

2018-2022 Park and Open Space Plan Update Discussion Paper

DRAFT - June 10, 2016

Background

The City of Madison owns over 270 parks totaling over 5,500 acres of parkland and is also responsible for maintaining over 250 acres of public land administered by other City agencies.

City of Madison parks are an integral component contributing to a quality living environment. Parks play a significant role in promoting community and contributing to the well-being and resilience of the city's residents.

The City of Madison Park and Open Space Plan serves as a guide to inform public policy and park facility decisions. This planning document is used by City Boards & Commissions, City agencies and staff, other governments and agencies, and interested citizens and volunteers. It is developed by staff, volunteers and other resources. The plan will be evidence-based and, as such, utilizes extensive public input, census data, park use records, and other information. It is subject to public review and is adopted by the Board of Parks Commissioners and Common Council.

The Park and Open Space Plan (POSP) is updated every five years to adapt to and stay current with changing recreational trends, demographics, and park needs, as well as to reflect integration with the planning efforts of complementary City agencies, as well as county and statewide efforts.

Additionally, the POSP satisfies DNR Chapter NR 50 and NR 51 (Wisconsin Administrative Code), requiring local municipalities to adopt a local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan every 5 years to be eligible for several DNR administered funding programs.

In 2012, the City of Madison Common Council adopted the 2012-2017 update to the Park and Open Space Plan. The City is initiating efforts for the 2018-2022 update to the Park and Open Space Plan. ***The purpose of this discussion paper is to establish parameters and set expectations before commencing the planning effort, including: plan revision goals, implementation strategies, general process, staff organization and responsibilities, and next steps.***

Plan Revision Goals

- 1. To ensure park development and maintenance policies create appropriate opportunities for the people who use parks and live in the surrounding community.**
- 2. To plan for future park development that is reflective of development impacts and demographic trends in neighborhoods in the city.**

Implementation Strategies

1. The revised plan will have similar chapters as the current plan and cover several elements , e.g. , parkland deficiency as suggested by the "Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans" identified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
2. The revised plan will, in so far as possible, integrate evidence-based research, e.g., data available from the US Census and American Community Surveys and existing inventoried infrastructure to analyze park characteristics related to demographics of the various City of Madison communities.

3. The planning process will include multiple opportunities to gather input through significant public engagement.

General Process

1. Prepare workplan (review with the Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee)
2. Issue RFP for engagement and facilitation consultant
3. Collect and analyze background data including park observations
4. Engagement and facilitation
5. Develop analysis and draft plan document
6. Develop policies, recommendations and action plan
7. Review and revise the plan draft with the Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee
8. Adopt the plan
9. Begin implementation

Staff Organization

Executive Team: This team is comprised of the Parks Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents to provide policy and strategy advice, ensure consistency across departments, as well as ensure other agencies and commissions are informed and engaged.

Project Management Team: This team will be comprised of Parks Division staff to provide overall project management and direction, including making daily decisions, developing maps, coordinating public engagement, supervising employees, coordinating with efforts from academic institutions and volunteers, navigating the political environment, producing documents, and day-to-day tasks. Sarah Lerner, Landscape Architect will be the project manager and Janet Schmidt, Park Planning and Development Manager will provide oversight.

Project Assistance Team: This team will be comprised of Parks Division staff and interagency staff (City Planning, IT, Engineering, Public Health, etc.) to provide assistance and guidance for plan development. This will include public information outreach, map development, community engagement, research and data analysis including GIS.

Commission Oversight

The Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Board of Park Commissioners and is charged with Park and Open Space Plan oversight. Work sessions will be held with the Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee throughout the process (as was done with the development of the current Park and Open Space Plan).

Next Steps

1. Parks Division Executive Team reviews this document ☒
2. Mayor's Planning Team reviews this document
3. Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee reviews this document
4. Begin the process

Major Tasks – Initial Draft Schedule

