

## **2018-2023 Park and Open Space Plan Strategies**

### **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.

### **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: 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.

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: 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: 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: 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 Gateways 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.