



MADISON PARKS

Sustainability Plan Implementation

Sustainable Madison Committee

October 20, 2025
CJ Ryan, Assistant Parks Superintendent

An aerial photograph of a park area. In the foreground, there is a large green field with some trees and a path. To the right, there is a pond with a small building and a parking lot. In the background, there is a dense forest and a residential area with houses.

Parks Division Vision Statement

To provide the ideal system of parks, natural resources, and recreational opportunities which will enhance the quality of life for everyone.

Mission Statement

- Our Mission is to provide an exceptional system of safe, accessible, well-planned and maintained parks, facilities, public cemetery, natural areas and public shorelines.
- Our Mission is to provide affordable opportunities for recreational and educational experiences.
- Our Mission is to preserve and expand our urban forest resources through a well-planned and systematic approach to tree maintenance, planting and natural area management.
- Our Mission is to preserve and promote parks' historic legacy.
- Our Mission is to provide opportunities for cultural interaction by facilitating community and ethnic festivals and through the display of public art.

Park and Open Space Plan 2025-2030

- 5-year strategic plan
- 12 strategies to put ideas into action
- Draft available via [Legistar](#) until final adoption



Operations

Conservation

Maintenance

Habitat
Management

Mall
Maintenance

**Planning &
Development**

Park Planning

Construction

Strategic
Planning

**Community
Services**

Permitting &
Reservations

Rangers

Programming

Partnerships

**Olbrich
Botanical
Gardens**

Bolz
Conservatory

Gardens

Programming

Education

Golf Enterprise

Yahara

Odana

Monona

The Glen Golf
Park

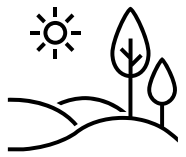
**Finance &
Administration**

Budget

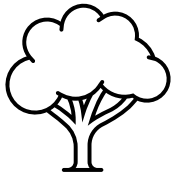
Human
Resources

Financial
Admin.

Sustainability Plan Goals



Goal 3: Provide equitable access to parkland, lakes, and other natural areas as well as sports, recreation, education, and wellness programming offered by the City and its partners.



Goal 17: Preserve and restore urban natural areas, with a focus on providing equitable access for residents.



Goal 6: Increase resilience to climate change impacts including heat waves, storms, and flooding.

Equitable Access to Parkland



98%

Madison residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park



289

Acres of park acquisitions since 2015



19

Trust for Public Land ranking

Equitable Access to Parkland

- ④ Inclusive playgrounds
- ② Accessible beach mats
- ① Accessible fishing pier

Equitable Access to Programming

- Madison Parks Foundation
 - Goodman Pool Scholarships
 - KNOW Program
 - Learning Series
- Qualified Discounts Program
- WPCRC Expansion
- Parks Alive
- MSCR Partnership
- Olbrich Botanical Society
- Affordable Municipal Golf

Equitable Access to Programming (Cont'd)

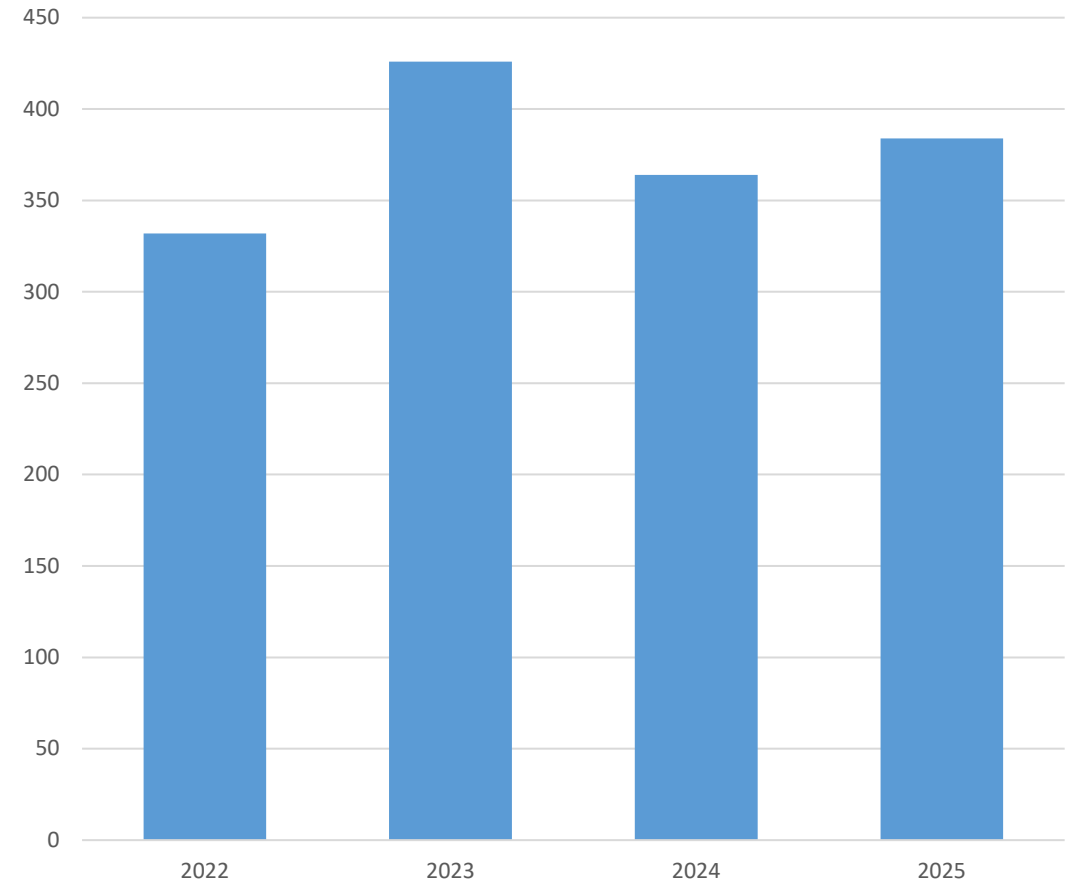
- Earth Day Challenge: 702 volunteers in 58 parks
- Dog Park Clean Up Day: 72 volunteers in 7 dog parks
- Parks Alive: 36 summer events
- Sina Davies Movies in the Parks: 35 events
- Learning Series: 22 events with 363 attendees
- Golf Park Programming Events: 25 unique events
- Bird & Nature Adventures held monthly
- Olbrich Botanical Gardens: free admission & affordable programs



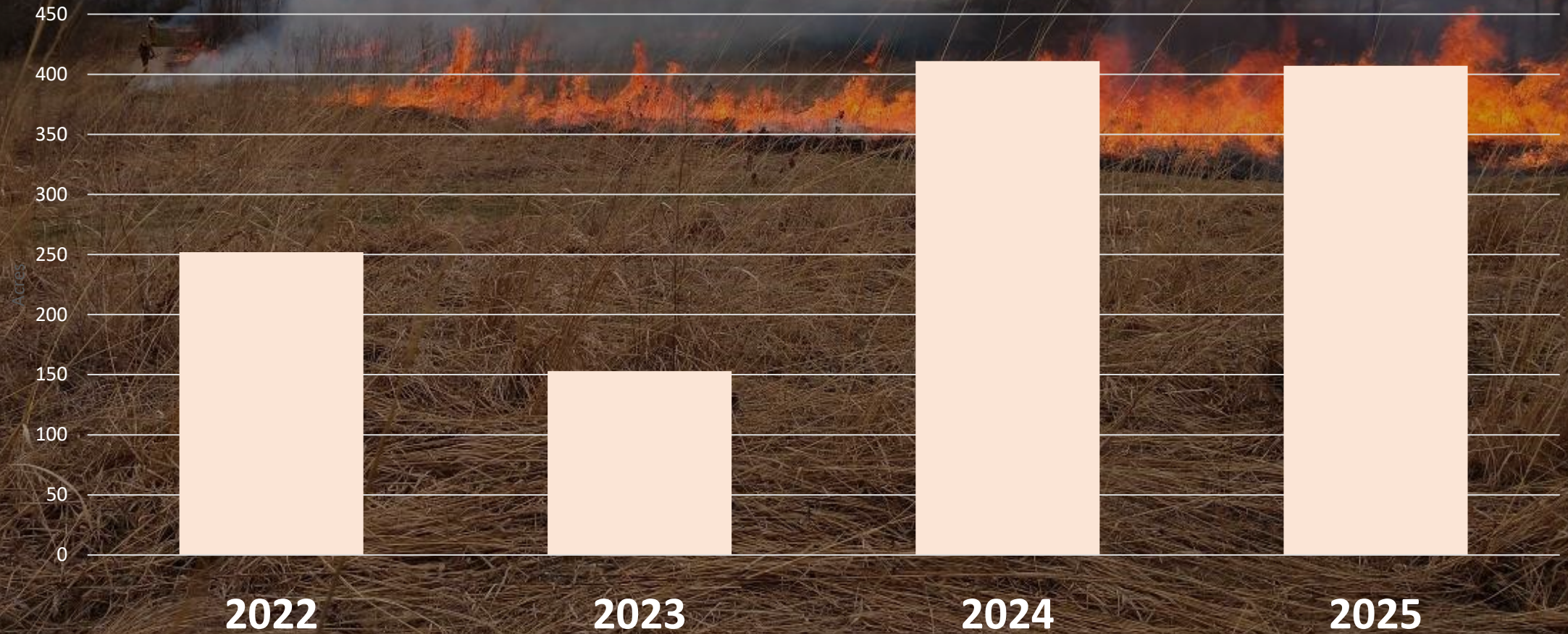
Climate Resilience (Goal 6)

- 21 Conservation Parks
- 1,830 Acres of conservation parks
- 384 Acres Managed Meadows
- 16 Acres Demonstration Gardens & Tropical Conservatory at Olbrich
- Land Management Plan
 - Habitat Management Plans
 - Integrated Pest Management

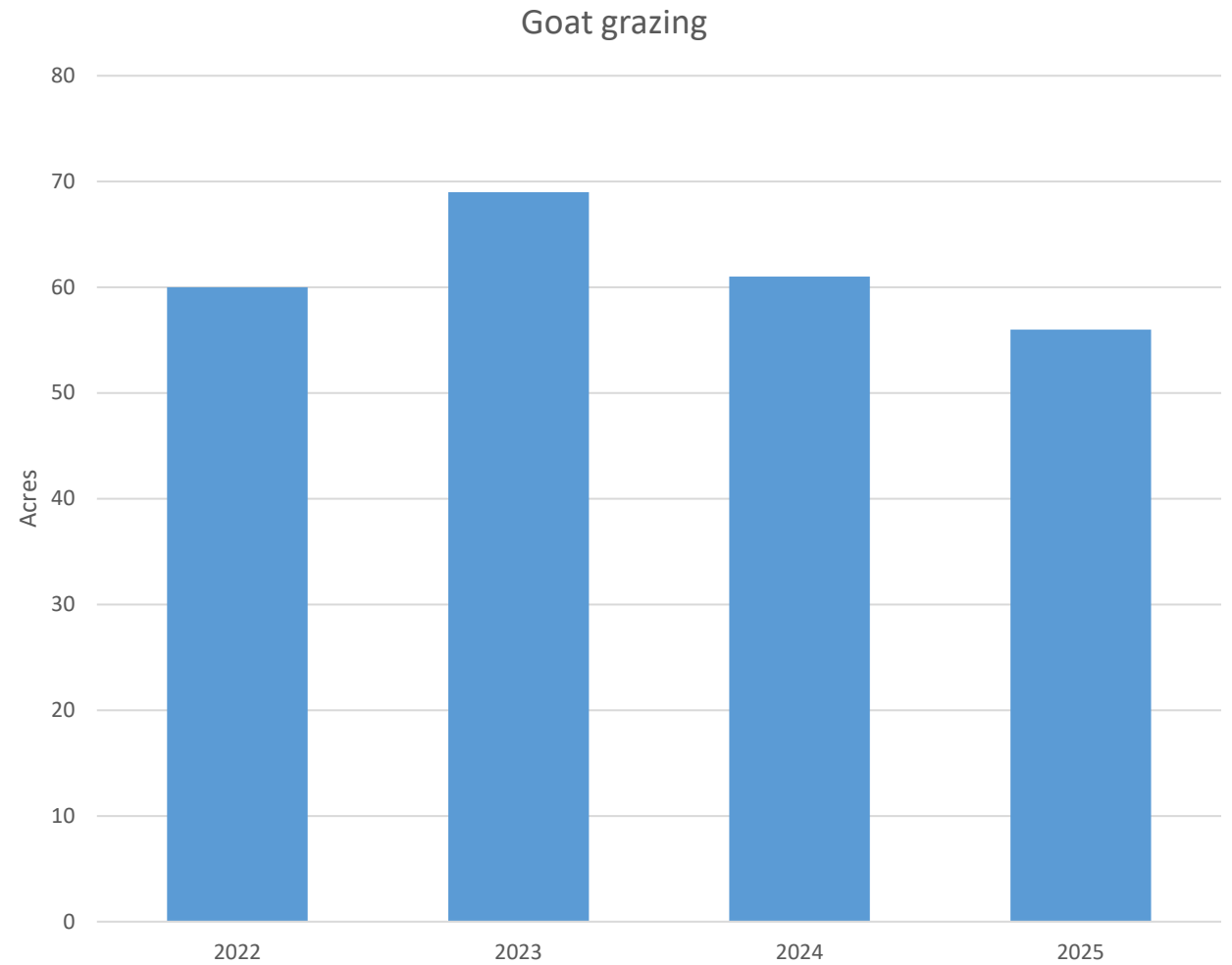
Managed Meadows (Acres)



Prescribed Burns



Prescribed Goat Grazing





MADISON PARKS

Sustainability Plan Implementation

Sustainable Madison Committee

October 20, 2025
CJ Ryan, Assistant Parks Superintendent