

# 2025-2030 Park and Open Space Plan – Annual Reporting Document

## Overview

The 2025-2030 Park and Open Space Plan (POSP) was adopted in October of 2025. This document serves as a method for reporting progress of implementing the 12 Recommended Strategies included in Chapter 7 of the POSP. Parks staff will update and present this document on an annual basis to the Parks Long Range Planning (LRP) Subcommittee. The updates will be provided during the first quarter of the following year to align with other reporting requirements of the Parks Division.

## Reporting Format

The 12 Recommended Strategies in Chapter 7 of the POSP are organized by the seven elements identified in the Comprehensive Plan. Each strategy also includes bullet points offering additional points. For the purposes of this document, they are considered Strategy Points.

Each strategy table includes a color indicator of progress.

Green = At least one implementation action complete and at least one implementation action in progress for each strategy point.

Yellow = Implementation actions in progress for most strategy points or one implementation action complete.

Red = Implementation actions only in progress for one or two strategy points and no implementation actions are complete.

<b>Land Use and Transportation</b>	
<b>Strategy:</b> Increase connectivity between parks to enhance access	
Strategy Points	Implementation Actions
Create a comprehensive system of greenspace connections by means of pedestrian, biking, and water trails through parks.	
Increase connectivity with and through parks to key neighborhood facilities and public transportation methods.	
<b>Barriers to Implementation (if any):</b>	

<b>Culture and Character</b>		
<b>Strategy: Improve public access to lakes and waterways</b>		
Strategy Points	Implementation Actions	
Engage the community in the design process to increase water access on public lands.		
Provide opportunities for year-round water recreation		
Support efforts of partners and stakeholders to improve water quality in Madison's lakes and waterways.		
Encourage creative placemaking opportunities to connect the community to water.		
<b>Barriers to Implementation (if any):</b>		
<b>Strategy: Protect and celebrate the community's cultural richness.</b>		
Strategy Points	Implementation Actions	
Respect and protect tribal sacred sites.		

Continue to recognize, preserve, and enhance historic parks		
Pursue opportunities for cultural enrichment through community events and promotion of community building activities		
Evaluate operational resources for park and street use events to promote balance between park uses and support the needs of the system.		
<b>Barriers to Implementation (if any):</b>		

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<b>Health and Safety</b>		
<b>Strategy:</b> Promote the physical and social health of the diverse community.		
Strategy Points	Implementation Actions	
Incorporate amenities that promote active recreation and social interaction for all skills and abilities, especially youth and seniors.		
Provide flexible multipurpose spaces that can respond to changing recreational trends.		
Provide sufficient fields, courts, and other facilities to accommodate larger competitions.		
<b>Barriers to Implementation (if any):</b>		

<b>Neighborhoods and Housing</b>		
<b>Strategy:</b> Reduce parkland deficiencies and respond to increasing residential density.		
Strategy Points	Implementation Actions	
Make data-informed park planning decisions through evaluation of changing city residential population needs, market trends, and walkability standards.		
Preserve, protect and advocate for sufficient undeveloped land for open space.		
Acquire new parkland on existing developed properties where feasible in areas of high residential density.		
Identify demand for additional parkland and sufficient improvement resources for Area Plans to address future residential density.		
Pursue joint use agreements with owners of other public recreation spaces, such as school properties, to		

improve access in areas where there is no walkable access to mini, neighborhood, conservation, or community City-owned parkland.		
<b>Barriers to Implementation (if any):</b>		

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<b>Green &amp; Resilient</b>		
<b>Strategy:</b> Protect and enhance natural resources.		
Strategy Points	Implementation Actions	
Improve biodiversity by managing invasive species and promoting areas of native plant habitats and ecosystems.		
Acquire conservation parkland to preserve unique habitats.		
Preserve iconic and special landscape views.		
Preserve, promote and expand the urban tree canopy.		
<b>Barriers to Implementation (if any):</b>		
<b>Strategy:</b> Improve the park system's capacity to adapt to environmental challenges.		
Strategy Points	Implementation Actions	
Incorporate of plant species that thrive and adapt to environmental changes with fewer resource inputs.		
Integrate facilities, equipment and materials that reduce the carbon footprint of park operations.		

Use best management practices for stormwater runoff and infiltration to address increased precipitation.		
Support year-round outdoor recreation and extended season use through activities not impacted by climate change.		
Develop an opportunistic approach to maintenance and programming that adapts to the unpredictable nature of climate change.		
Create spaces and adapt programming to keep the community safe, healthy, and emotionally resilient in the face of stress and uncertainty.		
<b>Barriers to Implementation (if any):</b>		

<b>Economy and Opportunity</b>		
<b>Strategy:</b> Create welcoming and inclusive park spaces and programming.		
Strategy Points	Implementation Actions	
Develop parkland and amenities that are reflective of the diverse recreational needs of the community.		
Reduce barriers to use of park spaces, participate in programming, and support local business.		
Pursue alternative funding sources that support programming needs of the Division and provide opportunities to business owners.		
Incorporate public engagement methods and partnerships during the park planning process to ensure projects are representative of the diverse community		
Develop and implement a comprehensive communication plan to educate and inform the public about options and services available within the park system.		
Create and promote awareness around relationship between good parks and a strong economy.		

<b>Barriers to Implementation (if any):</b>		
<b>Strategy:</b> Foster meaningful connections with groups and organizations that advance the vision of the Parks Division.		
Strategy Points	Implementation Actions	
Nurture and create opportunities to strengthen the intrinsic value of parks within the community.		
Develop a programming plan to grow and sustain relationships with existing partners, identify opportunities to address gaps in equitable distribution of services and programming across the city, and create frameworks to engage with future partners.		
Encourage connection with parks and nature through Friends Groups and other volunteer groups while aligning efforts with identified land management strategies and master plans.		
Support volunteers and recognize their contributions in planning, developing, programming, and maintaining park spaces and facilities.		
Cultivate relationships and partnerships that boost the overall economy within the region by		

supporting placemaking and tourism.		
<b>Barriers to Implementation (if any):</b>		

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<b>Effective Government</b>		
<b>Strategy:</b> Develop new parks and amenities in a fiscally sustainable manner.		
Strategy Points	Implementation Actions	
Implement comprehensive data-based decision making in strategic planning and investment		
Secure adequate funding for infrastructure improvements within existing and future parks.		
Revise parkland dedication and park impact fees every ten years to maintain adequate levels of parkland and funding.		
Require parkland dedication of parks five-acres or more for new residential developments where feasible.		
Expand existing park land where appropriate and feasible in accordance with adopted plans		
Seek out and utilize innovative sources to expand and develop existing parkland and amenities.		
Fund and construct necessary infrastructure improvements in parks acquired through annexations and cooperative plans.		

<b>Barriers to Implementation (if any):</b>		
<b>Strategy: Secure sufficient resources to sustain service levels across the growing and changing park system.</b>		
Strategy Points	Implementation Actions	
Preserve public funding to maintain current levels of service in the Parks Division's Operating and Capital budgets.		
Allocate funding equitably to maintain and upgrade existing infrastructure and develop new facilities.		
Pursue opportunities to diversify and increase revenue streams that support services.		
Evaluate staffing and location of operational facilities to optimize resources for new City facilities.		
Provide technical and administrative support to volunteers whose work supplements park maintenance, programming, and improvement.		
Implement Results Madison and develop an asset management system to aid in data-informed decisions related to resource allocation.		

Encourage public interaction and participation with the Parks Division's governing bodies.		
Develop appropriate professional development and recruitment programs to attract and retain employees committed to advancing the vision of the Parks Division.		
Pursue appropriate opportunities to repurpose and reallocate underutilized park assets in a manner that serves broader public purpose and is consistent with the Parks Division's mission.		
<b>Barriers to Implementation (if any):</b>		
<b>Strategy: Pursue regional solutions to regional issues.</b>		
Strategy Points	Implementation Actions	
Enhance or develop regional recreation facilities, where possible, as identified by the Wisconsin SCORP for the Southern Gateways Region to address supply shortages.		
Continue joint planning efforts with Dane County Parks to implement recommendations of the Dane County Park and Open Space Plan within the City of Madison.		

Collaborate with park advocacy organizations and surrounding municipalities to meet park and recreation demands.		
Pursue strategic partnerships to provide tournament-scale venues.		
<b>Barriers to Implementation (if any):</b>		

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