



# Madison Parks Division

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Date: February 5, 2021

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Eric Knepp, Parks Superintendent

CC: Golf Subcommittee

**Re: Glenway Park and Golf Course Project Update**

Madison Parks is working with Michael Keiser and the Madison Parks Foundation to develop a plan for Glenway golf course that provides a different and improved vision for how our golf courses interact with the park properties on which they are located. Parks staff looks forward to providing an update to the Board of Park Commissioners about the project plan for the Glenway Park and Golf Course on February 10<sup>th</sup>. The project is directly linked to the vision put forth from the Task Force based on their significant study of the issues surrounding the City's golf program.<sup>1</sup> The project directly addresses the majority of the recommendations made by the Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks as discussed in the January 22, 2021 memo<sup>2</sup> to the Golf Subcommittee on January 28, 2021<sup>3</sup>. It would provide improved golf at Glenway into the future, while being intentionally designed to increase access for non-golfers, and making substantial improvements to the environmental sustainability of the park property.

Michael and his team are working diligently to provide a high-quality professional design to be presented at the public input meeting scheduled for February 17, 2021. Parks staff is working closely with Michael in this process. Additionally, Parks staff are working with established subject matter experts to assist with operations and maintenance plans for the property. This includes engaging with the University of Wisconsin in a manner that brings world class knowledge to support the project and the larger underlying question of how ought municipalities manage golf course properties. Working together towards answers on that question seems to me to be a great example of The Wisconsin Idea.

Parks staff are also working with a team of accomplished ecologically minded professionals to provide a solid foundation for the restoration and maintenance of a diverse ecological habitat at Glenway. This work builds off of work already underway by our dedicated golf staff, and is being done with a focus on integrating the land management of the current golf course area with the vision of improved ecological management of the Glenway Woods (which is part of a future project led by Parks). In addition, staff are evaluating options to improve retaining stormwater given the property is in the Lake Wingra watershed. Parks staff are also working to develop a financial analysis of the project and its implications for the golf program budget, both during the project and projections for the longer term.

There is certainly still much to do to bring this to fruition. From my perspective, given the project vision is consistent with the Park and Open Space Plan and the Task Force Report on Municipal Golf, I am optimistic that this project can successfully move forward and bring significant positive benefits to our community.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/about/golftaskforce.cfm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://madison.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9083959&GUID=C3073806-C52B-4920-8B10-35389EB306A1>

<sup>3</sup> <https://madison.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4749885&GUID=C8DC45F8-93E3-4904-AE19-C7666D35248A>