

**City of Madison
Interdepartmental Correspondence**

Date: July 7, 2009

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jule Stroick, Planning Division

Subject: Midvale Heights-Westmorland Neighborhood Plan

The Midvale Heights and Westmorland Neighborhoods received a planning grant from the Planning Division to prepare a joint neighborhood plan. The Midvale Heights-Westmorland Joint Steering Committee (MHWJSC), comprised of six representatives from the Midvale Heights and Westmorland Neighborhoods, hired Viebicher Associates to assist them in preparing the mid-range ((5-10 years) neighborhood plan.

Midvale Heights-Westmorland Neighborhood Plan

The *City of Madison Comprehensive Plan* (adopted 2006) recommends the adoption of neighborhood plans for established residential neighborhoods within the City. The *Midvale Heights-Westmorland Neighborhood Plan* will be adopted as a supplement of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The *Midvale Heights-Westmorland Neighborhood Plan* is a mid-range (5-10 year) plan that identifies neighborhood issues and proposes recommendations to address them. Plan recommendations are divided into categories consistent with the Comprehensive Plan: Land Use, Transportation, Housing, Economic Development, Parks and Open Space, Cultural and Historic Resources, and Community Facilities & Infrastructure.

Board and Commission Review

The *Midvale Heights-Westmorland Neighborhood Plan* was introduced at the July 7th Common Council meeting. The Plan is referred to Plan Commission (lead) and Board of Park Commissioners, Board of Estimates, Board of Public Works, Economic Development Commission, Pedestrian/Bicycle/Motor Vehicle Commission, Long Range Transportation Planning Commission, Transit and Parking Commission, and Urban Design Commission.

Boards and Commissions will review the Plan based on their area of expertise. All motions to adopt or adopt with conditions will be forwarded to the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission will compile a *final report* to the Common Council. It is anticipated the Common Council will take action on the Plan at its September 1, 2009 meeting.

Plan Recommendations: Parks and Open Space and Natural Resources

The Plan identifies *fourteen* plan recommendations to improve parks and open space in the Midvale Heights and Westmorland neighborhoods (See pages 69-72). In summary, the plan recommendations cover:

- New: off-leash dog park, community gardens, rain gardens, bio-swales and other measures to reduce stormwater runoff.

- Upgrade: existing parks, including new amenities for younger and older children/teenagers;
- Appearance: Flower gardens, public art, and screening in existing parkland to improve the entrances or edges.
- Protection: Bicentennial oaks and street trees.

Public Participation

The preparation of a neighborhood plan requires input from a wide cross-section of the community. The Midvale Heights and Westmorland Neighborhoods solicited input from neighborhood residents and the business community prior and during the planning process.

- *Westmorland Strategic Issue Sessions and Midvale Heights Resident Survey* were conducted prior to the start of the planning process to identify key planning issues to address during the planning process.
- Three *Large-Scale Public Workshops* were held to identify important neighborhood issues and to review draft/final plan and recommendations.
- One-on-one *stakeholder interviews* were conducted with eight individuals that represented organizations or primary property interest throughout the neighborhoods:
- Four *focus groups* with new property owners, young families, the business community, and senior citizens were conducted to solicit input on important issues to address in the Plan.
- Neighborhood planning articles and announcements of Open Houses were published in the *Midvale Messenger and Westmorland Courier Newsletters* beginning in May 2007.
- A planning *website* was created during the planning process (<http://mhwplan.org/>) which houses agendas, minutes, background information, public open house results, and the draft versions on the neighborhood plan.

Neighborhood planning information was also accessible at Sequoya Branch Library.

Planning Study Area Boundaries

The *Midvale Heights-Westmorland Plan* identifies recommendations for the area bounded by Mineral Point Road on the north, Southwest Bike Path on the east, West Beltline Highway on the south, and South Whitney Way on the west.

c: Ald. Chris Schmidt, Dist. 11
Ald. Thuy Pham-Remmele, District 20