POSP Update Progress Memo

Date: February 2, 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 began 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 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

- Parks staff met with MSA in late January to set the dates for the POSP Open House meeting dates:
  - Madison Memorial High School (Wisconsin Community Room); Thurs April 4th
  - Warner Park Community Recreation Center (Meeting Room); Thurs April 25th
  - Olbrich Botanical Gardens (Atrium) Thurs May 2nd
  - Madison Parks (330 E Lakeside Conference Room); Thurs May 9th
  - *all times are 5:30-7:30pm meeting with set-up beginning at 5, clear room by 8.
- Parks staff will meet with MSA and their subconsultant, All Together, to determine the details of the public engagement in mid-March, after we have the results of the survey.
- UW Survey Center sent the initial survey letters on January 23rd. We have had some interest from the local media and look forward to seeing the results.
- Parks staff have begun the outlines for the Issue Papers with subject area experts

February 2024 LRP Meeting Focus

- Primary focus 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.
- Final pass at History of Madison Parks section

Next Steps

March LRP meeting is set for the 20th. The focus at this meeting will be to review the Guiding Lenses and Goals (Pt. 1) section, which describes the purpose of the plan and planning process; as well as discuss the consultant team's approach to targeted public engagement.