POSP Update Progress Memo

Date: January 21, 2025

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 the third 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

- Staff are working with Parks Finance, Olbrich Botanical Gardens and Golf staff for an update to the Capital Resources section
- MSA have been working on updating the related planning section and finalizing the alternative funding section as well as updating some of the maps that were reviewed previously (and commented on) to make them more legible within the document

January 2025 LRP Meeting Focus

- A return to the strategies discussion from the last session will be the primary focus of the January 23, 2025 meeting (approximately ½ of the strategies were reviewed and discussed in December) and how those are structured within the POSP (Parks staff – Lisa)
- Review of the "Operational Resources" section
- A possible additional meeting (between January 23 and February 19)

Next Steps
The next LRP meeting has been scheduled for February (2/19). This meeting will include a review of Capital Resources content and in-depth discussion regarding draft strategies. In early 2025 staff plan to share a full draft document with fellow agency staff (particularly Engineering Stormwater and Planning) and LRP members. Once the full draft is satisfactory, the document will be published and formatted, for LRP to review final text along with pictures / graphics. Staff will also be submitting for an extension of the final document submittal (through 2025) to WI DNR (currently/last extended through 2024).