

## Olbrich Park Development Milestones

IX A.8.

- 1891** - Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association begin acquisition to secure lakefront park land for eastside worker's families.
- 1920** – Active recreation area conceptualized SE of Starkweather @ landfill site.
- 1925** - Madison Park & Pleasure Drive Association sells Olbrich parkland to City of Madison w/ deed restriction providing for free access to Olbrich Park. MMPDA adds funds generated to encourage and assist UW in acquisitions for Arboretum development.
- 1936** – Master Plan for Olbrich Gardens development conceived.
- 1950** – Construction begins on Olbrich Gardens development, with garden planting starting in **1952**.
- 1970 – 1979** – MSCR programmed Softball use on rise. (*MSCR statistics*)
- 1979** – Olbrich Botanical Society formed to support the Gardens which provide a community and regional resource through fund raising and volunteer efforts,
- 1980 – 1989** – MSCR programmed Softball use hits peak use. (*MSCR statistics*)
- 1990 – 1999** - MSCR programmed Softball use drops 35%. (*MSCR statistics*)
- 1994** – OBS & surrounding neighborhood agree to master planning process following opening of Bolz Conservatory and Garden Center expansion to address parking and 'neighborhood' park amenities (*PC Blue letter*)
- 1995 / 1996** - Capital Budget approves basketball / playground expansion & improvements for neighborhood park amenities
- 1997** – Council endorses OBS fund raising and acquisition of Garver parcel.
- 1998** – Olbrich Gardens Master Plan process invites neighborhood associations for master plan input process.
- 2000** – Current Olbrich Master Plan w/ concept in excess of 23 acres of expansion for gardens, parking, & maintenance.
- 2000 – 2009** - MSCR programmed Softball use drops 46% from peak. (*MSCR statistics*)
- 2003** – Olbrich Neighborhood Partnership Committee formed as OBS sub-committee to address Starkweather Creek.
- 2004** – Mayor requests OBS to share funding for Garver re-use feasibility study, and Starkweather Creek Plan adopted.
- 2005** – Park Commission accepts recommendation that Garver Bldg. be declared surplus and pursue re-use of site with deed restrictions.

**2006** – Planning Dept. applies for grant for building stabilization (*on file*) – Surplus Property Committee of staff, OBS, and neighborhood input begins pursuit of Garver Re-Development process with resulting report completed December 2006. Planning Dept. forms Garver Re-Use committee of OBS, Park Commission, neighborhood reps and staff.

**2007** – Olbrich Botanical Society solicits neighborhood and user input to develop 5 year Program expansion plan for Gardens; recommends county and regional collaboration to expand educational opportunities and garden exhibit / display space. RFP sent out to solicit proposals for Garver Re-Use with guidelines presented by Garver Re-Use committee.

**2008 – July** notices sent to MSCR users as provided by MSCR staff, Yahara Fishermen, and Alders for SASYNA and ECA neighborhood listservs., and OBS membership, to begin public input process for revising Olbrich Park Land Uses and incorporate outcome and input from Deed restriction placed - 2005, Garver Neighborhood Workshop Report – 2006, OBS Program Plan – 2007, and Garver Feed Mill Reuse Project RFP – 2008. Meeting held w/ ~ 130 registered participants. Additionally, website developed on Parks Division 'home page' to notice meetings, provide background and design justification, historical information, post written comments, reports and plan revisions; updated regularly. Meeting comments posted.

**2008 - August** – re-sent notices to complete list of MSCR users and alders for SASYNA and ECA neighborhood listservs. to continue public input process for revising Olbrich Park Land Uses. Meeting held w/ ~110 registered participants. Continued website updates of comments, plan revisions, and meeting reports, with comments revisions posted on-line.

**2008 - October – December** – October Special Meeting of Park Commission, (~ 50 registered participants) and the regular December Meeting of Park Commission, (~20 registered participants), both "properly noticed" with responses addressing land-use and master planning issues. Continued website updates of comments, plan revisions, and meeting reports.

**2009 – January** regular Meeting of Park Commission defers decision of Land-Use Plan to March Park Commission Meeting, (~20 registered participants) with responses addressing land-use in addition to continued master planning issues. Revised plan posted on website

- **February** – Staff presented Land Use Plan to SASYNA and ECA boards and reps for feedback and to assure that all concerns of non-notification of plan proposals were seen and heard. SASYNA rep and Park Commission member present alternate plan @ SASYNA meeting. Comments note that most attendees of these meetings were not new to the proposed plan. Plan revised following comments / feedback from these 2 meetings. Current plan provides for ~ 14 acres for Garden expansion, maintenance, and parking, while setting aside 5 acres for Garver Bldg. re-use. The remaining 4 acres of the 2004 Garver expansion is devoted to natural areas and an additional 8 acres of the current Olbrich Community Park is set aside for restoration to natural area.

- **March** – Staff presented most current revised Land Use Plan to Long Range Planning Committee of the Park Commission for review and comments, (~10 registered participants), "properly noticed", with responses addressing land-use and master planning issues.