



EDNA TAYLOR PARK

A glacial drumlin rising above a broad ribbon of marsh forms the backbone of this southeast Madison park which is used extensively by Glendale School and the Leopold Nature Center for environmental education. Edna Taylor Park is a conservation park with significant on-going efforts to restore the site's native savanna and wetland.



The quality of life for City of Madison residents is unquestionably influenced by the City's great natural resources, parks, greenways and public access to the numerous waterways that greatly define Madison culture. The mission statement, vision and goals in this plan serve to guide continued planning and development of public park property. The objectives outlined below have been prepared with input from public citizens, City staff, the City of Madison Long Range Planning Sub Committee and the City of Madison Park Commission.

VISION

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

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is to provide an exceptional system of safe, accessible, well-planned and maintained parks, facilities, public cemetery, natural areas and public shorelines.

Our Mission is to provide affordable opportunities for recreational and educational experiences.

Our Mission is to preserve and expand our urban forest resources through a well-planned and systematic approach to tree maintenance, planting and natural area management.

Our Mission is to preserve and promote parks' historic legacy.

Our Mission is to provide opportunities for cultural interaction by facilitating community and ethnic festivals and through the display of public art.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The goals and objectives of this plan are outlined below and are derivative of the goals and objectives outlined in Volume II, Chapter 7 of the City of Madison Comprehensive Plan. They have been prepared with input from the Long Range Planning Subcommittee and City of Madison staff.

Goal One: Madison will provide sufficient land for current and future active and passive recreational uses.

- Maintain existing recreational lands for current active and passive uses.
- Project potential adaptations to existing lands to account for changing active and passive needs.
- Acquire additional lands for active and passive recreation use based on current demands created by increasing populations and the environmental significance of the land.
- Acquire lands suitable for park and recreation use in conjunction with recommendations stated in this plan and those included in the City's Comprehensive Plan and Neighborhood Plan documents (including the Downtown Plan).
- Continually evaluate and update the subdivision ordinance so that it adequately addresses the recreational needs of the City.
- Scale the size and type of park, recreation and open space facilities to the needs of the population (both present and future) in the service area.

Goal Two: Parklands and facilities are accessible to users with varying physical abilities.

- Provide barrier-free access in buildings and new park facilities.
- Achieve compliance with accessibility requirements in existing facilities and pathways as can be reasonably attained.

Goal Three: Significant natural and cultural resources are preserved and enhanced.

- Maximize the amount of protected lake shoreline through purchase, easement, zoning or other means as the property becomes available, including retaining public rights-of-way, and improving access using partnerships or other means where appropriate.
- Preserve from development stream valleys, marshes, prairies, woodlands, and scenic and historic areas by including these areas in the park and open space system when feasible.
- Use natural open space as a framework for enhancing other land uses including trails, linking all parks and open spaces to the maximum extent possible.
- Preserve the lakes as a natural feature and protect the lake waters, shorelines and associated wetlands from development or activities that would increase lake pollution and/or otherwise reduce attractiveness to current and future users or adversely affect the lakes' spawning grounds, fish and other aquatic life, as well as other ecological considerations, e.g. planting native trees, shrubs and ground cover appropriate to the intended use.
- Enhance lake quality and use by reducing and/or eliminating the negative effects of stormwater on the lake from run-off originating within the City of Madison.
- Coordinate with other units of government to achieve this goal.



Goal Four: A plan for a continuous and unified system of park and open space incorporating all units of government and cooperation from education systems is created and implemented. The plan incorporates interagency and intergovernmental plans for parkland, open space, greenway and trail development and connectivity.

- Coordinate subdivision review with all departments responsible for providing or maintaining adequate park and open space facilities to ensure that only land that is suitable for recreation is dedicated as parkland and that only land with environmental integrity is dedicated as conservation land.
- Consult and incorporate interagency plans and needs in the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- Cooperate with other units of government and agencies to provide joint park, recreation and open space facilities when possible, including the periphery of the City and where development is occurring in a municipality that has no adopted plan.
- Integrate the park and open space system with the bike trail system and with the stormwater management system.
- Preserve open space at the City's permanent edge by utilizing intergovernmental plans, agreements and natural environmental corridors.
- Coordinate with school districts to preserve and increase public access to school grounds that currently relieve parkland deficiencies.

Goal Five: A wide range of facilities is available to address needs of existing and changing demographics.

- Analyze the location, size and function of existing and proposed parks as annexations, residential development and/or land changes occur.
- Review changes in demographics, behavior, use of land and their implication to the park system every five years as part of the Park and Open Space Plan update.
- Use park service area criteria to help determine the location of future park sites.
- Provide opportunities for active and passive recreation; provide visual enjoyment; acquire additional land for park use; and preserve important natural areas from more intensive uses.
- Apply the guidelines from the City's Park and Open Space Plan to areas within Madison's extra-territorial plat approval jurisdiction and for areas planned for future City annexations to anticipate future needs.



Goal Six: All available resources are used to further enhance the quality of the City's park system and to fund parkland maintenance, acquisition and development in accordance with plan objectives.

- Continue to review ordinance requirements for land dedication, fees in lieu of land, and impact fees to assure funding for development of facilities.
- Pursue county, state and federal funding programs, which can aid in the purchase and/or development of park facilities.
- Build on the existing positive relationships with public and private organizations for donations and volunteers to aid in park system development and maintenance.
- Update the City's Park and Open Space Plan every five years to maintain grant eligibility.
- Minimize the proportion of the costs for acquisition, maintenance and development of park and open space facilities borne by the public by maximizing opportunities through utilization of park impact fees, dedications and developer agreements.

Goal Seven: Management and staffing will be sufficient to ensure the maintenance of park and open space lands.

- Review anticipated resources and identify opportunities for resource generation to provide maintenance standards that can be evenly distributed throughout the City.
- Review maintenance staffing and resource allocation for proposed new parkland and facilities as part of the planning and development of these facilities.
- Review location and size of maintenance buildings to ensure efficient operations and adequate facilities for staff.
- Continually evaluate the amount of lands to be managed by City staff keeping expenditures balanced with expected levels of maintenance.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE LAST PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

The past five years have been filled with significant improvements to the City's Park System, both through enhanced community services and park developments. Appendix A, Table 1: 2005-2011 *Park Development Accomplishments* highlights substantial accomplishments since the last Park and Open Space Plan. This list includes primarily capital projects and does not include the extensive accomplishments to services, programs and events developed by the Parks Division nor does it include general facility upgrades, repairs and maintenance. In the past five years, the City has:

- Acquired over 300 acres of Conservation parkland
- Constructed over 20,000 linear feet of new paved paths in City parks
- Opened 5 new parks
- Constructed the City of Madison's Goodman Pool & Goodman Maintenance Facility
- Renovated Elizabeth Link Peace Park
- Constructed the Cypress Spray Park
- Planted over 1,900 trees in City Parks
- Installed 13 playgrounds and upgraded equipment/surfacing at 36 playgrounds
- Approved and leased 3 parks for community garden sites and approved 2 parks for edible landscaping sites.¹

¹ In addition to property owned by City of Madison Parks, 3 properties owned by the City of Madison Engineering Division were approved and leased for community garden sites..