

POSP Update Progress Memo

Date: July 16, 2025

Project Introduction:

The Park and Open Space Plan (POSP) assists City Boards, Commissioners, City agencies, and other governmental agencies, residents, and volunteers in decision-making related to park development and operations policies. The plan includes an assessment of existing park amenities, service standards, areas of service deficiencies, and recommended approaches for future park development utilizing a system-wide perspective.

The POSP planning and public engagement process began in the summer of 2023, with the intention for the plan to be adopted by the City of Madison Common Council by the fourth quarter of 2025.

Project Objectives:

- The City of Madison Park and Open Space Plan will describe the desired vision for the future of the Madison park system and provide recommendations to guide land use, policy and investment decisions over time to ensure that the vision for the park system is achieved.
- The adopted Park and Open Space Plan update will meet the requirements of grant programs at the Local, State, and Federal levels.
- The process to prepare the new plan will include an extensive public engagement process using tools such as public meetings and workshops, park user survey instruments and focus group discussions.

Recent Activities Review

- Final Public Engagement efforts conducted to seek feedback on Draft version of 2025-2030 POSP
 - Document was made available on project website for public comment from June 13-July 7, 2025. Two email comments were received.
 - Open house was hosted on June 26, 2025. Approximately 15 individuals were in attendance. Fifteen (15) comments gathered during the session.
- Staff have incorporated feedback from public comment and prepared a log of feedback received along with staff response to each remark.
- Contract with MSA has ended
- Staff have made final formatting revisions and reviewed the document for completeness.

July 16, 2025 LRP Meeting Focus

1. Discuss public engagement efforts
2. Discuss revisions to document since June 4, 2025 meeting.
3. Review Final POSP in InDesign Format
4. Possible approval of POSP and referral to the Board of Park Commissioners

Next Steps

Once the 2025-2030 POSP finalized, LRP will make a recommendation for approval of the Plan to the Board of Park Commissioners. Once the Board of Park Commissioners approves the plan, staff will begin the legislative process of having the plan adopted as a supplement to the City of Madison Comprehensive Plan. Staff is preparing to provide annual updates on the status of the POSP. In addition, based on feedback received and prior discussions, the LRP may wish to oversee the process of updating the Parks Division's Vision, Mission and Values and review case studies of various public private partnerships.