



**MADISON  
PARKS**

# POSP Planning - Parks Division Accomplishments

CITY OF  
**MADISON** WISCONSIN

Date: January 17, 2024  
Presented by: Ann Freiwald to LRP

**Table 1.1: Accomplishments from the 2012-2017 Park and Open Space Plan**

Completed.	Advancements since 2012-2017 POSP	On-going project.
Recommendation from the 2012-2017 Plan	Action	
Review and update existing park dedication ordinance and development fees including park impact fees and "tees in lieu of" dedications.	Adopted the Park Impact Fee and Land Dedication Policy and Public Facility Needs Assessment (2016) and updated Madison General Ordinances to reflect recommendations of the Needs Assessment.	
Create a sustainable park system in terms of park size, amenities and maintenance.	Worked with staff team to update Neighborhood Development Plans to be more consistent with park goals for minimum 5-acre size parks to promote a sustainable park system. Implemented recommendations as part of plat approval and parkland dedication within the Neighborhood Development Plan areas.	
Address park deficiencies through development of community and neighborhood parks.	Acquired new parkland for Acer Park, Allied Park, Blitzer Family Preserve, Camar Park, Highland Manor Park, Jeffrey Trail Park, Kestrel Park, Sugar Maple Park, Thousand Oaks Park, and Woods Farm Park and expanded Hill Creek Park.	
Prioritize acquisition of land adjacent to existing parkland to fill gaps in the park system in accordance with goals, objectives, and policies in the plan.	Acquired additional land to expand Central Park, Cherokee Park, Cherokee Marsh - School Road Unit, Merrill Springs Park, North Star Park, Owl Creek Park, and Penn Park.	
Continue to develop Master Plans for parkland which include both passive (non-developed, and active (developed) recreation.	Developed park master plans with both passive and active space for Allied Park, Owl Creek Park, Patriot Park, Sugar Maple Park, Thousand Oaks Park. Currently in the process of completing master planning for North Star Park Expansion, Camar Park, and James Madison Park.	
Identify areas in our parks with significant natural resources for preservation and protection and develop land management goals for these areas.	Adopted the Madison Parks Land Management Plan (2017).	
Improve and preserve the unique habitats and ecosystems within conservation parks.	Treated invasive species in 205 acres of conservation parks; seeded native seed mix on 30 acres of prairie and oak woodland; performed controlled burns on 395 acres of conservation land; began the draft Habitat Management Plan.	
Increase connectivity between parks including pedestrian, biking, and water trails.	Coordinated and improved 26 bike and pedestrian connections and added eight new canoe/kayak launches for water access.	
Work with other agencies to support planning efforts across the City of Madison and Dane County.	Joint collaboration with Dane County on implementation of water quality enclosures at beaches to improve swimming conditions; joint efforts to fund improvements at Central Park; and improvements to the Capital City Trail System within Madison Parks.	
Construct park facilities to provide access to City residents to standard park amenities.	Replaced 50 playgrounds, installed five new playgrounds, six new basketball courts, 11 sun shelters, two new shelters with restrooms, upgraded the existing Penn Park shelter, and added a reservable concession building.	
Build on the existing positive relationships with public and private organizations for donations and volunteers to aid in park system development.	Establishment of the Madison Parks Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to acquiring financial resources through contributions and grants to make park improvements and support park programming. The Parks Division also supplemented the efforts of over 1,274 park volunteers.	



2018-2023 Park and Open Space Plan

This table is taken from the 2018 POSP, it has the recommendations from the 2012 POSP in the left column, and actions taken from 2012 to 2017 in the right hand column. As you can see the gray indicates on-going, light blue indicates advancement since the 2012-2017 POSP and dark blue means the task is completed. Only one of these is truly a "task" and that task was completed in 2016.

**Table 1.1: Accomplishments from the 2012-2017 Park and Open Space Plan (continued)**

Recommendation from the 2012-2017 Plan	Action
Develop reservable recreational fields that can be used for multiple purposes.	Underway.
Promote winter recreation opportunities.	Implemented new NiceRink program to improve efficiency and longevity of ice skating rink use. Partnered with MadNorski for snow making and trail grooming.
Respond to changing recreational trends by providing new facilities for popular new recreation trends.	Developed new pickleball complex and added pickleball line painting to 18 courts. Planned and developed mountain bike course at Quarry Park.
Pursue development of community gardens and edible landscapes.	Worked with the Mayor's Office on implementation of the Edible Landscape Permit, permitting three new edible landscapes sites in parks. Currently working with the Mayor's Office on expanding community gardening opportunities on the west side of Madison. Added additional community garden plots at Brittingham, Aldo Leopold, and Renebohm Park.
Continue to construct and improve dog park and dog exercise areas leveraging funding generated from the sale of dog park permits.	Constructed two new dog parks (Walnut Grove and Odana School), and implemented improvements at Demetral, Sycamore, Warner, Brittingham, and Quann Park. Currently, planning implementation of the City's first synthetic turf dog park.
Continue to improve water access and quality to promote water recreation.	Developed private partnerships for operating three new canoe/kayak rental facilities at Olbrich, Brittingham and Marshall Park. Worked with Dane County on clean beaches efforts to install beach enclosures at several beaches, and a beach enclosure, which filters lake water.
Continue to operate a sustainable golf enterprise.	Presented Financial and Operational Analysis of Course Closure and Hole Reduction Report (2017) addressing the financial challenges to the golf course to Golf Subcommittee and Board of Park Commissioners.
Continue to optimize maintenance efforts in our parks by implementing sustainable practices within budget levels.	The City of Madison continues to identify and implement cost effective, sustainable maintenance strategies to supplement current efforts, which include managed meadows and reduced mowing.
Focus on core facilities, like playgrounds to ensure continued service levels.	Completed comprehensive inventory of all playgrounds, implementing significant playground infrastructure plan. Replaced 59 playgrounds in the past 5 years to bring them to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission standards.
Continue to recognize, preserve and enhance historic parks.	Implemented upgrades to historic Reese Stevens Field, worked with volunteers to improve Glenwood Children's Park, and worked with private developers on the rehabilitation and re-use of the historic Garver Feed Mill.
Investigate opportunities for a scientifically valid behavior role assessment of park use to provide insight on existing park uses throughout the City.	Piloted System of Observation for Play and Recreation in Communities (SOPARC) method and worked with City staff and board members to catalog park observations.
Pursue Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) analysis of park development to reduce inappropriate activities in parks.	Park planning staff have coordinated with rangers and operations staff to implement designs that reduce inappropriate activities such as activating spaces with private/public partnerships at Brittingham, Olbrich, and Marshall Park and construction improvements to address community concerns at Aldo Leopold Park, Penn Park, and Worthington Park.
Coordinate with educational agencies to expand programming and opportunities for outdoor education.	Developed the Madison Connecting Children to Nature Implementation Plan in partnership with Public Health Madison & Dane County, the Children and Nature Network, and the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families.
Continue to expand Olbrich Gardens per the March 2009 Olbrich Park Land Use Plan.	Began design of the education addition to the visitor center with construction anticipated to begin in 2018.
Develop recommendations in future plans to be consistent with the recommendations, goals and objectives of this plan.	Underway.

This was a two page table in the 2018 POSP, this is the second page. Again, light blues and grays for all recommendations from 2012.

	<b>Recommendation from the 2012-2017 Plan</b>	
	Review and update existing park dedication ordinance and development fees including park impact fees and "fees in lieu of" dedications.	Chapter One: Introduction
	Create a sustainable park system in terms of park size, amenities and maintenance.	The City's park system. Appendix C, Table 2: 2012-2017 Park Development and Open Space Plan. The table below identifies the City's effort to
	Address park deficiencies through development of community and neighborhood parks.	<b>Open Space Plan</b>
	Prioritize acquisition of land adjacent to existing parkland to fill gaps in the park system in accordance with goals, objectives, and policies in this plan.	since 2012-2017 POSP <span style="float: right;">■ On-going project.</span>
	Continue to develop Master Plans for parkland which include both passive (non-developed, and active (developed) recreation.	District Fee and Land Dedication Policy and Public Facility Needs Assessment (2016) and Ordinal Ordinances to reflect recommendations of the Needs Assessment.
	Identify areas in our parks with significant natural resources for preservation and protection and develop land management goals for these areas.	to update Neighborhood Development Plans to be more consistent with park goals for parks to promote a sustainable park system. Implemented recommendations as part of plat dedication within the Neighborhood Development Plan areas.
	Improve and preserve the unique habitats and ecosystems within conservation parks.	for Acer Park, Allied Park, Blitzer Family Preserve, Camar Park, Highland Manor Park, Park, Sugar Maple Park, Thousand Oaks Park, and Woods Farm Park and expanded Hill
	Increase connectivity between parks including pedestrian, biking, and water trails.	to expand Central Park, Cherokee Park, Cherokee Marsh - School Road Unit, Merrill Park, Owl Creek Park, and Penn Park.
	Work with other agencies to support planning efforts across the City of Madison and Dane County.	plans with both passive and active space for Allied Park, Owl Creek Park, Patriot Park, and Oak Park. Currently in the process of completing master planning for North Star Park, and James Madison Park.
	Construct park facilities to provide access to City residents to standard park amenities.	Parks Land Management Plan (2017).
	Build on the existing positive relationships with public and private organizations for donations and volunteers to aid in park system development.	in 205 acres of conservation parks; seeded native seed mix on 30 acres of prairie and oak controlled burns on 395 acres of conservation land; began the draft Habitat Management
		added 26 bike and pedestrian connections and added eight new canoe/kayak launches for
		Dane County on implementation of water quality enclosures at beaches to improve and efforts to fund improvements at Central Park; and improvements to the Capital City Madison Parks.
		g, installed five new playgrounds, six new basketball courts, 11 sun shelters, two new, upgraded the existing Penn Park shelter, and added a reservable concession building.
		Madison Parks Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to acquiring financial donations and grants to make park improvements and support park programming. The implemented the efforts of over 1,594 park volunteers.

On this slide I made the left hand column a bit bigger and easier to read. Reviewing the list of recommendations from 2012 on this page, I can say that these are still applicable to the work of the Parks Division and Parks continues to work on these recommendations today.

Table I.1: Accomplishments from the 2012-2017 Plan		MADISON PARKS	
Recommendation from the 2012-2017 Plan			Chapter One: Introduction
Develop reservable recreational fields that can be used for multiple purposes.			
Promote winter recreation opportunities.			
Respond to changing recreational trends by providing new facilities for popular new recreation trends.			
Pursue development of community gardens and edible landscapes.			
Continue to construct and improve dog park and dog exercise areas leveraging funding generated from the sale of dog park permits.			
Continue to improve water access and quality to promote water recreation.			
Continue to operate a sustainable golf enterprise.			
Continue to optimize maintenance efforts in our parks by implementing sustainable practices within budget levels.			
Focus on core facilities, like playgrounds to ensure continued service levels.			
Continue to recognize, preserve and enhance historic parks.			
Investigate opportunities for a scientifically valid behavior role assessment of park use to provide insight on existing park uses throughout the City.			
Pursue Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) analysis of park development to reduce inappropriate activities in parks.			
Coordinate with educational agencies to expand programming and opportunities for outdoor education.			
Continue to expand Olbrich Gardens per the March 2009 Olbrich Park Land Use Plan.			
Develop recommendations in future plans to be consistent with the recommendations, goals and objectives of this plan.			
		2-2017 Park and Open Space Plan (continued)	
		Action	
		Underway	
		Implemented new NiceRink program to improve efficiency and longevity of ice skating rink use. Partnered with MadNorski for snow making and trail grooming.	
		Developed new pickleball complex and added pickleball line painting to 18 courts. Planned and developed mountain bike course at Quarry Park.	
		Worked with the Mayor's Office on implementation of the Edible Landscape Permit, permitting three new edible landscapes sites in parks. Currently working with the Mayor's Office on expanding community gardening opportunities on the west side of Madison. Added additional community garden plots at Brittingham, Aldo Leopold, and Renebohm Park.	
		Constructed two new dog parks (Walnut Grove and Odana School), and implemented improvements at Demetral, Sycamore, Warner, Brittingham, and Quann Park. Currently, planning implementation of the City's first synthetic turf dog park.	
		Developed private partnerships for operating three new canoe/kayak rental facilities at Olbrich, Brittingham and Marshall Park. Worked with Dane County on clean beaches efforts to install beach enclosures at several beaches, and a beach enclosure, which filters lake water.	
		Presented Financial and Operational Analysis of Course Closure and Hole Reduction Report (2017) addressing the financial challenges to the golf course to Golf Subcommittee and Board of Park Commissioners.	
		The City of Madison continues to identify and implement cost effective, sustainable maintenance strategies to supplement current efforts, which include managed meadows and reduced mowing.	
		Completed comprehensive inventory of all playgrounds, implementing significant playground infrastructure plan. Replaced 59 playgrounds in the past 5 years to bring them to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission standards.	
		Implemented upgrades to historic Reese Stevens Field, worked with volunteers to improve Glenwood Children's Park, and worked with private developers on the rehabilitation and re-use of the historic Garver Feed Mill.	
		Piloted System of Observation for Play and Recreation in Communities (SOPARIC) method and worked with City staff and board members to catalog park observations.	
		Park planning staff have coordinated with rangers and operations staff to implement designs that reduce inappropriate activities such as activating spaces with private/public partnerships at Brittingham, Olbrich, and Marshall Park and construction improvements to address community concerns at Aldo Leopold Park, Penn Park, and Worthington Park.	
		Developed the Madison Connecting Children to Nature Implementation Plan in partnership with Public Health Madison & Dane County, the Children and Nature Network, and the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families.	
		Began design of the education addition to the visitor center with construction anticipated to begin in 2018.	
		Underway	

Again, just a bigger view of the left hand column.

**Chapter Nine: Recommended Strategies**

The following list includes recommended strategies for the City of Madison park system. The recommendations and analysis discussed in this plan relate to park development, management of core facilities, and broad concepts in park system planning. These strategies reflect values, opportunities, and concerns identified in this planning document. This plan uses information from the engagement process and outdoor recreation needs assessment, relevant planning documents and park analyses and using data-driven supported research on equity, public health, sustainability, and adaptability to develop data- and information-driven strategies. Each recommended strategy below includes a guiding lens symbol. The symbols and corresponding definitions identified in Chapter Two are provided here to help orient readers regarding the guiding lens that influenced each strategy. The predominant guiding lens addressed by the strategy is boxed.



**Equity:** The inherent worth of each individual in Madison should be esteemed and fostered, enabling them to reach full potential.



**Public Health:** The access and contribution to mental and physical health of a community.



**Sustainability:** Management of resources to promote welfare and equity for current and future generations.



**Adaptability:** Preparedness and ability to respond to and recover from hazards and threats with minimal damage to safety, health, security, and the economy.

**STRATEGY: IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO LAKES.**



• Connect the community to water by designing areas for increased water access on public lands, including access for low income populations.



• Provide opportunities for water recreation.



• Support efforts to improve water quality in Madison's lakes and waterways.

**STRATEGY: DESIGN PARK FACILITIES TO ACCOMMODATE DIVERSE ACTIVITIES AND POPULATIONS.**



• Provide flexible spaces that can respond to changing recreational trends.



• Incorporate spaces and facilities appropriate for different cultures, age groups, and abilities.



• Provide sufficient fields and courts to accommodate tournaments and other multiple field or court competitions.

**STRATEGY: PROTECT AND ENHANCE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES.**



• Manage invasive species in high quality natural areas.



• Continue to acquire conservation parkland to preserve unique habitats.

• Develop native plant habitats and ecosystems within parks, increasing biodiversity.

• Continue to recognize, preserve, and enhance historic parks.

• Preserve landmark vistas from public access areas.

• Respect and protect tribal sacred sites.

The next three slides are the recommended strategies from the 2018 POSP (the most recent POSP). If one compares these to the recommendations from 2012, it is clear that they are closely related.

Questions to help prod discussion at the LRP meeting:

1. Are the strategies clearly written and easy to understand?
2. Are there any that you feel no longer apply or should be removed for some reason?
3. Is there any topic that you wish had been included in the strategies in 2018 or something that surprises you that it is not listed here? It could be something that has come up in the past five years, or something that was just missed.

As mentioned in the memo, I am asking you all to keep these in mind as we update the POSP. Park staff feel this is a good list, and we plan to maintain it with the next plan, but we may find we need to edit this list as the plan develops.

**STRATEGY: ACQUIRE PARKLAND TO REDUCE PARKLAND DEFICIENCIES AND ADDRESS INCREASING RESIDENTIAL DENSITY.**

- Review and revise parkland dedication and park impact fees every ten years to maintain funding to support future population and density demands.
- In areas of high residential density, preserve undeveloped land for open space or acquire new parkland on existing developed property, where feasible.
- Ensure that Neighborhood Development Plans identify adequate parkland for proposed residential density.
- Where there is no walkable access to mini, neighborhood, conservation, or community parkland, but there are other public recreation spaces that provide outdoor recreation amenities, partner with these groups to enhance outdoor recreation for the surrounding community.

**STRATEGY: ENSURE THAT NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT OCCURS IN A FISCALLY SUSTAINABLE MANNER.**

- Minimize the number of mini parks along the City's periphery by requiring dedication of larger, minimum five-acre parks for new residential developments.
- Investigate opportunities to expand existing parkland.
- Ensure adequate funding is available to provide necessary infrastructure improvements for parks acquired by the City through intergovernmental agreements.
- Seek out and utilize innovative sources of support to enhance parkland and amenities.

**STRATEGY: ENSURE THAT EXISTING LEVELS OF SERVICE ARE MAINTAINED AND SUPPORTED THROUGH THE PARK SYSTEM AND ARE INCREASED AS NEW PARKS AND FACILITIES ARE DEVELOPED.**

- Seek adequate funding for the Parks Division through the budget process.
- Pursue grant opportunities and other funding sources to support programs and park maintenance.
- Evaluate operational resources including staffing and location of operational facilities to optimize resources for new city facilities.
- Evaluate operational resources for park and street use events to ensure sustainable and equitable opportunities for building and promoting community.
- Provide technical and administrative support to volunteers whose work supplements park maintenance and improvements to foster and encourage volunteer efforts in parks.

**STRATEGY: CREATE EQUITABLE ACCESS AND FUNDING FOR PARKS.**

- Remove barriers to engagement.
- Identify and develop parkland and amenities that create inclusive park experiences.
- Incorporate public engagement methods and partnerships during the park planning process to help ensure all members of the Madison community are represented.
- Ensure funding is allocated equitably for development of new facilities, upgrading of existing infrastructure, and acquisition of new parkland.

Second page of 12 strategies from 2018 POSP.

**STRATEGY: IMPROVE THE PARK SYSTEM'S CAPACITY TO WITHSTAND FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES.**

- Improve the Parks Division's capacity to analyze and plan for the impacts of climate change and other environmental pressures.
- Ensure best management practices for stormwater runoff and infiltration to reduce impacts of increasing storm severity.
- Ensure park design and amenities are flexible to accommodate dynamic climate patterns.
- Design and support opportunities for winter activities that are less impacted by climate change.

**STRATEGY: INCREASE CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN PARKS TO ENHANCE ACCESS.**

- Work with other city agencies as well as Dane County and neighboring communities to create a comprehensive system of greenspace connections by means of pedestrian, biking, and water trails through parks.
- Connect parks with other city amenities through trails and public transportation.

**STRATEGY: DEVELOP A HEALTHY AND DIVERSE URBAN TREE CANOPY WITHIN PARKS.**

- Improve the City's resiliency through increasing tree canopy diversity.
- Recognize environmental and public health benefits of trees by promoting and expanding the urban tree canopy.

**STRATEGY: INCREASE ENGAGEMENT WITH GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS AND DEVELOP NEW ONES.**

- Strengthen opportunities and partnerships dedicated to engaging diverse communities in parks.
- Improve existing partnerships to ensure efforts are equitably distributed across geographic regions of the City and that efforts are aligned with identified land management strategies and master plans.
- Encourage engagement within parks through Friends Groups and other volunteer groups, support the efforts of such groups, and recognize their contributions to the park system in development and maintenance of park facilities.
- Develop joint-use agreements with organizations that provide recreational amenities that can fill recreation demands.

**STRATEGY: PURSUE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS TO REGIONAL ISSUES.**

- Where possible, enhance or develop regional recreation facilities identified by the Wisconsin SCORP for the Southern Gateway Region to address supply shortages.
- Continue joint planning efforts with Dane County to implement recommendations of the Dane County Park and Open Space Plan on property within the City of Madison.
- Collaborate with park advocacy organizations to meet park and recreation demands.

Third page of 2018 strategies.