

July 2023 Public Works Report

Roads/Dock/Airport

- Gravel roads continue to be graded as needed due to the increase in traffic, and the magnesium chloride dust control is holding up well. We plan to apply four additional tons to the dustiest stretches prior to Labor Day weekend.
- You may see traffic counter equipment and a rubber tube placed at various town road intersections next month, this is for data collection purposes as we seek funding options for additional future paving and/or road repairs.
- High traffic areas of downtown, including curbs, were painted early in July.
- The passenger shelter in between the sawtooth landings was power washed and cleaned by Evan and Ray. It looks great, and I hope the buggiest days are behind us as we approach the warmest temps of the season.
- Major Gilbert Field, aka the Madeline Island Airport, continues to be a large project for the crew as we pursue BOA and FAA compliance regarding mowing and clearing specific perimeters of the runways and AWOS station. Pete and Evan spent some long days clearing brush and field mowing. There will be more to come, including tree removal, as dry weather allows us to access areas that are wet or underwater most of the calendar year. Pete did a thorough service on the New Holland TV145 tractor, and the new disc cutter is performing very well. The airport generator was serviced by an off-island tech after it was deduced that a lightning strike fried the motherboard.

Parks

- The crew completed a paver walkway perimeter around the sculpture at Russell Park, at the directive of the Public Arts Committee.
- The July 4th holiday week was very busy as expected, with tons of trash and heavy use of facilities. There are many shelter rentals scheduled at BBTP, Rec Center, and Joni's Beach, but overall, the Parks infrastructure is holding up.
- The Rec Center ballfield infield was regraded a few times, then dragged thoroughly as softball is coming back. It's nice to see the field being used.
- BBTP continues to be extremely busy, and for a week there was a bear roaming around, but it fortunately seems to have found other sources of food and entertainment. It has been many years since a bear returning to the campground repeatedly had to be transported off the island. If it came down to that, the USDA contractor is just a phone call away.

Misc./Admin

- The crew continues to keep up on misc. odds and ends, sign repair/replacement, shop clean-up, and damage control as we go through the busiest time of year.

Be nice and drive safe,
Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram, Public Works Director