POSP Update Progress Memo

Date: April 12, 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

- First Open House session was held (4/4) at Vel Philips Memorial High School; attendance was lower than we would like but visitors seemed pleased with content & capability to have in-depth conversations with staff.
- Parks staff are finalizing Issue Papers 4-6 ("Activating Parks", "Rec Biking" and "Lake Monona Waterfront") and 'Volunteers in Parks' and 'Climate Resilience' are getting additional SME input from Tanya Zastrow/OBG. Staff will have drafts to submit to assigned LRP members for review & input by 5/13; they will be due back to Parks staff 6/12 prior to those being reviewed by the committee at-large at its July 17, 2024 meeting.

April 2024 LRP Meeting Focus

- Primary focus will be reviewing parts of Chapter 3: Guiding Lenses and Goals (Pt2), Economic and Health Benefits of Parks and Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility as well at Chapter 5: Planning Considerations (Pts 1 & 2).
- Two sub-sections of Ch. 5 are proposed to be dropped: Partnership Opportunities (which is also covered in an Issue Paper) and Committee/Sub-committee Input (due to overall timing)
- Further discuss UW survey results based on discuss with survey center staff
- Brief recap of Open House #1 (held 4/4) – thanks Steve for attending!

- Review drafts of map updates from 2018-2023 POSP and discuss reasons to “carry over” maps from that edition: Community Park Deficiencies Based on Service Areas (update), Elementary and Middle School Influence on Park Deficiencies (carry-over/add to appendix), Bus Access Map (carry-over), Mini & Neighborhood Park Deficiencies Based on Service Areas (update), Population Served by Park (update)
- Additional maps to add: 10-min walk analysis

Next Steps

The May LRP meeting is set for the 15th. The focus at this meeting will be to review Issue Papers 1-3, ‘Climate Resilience’, ‘Volunteers in Parks’, and ‘Future of Golf’.

Recap/download on the late April and May Open House sessions

And a side-by-side review of the table of contents sections from the 2018-2023 POSP and proposed 2025-20230 POSP will offer an opportunity to discuss the proposed organization of the update and how it differs from the most recent version.