

Interdepartmental Correspondence

Date: July 22, 2013
To: Plan Commission
From: Linda Horvath, Planning Division
Subject: FINAL DRAFT Arbor Hills-Leopold Neighborhood Plan

Introduction

Six different City committees, commissions and boards have reviewed and recommended approval of the Final Draft Arbor Hills-Leopold Neighborhood Plan. The review bodies that recommended modifications were the Pedestrian/Bike/Motor Vehicle Commission (PBMVC) and Economic Development Committee (EDC). PBMVC recommended adding a comprehensive map that clearly identifies all current and proposed bicycle facilities. EDC recommended that Planning staff incorporate Economic Development staff changes from a memo dated July 9, 2013. After review and action by the Plan Commission, the final draft plan will go before the Board of Estimates and Common Council for review and adoption.

Final Draft Plan Overview

The Final Draft Arbor Hills-Leopold Neighborhood Plan is a mid-range (10-15 year) plan that identifies neighborhood issues and proposes recommendations for a study area that encompasses portions of Census Tracts 14.02 and 14.03 and three jurisdictions: City of Madison, City of Fitchburg, and Town of Madison (Figure 1). Approximately half the population lives in the City of Madison (3,125), half lives in the City of Fitchburg (3,630) and a small portion live in the Town of Madison (514). The low to moderate income population is concentrated in the Leopold Neighborhood (City of Madison and Fitchburg residents) where U.S. Census 2010 data indicates that 38.3 percent of families are living at or below the poverty level, and in the City of Fitchburg around Nine Springs Golf Course (2010-2013 anecdotal information from social workers, the school and public health nurses).

Plan recommendations are organized into five themes that are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan: 1) Revitalize Commercial/Employment and Housing Sub-Areas and Guide New Development; 2) Strengthen Local Economic Development and Employment; 3) Improve Safety and Efficiency of Transportation; 4) Enhance Parks, Recreation and Open Space; and, 5) Improve Community Health and Wellness.

Land Use Recommendation Highlights

- Establish Neighborhood Gathering Area with the following as top priorities (page 17):
 - a. Consider expansion of Leopold Open Schoolhouse to include additional community services and recreational and educational programming.
 - b. Enhance Aldo Leopold Park.
 - c. Consider potential next steps for Nine Springs Golf Course such as turning it into a City of Fitchburg Park.
 - d. Consider establishing community and economic empowerment services and programming in the Neighborhood Gathering Area for City of Fitchburg, Town of Madison and Madison residents.
- Amend City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Map 2-2f to change Low Density Residential along W. Beltline Highway south to Thames Terrace to Employment (Figure 11, a., page 23); encourage additional employment uses if and when redevelopment is proposed (page 25).

- Amend City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Map 2-2f to change Medium Density Residential fronting W. Beltline Highway Frontage Road (incorporates Curry Parkway on south side of W. Beltline Highway) to Employment as shown in Figure 11, b., page 23. If/when redevelopment is proposed, allow residential, but encourage redevelopment to employment use; explore use of TID #35 by studying how the proposed uses would interact with TIF policy; encourage a minimum of 5 story structure (s); encourage that housing is concentrated on south two-thirds of property and consider adding a second apartment community entrance road with ped/bike facilities from Ashford Lane.

Collaborative Planning Process with Extensive Public Participation

The City of Madison, City of Fitchburg and Town of Madison worked closely with the Leopold and Arbor Hills Neighborhoods, Madison Metropolitan School District, and Leopold Elementary School to lead a highly collaborative planning process. Strong working relationships have been forged among these partners. As a group, the partners also reached out extensively to stakeholders and the public to gather issues and opportunities and to solicit review and comment on plan drafts. This outreach included interviews with many different businesses, four public open houses, and interviews with community groups, centers of worship, agencies from the City of Madison, City of Fitchburg and Town of Madison, and organizations representing Spanish speaking residents.

Other education and input opportunities included presentations and facilitated discussions with neighborhood associations, the Leopold Elementary School principal and staff, an interactive webpage where members of the public could submit written comments, and articles and announcements about the plan in area newsletters and webpages.

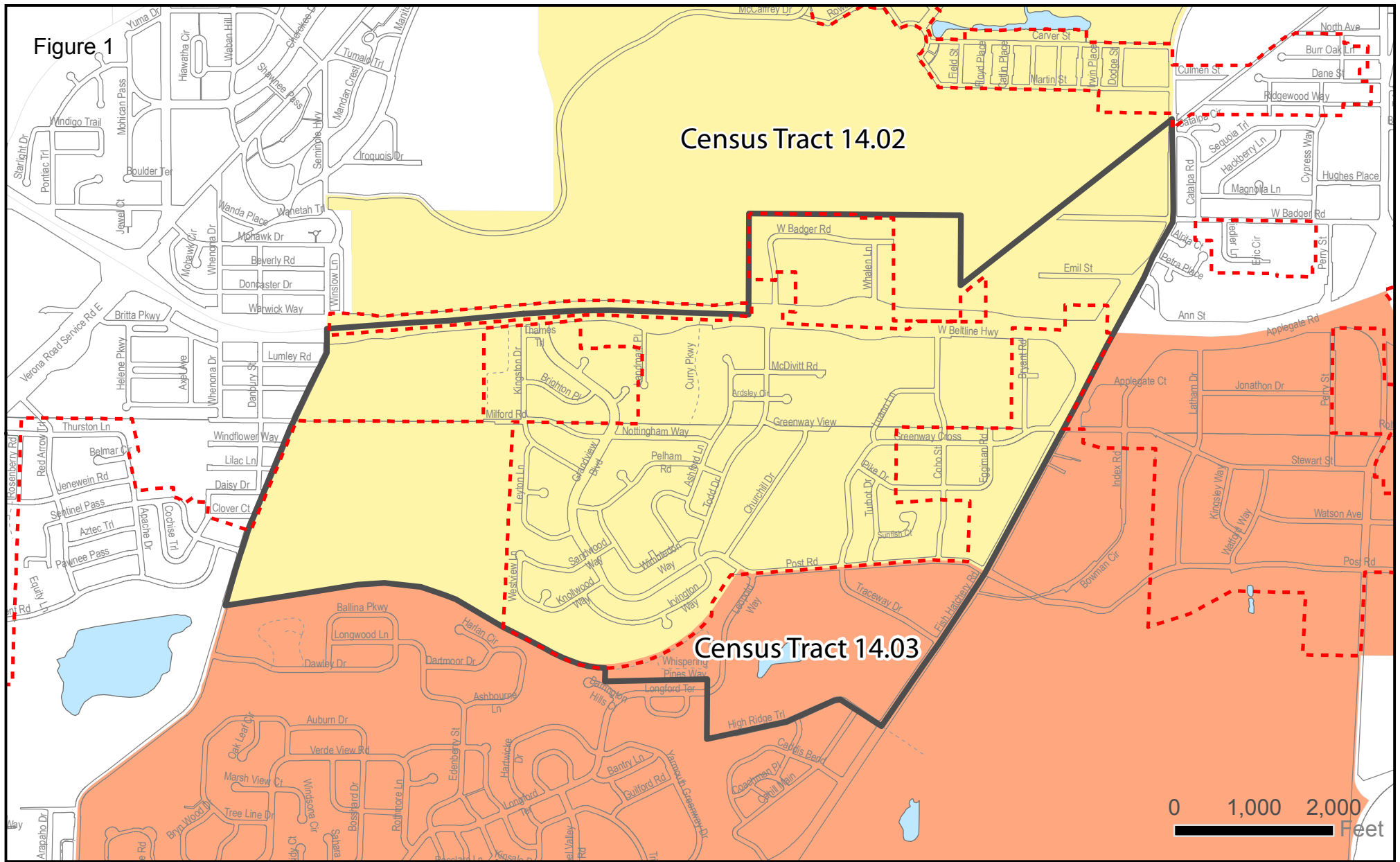
Further Plan Implementation

Implementation began during the planning process and included collaboration between stakeholders, city staff and community organizations to help achieve the Leopold Flag Football League, Freshmobile stops, Leopold Open Schoolhouse, Aldo Leopold Park Community Garden and Art in the Park, clearing of non-native invasives between the Cannonball Path and Aldo Leopold Park, Leopold Larder Food Pantry and Clothing Distribution Center, and Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry.



Ongoing implementation includes construction of a pedestrian/bike path along the W. Beltline Highway frontage road (south side) and the U.W. Arboretum, expansion of Leopold Open Schoolhouse, expansion of Aldo Leopold Park Community Garden and programming, housing improvement programs, expansion of Leopold Flag Football league, establishment of soccer skills camp, master planning and public engagement to determine next steps for Nine Springs Golf Course, and more. Implementation will continue through the capital and operating budgets of participating municipalities, grants, private investment, and collaboration with community groups and other stakeholders.



Cc: Ald. Strasser, District 14
Anne Monks, Mayor's Aide

Figure 1



Census Tracts 14.02 and 14.03

-  Census Tract 14.02
-  Census Tract 14.03

-  Arbor Hills-Leopold Neighborhood Plan
-  City of Madison Boundary

