POSP Update Progress Memo

Date: January 11, 2024

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 begun in the summer of 2023, with the intention for the plan to be adopted by the City of Madison Common Council by first 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 provides 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

- Signed contract to assist with the POSP update was delivered to MSA earlier this month and the project kick-off meeting is planned for January 18, 2024. Met with MSA during first week of January to discuss details of work for the next few months.
- Parks staff continues to work with the UW Survey Center to prepare the community survey instrument – the initial survey letters are set to mail out on January 23rd.
- Meetings to discuss the development of the outlines for the Issue Papers with subject area experts and Parks Intern will begin in mid-January – starting with “Climate Resilience” and “Volunteers in Parks” later that month..

January 2024 LRP Meeting Focus

- Review POSP Recommendations/Strategies PowerPoint:
    - Slides provide the “Recommendations” from the 2012 POSP and the “Strategies” from the 2018 POSP
    - Analysis of the two lists shows a consistency from one POSP to the next. Most of the recommendations from 2012 are included in the strategies in 2018
    - Please review the 2018 Strategies and come prepared to answer the following questions:
        - Are these strategies clearly stated?

        - Are there strategies that you feel should be removed or edited?
        - Are there strategies that are missing?
    - Please note that we can and will discuss this topic again as we get closer to the end of this process. This exercise for today's meeting is meant to make you familiar with the list of strategies and to inform you that Parks feels these are still good strategies and we plan to continue with them for the plan update. However, after we work through the plan development the LRP / Staff team may decide to edit this list somewhat. So, please, as we work on plan development, keep this list of strategies in mind.
- Survey: the determination was made by Parks Leadership to send survey invitations to a randomized selection of 5,000 addresses within the city as opposed to to targeting specific census block or NRT areas of the city.
- Final pass at Acknowledgements page
- Staff has been working on the History Section based on comments received at the Dec 20 LRP meeting. A new version, incorporating your comments will be available for review prior to the Feb LRP meeting.

Next Steps

February LRP meeting is set for the 21st. We will be reviewing the Ch. 4 Park Inventory section ,which includes asset management information for Parks and overall stats on the City's park system, as well as private recreational facilities and other park & open space facilities. Also available for a final pass will be the Madison Parks History section.