

Board of Park Commissioners meeting - November 6, 2019

Summary of recommendations from other commissions and committees:

1. Plan Commission voted to modify the resolution amendment to include Traffic Engineering in the cross-functional staff team.

Parks staff recommends the following changes to the Urban Forestry Task Force Report:

2. Page 9, revise bullet to read: **“Forestry Section: A section of the Parks Division that is being transferred to the Streets Division as part of the 2020 Operating Budget (this will take effect January 1, 2020). Forestry is responsible...”**
3. Replace Page 11 of the report with the new Page 11 and 11A.
4. Page 20, Subdivision Recommendations #1 – Add the following sentence: “The City should revise the Madison General Ordinance (possibly MGO 28.142) to include incentives to preserve existing trees of a diameter more than 10 inches DBH (diameter at breast height) as part of private development projects, including single residential lots.”
5. Page 23, Canopy Coverage, Goals – Add an additional bullet to this section as follows:
 - Canopy strategies should place a priority on the protection of existing large trees throughout the City. Special heritage protection should be considered for large burr oaks wherever they occur, in recognition of their place in pre-settlement oak savannas.
6. Page 24, Recommendation #6 – Revise as follows: “Dedicate additional resources to Forestry for more frequent pruning and maintenance of new and existing street trees. The current approximately 21 -year **pruning cycle** of street trees should be evaluated in order identify methods and resources needed to shorten the cycle. **Resources should also be dedicated to replanting more promptly.**”
7. Page 24, Recommendation #7 – Revise as follows: “The Park Commission should prepare a policy of and develop methods for **canopy growth within parks with the goal of ~~by~~ planting 2,000 more trees above the replacement rate each year for the next five years, taking into account existing park policies (park master planning and land management, etc.), park values (sight lines, viewsheds, no-mow prairie areas, etc.) and other park uses (active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities) to create a diverse and balanced park system as identified in the Park and Open Space Plan.** ~~and how it could interact with other park uses (e.g., no mow areas). An assessment for park properties should be completed in order to identify preliminary tree locations, set consistent design goals, and project both priority areas and rates for~~

~~tree planting. In addition, a tree preservation plan or criteria should be developed for Parks.”~~

8. Page 25, Recommendation #15 – Revise as follows: **“The Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Board of Park Commissioners; with the transfer of the Forestry Section to the Streets Division effective 2020, several modifications to the ordinance will be required as the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee will still have purview over land management, including trees, on park lands though they may no longer have the same purview over trees in the ROW. The Common Council should consider developing an urban forest board with regular meetings ~~or revise the responsibilities of the existing Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee to include this work, in order~~ to advise on the recommendations made by the Urban Forestry Task Force and to address future urban forestry needs, with the understanding that the Board of Park Commissioners, and the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee, has purview over land management, including trees, for public park lands.”**