



## Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development

### Planning Division

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**To:** Board of Parks Commission

**From:** Southwest Area Plan (Angela Puerta, Urvashi Martin)

**Date:** December 10, 2025

**Subject:** Southwest Area Plan Update

## Background

Planning Division staff started working on the Southwest Area Plan in September 2024. Staff have worked with the public, coordinated with other agency staff, and drafted Southwest Area Plan actions and maps. Staff are here to provide an overview of the Southwest Area Plan and share the draft actions and maps. Staff are looking for comments from the Commission on the draft actions and maps prior to compiling a final draft of the Southwest Area Plan for introduction to the Common Council. Please see the project website for background material, public feedback summaries, and material from past meetings.

## Public Engagement

Public participation has included public meetings (virtual and in-person). In addition to the public meetings, staff collected feedback from various other sources such as the Online Commenting Map, Resident Surveys, Madison Madness Bracket Exercise, Community Partners, Focus Group meetings, Neighborhood walks, Business walk, Bike to work week events, Pop-Up events, UW PEOPLE Program engagement with Memorial High School students, Neighborhood Associations and Neighborhood Resource Teams, among others.

This Commission update focuses on community feedback received, and reviewing draft actions and maps.

## Highlights of Draft Parks Actions

1. Prepare a master plan for Elver Park and consider access improvements
2. Complete the Park Development Plans for neighborhood and mini parks. Consider additional amenities such as biking facilities, pickleball, volleyball, and soccer fields
3. Partnership opportunities to create additional community gardens
4. Incorporate recreational amenities in Ice Age Ridge Park, focusing on non-intrusive, nature-based play areas that align with park principles.
5. Extend a path from Cosgrove Dr. southwest through Apple Ridge Park along the general route of the current mown path to connect with the sidewalk along Nesbitt Rd.

**Feedback received on Draft Parks Actions**

1. Better park infrastructure at Britta Park
2. Not paving the Apple Ridge Park path
3. Entrance to the south of the arboretum from Seminole Highway
4. When adding bicycle connections through Elver Park limit any crossings with existing ski trails.
5. Lack of green space or playgrounds for kids living close to Schroeder and Hammersley Road.

**Board of Parks Commission Discussion**

Staff is seeking feedback from the Board of Parks Commission on draft actions and maps in the Green and Resilient chapter prior to completing a full final draft:

1. Does the Commission agree with the draft Actions?
2. Is there anything you think we missed?
3. Do you have additional comments or questions?

Attachment

- [Draft Actions and maps](#)
- [SWAP Draft Actions and Maps](#)