

# Vilas Park Master Plan

## Community Input Meeting #1

June 26, 2019 | 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Vilas Park Main Shelter | 702 S Randall Ave

**Total Participants: 79 signed in**

**Presentation and Exhibits Available at:** [www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/vilas-henry-park-master-plan](http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/vilas-henry-park-master-plan)

### Meeting Format

The meeting began with an open house period to view exhibits and talk with the project team, followed by a presentation from MSA Professional Services that shared the Vilas Park Master Plan project overview, timeline, goals and objectives.

The presentation was followed by additional free time to discuss and provide input on questions provided by the project team in small groups.



The project team includes the City of Madison Parks Division (lead agency), MSA Professional Services (project manager, landscape architecture, engineering), and Urban Assets (public engagement).

### Presentation Q&A Notes

The following questions were addressed by the project team during Q&A:

- Who makes the final decision about approval of the Vilas Park master plan?
  - The Board of Park Commissioners. Parks Division staff provide guidance and recommendations to the commission, and there is time for public comment at every commission meeting.
  - Master plans do not go to the Common Council for approval. However, the Council is responsible for approving the Parks Division budget, which determines which elements of the master plan are implemented and when.
- When is the next public meeting?
  - The second community input meeting will be held in March 2020, and will be an opportunity to review several master plan concepts based on the additional technical analysis and public engagement that occurs between now and then.
- Most of us here tonight live around the park. Will you get input from others who use the park? Our input will likely be different.
  - Yes, Vilas is a designated "Community Park," so gathering input from people beyond the adjacent neighborhoods is an important part of the process. In addition to public meetings, the engagement process includes 40 site observations with intercept interviews of park users; a resident resource group that engages diverse community voices; and focus groups

with current or potential future park users from around the community, aimed at engaging people who do not typically attend public meetings. There are also comment cards available in the park and at other community locations.

- Will the input from this meeting be compiled and shared?
  - Yes, there is a Vilas Park Master Plan webpage that will host all meeting materials and results. All of the comments from the discussion boards and comment cards will be recorded and shared.

## Group Exercise Notes

Participants provided input on the following questions that were provided on boards to each table:

1. What parks mean to you. What image, memory, place, or feeling first comes to mind when you think about time spent in a park (any park)?
2. What to maintain and enhance at Vilas. What 1-2 things do you love most about Vilas Park today? What draws you here?
3. What to improve at Vilas. What 1-2 things do you hope can change at Vilas Park? What's missing or not working?
4. Vilas as a community park. How can Vilas Park best serve our whole community over the long term as Madison grows? What values are important?



**What parks mean to you. What image, memory, place, or feeling first comes to mind when you think about time spent in a park (any park)?**

### Topic 1 Takeaways

*Attendees had nostalgia for parks, specifically Vilas Park, due to the variety of activities available and the access to open greenspace, nature and water. Common park themes related to Topic 1 follow.*

- *The park offers a plethora of activities: walking, ice-skating, basketball, soccer, tennis, picnicking, playgrounds, play areas, swimming, and beach and water access.*
- *The park location is in a desirable area within the City due to its open vistas, green spaces, mature trees, and access to nature.*
- *Park shoreline, greenspace, water cleanliness, and safety are priorities.*

### Topic 1 Responses

- Public space
- The zoo
- Our kids learned to swim at the beach and skate at the lagoon.
- Playing outdoors
- Very important to keep up this

- Vilas means family outings- from the time our kids were babies, to ice skating to soccer- football and volleyball, learning to swim and culminating in a family wedding. It means morning walks, spotting of wildlife and closeness to nature.
- Parks mean a place where everyone feels welcome and everyone's right to enjoy nature is not infringed upon- no music, no smoking, no disorderly conduct
- So much! It's part of our neighborhood
- Open space in the city
- The Shoe!
- Consider role of park landscape- old trees, new trees, habitat for birds and butterflies, biodiversity
- Peacefulness in the city (oasis)
- Greenspace community
- Everything's quiet: Vilas park is on a quiet lake in a quiet neighborhood
- Peace and quiet
- Beauty of the outdoors and seeing many different people and enjoying it.
- Trees, grass, water, wildlife
- Trees, birds, quiet, wild animals
- Vilas park is everything to me. I am at it almost every day. It is green and beautiful.
- I either walk, bike, or row, or cross-country ski in the park almost every day.
- Do not over pave- do not need more parking
- There is plenty of parking in neighborhoods. People can park and walk, we should not enable a car culture.
- Clean lagoons of water, cut weeds in water, do not let it go back to a swamp.
- Walking paths- add connection between northern path and path by the zoo
- Cut the lake weeds more
- Open spaces, ice skating lagoon, walking paths, using road to bike or walk along lake and bridge
- Vilas is a green oasis in the middle of an increasingly densely populated city- keep it green and don't overdevelop it.
- A place of beauty, a place to sit and enjoy as well as to play (multi-purpose)
- Trees, greenspace, beauty, quiet, water, peaceful, walking, being with family and friends, Group parties, bird watching, kayaking
- Hockey in the beards and lagoon
- Basketball with friends
- Tennis with family
- Views of Lake Wingra and the Arboretum
- The playgrounds when my kids were young
- Open spaces and beautiful vistas
- Walking paths and picnic areas
- Sledding down the hill by the bike path
- Large group picnics
- Neighborhood sponsored T-ball and soccer games
- Hockey speedskating on clean, clear ice
- Neighborhood football games on field set up for parochial games
- Happy and relaxing moments with family and friends

- The park is a place to slow down, relax, and enjoy life year-round!
- North woods WI feel and atmosphere while fishing from shore or from a rowboat
- Surrounded by natural shoreline in urban areas
- Hours at the 300- ice skating especially at night
- Love walking in the parks in winter and summer
- This was where we decided we wanted to move to Madison
- Vilas beach is great (when water isn't polluted)- Always loved the diversity of the people enjoying the beach and water
- Walking paths and watching people play
- I spent a lot of time at the playgrounds, beach and ice-skating rink when my kids were young.
- Playgrounds
- Beautiful walks and scenery
- Interacting with nature and doing recreational activities
- We love parks for natural areas, skiing, skating, boating, picnicking, walking

**What to maintain and enhance at Vilas. What 1-2 things do you love most about Vilas Park today?  
What draws you here?**

### **Topic 2 Takeaways**

*Answers highlighted the following Vilas Park themes:*

- *Attendees love the natural beauty and peacefulness of the park.*
- *The park offers a plethora of activities: walking, ice-skating, basketball, soccer, tennis, picnicking, playgrounds (Shoe, specifically), activity and play areas, swimming, beach/water access, paddle sports, and bicycling.*
- *The park location is desirable with open vistas, green spaces, mature trees, and access to nature, water, and the zoo.*
- *Priorities: greenspace and shoreline, water cleanliness, user safety, and limited paved parking areas.*

### **Topic 2 Responses**

- Nice shelter- offer skating somehow!
- Open space- please do not fill up the space with a community center, parking lot, or play field.
- Walking, bring grandkids, grew up in this park
- Public safety
- Keep up the shoe house
- Open space
- Mature trees
- Preserve/ensure there are playgrounds for a range of ages and abilities!
- Ensure public safety in the park!
- Lake Wingra access to the arboretum
- Include Friends of Lake Wingra
- Maintain: Tennis, soccer, beach, shelter, ice skating, open spaces, beautiful vistas, playground

- Enhance: The park could be much more beautiful with the elimination of invasive plants and adding native species to attract a wider array of butterflies and birds.
- If gardens are added to Vilas Park, it's important to remember that maintenance is critical. It's easy to sign up, but very hard to follow through.
- The enjoyment of the lake would be greatly improved if the road was partially removed.
- 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served party space non reservable and defined, or more picnic tables
- Continue goose management
- Lake view: continue understory management in the area over-looking the zoo near Annie Stewart; Started by Sy Widstrand
- Lakeshore should reflect the highest standards of sustainability and ecological health (Naturalize the shoreline with native pollinators to enhance this park as a natural asset).
- Add to fruit tree planting
- Vilas fields are too low, so they get soggy. Fill them in slowly with 1-2 inches of dirt each year for 5-10 years.
- Enhance access to the shelter by making the road 2-way from the beach to the shelter. You can keep 1-way to the bridge.
- Playground, trees, lake/lagoon, the stone bridge, the green space, ice skating
- I walk here every day. Road safe for stroller, bikes and walkers- right now it is very unsafe.
- Edible landscape
- Lake Wingra shoreline should be protected and improved.
- Kids playgrounds are great but get rid of the rubber mulch.
- Playgrounds
- Water greenspace, trails, nature
- Encourage multiple communities to converge here and play soccer
- Playgrounds, green space, shelter
- Peace and quiet
- Trees, playgrounds (shoe), beach
- Restore fountain at dinosaur park
- Forest over the swampy green space of lawn at the Randall entrance to the west of the parking lot- this would benefit wildlife and its always too wet for any other use
- Repair the lake past the playground
- Keep the Shoe at the playground
- What happened to using Border Collies for the geese?
- Keep the basketball court
- Good lake access for silent sports
- Bring back the speedskating oval around the island
- Why not maintain both lagoons for ice skating? Why just on the west side of the bridge?
- Maintain maximum green space, plant more trees and shrubs. Do not add more structure and development- there's already too much.
- Remove existing parking lots. Space is too valuable to waste on parked cars. The neighborhood can absorb parking needs (see Badger football Saturdays). Plus, transportation is undergoing great change. Will parking for cars even be needed in 10 years?
- If there is a way to control growth in the lagoon that would increase beauty and enjoyment

- Easy access to the lake for viewing, boating, and fishing. The new docks and viewing station are a great improvement.
- Maintain tennis courts and re-pave them. No pickleball (such a lazy game!)
- Add more fruit trees to the orchard
- Repair walking paths and put them in where they don't exist
- Open space
- Water access for swimming, paddle sports, ice skating
- Repair tennis courts!!
- The old shoe in the playground
- Walk and ride bike through to get to the arboretum
- Fill in low areas to better control water
- An education area for the many kids and students who come for visits
- Get sports activities back in the park
- Clean up the lagoon or fill it in
- The beach, playgrounds, ice skating, being able to enjoy the beauty and wildlife of Lake Wingra
- The longer we wait to fix the statue the more it will cost
- Restore the Annie Stewart fountain
- Old woman shoe slide, ice skating, walking paths, access to nature (water and green space)
- The beach, the shelter, the boat loading, the zoo, and the bike lane
- The shoe slide is unique and special, and we love that it is repainted annually by the art cart.
- Being surrounded by water (lake, lagoons) and quiet, natural areas
- The playgrounds as a magnet for families after they visit the zoo or who live in the neighborhood
- We love the warming hut in the winter for skating and that its not too expensive
- Ice-skating
- Leave the Annie Stewart Park as is, except clear out underbrush for site lines to the lake (volunteers did this several years ago)
- Preserve as many trees, even sick ones, as possible. Please cut down only as a last resort
- Zoo study- Dam Lake
- Love the wide-open spaces for lots of different activities
- Restoration of the Annie Stewart fountain and re-plant major trees there (but don't over-develop this secret garden)
- Fans in the shelter
- The beauty and open space for picnics and potlucks
- Ice skating pond in winter
- Ice skating, the shoe, beach access
- Restrooms/port-o-potties (improve, maintain, keep open)
- Love the bridges
- Natural beauty, open vistas
- Great space- No more parking!
- Love walking my dog here- would love an off-leash dog area
- Love the shoe, ice skating, the lake
- The walking paths for dog walking
- No more parking- keep existing green space

- Better lake access for paddle boards and kayaks
- Tennis courts, zoo, swimming, skating in winter
- No more parking spots
- More trees- do not cut our mature trees
- The beach and natural escape vibe the views offer
- Kid friendly attractions
- I like the mixed-use winter/summer ice skating, beach on Wingra. playgrounds, tennis, basketball, ball diamonds, hockey

**What to improve at Vilas. What 1-2 things do you hope can change at Vilas Park? What's missing or not working?**

### **Topic 3 Takeaways**

*Attendees had many ideas for improvements to the park. The common themes are listed below:*

- *Address low areas, swampy green spaces, and flooding on road.*
- *Improve, repair and maintain walking paths for pedestrians, and keep them free of ice and snow.*
- *Create an infrastructure for safer multi-modal access.*
- *Provide park wayfinding and improved signage explaining historic significance of native mounds.*
- *Create safer connections to Lake Wingra and the Arboretum.*
- *Eliminate the traffic thoroughfare in the park.*
- *Maintain or resurface and/or narrow the current drive and keep it, and the bridge, free of ice and snow.*
- *Move parking to the outer edges of the park.*
- *Discourage parking on residential streets including Vilas, South Orchard, Wingra, and Randall.*
- *Allow leashed dogs, create a dog park section, or designate dog hours in the park.*
- *Enforce dog rules.*
- *Maintain and improve activity areas such as tennis and basketball courts and remove rubber from play areas.*
- *Improve the shorelines and water quality of, both, the lagoon and Lake Wingra including the removal of invasive species and the restoration of native plants and habitat.*
- *Maintain park cleanliness by eliminating geese (and their droppings), and by adding additional receptacles for dog waste, trash and recyclables.*
- *Consider shelter improvements such as winterizing.*
- *Maintain the Annie Stewart Park and restore the fountain.*
- *Install a boat landing and fishing pier.*
- *Prioritize park users over vehicle access.*
- *Incorporate a community garden and fruit trees.*
- *Make the park more accessible for those with disabilities.*
- *Have appropriate lighting and address noise pollution.*

### Topic 3 Responses

- Open pleasure drive so older people can drive it
- Improve the shelter for all seasons
- More historical signage
- Let the ponds go natural
- Dogs should be allowed (on leashes)
- Weeds are horrible
- Need to keep up property
- More interpretive info for all ages about the nature, history, etc. of this place (via signage about nearby mounds, etc.)
- Create a visually cohesive space.
- Add a playground without junk.
- Prune trees over sidewalks
- I live on Vilas and buses don't bother me, but I have a garage.
- I only walk dogs through and along the back of Edgewood; I don't use the park- it seems people that don't live here use it which is great.
- Community gardens
- Create a walkway all along Lake Wingra with a barrier to separate it from the road- or narrow/remove the road.
- Improve water quality and improve weeds from the lagoon.
- Bird nests for cranes and cameras
- Don't open the park at 4 AM, nothing good happens when it's dark!
- Remove the dead tree trunk by the playground near Vilas Ave and Van Buren St; replace with a new shade tree.
- Consider filling in the grassy area near the end of the bridge from the island to the area bordering Vilas Ave; it gets wet and swampy a lot.
- Add more equipment to the playgrounds that is attractive to older children.
- Manage the geese. Goose droppings in the grass are a big problem.
- The new pedestrian bridges over the lagoon are an impediment to looking at the water. Can the wooden board just below the top metal part be removed? The side rails are too high. I want to see the water from the bridges.
- Most of the riparian area is in terrible shape. It should be widened (20+ feet) allowing for people to sit or fish.
- The lake is important to people's enjoyment. The road and all the traffic are a detriment and the road should be partially removed.
- Reduce unnecessary wet areas where walkers can end up ankle deep.
- Improve the small access ways to prevent stumbling or eliminate them and make it clear where valid entries are.
- General attention to safety
- Protect bike lane- cars don't know where they're supposed to be.
- The lagoon should return to marsh, it isn't good enough for people or nature as it is.
- The shelter should face away from the neighborhood. Events can be very loud.
- Dog park, adult exercise equipment, edible landscaping, beer garden



- Enforce parking on S Randall- People park illegally by fire hydrant at dead end circle all the time.
- Several years ago, you stopped mowing to the edge of the lake. Keep it up and improve plantings.
- Separate pedestrians and bikes from car traffic.
- No through traffic (parking on each end with paths through the park)
- Wetland restoration in lagoon (east side)
- Woodland restoration (create understory in areas with trees)
- Benches along lake shoreline
- Need shore-fishing piers
- Slow traffic- there are no speed limit signs now
- Dogs on leashes on walkways
- Recycling, trash, and dog poop collections
- The whole lakeshore- a very visually unappealing setting, traffic-oriented, unsafe for pedestrians and bicycles
- Fix parking along S. Orchard and Wingra drive- including lots. Encourage parking away from residential areas, which can be dangerous with a lot of little kids.
- Allow on leash dog walking.
- Help with trash clean up
- Woodland restoration and natural playgrounds
- Performance space, recycling containers and campfire space
- More recognition of the history and the land
- More parking for the zoo. Parking on Vilas for families with small children should NOT be encouraged- too dangerous!
- Add gathering data on traffic speed to assessment
- Better signage is necessary for parking and at dinosaur park to get to zoo.
- Field improvement
- No park vehicles on grass or bike paths, more defined and minimized vehicle use.
- Dog hours, more fruit trees and bushes
- Clarify policy regarding dogs: are they allowed? On leashes only? Enforcement?
- The lagoon is perpetually junk-filled. Why are there insufficient/nonexistent garbage cans in the area? When is the garbage collected?
- Dogs allowed in the park on a leash
- Mosquitos
- Volleyball courts (sand)
- Water quality, peace and quiet
- Better walking along the lake
- Less traffic (Through to Mills)
- Bicycle/runner traffic for people going around Lake Wingra is difficult with street crossings and the stone bridge.
- Enforce dog rules
- Need covered trash and recycling containers that are labeled with info on what goes where (many of our visitors are from out of state and don't know.
- Less pavement and maintain what is needed
- "Green"

- Pleasure Drive
- Water quality, climate change water levels rising
- This park is overcrowded. We don't need to attract more traffic here.
- Need to fix road so it doesn't flood, hard to bike or walk on
- Dog park
- Less wrong way traffic on the road
- I would love to have a dog park here. Of course I worry about parking- A neighbor suggested having a dog park after 5 PM (successful in NY) or before 8 AM
- Dog friendly day or time or area
- Hope they don't fix up the shelter, so it is too big and fancy!
- Dog park section at the far end of the park by the old bridge
- Improve point of access at the bottom of Lincoln St. and Park. Many large roots with cracked cement, this area is well used, but dangerous.
- More garbage cans for dog poop
- Tennis courts need to be fixed-cracked surface
- Beer garden
- What restrictions are there on amplified sounds?
- No amplified sound (Except for rented shelter)- this would decrease drug deals and harassment (much improved with ranger)
- Road needs to be resurfaced
- Clear out weeds in lagoon
- Correct some lights that are not made for the dark sky
- Beautify the shoreline
- Don't let road along the lake become a four lane speedway, keep it at two lanes with a slow speed limit
- Conflict of cars, bikes, walkers, runners, all competing for some space
- Plant more trees along the lake shore for shade, beauty and climate
- Need to improve the walking between the two zoo parking lots. There is no safe way for strollers.
- Is there any way to remove driving from the road and make it a path for walkers and bikes? There are too many cars in this small park.
- Better Ice maintenance. Don't rely so much on heavy equipment because you lose so many skating days November-December. Go lighter, which is more mobile and responsive.
- Move the parking to the edge of the park. The cars and parking diminish the quality of the park
- Improve walking path in heavy traffic areas. Don't overdevelop at expense of greenspace. Limit size of parking lots, and minimize infrastructure to keep a green space
- Better walking access from the zoo parking lot to the zoo, which is also needed by walkers and bikes.
- The shelter could use an upgrade. In winter it could be better equipped for ice skating as it used to be used. It could be more attractive.
- Reduce asphalt- It is ugly!
- Plant more trees along Wingra Dr. just past the bridge. That's a huge area that could use some more trees. Also, the island area could use some more trees- maybe birch.
- Restoration of Annie Stewart fountain

- Preservation, protection, education of burial mounds and the indigenous people who first lived here
- "clean-up" the lagoon waters
- How about a canoe launch deck
- Tennis courts!!
- Would love a dog park! (fenced in area for dogs to be off leash)
- Clean up the water
- There used to be a well-kept swimming area
- Make a safer connection to the neighborhood UW Arboretum
- A better Hockey area
- Take care of what's here. The portion of the park on the 500 block of S Randall is suffering from neglect and lack of maintenance. The lawn isn't mowed, weeds are waist high. The trees need pruning and trimming so branches don't rain down on every windy day. Dead trees and limbs need to be removed and replaced. Leaf collection is terrible leading to leaves going all over the neighborhood and into the storm drains. Vilas Park is a special place.
- Clean the pond and deal with geese!
- Improve water quality in Lake Wingra.
- Reduce the goose population
- Community garden
- Less lawn, more plant diversity
- Reduce car traffic
- Native plants
- Clean water in Lake Wingra
- Protect and preserve Annie Stewart fountain sooner than later as it will continue to deteriorate and needs attention now- 2021 is way too long!
- Remove the toxic tires from the playgrounds
- Sidewalk or bike path along Vilas Dr.
- Signage explaining the significance and history of the Native American Mounds
- Put a pedestrian bridge next to the Park and Pleasure Drive Bridge. There is not enough room on the PPD bridge for the car lane, bike lanes and pedestrians. I have almost hit pedestrians on my bike.
- Move the boat launch away from the parking
- Separate the pedestrians onto a separate path along Wingra Drive or close Wingra Drive to motor vehicles.
- It would be great to have offsite (but nearby) parking for buses
- Need boat landing and trailer parking
- Native American input, rice fields, pointer trees, maybe a Native American history walk in trees on the West edge of Park
- Dog walking should be allowed- We pick up!
- Sidewalks please between the bison and Orchard Street!
- Pedestrian walkways from neighborhoods
- Get cars and parking lots off the shore
- Off-leash dog area!
- Please do not expand parking lots in any significant way
- Zoo animals should not be abused by loud construction projects

- Hate to see more parking (black top) but neighborhoods are easily stressed with zoo parking
- Use restored/constructed wetlands for water treatment
- Natural playground
- Split the dam into 2 jumps
- Restore speed skating rink (lagoon) to wetlands
- No through traffic
- I like the variety of open and wooded spaces- good mix of both!
- Please create a good boat launch in Vilas
- More plants to soak up storm water
- Improve bicycle facilities
- Less lawn, especially down at water's edge where we need more natural habitat
- I'd love to see better mowing on the edge along S Randall. The overgrown weeds are extremely buggy/mosquito infested. It has the potential to look really nice and the overgrown/unmaintained nature of it "invites" people to throw their trash into the weeds.
- Allow dogs
- Better lake access for paddle boards- its super weedy and lot of goose poo
- Better de-icing of sidewalks in winter (to walk to zoo and ice skating)
- Control geese population please
- Would love a bike path connecting Vilas Park to Wingra Park
- With the lake was cleaner for swimming- I am concerned about the algae and the health issues it may cause
- More benches along the lake would be lovely to sit on and look at the water
- The paths across the new bridges this year were not cleaned of snow or ice and that should change
- Allow dogs to be walked on leashes. Allow dogs off leashes before 9 am and after 9 pm
- Address flooded paths West of the parking lot
- A more seamless transition between park attractions (ex: multimodal pathways)
- Don't make the beach feel constricted by road parking
- Prioritize park uses over vehicle access
- Better access for those with disabilities
- Traffic direction patterns for runners and walkers and cyclists along the lake
- Bike parking
- More recycling containers
- Dog park

**Vilas as a community park. How can Vilas Park best serve our whole community over the long term as Madison grows? What values are important?**

#### **Topic 4 Takeaways**

*Attendees felt the community would be served in the future by the following park values:*

- *Preservation of open greenspace and trees.*
- *The celebration and maintenance of the park's natural features with emphasis on lake and shoreline health.*
- *Preservation and reverence for the indigenous history of the park (including effigy mounds) and creation of appropriate signage.*
- *Incorporation of green infrastructure and educational opportunities.*

#### **Topic 4 Takeaways Continued**

- *Accessibility to the park by all with multigenerational activities.*
- *Maintenance of the Annie Stewart Park and fountain.*
- *Reduced parking and paved areas.*
- *Creation of a multimodal infrastructure for connectivity within the park with emphasis on pedestrians and bicyclists.*
- *Shuttles to reduce traffic and maintain connectivity between entrances (encompassing the zoo and Edgewood boardwalk).*
- *Preservation and maintenance of the ice-skating rink.*
- *Gathering areas including enhanced and maintained shelter.*
- *Dog friendly areas.*

#### **Topic 4 Responses**

- Provide access to nature and open space opportunities for unorganized outdoor recreation (swimming, boating, skating, walking, picnicking)
- Plan for how to continue to provide outdoor ice skating as winters get warmer
- Playgrounds!
- Control the beavers so they don't destroy the trees along the drive.
- Dog park
- Preserve green space
- By preserving this lovely open space as a get away from urban life. I love hearing the music and laughter in many languages, the shouts of games- keep it accessible and fun.
- Preserve green space
- Innovative use of low open area between Drake Street and the Zoo- now floods
- Provide shuttles to and within the park so the whole community doesn't need cars.
- Connectivity
- Shuttles so people can stay more than 2 hours, which is the parking limit.
- Plant/Re-plant shade trees near the playground.
- Have zoo provide shuttles from parking lots on Fish Hatchery instead of increasing parking.
- No buses for the Drake/S. Randall entrance/parking lot. Buses idle and the Zoo won't resolve. Fumes are pollution.
- Work with Edgewood College to connect to their boardwalk.
- Involve the zoo to be a good and active community member and neighbor.
- Solar panels, windmills
- Work with the city to complete a bike path on the lakeshore around Lake Wingra.
- Reduce speed along the lake to increase safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.
- Utilize green infrastructure to reduce/minimize impacts of "needed" hard surface areas like parking.
- Restore Annie Stewart fountain and keep it where it is.
- Public access- bus or shuttles
- Park should emphasize and celebrate its natural features. (Reduce extent of turf grass areas; treat lakeshore- outside of sand beach- as a sensitive habitat zone)
- Ensure that the right to enjoy a park are kept as the park gets crowded
- No bigger parking- there is a lot of nearby parking that could be utilized through shuttles.
- Fix up shelter and bath house like Tenney Park for rentals

- Maintain green space
- Water (rain) management
- Fruit trees
- Lake health preservation
- Honoring the indigenous history
- Balance the budget, not pass debt to our kids- spend wisely
- Clean water
- Dog hours (off-leash) early and evening
- Community park for all with no threats or criminal behavior
- Used by a diverse population- improve access by bus and public transportation.
- Keep ice rink and skate rentals open
- The ice-skating area is important
- This "Picnic" area could be an endeared meeting area- maybe more parking would be needed
- Install bicycle station at zoo entrance
- Maintain and improve access to Vilas by human powered modes of transportation
- More signage on history of the park
- Native American historical exhibits on original use of the park
- Keep the park a quiet, natural oasis, natural oasis in center of a city
- Preserve all existing effigy mounds
- Enhanced shelter
- Enough parking (if needed, more so others can come even if they aren't on bus lines)
- Keep the beach as clean and clear as possible for all the folks who come to cool off
- Bicycle connections with other parks and neighborhoods
- Make sure to get input from the people who fish (mostly non-neighborhood/Vilas residents)
- Make public transport available- No cars!
- Is "free" parking really "free"? As Madison grows should we look to other cities like Minneapolis where busy parks charge for parking (ex: Minnehaha Park) If someone walks or bikes to the park (or carpools or takes the bus) they use less resources.
- I think it's important to maintain Vilas Beach. So many of Madison's beaches have closed
- Maintain the ice rink in the winter
- Add a B-Cycle station at Drake and Randall
- Solar panels not only to provide power, but as an educational tool for protecting our world
- Provide for people with disabilities
- Multigenerational activities (things that children through retirees can experience together)
- Social media campaign to encourage stewardship-picking up trash and proper disposal
- Dog Park

## Comment Cards

The following questions and comments were submitted on individual comment cards:

- DOGS!
- The loudspeaker system was terrible and was made worse because speakers spoke too quickly. A project this important should have a speech system that is much better than this! – "too much bass, too little frequency"

- Point of access- small walkway from Lincoln into the park- had to navigate and needs to be paved again.
- Dog park- perhaps have hours before 8 AM and after 5 PM. Have an ENCLOSED AREA for all dogs. There are many dogs in this neighborhood. This way- may not be as much of a parking problem.
- Vilas Park is better suited to launch motorboats than Wingra Park, but the launch is not usable. Please fix the launch and provide safe backing access and trailer parking in the new plan. Launching at Wingra is difficult and dangerous backing over walking paths and launching into paddle craft area 20' away. Wingra should be limited to launching paddle craft and require launch fees to pay for improvements
- Enforce park rules regarding hours, no dogs, etc.
- Preserve green space and do not build any new parking lots
- Suck the much more the better, cover rocks so kids can't throw on ice- signs do no good
- Complete renovation of Annie Stewart fountain and add informative details for public, If not going to run water; fill in the base of the fountain for seating
- Clear brush and tree line in "dinosaur park" to open view of Lake Wingra/ rename "dinosaur park" officially, add directive signs to dinosaur park for zoo, properly protect and identify burial mounds; add educational signs with history of indigenous people here
- Create more contemplative spaces with benches, labyrinth, etc.
- Remove or update equipment in dinosaur park- make it more of a quiet gathering/contemplative area
- Add exercise stations along bike/walk paths
- Prioritize water runoff and lake health; attracting diverse wildlife and restoring habitats
- Add more fruit trees and edible landscapes