POSP Update Progress Memo

Date: August 21, 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 are coordinating with Parks Athletics to update a recreational facilities needs survey to be sent to organizations and individuals that reserve fields & courts for group athletics - this information will help to inform the Park Facilities Recommendations section of the POSP
- Parks staff will be meeting with the Disability Rights Commission on August 22nd to provide an overview of the plan and discuss ways to include recommendations to serve the Disabled community
- All Together concluded the pop-up sessions at the Parks Alive events on 7/16 & 7/17 and held virtual sessions with Hmong community (on 7/16) and Powerful Teen Leaders (on 7/17); as well as a session with BIPOC advocacy organizations on 7/23.

August 2024 LRP Meeting Focus

- Primary focus at today's meeting will be review of the Volunteers in Parks Issue Paper led by Lisa Laschinger with the following questions used to guide the discussion:
    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.

- Two Recommendations sections to review: Access to the Lakes and Acquisitions

- Also at today's meeting we will review a side-by-side comparison of the Table of Contents sections from the last POSP (2018-2023) and the current update

- And we will go over what to expect for the rest of the year in terms of POSP review and sections forthcoming – we will also discuss preferred format for future full draft document review (i.e. hardcopy vs. PDF)

Next Steps

The next LRP meeting is scheduled for September 18th – at this meeting MSA will present a report-out on the virtual and in-person community input held to-date including the All Together-led focus groups.

We will also review the Park System and Facility Recommendations sections