

Planning Memo Reindahl Park Master Plan Update

Why This Planning Process Now?

The current master plan for Reindahl Park was approved by the Board of Park Commissioners on March 3, 2013. The reasoning for a revised master plan at that time was the development of the splash park to the north of the existing shelter. Since that time, as is the case with most community parks, the park has evolved without an official update to the master plan. As an outcome of a two year long planning process conducted by Madison Public Library that resulted in *Communities Inspiring Libraries: A Strategic Plan for Eastside Growth*, the Library identified northeast Madison as an area in need of a library and expanded library service in addition to other civic and social services. To accomplish that, the Library identified Reindahl Park as a potential location for those services, otherwise known as the Imagination Center. Preliminary conversations with Parks staff identified that the existing public shelter and restrooms at Reindahl Park are in need of replacement and a new vision. The shelter facility has had a history of negative behaviors and does not function well for a civic gathering space that is warranted in this area of the City. In March of 2020, a scoping study was completed by the Madison Public Library for the location of a planned Imagination Center at Reindahl Park.

Given the current planned uses of the park, there are limited options for where such a facility could be located without major changes to the existing uses or significant impacts to the tree canopy. The Imagination Center consultant has prepared pre-design documents with the facility located in place of the existing shelter. Parks is prepared to commence a master plan update process that will not only evaluate the Imagination Center, but will engage diverse park users regarding their vision for the future of the park. The timing of the master plan update will also allow for sufficient detail to appropriately locate the planned fully accessible playground at the same time as consideration of the Imagination Center parking and facilities. The Parks Division had originally planned to conduct a more significant and intensive Master Plan update for Reindahl. However, over the pandemic and encampment at Reindahl, Parks staff have had significant direct contact with stakeholders in the park. There has been substantial support for the existing uses of community gardens, soccer fields, splash park and the cricket pitch.

The Master Plan Update Process

This process will consist of review by the Board of Park Commissioners, a public survey and public input meeting (PIM). The timeline for this process is as follows:

- July 13, 2022 - Board of Park Commissioners review of planning process and existing conditions
- Date to be Determined (Early August) – Public Input Meeting (virtual)
- Day After PIM - Public survey open for responses (Open for Two Weeks)
- August 15, 2022 – August 31, 2022 – Revisions to master plan based upon public comment
- Wednesday, September 7, 2022 – Board of Park Commissioners reviews and potential adopts the updated master plan

Existing Planning Documents

The 2013 Master Plan Update was almost exclusively related to the splash park construction and did not adequately address other significant issues such as the planned elimination of softball from the park to incorporate cricket fields. The Parks Division has worked with cricket players to invest in the pitch and staff fully support a long term home for cricket at this location. The 2013 update also did not anticipate

the need to remove the old restroom building from the triangle parcel on the south end of the park, which has been removed due to its condition. Parks has also overseen the Board directed path installation in conjunction with the MMSD sewer interceptor project. In addition, significant stabilization work has been completed on the barn on the property to ensure its longevity.

Current Uses

Soccer/Open Play Field

The fields are heavily used by the SC Wave Soccer Club, and previously Madison FC, for the purposes of youth soccer practice and games. The large field area allows for a variety of field alignments and sizes for different age groups. This flexibility also allows fields to be shifted periodically to avoid excessive wear in high-use areas. In addition to soccer. Since 2003, various use agreements have been in place with Madison FC until the organization dissolved in 2021 and SC Wave took over the agreement in 2022. The agreement allows for the teams to maintain the fields at a higher standard than would be achievable within the city's available resources and gives the team access to schedule practices, games and tournaments.

Tennis/Pickleball Courts

The existing tennis courts are well used and often reserved for use by MSCR. The courts were resurfaced in 2020. The four northern courts are planned to be dual striped for pickleball and tennis this year.

Cricket

The cricket field and practice pitch are reserved regularly as a primary east-side cricket location by the Madison Cricket Club, which supports cricket opportunities for about 300 league members and players under a Fee Modification since 2019. Both pitches have synthetic turf installed on portions of them and the practice pitch is enclosed by practice netting, improvements done in partnership with Madison Cricket Club within the last five years. The overall size of the field is smaller than a typical full size field. However, indications from users are that the size is adequate to meet recreational needs. This is the only appropriately sized cricket pitch in the Madison Parks system and is critical to meeting our goals of inclusion.

Community Gardens

The Parks Division partners with Rooted to manage the community gardens. Rooted manages the operation of the gardens, while the Parks Division supports by picking up organic material periodically throughout the growing season. The community gardens are well used and offer some of the larger garden plots in the system. This is critically important to gardeners who rely on community gardens to address food insecurity.

Splash Park

The existing splash park was constructed in 2014. The splash park includes a building originally intended to serve as concessions. The building currently does not receive use for concessions. Due to this, the Parks Division is currently soliciting bids to renovate the building to include restrooms instead of concessions space, which would provide a significant improvement for families using the splash park.

Basketball

One full basketball court is located near Portage Road. Reservation data is not available, but, it appears to be well used and is an important amenity for a community park in the system.

Play Area

An existing play structure is located to the north of the existing shelter. This play area is planned for removal and replacement with an inclusive playground. The construction of the inclusive playground is anticipated in 2024 or 2025. This will be the fifth such playground in the system and is important for the East side.

The Barn

The Barn building is used as storage for the Parks Division. Structural improvements were made to the building in 2020. The second floor of the building is not accessible from the interior and there is currently no at-grade access from the exterior. Its future use is uncertain, but investment in stabilization will allow this piece of the park's history to be present and secure moving forward.

Shelter

The existing shelter is located to the west of the parking lot off Parkside Drive. The shelter is of the brutalist architectural style. The shelter is in poor condition, does not function well in relation to other park elements, and is not well used. The design is not engaging and is at or near the top of shelters generating customer service concerns.

Triangle Parcel

This parcel of the park, located northeast of the East Washington and Lien Road intersection, previously featured a restroom building, parking, and a flag pole. The parking and flag pole were removed in 2019 as part of the MMSD sewer project and the areas were restored to grass. The restroom building was subsequently demolished in 2021 due to its condition.

Currently, the only feature on this parcel is a small monument and adjacent bench. The monument includes a plaque commemorating the contribution of Amund Reindahl, who donated the land which is now the park. However, parks staff discovered recently that the plaque is missing from the monument and will be working to address this.