**Recommended Strategies**

**LRP Discussion 2/19/2025**

The 2025-2030 City of Madison Parks and Open Space Plan (POSP) is supplemental to the City of Madison Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan, initially adopted in 2018 and updated every two years, translates community input and ideas into policies and actions. The Plan is organized by seven elements which are major topic areas that influence the quality of life in the city:

- Land Use and Transportation: Compact Land Use | Efficient Transportation
- Neighborhoods and Housing: Complete Neighborhoods | Housing Access
- Economy and Opportunity: Growing Economy | Equitable Education and Advancement
- Culture and Character: Cultural Vibrancy | Unique Character
- Green and Resilient: Natural Resources | Parks and Recreation
- Effective Government: Efficient Services | Community Facilities |Regional Transportation
- Health and Safety: Equitable Health Outcomes | Safe Community

The recommended strategies in the 2025-2030 POSP are organized within these seven elements. The POSP incorporates information from the engagement process, recreation needs assessment, relevant planning documents and various recognized park metrics into actionable data-informed strategies.

| Land Use and Transportation |
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| **Strategy: Increase connectivity between parks to enhance access.**<br>• *Collaborate with other City, County and neighboring agencies to create a comprehensive system of greenspace connections by means of pedestrian, biking, and water trails through parks.*<br>• *Increase connectivity with and through parks to key neighborhood facilities and public transportation methods.* |
| Neighborhoods and Housing |
| **Strategy: Reduce parkland deficiencies and respond to increasing residential density.**<br>• *Make data-informed park planning decisions through evaluation of changing city residential population needs and walkability standards.*<br>• *Preserve, protect and advocate for sufficient undeveloped land for open space.*<br>• *Acquire new parkland on existing developed properties where feasible in areas of high residential density.*<br>• *Ensure that Neighborhood Development Plans identify adequate parkland for proposed residential density.*<br>• *Pursue joint use agreements with owners of other public recreation spaces to enhance outdoor recreation in areas where there is no walkable access to mini, neighborhood, conservation, or community City-owned parkland.* |

Economy and Opportunity

**Strategy: Create welcoming and inclusive park spaces and programming.**

- *Develop parkland and amenities that are reflective of the diverse recreational needs of the community.*
- *Identify and lower barriers to use of park spaces and participate in programming.*
- *Pursue alternative funding sources that support programmatic needs of the division.*
- *Incorporate public engagement methods and partnerships during the park planning process to ensure projects are representative of diverse community.*
- *Provide multimodal transportation options to and through parks for equitable and inclusive access.*
- *Develop and implement a communication plan to educate and inform the public.*

**Strategy: Foster meaningful connections with groups and organizations that advance the vision of the Parks Division.**

- *Grow and sustain relationships with partners dedicated to engaging and serving diverse communities in parks.*
- *Develop strategies to identify and address gaps in engagement with existing and under - represented stakeholders.*
- *Improve existing partnerships to ensure services and programming are equitably distributed across geographic regions of the city.*
- *Develop a programming plan to address gaps and opportunities in services and provide a framework for engaging with future partners.*
- *Encourage connection with parks and nature through Friends Groups and other volunteer groups while aligning efforts with identified land management strategies and master plans.*
- *Support the efforts of volunteers and recognize their contributions to the park system in development, programming and maintenance of park facilities.*

Culture and Character

**Strategy: Improve public access to lakes and waterways.**

- *Connect the community to water by designing areas for increased water access on public lands.*
- *Provide opportunities for year-round water recreation.*
- *Collaborate with partners and stakeholders to support efforts to improve water quality in Madison's lakes and waterways.*

**Strategy: Protect and celebrate the community's cultural richness.**

- *Respect and protect tribal sacred sites in accordance with approach agreed upon with the Ho-Chunk Nation.*
- *Continue to recognize, preserve, and enhance historic parks.*
- *Promote opportunities for cultural enrichment through community events.*
- *Evaluate operational resources for park and street use events to ensure sustainable and equitable opportunities for building and promoting community.*

Green & Resilient

**Strategy: Protect and enhance natural resources.**

- *Identify and promote areas of native plant habitats and ecosystems, which complement recreational uses of parks.*
- *Optimize resources and improve biodiversity by managing invasive species in high-quality natural areas.*
- *Continue to acquire conservation parkland to preserve unique habitats.*
- *Preserve iconic and special landscape views from public access areas.*

**Strategy: Improve the park system's capacity to adapt to environmental challenges.**

- *Preserve, promote and expand the urban tree canopy.*
- *Use plant species that thrive and adapt to environmental changes with fewer resource inputs.*
- *Promote best management practices for stormwater runoff and infiltration to reduce impacts of increasing storm severity.*
- *Incorporate spaces and amenities that promote outdoor recreation during various environmental conditions and extended seasonal use.*
- *Develop a proactive approach to winter recreation through design and support of winter activities that are less impacted by climate change.*
- *Recognize the unpredictable nature of climate change and develop opportunistic approach to maintenance and programming to adapt to the natural conditions presented.*
- *Create spaces and adapt programming to keep the community safe and healthy during times of public health emergencies.*

Effective Government

**Strategy: Develop new parks and amenities in a fiscally sustainable manner.**

- *Review and revise parkland dedication and park impact fees every ten years to maintain funding to support future population and density demands.*
- *Evaluate relevant data related to national and local park development and funding sources to inform planning efforts and resource allocations.*
- *Minimize the number of mini parks along the city's periphery by requiring dedication of larger, minimum five-acre parks for new residential developments.*
- *Pursue opportunities to expand existing park land in areas where feasible.*
- *Seek out and utilize innovative sources to expand and develop existing parkland and amenities.*
- *Secure adequate funding to provide necessary infrastructure improvements for parks acquired by the City through intergovernmental agreements.*

**Strategy: Secure sufficient resources to sustain current service levels across the growing and changing system.**

- *Seek adequate funding for the Parks Division's Operating and Capital budgets through the annual budget processes to maintain current levels of service.*
- *Allocate funding equitably for maintaining and upgrading existing infrastructure and developing of new facilities.*
- *Investigate and pursue opportunities to diversify revenue streams through public-private partnerships, grants and other sources.*

- *Evaluate operational resources including staffing and location of operational facilities to optimize resources for new city facilities.*
- *Provide technical administrative support to volunteers whose work supplements park maintenance and improvement resources.*
- *Implement Results Madison and develop asset management system to aid in data-informed decisions related to resource allocation.*
- *Encourage public interaction and participation with the Parks Division's governing bodies.*

**Strategy: Pursue regional solutions to regional issues.**

- *Where possible, enhance or develop regional recreation facilities identified by the Wisconsin SCORP for the Southern Gateways Region to address supply shortages.*
- *Continue joint planning efforts with Dane County Parks to implement recommendations of the Dane County Park and Open Space Plan on property within the City of Madison.*
- *Collaborate with park advocacy organizations and surrounding municipalities to meet park and recreation demands.*
- *Foster relationships and partnerships that boost the overall economy within the region.*

Health and Safety

**Strategy: Promote the physical and social health of the diverse community.**

- *Incorporate park amenities that promote active recreation for all skills and abilities, especially youth and seniors.*
- *Provide flexible multipurpose spaces that can respond to changing recreational trends.*
- *Design spaces and facilities that meet the recreational needs of a diverse community.*
- *Provide sufficient fields and courts to accommodate multiple field or court competitions.*
- *Explore and pursue strategic partnerships to provide tournament-scale venues, including with Madison Metropolitan School District.*