Acquisition Recommendations

In 2022, City of Madison Department of Planning, Community and Economic Development (DPCED) launched its Planning Framework, which consolidates the city into 12 planning areas focusing on general recommendations to simplify area planning and make it more equitable. The Area Plans will eventually update and replace the older Neighborhood Development Plans (NDP) that they encompass. The first to move forward, the West and Northeast Area Plans, respectively, were moving through the City's formal review process in summer 2024 and are anticipated to be approved prior to the finalization of this document.

As such, this update of the POSP will speak to both the older Neighborhood Development Plans and the two Area Plans completing the approval process, as well as intergovernmental agreements and park-led initiatives that are not necessarily included in other plans. These different plans and documents represent opportunities to grow existing parks and greenspaces through acquisitions as they become available.

Neighborhood Development Plans

Currently there are twenty-one NDPs (those not yet replaced by Area Plans) that identify 71 potential new park parcels along the City's periphery totaling 441 acres. Sixteen plans call for new parkland development, with 17 of the 71 proposed new park parcels in the Northeast Neighborhoods Neighborhood Development Plan. The current NDP are as follows:

Commented [KK1]: Hannah is verifying parcels vs parkland counts

- Cherokee
- Elderberry
- Felland
- Junction Road
- Marsh Road
- Midtown
- Northeast
- Pumpkin Hollow
- Rattman
- Reiner
- Shady Wood
- Sprecher
- Yahara Hills

Intergovernmental Agreements

In addition to parkland dedicated in conjunction with new residential development, the City of Madison acquires existing parkland in neighboring communities as part of intergovernmental agreements. Currently Madison has intergovernmental agreements with the Towns of Blooming Grove, Burke, and Middleton which will result in the City of Madison obtaining new parks that were previously in other municipalities. Many of the parks contain amenities (e.g. playgrounds) that may or may not have been maintained to the same standard as similar City of Madison park amenities.

The City acquired three new parks with the final attachment of the Town of Madison in 2022, along with a number of new parks with the phased attachment of Blooming Grove in 2020 and 2027 with the final attachment. The City will also acquire eight new parks through final attachment of the Town of Burke in 2036. In total, the City can anticipate acquiring 14 new parks through intergovernmental agreements by 2036.

Park Initiatives

Madison Parks continues to look for and take advantage of opportunities to strategically grow the park system outside of the planning documents mentioned above. Some examples are the recent purchase of 20 acres of mature woodland added to Whitetail Ridge Park and recent acquisitions of private lots to close the gap between the Olin Park Building and Olin Park.

For the purposes of this discussion the city has been divided into three areas:

- East: Everything east or north of the Yahara River
- Downtown: Everything between east of South Mills and north of Haywood to the Yahara River
- West: Everything west of South Mills and south of Haywood

Commented [KB2]: Can a small map be included to identify these areas? It takes a minute to wrap your head around the boundaries of these areas.

East

In addition to the acquisitions mentioned above, Madison Parks would like to acquire land currently in quarry use south of Galaxy Park. Specifically, the desired land includes the high point of the quarry and sufficient surrounding land to attach to Galaxy Park. The high point of the quarry provides a view of the surrounding lakes and the addition will bring this park up to a more typical neighborhood park size.

To provide the necessary park facilities to serve the new northside neighborhood developing at the old Oscar Meyer property, Parks would like to acquire additional developable lands either to the north of Roth Street or south of the new Hartmeyer Roth park land.

Downtown

Additional park land is needed to serve the increasing population of downtown Madison. Two focus areas for the future acquisitions are the rail corridor located between East Washington Avenue and Williamson Street, particularly adjacent to or close to McPike Park, and the Yahara River corridor, adjacent to or close to the Yahara River Parkway.

West

Parks continues to search for appropriate land to build a west side sports complex. Parks is seeking a parcel suitable for multiple rectangular fields, as well as possibly additional cricket pitches and ball diamonds. The site needs to be large enough to accommodate the necessary parking lots and support facilities like restrooms, shade structures, and spectator seating.

Parks is also seeking to continue to acquire parcels as they become available that will extend the area of open shoreline from the Parks Olin Administration Building and Olin Park.

Finally, Parks plans to complete Elver Park acquisition by acquiring the parcels along South Gammon Road, north of Midtown Road extended.