Issues & Opportunities

The 2018-2023 Park and Open Space Plan was developed through the guiding lenses of equity, sustainability, adaptability and public health. As shared in the Accomplishments Section, the Parks Division and policymakers have directed resources to implement a variety of projects and initiatives. To help supplement the work of the previous and current plan, staff have identified six emergent areas of Issues & Opportunities, which align with the previous plan's guiding lenses and have received significant focus and investment since 2018. The areas of Issues and Opportunities highlighted within this section include Activating Parks, Golf Program, Sustainable Land Management Practices & Reduction of Carbon Footprint (or Climate Resilience), Recreational Biking, The Madison Lakeway and Volunteers in Madison Parks.

The issue papers were a major area of focus during the open house sessions that were held during 2024 related to the development of the Park and Open Space Plan. Members of the public had an opportunity to provide their input regarding each of these areas. In addition, staff were able to answer questions that participants had related to individual topics.

The Issue & Opportunities narratives were written by Parks staff with significant subject matter expertise, and are intended to serve as a resource for both internal and external stakeholders. These resources provide new staff, policy makers, project partners and other interested stakeholders additional insight into how the POSP strategies are implemented and the important role that the parks system plays in the community. Each of the narratives document progress made on key issues over the last several years and outlines general opportunities for continued growth and improvement for the next 5-10 years.