POSP Update Progress Memo

Date: June 20, 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

- LRP comments were due back on the first set of Issue Papers (Golf & Climate Resilience) on June 17 – the Volunteers paper is on a delayed schedule as it needed to be re-written by Parks staff subject matter experts
- All Together "popped up" at Parks Alive events at Allied Park (6/24) and Aldo Leopold Park (6/25) to conduct focused outreach including an engaging exercise and promotion of the focus group survey; their staff placed wish boxes this week at 13 locations including neighborhood centers & libraries – these boxes include a poster with QR code pointing to the focus group survey.
- All Together is still working to reschedule the focus group meetings: the virtual meetings with Black & Latino youth may shift to in-person meetings at Parks Alive/other; the Hmong group will remain virtual and they will use a Doodle poll to determine the best day/time for the virtual BIPOC advocacy groups session
- On or around today's meeting date, Parks staff will send Issue Papers 4-6 (LMW, Activating Parks and Rec Biking) to LRP members with comments due back by 7/9, they will be reviewed by LRP at the July meeting.

June 2024 LRP Meeting Focus

- Primary focus at today's meeting will be review of Issue Papers 1-3, "Climate Resilience", and "Future of Golf" along with the "study questions" that were due back by 6/5:
    i. Is there something that you thought you would see mentioned in this paper but it was not?
    ii. Is there something that surprises you here?
    iii. If you were a policy maker or a member of the public reading this for the first time, would you find this helpful in understanding Parks long term and short term goal for this topic?
    iv. What are your main take aways from this paper.
- Volunteers in Parks will be reviewed by this group in late July and discussed at the August LRP meeting.

- Community input meetings summary (MSA) – including comments received on the Issue Paper boards

Next Steps
All Together will be holding pop-up/in-person events on 7/16 at Darbo-Worthington Park and 7/17 at Warner Park to correspond with Parks Alive events – all LRP members are welcome to stop by!

The July LRP meeting is set for the 17th. The focus at this meeting will be to review Issue Papers 4-6, 'Activating Parks', 'Rec Biking' and 'Lake Monona Waterfront' along with the study question answers.

Discussion of UW survey results based on analysis by MSA and review with survey center staff

Recap/download of the focus groups held virtually and in-person by All Together

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.