACILITY
1011 E. KERR AVENUE
URBANA, IL 61801

- I. **Call to Order and Introductions**
- II. **Public Comment**
Any member of the public may make a brief statement at this time within the public participation rules of the Board.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes of the August 24, 2021 Meeting**
- IV. **New Business**
 - A. Jettie Rhodes Neighborhood Day Committee
- V. **Reports**
 - A. UPDAC Chair
 - B. Board Representative
 - C. Director's Report
 - D. Capital Projects Report
- VI. **UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion**
- VII. **Adjourn**

Upcoming meetings:

October 26, 2021
November 16, 2021 *third
Tuesday due to Thanksgiving
December – no meeting
January 25, 2022

*****This month's secretary is Sarah Roper*****

Note: The Meeting Agenda and Supporting Materials are on the UPD website at <http://www.urbanaparks.org/documents/index.html>; choose the "Public Meetings" category and search for the meeting information you wish to download.

URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021
7:00 PM-8:30 PM
LARGE PAVILION IN CRYSTAL LAKE PARK
URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801

The meeting of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) was held Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at the Large Pavilion in Crystal Lake Park at 7:00 pm. The notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the park district administrative office and at the location of the meeting. Copies of the notice and agenda were received by each member of the committee and by local newspapers, radio, and television stations at least forty-eight hours before the meeting in compliance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois. A copy of the notice and agenda is attached to the minutes. Also available for inspection are all documents that were reviewed or approved at the meeting.

UPDAC Members	PRESENT	ABSENT
Laura Hastings, Chair		X
Gary Ambler	X	
Nicoline Ambrose		X
Jonville Chenoweth		X
Mary Casey Diana		X
David Dorman	X	
Patricia Hatch		X
Ashley Moore	X	
Jean Paley	X	
Ashley Price		X
Sarah Roper	X	
Howard Schein	X	
Gary Stensland		X
Karl Weingartner	X	
Ashley Withers	X	

Also present were;
Board Vice President, Nancy Delcomyn
Executive Director, Tim Bartlett
Superintendent of Recreation, Corky Emberson
Superintendent of Planning and Operations, Derek Liebert
Superintendent of Business Services, Caty Roland
Office Manager, Kelsey Beccue

I. Call to Order – Welcome New Members and Introductions

Acting UPDAC Chair, Sarah Roper, called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM, and everyone present introduced themselves.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the June 22, 2021 Meeting

GARY AMBLER MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND FROM JEAN PALEY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2021 UPDAC MEETING. ALL SAID “AYE,” MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. New Business

A. UPDAC Year-in-Review

Tim Bartlett, Corky Emberson, Derek Liebert, Caty Roland, and Kelsey Beccue presented on some of the topics of study from UPDAC’s past year. Topics reviewed included the park district’s new logo, the CARES Plan, Health & Wellness facility planning, preliminary Prairie Play planning, the Blair Park Revitalization Project, the Crystal Lake Park Rehabilitation Project, and UPD Arts & Culture initiatives.

B. Upcoming Programs and Projects

Kelsey Beccue shared information on topics of study that would likely come before UPDAC in the next year. Topics reviewed were Prairie Play planning and replacement, UPD programming, outreach to underrepresented groups and UPDAC recruitment, the Kickapoo Rail Trail, and UPD financial operations.

Jean Paley and Derek Liebert spoke about the importance of UPDAC in the community input process, and in applying for grants. Notable grant-funded projects that had UPDAC support were the Crystal Lake Park Rehabilitation and Blair Park Revitalization. Derek also provided an update on Health & Wellness facility planning and shared that the district is looking at using a construction manager for the facility construction process in the hopes that we can get better prices on individual portions of facility construction, rather than bidding the entire project at once.

Tim Bartlett spoke about the Kickapoo Rail Trail and the opportunities it brings to UPD in regard to Weaver Park. David Dorman inquired about whether the KRT is for both bikes and pedestrians, and Tim responded that it is. Ashley Moore asked about the width of the trail, and Tim responded that he thought it was twelve feet wide. Jean Paley asked about where the trail begins, and Tim answered that the trailhead is currently at Weaver Park, but that there is opportunity to expand the trail into downtown Urbana, and perhaps even further west.

Corky Emberson spoke about the Underrepresented Study completed several years ago that has informed our “You Belong Here” pillar of our strategic plan. He shared

that the same researchers have applied for another grant to do a Phase 2 study to see if we have been successful with our You Belong Here initiatives, and that it has been awarded, and UPD hopes to share it nationwide.

Caty Roland spoke about the Finance 101 presentation she gives to UPDAC every few years to provide members with some insight into the financial operation of the district.

V. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair

Acting Chair, Sarah Roper, reminded everyone to please sign up to take minutes at future UDPAC meetings.

B. Board Representative

No report.

C. Director's Report

Tim Bartlett thanked everyone for their attendance, help, and participation with the Crystal Lake Arts Fair, and noted that the recreation staff are looking at planning some new events.

D. Capital Projects Report

Derek Liebert gave an update on the Blair Park project, and noted that Prairie Play replacement is on the horizon.

VI. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

Kelsey Beccue shared that this part of the meeting is always set aside for UPDAC members to bring other items up for discussion, either as follow-up from previous meetings, or completely new topics.

Derek Liebert gave some information on planning for a new Crystal Lake Park masterplan and one-way road system, noting that an open house for the proposed one-way road would be on October 3, 2021. Jean Paley commented positively on the improvements to Crystal Lake Park, and asked about the geese concerning the new plantings. Derek responded that the district is continuing to haze geese so they do not interfere with the establishment of the new plants. Sarah Roper asked about the waterfall plantings, and Derek answered that they are partially planted. Sarah also commented that the Crystal Lake Arts Fair was a great event, and asked about a potential splash pad at the new Health & Wellness facility. Tim said that a splash pad is still in the plan for outdoor amenities. Sarah also asked about outdoor skating rinks, and Tim responded that outdoor skating rinks come with many challenges. Ashley Moore inquired about the timeline for Weaver Park, and Tim said UPD is looking at late 2022, or early 2023. Derek mentioned that he thought it would be good for UPDAC to be involved with an outdoor athletics field study.

VII. Adjourn

Sarah Roper adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Kelsey Beccue

DRAFT

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

TO: Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners

FROM: Timothy A. Bartlett, Executive Director

DATE: September 14, 2021

RE: August 2021 Administration Department Report

Tim Bartlett – Executive Director

Wandell Sculpture Garden and Other UPD Parks

Our fall sculpture work is upon us and we will be making some changes to our collection as part of our annual goals for the garden. Each year, we have sculptures on loan to the UPD that either need to be renewed or released. As you know, we try to balance the artwork with a wide variety of elements: cost, artist diversity (emerging/established), style/genre, materials, locations around the state/nation, international experience, attention to local and statewide artists, needs/trends, and other variables to provide a wide variety of experiences when visiting Meadowbrook Park. We also have sculptures at other park and facility locations. A longer-term goal for the District is to provide art and/or cultural elements to all of our parks and facilities. We are making good progress on that effort as well.

This year, we will be removing and replacing four (4) sculptures. *Position #1* will leave Meadowbrook Park be relocated to the Phillips Recreation Center. As you may recall, the Gard family donated *Position #1* to the UPD a few years after the death of the sculptor Ron Gard. Staff recommends moving it to PRC to serve as a permanent piece for that location. We are pleased to know that we will have a sculpture at our recreation center into the future. Three other pieces at the WSG will be removed and replaced, including a larger-scale piece. Staff wanted to thank Fisher Stolz, Jaci Willis, Nicole Beck, and Charles Yost for allowing us to have their work on display. We enjoy working with all of our sculptors, and we have established long working relationships with many of our returning artists. We were pleased to have Mr. Yost join our group as a first-time artist to the UPD—he has had a long and successful career as an established sculptor in Illinois, and we look forward to working with him again in the future. We are also working with Bruce Niemi—another returning artist—to see if we can work one of his available sculptures back into our collection. Work will continue into the late fall until all of the 2021 work is completed.

One of the interesting aspects of our program is working through all of the rotations and trying to find the right piece for the ideal location. This involves a lot of effort to find, meet, and establish working relationships with as many artists as possible. We are very fortunate to have such a thriving trade in the Chicago region. We greatly benefit from that proximity and access to so many talented artists. We have done less work with out-of-state artists due to having so many good ones close by and the higher costs of transporting work across the country. We have worked with sculptors out-of-state, but we tend to work more regionally and in Illinois.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

The Arts & Culture Matrix is in the preliminary planning phase for the upcoming 25th Anniversary of the WSG. Our current hope is to put together an exciting year of events and attractions to celebrate our successes. We are pleased to know that an estate gift from Bill and Wynona Brown—longtime Clark-Lindsey residents and fans of our sculpture program—will be forwarded on to the UPD after processing at Busey Bank. This new financial resource may prove to be very beneficial to our sculpture program and help support the anniversary activities. More information will be provided once we know more about the final process with the estate gift.

I continue to promote acquiring *Water* at Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center as part of our permanent collection. This would be an ideal piece to serve the north end of the park. This iconic sculpture captures the essence of water—so impressively displayed at Crystal Lake Park. We also know that *Hawk IV* will be ultimately be donated to the UPD and is slated for the APNC site per the donors intent—sometime in 2026. This would provide three signature sculptures for the north end of CLP and would complement the fine gardens, nature play theme, and landscapes at the pool and nature center. Staff in very interested in working towards securing artwork for our other signature, community, and neighborhood parks.

The UPD is a key leader in sculpture programing in our region. The WSG is definitely on the statewide sculpture circuit, and we have an excellent reputation for having the knowledge, skills and support systems in place to operate this popular program. It is my impression that the visible efforts at the WSG has been a big part of local movement in arts and cultural expressions. We plan to continue improving this legacy program.

Business Services – Caty Roland, Superintendent of Business Services

In August, the Superintendent worked with audit firm Martin Hood to review the preliminary audit report. She drafted and submitted the Management Discussion & Analysis, Transmittal Letter, and the Statistical Schedules of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

The Administration Office Manager gathered and reviewed materials to update the district's IPARKS Property and Liability Insurance Policy schedules for the coming renewal year, and worked with City of Urbana IT staff to complete the IPARKS Cyber Underwriting Application. She has also taken an inventory of UPD Zoom Pro licenses, and is working on porting those licenses under one UPD account. This will result in some cost savings for the district, and make it easier to reassign licenses as staff needs require. The Human Resources Manager initiated the renewal process for the District's 2022 health insurance offerings with insurance broker Tom Brown.

Human Resources – Alexandra Ivanova, Human Resources Manager

No report.

Development – Jeremy Thorpe, Development Manager

The Urbana Parks Foundation Board of Trustees meeting moved back to in-person in August with an option to Zoom for those who wished. Over 60 guests have RSVP'd to the Urbana Parks Foundation Jazz Walk event which was moved to just outside of the barn to be an open air event.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

A Health & Wellness master list was completed and will be continuously updated with all donors' information being tracked for bookkeeping and recognition purposes.

The Development Manager continues to try to build relationships with local businesses for future sponsorships including potential Health & Wellness opportunities, Jazz Walk, and youth scholarships. Work will begin this month on the 2021 UPF annual appeal letter to be sent out mid-November with hopes to continue the push for the Health & Wellness facility and build the donor base with more annual gifts.

PLANNING & OPERATIONS REPORT

TO: Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners

FROM: Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning & Operations

CC: Tim Bartlett, Executive Director

DATE: September 14, 2021

RE: August 2021 Planning & Operations Department Report

Superintendent of Planning and Operations Derek Liebert

Health & Wellness Facility Planning

Staff continued to coordinate with DCEO on the funding for the Health & Wellness facility. Staff submitted the updated floor plan and budget that creates clear construction and funding separation between IDNR's PARC base facility project and the expanded DCEO wing and site work/paving. We also removed professional services from the grant scope so we could move forward with design prior to the final approval process. DCEO has responded by updating our draft scope agreement and reported the next step will be for the district to advance design and construction estimating to a level sufficient to complete the grant agreement. Staff, Farnsworth and DCEO anticipate this would take place after design has advanced significantly but no later than January or February of 2022. Once these detailed cost estimates are available, DCEO expects we would have a signed final agreement within two to three months of submittal, though likely sooner as our project has already been through a preapproval merit review process in response to a Notice of Funding Opportunity. In response to staff concerns about expending funds on advancing design prior to receipt of a finalized grant agreement, DCEO responded that the funding is secure and that the UPD has already received the funding award through DCEO Merit Review Process.

Facilities Supervisor Shane Newell

Nature Center

The Anita Purves Nature Center was closed to the public for a week so facility maintenance staff could perform semi-annual maintenance inside the building. Staff repaired drywall in several areas and painted the walls in the women's restroom, restroom hallway wall, east wall in classroom C, and the front foyer area. Custodial staff polished floors in the foyer, main reception area, all classrooms, classroom hallway, and restrooms.

Meadowbrook Damage

Urbana Police responded to a call at Meadowbrook Park in the parking lot off of Windsor Road. A passerby reported seeing water spraying out of the protective enclosure for the backflow preventer. Police believe a vehicle crashed into the enclosure and fled the scene. A&R Mechanical repaired the water leak and staff removed the damaged enclosure. Cost for repairs is TBD.

PLANNING & OPERATIONS REPORT

Grounds Supervisor Rich McMahon

Grounds Notes

We recently received our two new wide area mowers, several months after we expected to have them. Their arrival came at a good time, as the two old ones were having new problems every day, which was hurting the efficiency of the mowing crew. We're entering the last few months of play at Prairie North and Prairie South. My plan is to salvage as much of the ag lime as possible off those two fields, and use it on the warning track at Prairie Hardball, which is in need of being topped-off in several spots. All the caging has been removed from the trees and shrubs growing along Race Street, at Timpone Grove. The plants have been treated with Deer Off, and so far they seem to be unharmed. This stretch of trees and shrubs is much more visually appealing without all the hardware.

Construction Supervisor Keith Ewerks

Blair Park

Waiting for the contractor to finish up a few details around the playground and challenge course area, and then I will be able to start installation of both. I do need to lay out the challenge course, so the contractor can install the drainage, and it won't be in my way when I go to install the equipment.

Sculptures

The sculpture Position #1 has been removed so the base can be repaired, and then it will be reinstalled at Phillips Recreation Center. Balencia has been repaired. The post/bracket that the sphere sits on was loose, so we had a contractor come and remove the sphere and re-anchor the post bracket that the sphere sits on. Also, we received four prefabricated concrete pads that we can use and reuse in different locations so we don't have to pour a permanent pad.

Upcoming Projects

Blair Park playground and challenge course
Park name signs build and installation

Aquatics Facilities Supervisor Joseph Schmidt

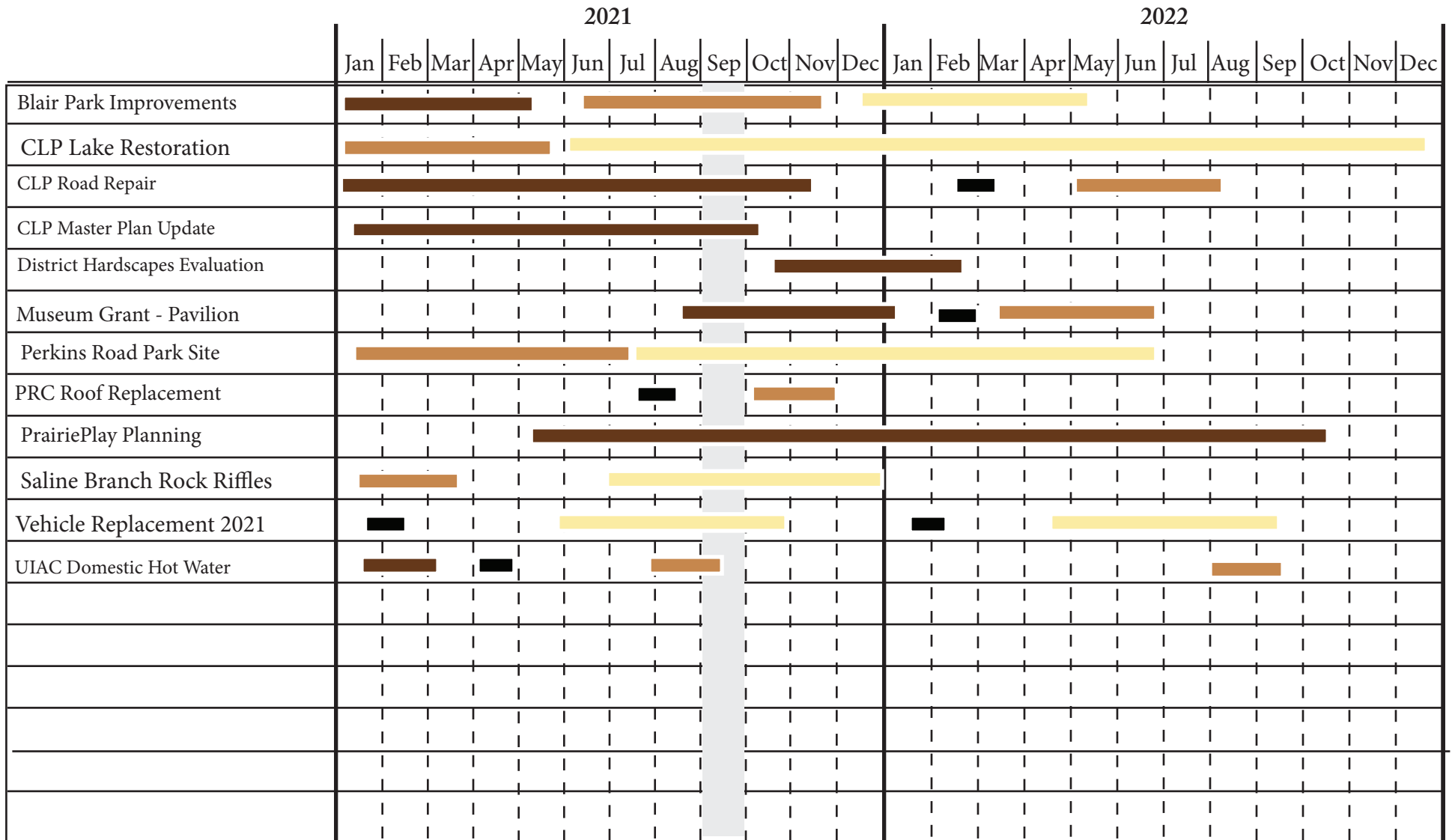
UIAC

The Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center domestic hot water system replacement project was completed. The activity pool slide pump volute was replaced due to internal corrosion causing rust to be carried into the pool. A replacement volute was ordered to address the same issue with the water features pump. The competition pool heater booster pump had its bearing assembly and impeller replaced. The bleacher system received its annual inspection. The water fountains were turned on. The yellow ADA stairwell indicator strips were replaced at the top of both sets of stairs.

CLPFAC

The Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center concluded its season, and staff prepared for winterization. The mechanical building filtration room had an air conditioning unit installed. The leisure pool filter pump had its seals and gauges replaced. A seal kit was ordered for the green slide pump. Work progressed on seeking proposals to refinish the slides.

CAPITAL PROJECT TIMELINE



Future Projects		Legend	
APNC Solar Phase II	2021/2022	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div><div><i>A&E Design</i></div><div><i>Out to Bid</i></div><div><i>Estimated Construction Period</i></div><div><i>Closeout & Maintenance</i></div></div>	
Blair Tennis	Summer 2022		
HW Facility Design	Winter 2021/2022		

RECREATION REPORT

TO: Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners

FROM: Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation

CC: Tim Bartlett, Executive Director

DATE: September 14, 2021

RE: August 2021 Recreation Department Report

Public Information and Marketing

Public Information Manager, Mark Schultz – Marketing signed a major agreement with Stevie Jay Broadcasting in August for an advertising campaign that will start in September. The ads will be spread across four stations. Each newscast and forecast will be “brought to you by Urbana Park District” with a quick mention of an upcoming program or event. There will also be several commercials played all day across the four stations.

The staffing shortages have forced Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center to adjust its schedule and marketing played a large part in getting that message to the public through messages to the news, social media, and on our webpage.

When the park district revised its policy to require masks be worn inside regardless of vaccination status, marketing worked to spread the information.

We have redesigned our business cards, and marketing is working with staff in ordering new, more colorful business cards.

Marketing is busy putting together a communications and publicity plan to promote the October 3, Crystal Lake Park Open Road event.

Looking ahead, marketing will continue to stand by and communicate critical COVID-19 information, promote the October 3 CLP event, promote Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center, and several other early fall programs.

Aquatics

Aquatics Manager, Leslie Radice –The entire Aquatics Division worked together to make sure the end of the 2021 season went well. The beginning of summer saw our staffing at about 60% of the typical level with an even further reduction of staff in August as school began. The core staff left have worked their hardest to make sure the facility stayed open as much as possible.

The end of this season was rougher than most: the facility had to close on several occasions due

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to the reduced staffing levels. Full time staff came in to guard, manage, or cashier as needed in an attempt to minimize closures. The entire aquatics staff was dedicated to ending the 2021 season well.

Closing day for the Crystal Lake Family Aquatic Center was September 6, 2021. The Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center will begin fall hours, with open swim on September 7, 2021.

Community

Community Program Manager, Janet Soesbe – The third annual Crystal Lake Park Art Fair was held on August 7, 2021 next to the Friendship Grove Nature Playscape at the nature center. This year, we had 40 artists, 7 more than our last in-person event in 2019. Our intention is to grow the Fair slowly, always focusing on high-quality art. This juried art fair is run in cooperation with 40 North | 88 West, our local arts council. We estimate approximately 1,500 came to the Fair,



which pleased us since we were dealing with the delta variant of COVID-19 in our community and temperatures in the high 80s with a heat index of 94. Many park district staff were joined by other 40 North volunteers to assist with loading in and out for the artists and providing

support during the event. We also had help from cadets from the Lincoln's Challenge Academy, which was amazing! Urbana was there with kids' art activities, and our staff there were always busy with the kids. Add the Maize food truck and a golf cart to shuttle shoppers from the overflow parking and we had a terrific, high-quality event. For photos of this year's fair, visit <https://www.facebook.com/media/set?vanity=40North&set=a.10160087789311803>, and for more information on the individual artists, visit <https://40north.org/programs/crystal-lake-park-art-fair-featured-artists>. The 2022 Fair will be held on August 6, 2022 in a different location since this one will be under construction.

Community Program and Engagement Coordinator, Jacob Johnston – Our Community Program and Engagement Coordinator has divided his accomplishments into the following sections: Volunteer Coordination, Age-Friendly Programming, and Assistance with Special Projects.

Volunteer Coordination

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- **T Ball:** Kyle Mills reported 28 volunteer coaches. They totaled 38 hours of volunteering during the month of August 2021.
- **Natural Areas Management:** Matt Balk reported 3 volunteers who removed invasive brush from Weaver Park. They totaled 8 hours of volunteering during the month of August 2021.
- **Camp FRESH:** Chelsea Pahl reported 2 volunteers who helped with natural areas. They totaled 4 hours of volunteering during the month of August 2021.
- **Lifelong Leisure Newsletter:** Jacob Johnston reported 8 volunteers who helped sticker and fold the Lifelong Leisure Newsletter. They totaled 8 hours of volunteering during the month of August 2021.
- **Crystal Lake Park Art Fair:** Janet Soesbe reported 9 volunteers who helped with various aspects of the Crystal Lake Park Art Fair. They totaled 34 hours of volunteering during the month of August 2021.

Total Volunteers for Aug 2021: 50 volunteers | **Total Volunteer Hours for Aug 2021:** 92 hours

Age-Friendly Programming

During the month of August, Age-friendly programming was well attended and consisted of: Parking Lot Bingo at Stone Creek Church, Senior Club Potluck at Crystal Lake Park, Technology Assistance Office Hours and Ukulele Programming.

- **Parking Lot Bingo:** 40 registered participants
- **Senior Brown Bag Luncheon:** 26 unregistered participants
- **Technology Assistance Office Hours:** 6 unregistered participants
- **Ukulele Programming:** 18 registered participants and 35 unregistered participants

Total registered participants for Aug 2021: 58 | **Total unregistered participants for Aug 2021:** 67

Alongside regularly scheduled Age-Friendly events, Jacob also assisted Outreach & Wellness with a senior-centric event at Steer Place, which was planned in cooperation with Silver Hearts. At the event, UPD contributed Urvana games, bingo with prizes, and a photo booth for tenants to enjoy. The event was well-received by all of those in attendance, and Silver Hearts plans to make this into a monthly event.

Assistance with Special Projects and Other Accomplishments

Aside from his typical responsibilities, Jacob went out of his way to help other staffers and community partners with several special projects this month. The following is a bulleted list of those endeavors:

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- Sunday, August 1: Assisted Outreach and Wellness Staff with a “Read and Play in the Park” event that was in cooperation with Urbana Free Library.
- Thursday, August 5: Assisted Community Programs staff and 40North in pre-marking the location of tents for Crystal Lake Park Art Fair.
- Friday, August 6: Raked a lot of the field by APNC in preparation for the Crystal Lake Park Art Fair and assisted artists with tent setup.
- Saturday, August 7: Assisted with setup of Crystal Lake Park Art. Also acted as a Runner at event HQ, assisted with Urbana kids’ activities, and cleanup crew for the event. It was a long day!
- Tuesday, August 10: Assisted Outreach and Wellness and the Urbana Free Library with their CogniFit Brain Games ZOOM event.
- Wednesday, August 11: Sat on the RSVP advisory council for the last time. RSVP will be looking for a new director since Kelley informed us that she will be taking a new job.
- Friday, August 13: Assisted Outreach and Wellness with the LNAC Back to School Bash.
- Saturday, August 14: Assisted with the check in of participants at Yoga and Zumba at the Park as well as shared Park District information at the CU TRI Back to School event at New Hope Church.
- Wednesday, August 18: Sat on the Senior Task Force of Champaign County. Offered up Crystal Lake Park Large Pavilion as an outdoor alternative meeting area if another COVID lock down happens.
- Thursday, August 19: Attended with EDUC201 volunteer meeting with Matt Lewis to better understand their needs regarding SPLASH.
- Friday, August 20: Went flyering on UIUC’s campus with the help of Matt Lewis to advertise for kickball, SPLASH, and part-time aquatics positions.
- Saturday, August 21: Assisted with the check in of participants at yoga in the park and helped out with Urbana kid’s activities at the One Community Together event later that day.
- Wednesday, August 25: Jacob reached out the Katie Odem to setup initial planning for Youth Summer Theatre. Jacob also met with David Subers and a potential Environmental Services volunteer.
- Friday, August 27: Sat on the Senior Task Force Television Committee. APNC’s Connecting You with Nature Virtual Hikes will now be broadcast on CUWiseTV.

Community Program Coordinator, Matthew Lewis – This month the Community Program Coordinator focused primarily on making sure that summer camp ended well and that fall SPLASH would begin well. Below are pictures of the Summer Arts Campers hanging their artwork over at the Common Ground Food Co-op. This was made possible with the help of one of the Arts Camp Supervisors and an Arts Camp Leader that also worked at Common Ground. The Community Program Coordinator also spoke with the Community Engagement Coordinator about Youth Summer Theatre for the next year. The coordinator also spoke with the Environmental Education Manager to set up a post summer camp meeting to talk about

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everything that went right this year and things that we need to improve on. The focus has also been to start planning for January through April next year. This includes planning for Read Across America, Family Date Night, School's Out For Summer Days, Summer Arts/Preschool Arts Camps, along with the additional dance and youth programs. The coordinator is planning to attend the upcoming Illini Union Job Fair to increase the amount of applications we get in for our SPLASH program. On top of that, the Coordinator and the Community Program Assistant have attended and helped with multiple events this past month including: Urbana's Downtown Get Down, Immigrant Back-to-School Vaccine Clinic, Reading in the Parks, Crystal Lake Park Art Fair, Pop-Up Play Event at Victory Park, and the Urbana's Cinema & Sounds event.

Additionally, the coordinator and assistant have been planning all the classes that can be offered at each school site for the SPLASH program and have met with all site coordinators to make sure we are all in agreement on what to expect this upcoming season. Getting staff hired for this season and for next season has been the top priority in the month of August.

Recreation Office Manager, Heather Britsky – The Recreation Office Manager met with Kelsey Beccue, Kayla Boparai, Derek Liebert, and Shane Newell about pavilion rentals and the issue of trash. Several options were discussed, and it has currently been decided that new signs made by Graphic Designer Lexi Dick will be posted at every pavilion entrance. We will re-evaluate after a few months to see if the signs help to deter late night parties. The office manager will also be adding wording to pavilion rental forms about trash, parking on the grass, and the possibility of future rental bans.

The Recreation Office Manager has also begun working with affiliates again regarding rental space at Phillips Recreation Center. A sub-committee of six staffers will be meeting with Superintendent of Recreation Corky Emberson to finalize the differences between partnerships, affiliates, and associates, and the agreements allowed between each. The office manager has worked with Corky and Environmental Office Manager Nicole Hilberg to get a head start on this process due to multiple upcoming rentals with affiliates.

Community Programs and Rentals:

- The Phillips Recreation Center had 1 billable rental with 27 people
- The Philips Recreation Center had 3 affiliate rentals with 17 people
- The Phillips Recreation Center had 236 visitors

Environmental

Environmental Program Manager, Savannah Donovan – This month, the manager co-led a Facilitated Discussion at the Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA) Annual Summit, which took place virtually from August 23-26, 2021. The session was entitled "Nature Centers and Climate Change: Communication, Stewardship, Planning & Research Opportunities" and was co-led with Sarah Bois, Director of Research and Education at the Linda Loring Nature Foundation in Nantucket, MA. The manager talked about the Urbana Park District's inter-departmental Green Team matrix, the new CARES Plan, and the District's involvement with the

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Champaign County Climate Coalition. Approximately 25 adults (nature center administrators from across the United States) participated in the discussion, which centered on sharing resources and providing ideas and support for climate action. Conversations like this are integral to encouraging and assisting other organizations in their quest to address climate change, and the Urbana Park District is serving as a leader and role model for others across the nation.

Environmental Education Coordinator, Chelsea Prahl – This month the coordinator has been working on an environmental education plan that is flexible to meet the needs of schools and educators while adhering to both Urbana Park District’s and area school’s COVID-19 precautions. The coordinator has connected with school administrators and educators on expectations for programming School Tour field trips and Naturalist-in-the-Classroom visits this fall semester. Urbana School District still remains undecided about field trips, with the exception of SPLASH (Students Playing and Learning After School Hours) programs. The coordinator is planning a “Fall by the Fireside” SPLASH class for Urbana Middle School students that will take place at the Fire Ring outside the Anita Purves Nature Center once a week for six weeks. Champaign Unit 4 is currently not planning field trips for this fall, but that is “subject to change.” Private and outlying schools vary from school to school, with the majority holding off on field trips for now to allow time to assess how the start of the school year goes. The coordinator developed an Anita Purves Nature Center Virtual Tour to send to all area educators to connect them and their students to the facility:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10UnDj11gMLn4siLTmmjh3OrAZimqqGNqFP0wcCc1n10/present?usp=sharing>

Some schools stated that Naturalist-in-the-Classroom visits would be permitted with masks and health screenings upon entry (also subject to change). The coordinator is offering a Virtual Naturalist-in-the-Classroom option over Zoom to accommodate schools that are not allowing visitors. The coordinator is also in the process of revamping educational Loan Boxes. New Loan Boxes will continue to meet state learning standards and will compliment educators’ curricula while being more conducive for larger classes and easy sanitation.

Environmental Public Program Coordinator, David Subers – The coordinator worked this month to wrap-up Nature Day Camp and reflect on feedback from guardians, campers, and staff. This summer’s staff included eight new staff, four returning staff, and one Inclusion Aide from Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation (CUSR). Staff completed internal surveys about camp training and procedures so that the coordinator can improve next year’s program. Camp programs offered this year included Nature Day Camp from 7:30am-3:00pm with a reduced capacity of 32 children, and Extended Nature Camp from 3-5:30pm with a reduced capacity of 12 children. Throughout the five two-week-long sessions, Nature Day Camp was at or near the reduced capacity limits, and Extended Camp averaged about 80% of the reduced capacity. A combined total of 201 Nature Camp registrations were made by 82 different campers this summer.

Changes to this year’s camps were effective in keeping children safe during the pandemic. Some examples of successes include:

RECREATION REPORT

- There were no known cases of COVID-19 at Nature Camps.
- Reducing capacity by 50% of typical enrollment worked well to allow for social distancing even when campers were indoors.
- Staff did a fantastic job at modeling mask use both indoors and outdoors and using frequent reminders for campers to do the same. Campers did a great job with mask use overall.
- Utilizing outdoor spaces for meals worked well and substantially reduced indoor “unmasked” time.
- Guardians and campers were communicative when COVID-like symptoms were displayed, and adults were understanding and appreciative of UPD’s “return to camp” guidelines.

Customer surveys were emailed to each camper’s adults, and a total of 28 responses were received. Feedback was predominately positive. Many adults also communicated directly with the coordinator about how much they appreciated UPD’s efforts to enforce COVID-19 guidelines to keep their children safe while providing a valuable summer experience.



RECREATION REPORT

Environmental Office Manager, Nicole Hilberg – The office manager spent time this month working with a new education screech owl named Lightning. The Illinois Raptor Center donated the non-releasable owl to the nature center so that it could serve as an ambassador for environmental education. The nature center received Lightning on July 1, 2021, and has been housing him in a large isolation cage while he adjusts so that staff can monitor for any signs of stress or health-related issues. Lightning hatched in January of 2020 and was initially hand-fed and trained on program equipment such as jesses (the leather “leashes” that go around the owls’ ankles). Unfortunately, when COVID-19 struck his exposure to humans was severely limited and any domestication that had been achieved was forgotten. Since arriving at the nature center, the office manager has overseen daily handling. Hand feeding exercises began this month, and Lightning seems to be less anxious and nervous around humans as a result. Staff take turns feeding Lightning so he does not become more comfortable with one person over another. As a general precaution for all of the nature center’s education owls, he will be slowly integrated with the two owls that are currently on exhibit over the course of the next month.

Environmental Programs and Anita Purves Nature Center Rentals:

- The Nature Center hosted 7 onsite programs that served 475 people.
- The Nature Center welcomed 957 people visiting or participating in programs at the Center.
- The Nature Center staff coordinated and conducted 1 offsite programs for 25 people this month.
- Busey Woods had 2,954 hikers this month.

Outreach & Wellness

Outreach & Wellness Manager, Elsie Hedgspeth – Prior to COVID-19, the Outreach & Wellness Department was offering a popular Mat Pilates class at the Phillips Recreation Center. The department was able to successfully relaunch this program in August 2021. Patrons who had yet to return to the Phillips Recreation Center for fitness classes have begun to attend again due to the reintroduction of the Mat Pilates class to the fitness schedule. In addition to this class relaunch, the division also offered an intellectual wellness workshop in partnership with The Urbana Free Library. A total of nine participants enjoyed a virtual game night with game selections planned and facilitated by Urbana Park District and library staff. Library staff educated participants on the connections between the chosen games and elements of brain health such as memory, cognition, and critical thinking. Collaborations with The Urbana Free Library are going well and the Outreach & Wellness Division is planning to offer additional wellness workshops in partnership with the library for the January-April 2022 season.

Outreach & Wellness Coordinator, Ashley Dennis – The department has seen a slight increase in exercise instructor applications during this month. Hopefully the number of instructor applications continues to increase as it works to return to pre-COVID numbers for fitness classes offered. The department looks to return to offering Zumba three days a week in January-April 2022, and experience more coverage with the two yoga classes with these instructor additions.

RECREATION REPORT

The instructor search will continue as efforts shift to obtaining a new land-based, strength instructor.

Facility Usage for Month of February 2021:

Land Classes:

Phillips Recreation Center: 472

Brookens Gym: 58

Lake House at Crystal Lake Park: 59

Aquatic Classes:

Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center: 288 (*UIAC Closed August 2-6)

Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center: 249 (*classes ended at CLPFAC on 8/20)