



# Madison Parks Division

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Room 104  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-266-4711 • [cityofmadison.com/parks](http://cityofmadison.com/parks)



May 28, 2021

## **Dane County PARC and Ride Grant Application- Cannonball Path and Aldo Leopold Park Shred to School Grant Narrative**

This grant request will help fund the proposed “Shred to School” (StS) trail to be located along the Cannonball Path in near southwest Madison. The Cannonball Path is a paved shared-use path that travels from Fish Hatchery Road over the Beltline to Verona Road. In 2022, the City of Madison will be extending the Cannonball Path to the Wingra Creek Path with connections to Wright Middle School.

Along its route the Cannonball Path connects to the Southwest Path, the Capital City Path, the Badger State Trail and the Military Ridge Trail. It also is a route for bicyclists to connect to the Seminole Mountain Bike Trails and the Quarry Ridge Mountain Bike Trails from southern Madison.

Aldo Leopold Park, located adjacent to the Cannonball Path, is a neighborhood park, owned and managed by Madison Parks. The park is 11 acres in size and features a picnic shelter, playground, basketball courts, paved paths, park benches, a sledding hill, and community gardens. Aldo Leopold Elementary School shares a property boundary with Aldo Leopold Park. The Cannonball Path, as identified in the Dane County Parks *Park and Open Space Plan*, runs along the western property line. The StS will bring another recreational opportunity to this already popular trail, providing an off-road riding experience to get from home to school and back again for the students of Aldo Leopold School.

In mountain biking parlance to “shred” is to ride a trail with particular fervor, passion, speed, skill, and/or style. The intention of this facility is to design a single track chip seal bike trail with fun and challenging features that starts on the south side of the bridge over the Beltline, proceeds in the right of way of the Cannonball Path, past Aldo Leopold Park and connecting to the school campus and Post Road. We are certain that providing this fun and exciting way to get some exercise, improve your biking skills, and get yourself to school will prove a hit with the students of Aldo Leopold School as well as bikers along the Cannonball Path.

Aldo Leopold Park is a neighborhood park, owned and managed by Madison Parks. It is located in near southwest Madison, and is adjacent to Aldo Leopold School. A student photography study, completed by the Aldo Leopold students in 2017, identified bicycle facilities as an important addition to the school grounds and area surrounding the school. Additionally, the Neighborhood Resource Team, a group of residents and city staff focused on providing assistance to the residents of the neighborhood, have recognized the importance of this project and assisted Madison Parks in implementing it.

The trail will be about 3,500 linear feet, and located in the green space to the east of the paved Cannonball Path. Each feature will have an alternative route that does not require one to navigate the feature, this will allow bicyclists to design their own adventure that suits their current skill set. Both north and south bound traffic will be accommodated.

The StS will serve a racially diverse school and neighborhood. The demographics of Aldo Leopold School are as follows:

- Hispanic 38%
- African American 28%
- White 24%
- Asian 3%
- Multi-racial 7%

The area is also mixed income with some of the highest rates of economically disadvantaged students in the City. The area has a low rate of owner occupied housing (29% for these neighborhoods on average vs. 49.3% city-wide). Finally, the neighborhoods served by the StS have a high percentage of households with children below 17 years of age (29% vs. 17.5% city-wide).

People of color, people living with lower incomes, and people who are otherwise marginalized (because of gender, age, home language, etc.) often suffer disproportionately from chronic diseases, such as obesity, diabetes, depression, hyper tension, and heart disease as well as others. This is caused by barriers to health care, lack of access to healthy foods, and barriers to opportunities for active and healthy lifestyle choices.

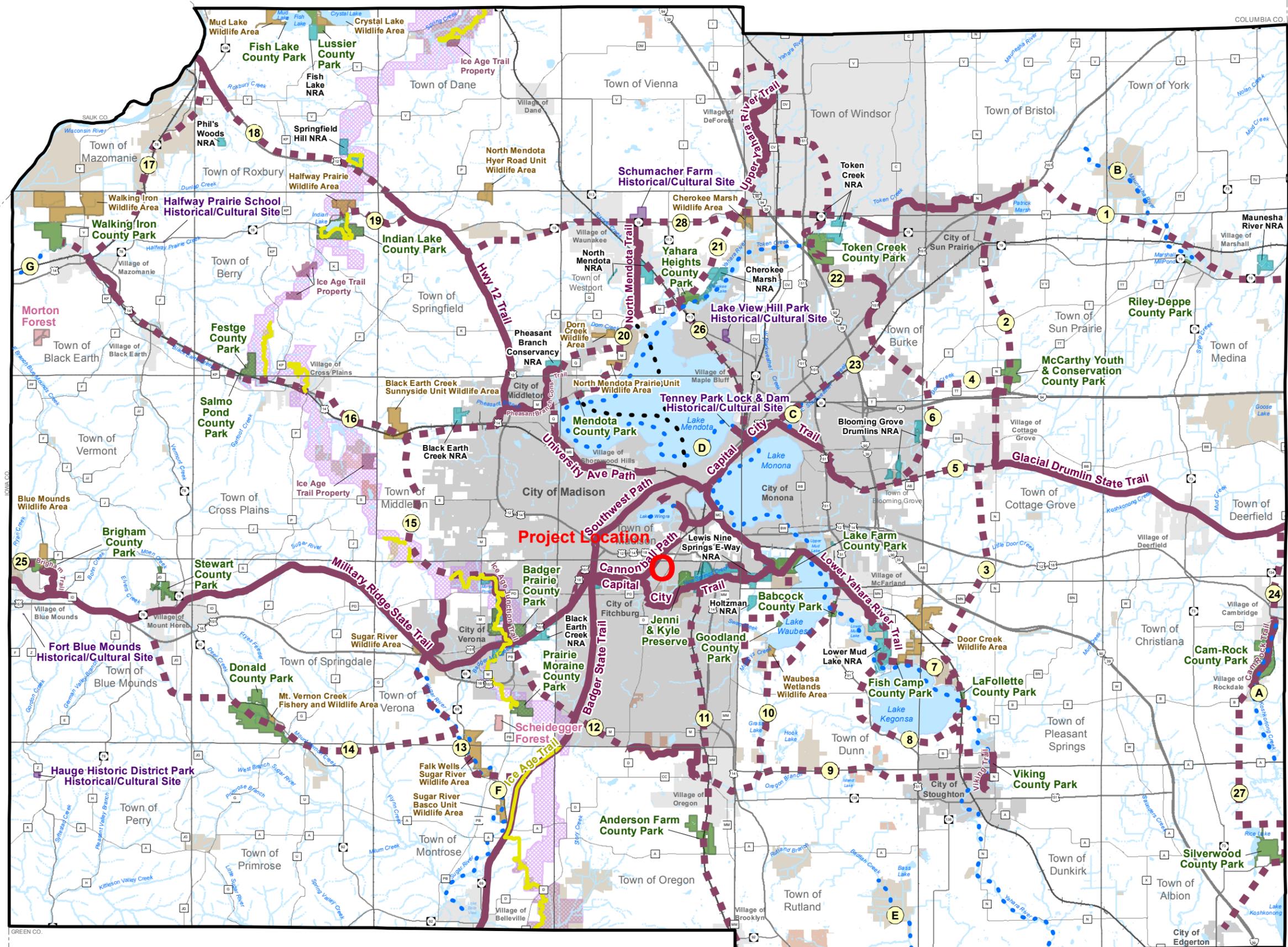
Access to parks and recreation services provides mental, physical and spiritual benefits for the community. While this Shred to School trail cannot address all these issues, it will provide a unique recreational opportunity, close to home, for many disadvantaged youth. Youth in this neighborhood are served by a number of opportunities to get bikes through programs like Wheels for Winners and Free Bikes 4 Kids so bike access is not an issue. However, the students have said they would like fun places to ride.

We anticipate these new feature along the Cannonball Path will be very popular. Between the children that live in the housing that surrounds the park, the over 700 students that attend Aldo Leopold School and the thousands of bicyclists that use the Cannonball Path in any given week, the feature will be heavily used. The StS will also add an element of fun to bike education classes that are currently ongoing at Leopold Park with local youth. This facility will also help facilitate the riding skills needed to eventually have the confidence needed to ride the other local mountain bike trails.

The 2018 to 2023 Madison Parks and Open Space Plan identified recreational biking as a need for the Madison park system. The StS, as well as other single track bike features for Aldo Leopold Park were identified in the recently completed Madison Bicycle Adventure Trail (MadBAT) Feasibility Study.

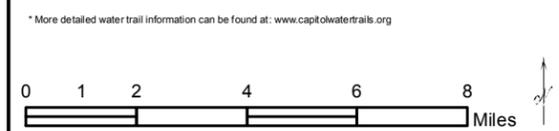
Madison Parks has developed the concept drawings and early engineering drawings for this project. The land it will be built on is owned and managed by the City of Madison. The project is included in the Parks Capital Improvements Plan and we plan to complete it in late 2022 or early 2023, pending review and approval by Common Council and the Mayor. Madison Parks would welcome Dane County as a partner in this exciting and important project.

# Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan Regional Trail Map 2018 - 2023



- Existing and Proposed Regional Trails**
- Existing Shared-Use Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail
  - Proposed Shared-Use Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail
  - Proposed Bicycle/Pedestrian Ferry
  - Existing Water Trail
  - Existing Ice Age National Scenic Trail
  - Ice Age National Scenic Trail Corridor
- Dane County Parks System**
- Recreation Park
  - Natural Resource Area
  - Wildlife Area
  - Historical or Cultural Site
  - Forest
  - Trails

- Proposed Shared-Use Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails**
1. Token Creek Co. Park to Riley Deppe Co. Park
  2. Georgia O'Keeffe Trail
  3. McCarthy Co. Park to Lake Kegonsa State Park
  4. McCarthy Co. Park Connector
  5. Capital City Trail to Glacial Drumlin Trail
  6. Blooming Grove Drumlin to Door Creek Park
  7. Lower Yahara River Trail
  8. Kegonsa Lake Loop (includes on-road segments)
  9. Stoughton to Oregon
  10. Oregon to Waubesa Lake Loop
  11. Fitchburg to Oregon Rail Trail
  12. Oregon to Badger State Trail to Military Ridge State Trail
  13. Sugar River Trail
  14. Sugar River to Mount Horeb
  15. Black Earth Creek to Pope Farm Park to Badger Prairie Co. Park
  16. Black Earth Creek (Good Neighbor) Trail
  17. Mazomanie to Sauk City Rail Trail
  18. Highway 12 Trail Connector
  19. Indian Lake Co. Park Spur Trail
  20. North Mendota Trail
  21. Upper Yahara River Trail
  22. DeForest to Sun Prairie
  23. Starkweather Creek Trail
  24. Glacial Drumlin Trail to CamRock
  25. Blue Mounds Loop
  26. Sherman Flyer Trail
  27. CamRock Co. Park to Silverwood Co. Park to City of Edgerton
  28. Highway 19 Trail
- Water Trails\***
- A. Koshkonong Creek
  - B. Mauneha River
  - C. Starkweather Creek
  - D. Yahara Chain
  - E. Badfish Creek
  - F. Sugar River
  - G. Black Earth Creek



**Data Sources:**  
 Recreation Parks, Forests, Historical/Cultural Sites, Wildlife Areas, Natural Resource Area Properties, Natural Resource Area Boundaries, Trails, Proposed Regional Shared-Use Trails and Ferry, Water Trails:  
 Dane County Parks (2017), Municipalities, Hydrography, Town Boundary: Dane County (2017), Railroad: Dane County (2014), Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Corridor and Properties: Ice Age Trail Alliance (2017), Existing Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails: Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (2017).

# ALDO LEOPOLD BIKE PARK

## SHRED TO SCHOOL TRAIL

Beltline

Prepared for:



Prepared by:



① "Shred to School" Trail



② 2020-21 Temp Trail



③ Pump Track



2 Foot Contours

