



# Vilas Park Master Plan

Community Partners Advisory Group  
Meeting #2  
February 11, 2020



## Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

# Goals of the Master Plan for Vilas Park Include:

- Development of a master plan document that has received input from a broad cross section of the residents of Madison.
- The master plan document will be a **framework plan** that will inform future budget requests to identify projects that will go through additional public engagement and design development processes.
- A master plan report that meets the expectations of the approved Park Master Plan Policy.
- To present a vision for Vilas Park that will help to inform development decisions over the next 15-20 years.

# PROJECT TIMELINE

## Vilas Park Master Plan: Phase II



**December 2020**

Site Analysis information compiled for master plan report and upcoming meetings; park use observations continue

**February 2020**

Youth Workshop, Focus Groups, Community Partners, Resident Resource Group & Interagency Staff meetings to review public comment



**Spring 2020**

Public Meeting to review Schematic Plans

DEC

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

**January 2020**

Master Plan survey closes. Additional input received from Greenbush and Vilas Neighborhood Association Meetings. Public comments received to-date from all sources reviewed and compiled

**March 2020**

Development of Schematic Plans

**Early Spring 2020**

Combined Community Partners & Resident Resource Group Meeting and Youth Workshop follow-up to review Schematic Plans

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Project Schedule – Phase III

# PROJECT TIMELINE

## Vilas Park Master Plan: Phase III



### Public Engagement Methods:

- Public Information Meeting (June 2019)
- Comment Cards (June 2019 – Nov. 2019)
- On-line Public Survey (June 2019 – Jan. 2020)
- Intercept Interviews (on going)
- Site Observation (on going)
- Community Partner Advisory Group (on going)
- Resident Resource Group (on going)
- Focus Groups (on going)

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

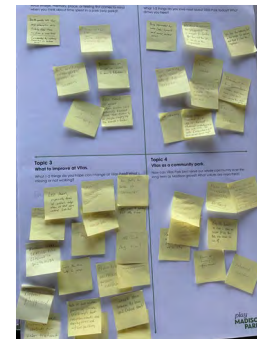
## Engagement Overview

### Public Information Meeting #1

**Date:** June 26, 2019

**Location:** Vilas Park Shelter

- 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
- Accessibility to the park by all with multigenerational activities



# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Engagement Overview

### Public Comment Cards

Collected June – November 2019\*

#### Top 5 Activities:

- Walking (40)
- Ice Skating on Lagoons/ park rinks (30)
- Birding/ Nature Viewing (28)
- Swimming (26)/Playground (26)
- Running/Jogging (24)

#### Most Important Amenities (current or potential):

- Walking Paths (23)
- Nature (20)
- Ice Skating (16)
- Playground (15)
- Beach (10)

\* 44 responses



### Site Observations & Intercept Interviews

- 4 park observations & intercept interview sessions per month. To continue through June 2020
- **24** park observations conducted
- **1,250** individual activities observed
- **32** intercept interviews conducted
- **9** parking counts conducted

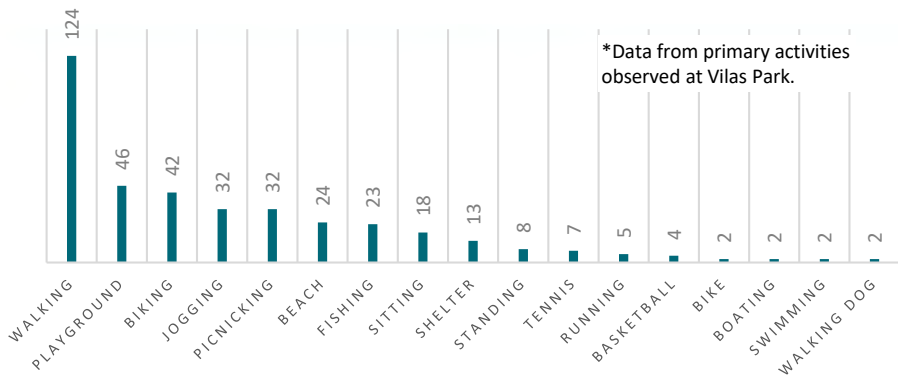




# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Engagement Overview

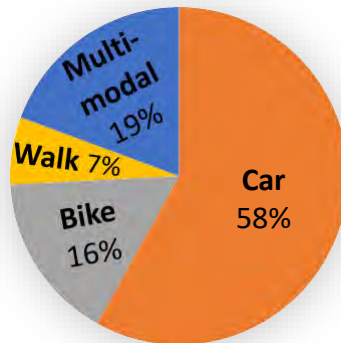
### Popularity of Activities at Vilas Park



### Common Input Themes\*

- Pedestrian and bicyclist safety
- Mitigate through traffic on Vilas Park Dr.
- Lake & lagoon cleanliness/ecological health
- Playground enhancements
- Maintain amount of green space
- Access for dogs (or dog-friendly area)
- More benches and picnic tables
- More Park Rangers – enforcement of park rules

### Mode of Access\*



### Demographics\*

#### Race

- White: 65%
- Latinx: 19%
- African American: 8%
- Asian: 8%

#### Age

- Range: 18 – 62
- Average age: 34

\*Derived from intercept interviews, comment cards, and focus group meetings.

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Engagement Overview

### Community Partner Advisory Group (CPAG) Meeting #1

**Date:** September 23, 2019

**Location:** Edgewood College

- Improve pedestrian safety and vehicular circulation on Vilas Park Drive
- Improve lagoons and shoreline
- Improve beach (and water quality in Lake Wingra swimming area)
- Better define boundary between Zoo and Park, specifically wayfinding and vehicular circulation

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Engagement Overview

### Resident Resource Group (RRG) Meeting #1

**Date:** November 6, 2019

**Location:** Barriques - Park St.

- Desire to analyze environmental aspects in the park
- Parking and traffic conflicts within park and surrounding streets
- Emphasize the diverse qualities of Vilas Park, environmental and social
- Greenbush and Vilas Neighborhood Associations to solicit feedback and ideas from members

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Engagement Overview

### Vilas Neighborhood Association\*

**Date:** January 22, 2020

- Pedestrian and bicycle safety, specifically Vilas Park Drive
- Parking within park as well as on surrounding neighborhood streets
- General support for preserving the Annie C. Stewart fountain
- Improve existing natural communities, such as wetlands and woodlands
- Consider allowing dogs on leash within at least some portion of the park
- Considerable support (> 66%) for benches along the Lake Wingra shoreline

\* Summary by MSA of survey results provided by Vilas Neighborhood Association

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Engagement Overview

### Greenbush Neighborhood Association\*

**Date:** January 27, 2020

- Pedestrian and bicycle safety (due to traffic speed and volume, especially on Vilas Park Drive)
- Parking (including impact on availability of street parking)
- Interaction with the use of Vilas Zoo (e.g., parking, traffic, noise)
- Public transit access (e.g., lack of nearby bus stops)
- Maintaining green space, tree canopy, natural areas, and environmental health (including stormwater management, local flooding, and water quality)

\* Summary taken from report dated Jan 31, 2020 produced by Jim Lorman, Greenbush Neighborhood Association

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Engagement Overview

### On-line Survey\*

- **496** Responses through 1/31/2020
- Users who visit “A few times per week” and “Once or Twice a Season” similar throughout all seasons.
- Traffic, Parking, Wet Conditions and Pedestrian access are largest barriers to park.
- Walking, Ice Skating and Passive Rec – most common activities.
- Favorite part of the park:
  - Lake Wingra/Beach,
  - Open Space,
  - Proximity to Zoo
- Needs Improvement:
  - Shelter
  - Parking/Traffic

\* Complete summary of survey results is available on the [Vilas Park Master Plan Website](#).

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Engagement Overview

### Badger Rock Focus Group

Date: September 25, 2019

Location: Badger Rock Middle School

- Improve parking and signage
- Improve public transit access
- Add accessible routes throughout park
- Consider live music in park
- Food Carts or other alternatives to eating in the Zoo
- Shoreline/Beach, open space/picnic areas, and proximity to the Zoo are the park's best assets
- Maintain community involvement in planning and events in the park
- Add accessible fishing piers/overlooks



### Accessibility Focus Group

**Date:** December 10, 2019

- Playground equipment with accessible swings and surfaces
- Identify accessible routes/better wayfinding (signs)
- ADA accessible restrooms
- Emergency call box at park interior
- Drainage issues make it difficult to use existing paths
- Smartphone app for wayfinding and education
- Lack of public transit connection (closest stop in about 1/3 mile from park)
- Consider bench and table locations for ADA access



## Themes from Public Engagement

### **MOBILITY AND SAFETY**

- Improve pedestrian safety along Vilas Park Drive corridor
- Consider accessibility in design of new trails and park features

### **ENVIRONMENT**

- Improve lagoon water quality and shoreline access and aesthetics
- Increase quality and size of natural areas within the park

### **COMMUNITY**

- Continued engagement with neighborhoods and park users for improvements and programming

### Site Overview – Inventory and Analysis:

- Historical Documents
- Existing Planning Documents
- Wildlife and Environmental
- Slope Analysis (Topography)
- Soil Conditions
- Zoning and Land Records
- Existing Utilities
- Tree Inventory
- Traffic and Parking
- State Agency (Permitting and Regulations)
- Interagency Staff Review

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Site Investigation: Review of Existing Documents

*\* = Student Project*

### Existing Planning Document Review

- 1989** – Brittingham Vilas Neighborhood Plan
- 2004** – Park Street Corridor Plan
- 2007** – Monroe Street Commercial District Plan
- 2008** – Regent Street-South Campus Neighborhood Plan
- 2010** – Greenbush Neighborhood Plan
- 2012** – Vilas park/Wingra Creek Shoreline Design and Restoration\*
- 2013** – Monroe Street Redesign\*
- 2014** – Vilas Park Shoreline\*
- 2017** – Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain Conservation Plan
- 2018** – City of Madison Park and Openspace Plan 2018-2023
- 2018** – Vilas Park Archeological Investigation
- 2019** – Friends of Lake Wingra Youth Design Project\*
- 2020** – UW Madison Engineering Capstone Course\* (in-progress)

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Site Investigation: Review of Existing Documents

### Wildlife and Environmental Review

**2003** – Lake Wingra Shoreline Habitat Restoration – Grant Application

**2009** – Lake Wingra: A Vision for the Future (Friends of Lake Wingra)

**2011** – Groundwatershed Status Report\*

**2012** – Sources of Chloride to Lake Wingra

**2013** – Best Management Plan for Sediment in Lake Wingra

**2013** – Wingra Watershed: A model for Green Infrastructure Design and Implementation\*

**2015** – Lake Wingra Watershed Management Plan

**2018** – Amphibian Phenology (Friends of Lake Wingra)

**2019** – Amphibian Phenology (Friends of Lake Wingra)

\* = Student Project

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Site Investigation: Slope Analysis



KEY	
ID	FEATURE
A	Vilas Park Mound Group
B	Basketball
C	Multi-use Path (Formerly Edgewood Dr)
D	Entrance Road
E	Annie Stewart Fountain
F	Playground
G	Tennis Courts (6)
H	Hockey Rink
J	Ballfields
K	Beach House
L	Vilas Shelter
M	Speed Skating Plaque
N	Shoe Playground
O	Pedestrian Bridge
P	Parking Lot
Q	Pump House
R	Boat Launch
S	Accessible Fishing Pier

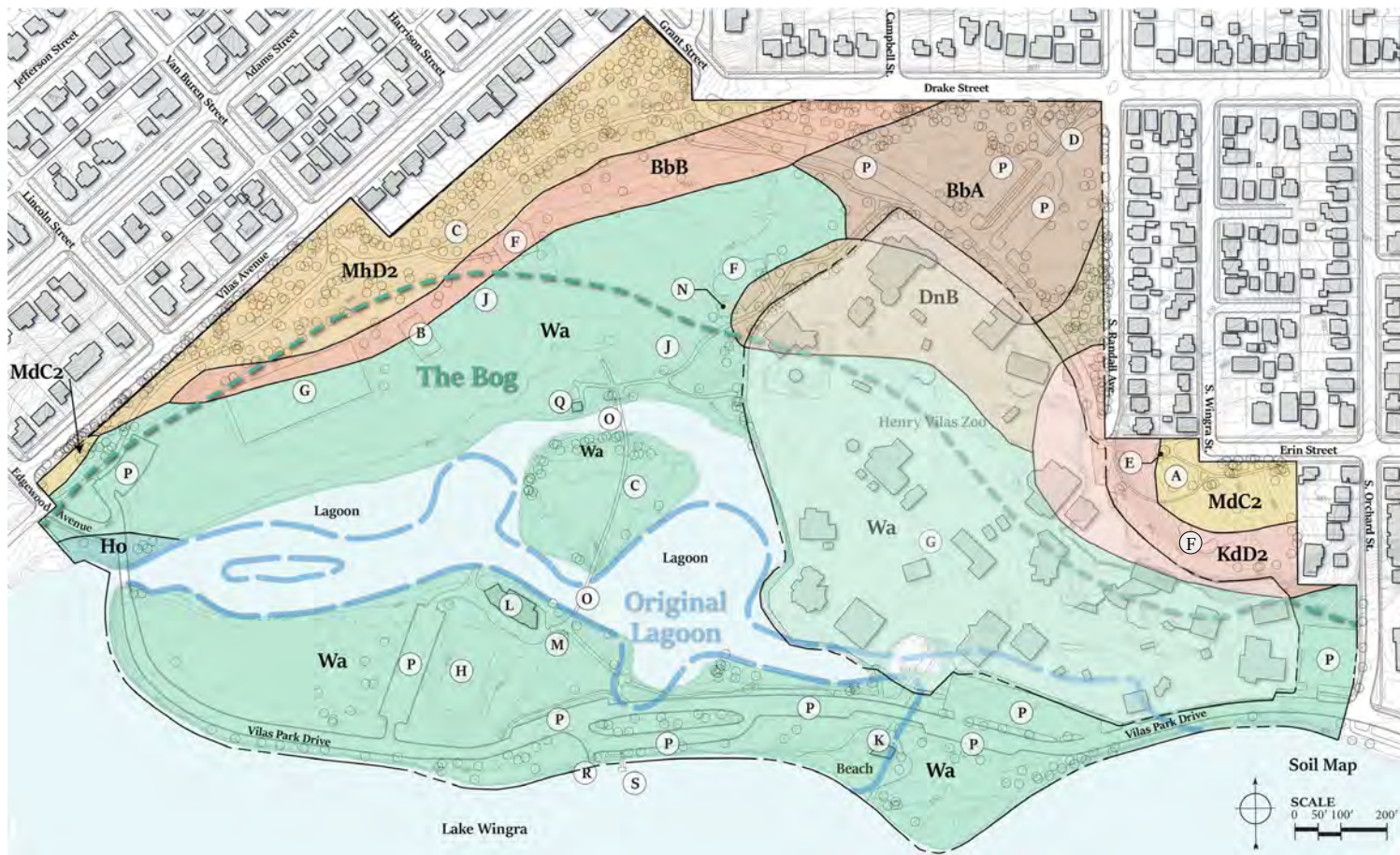
  

LEGEND	
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Slopes 0 to 6 Percent
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	Slopes 6 to 12 Percent
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	Slopes 12 to 20 Percent
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Slopes 20 Percent and Greater



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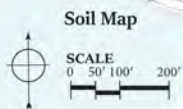
## Site Investigation: Soil Conditions



ID	FEATURE
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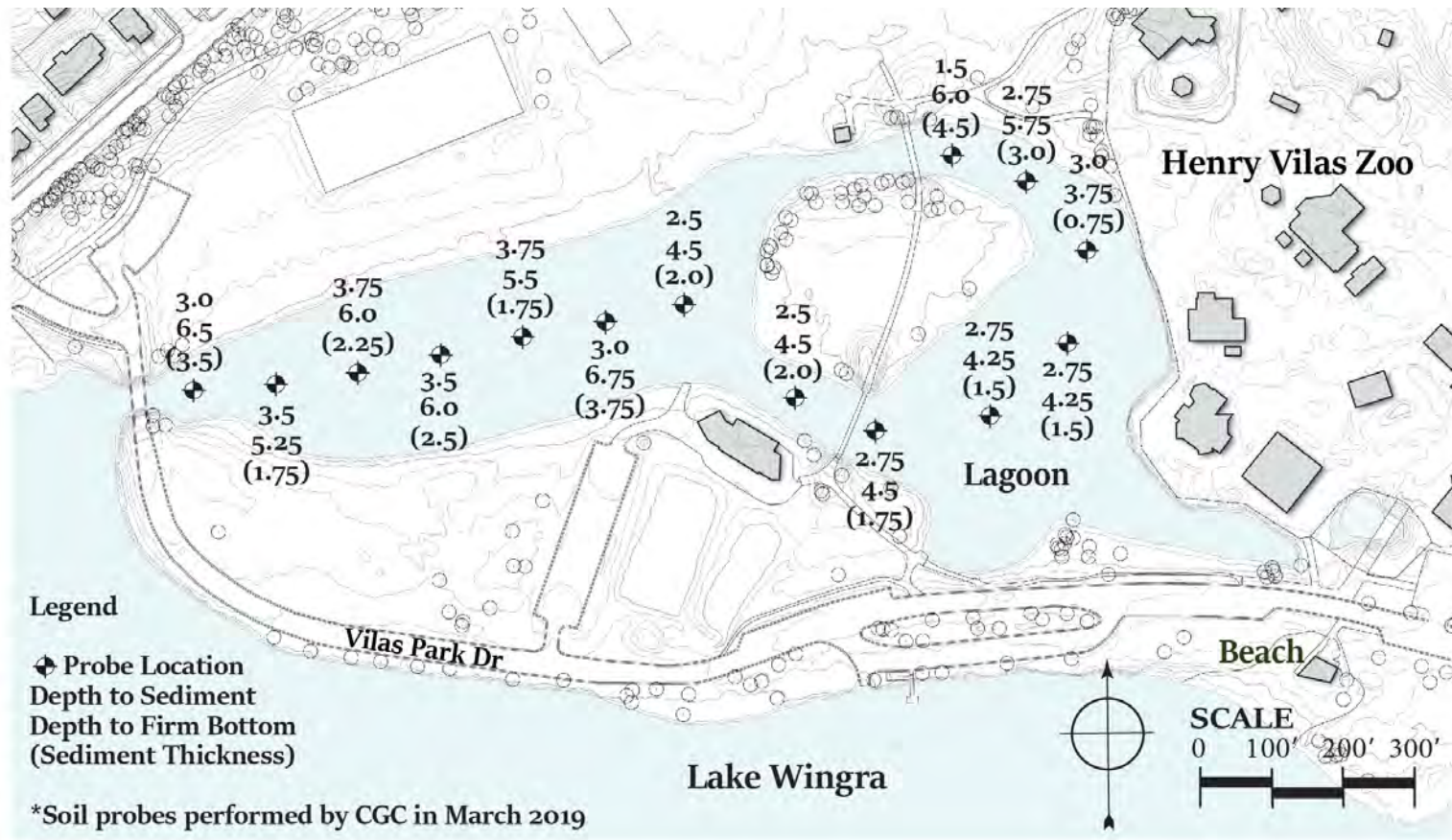
  

LEGEND	
BbA	Batavia silt loam gravelly substratum 0 to 2 percent slopes Well drained
BbB	Batavia silt loam gravelly substratum 2 to 6 percent slopes Well drained
DnB	Dodge silt loam 2 to 6 percent slopes Well drained
Ho	Houghton Muck Very poorly drained
KdD2	Kidder loam 12 to 20 percent slopes Eroded, Well drained
Mdc2	McHenry silt loam 6 to 12 percent slopes Eroded, Well drained
MhD2	Military loam 12 to 20 percent slopes Eroded, Well drained
Wa	Wacusta silty clay loam 0 to 2 percent slopes Very poorly drained



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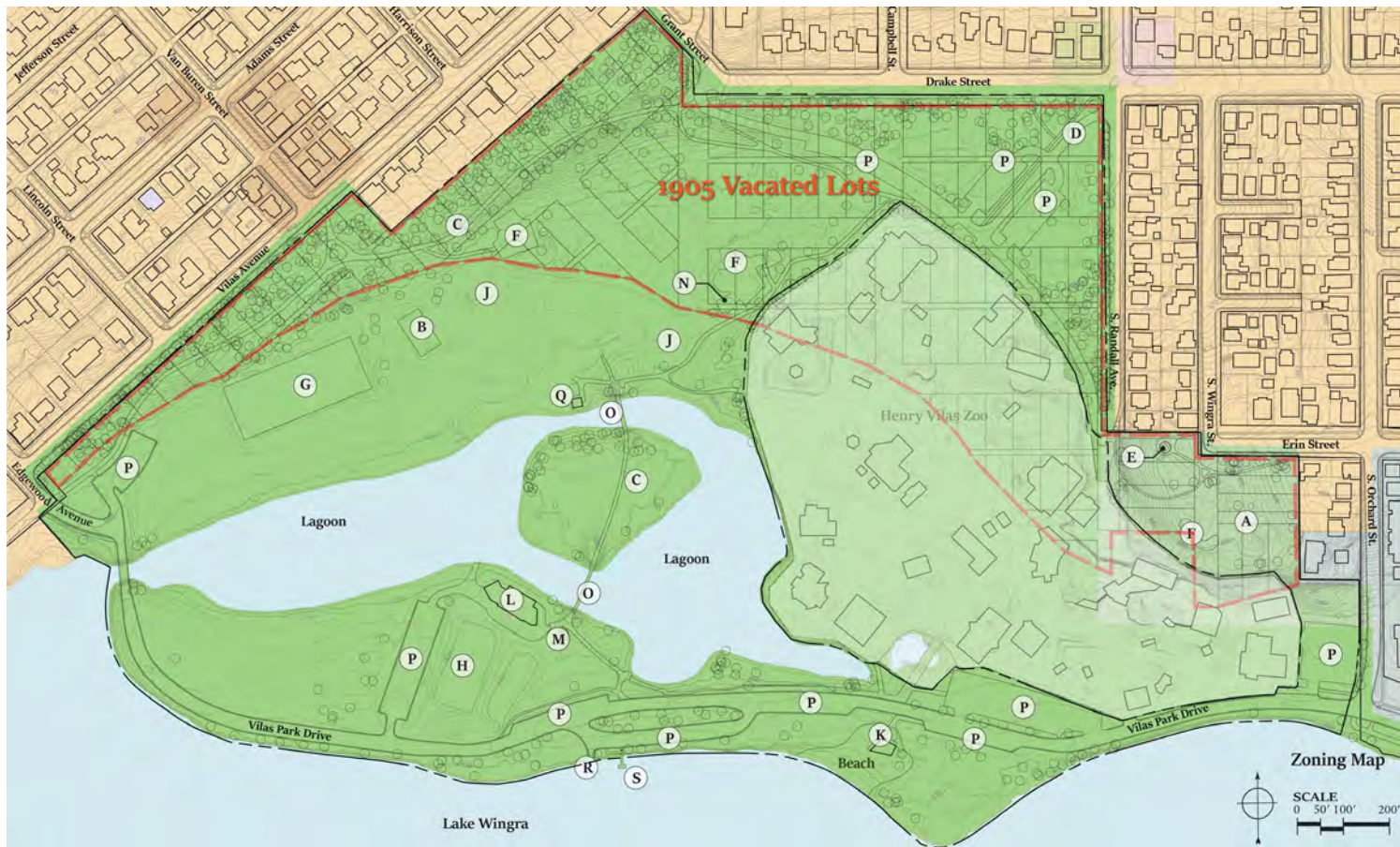
## Site Investigation: Lagoon Probes



Depth in Feet

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## Site Investigation: Zoning Map



### KEY

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### LEGEND

	TR-C2 Traditional Res.
	TR-C3 Traditional Res.
	TR-V1 Traditional Res.
	NMX Neigh. Mixed-Use
	PD Planned Dev. Dist.
	PR Park and Rec.
	Landmark Vilas Mound Group
	Landmark Leonard House



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## Site Investigation: Created Features



# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Site Investigation: Existing Utilities



# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Site Investigation: Tree Inventory



**KEY**

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**LEGEND**

- Trees - Desirable Species (Green circle)
- Trees - Undesirable Species (Red circle)
- Trees in City R.O.W (Light Green circle)

**Diameter**

10" ↔ 50" +

**Top 5 Desirable Species:**

- Red Oak (53)
- White Pine (42)
- Bur Oak (41)
- Elm (34)
- White Oak (27)

**Top 5 Undesirable Species:**

- Ash, Green and White (27)
- Alder (19)
- Norway Maple (19)
- Black Locust (18)
- Amur Maple (2)

**Tree Inventory**

SCALE  
0 50' 100' 200'

Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GB user community

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Site Investigation: Tree Inventory

### Current Species Diversity

- **724** trees identified with a diameter greater than 10-inches
- **44** unique species were cataloged during inventory
- **146** Oaks - White, Red, Swamp White, Bur (52” diameter Bur Oak was largest tree of any species recorded)
- **12** percent (87) trees are either invasive or un-desirable for overall health of Oak woodlands
- **27** Ash (9 – Green; 17 – White; 1 – Undetermined)

### Future Planting and Maintenance

- Quercus (Oaks) make up ~20% of the current canopy.
- City of Madison Urban Forestry Plan recommends no more than 10% be made up of a single Genus such as Quercus (Oaks) to create a resilient urban forest.
- Manage canopy to protect existing Oaks, consider diversity in future plantings.

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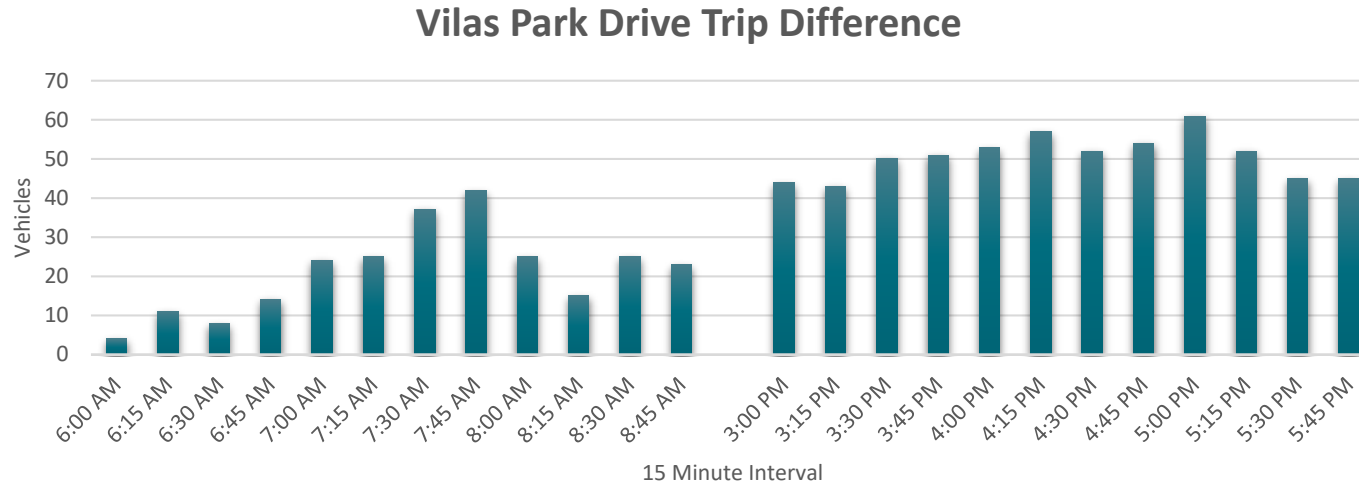
## Site Investigation: Traffic Impacts

### Traffic Analysis

#### Peak Hours

- Weekdays: 7:30 am – 8:00 am & 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- Weekends: 9:00 am – 10:00 am & 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

#### Pass Through Trips:



# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Site Investigation: Speed Study

### Traffic Analysis – Locations

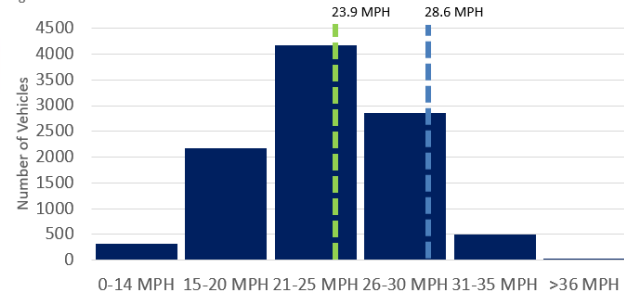


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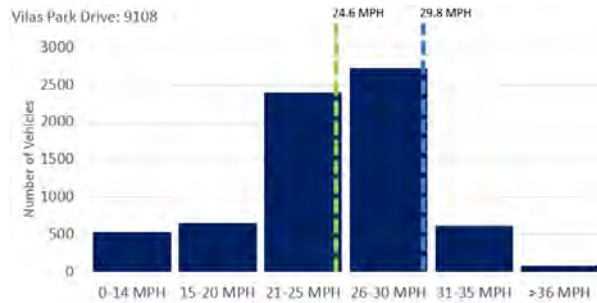
## Site Investigation: Speed Study

### August

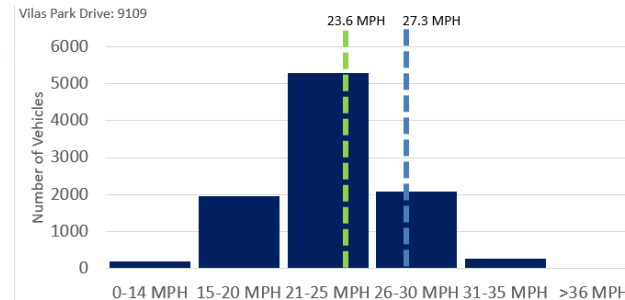
Edgewood Ave: 9107



Vilas Park Drive: 9108

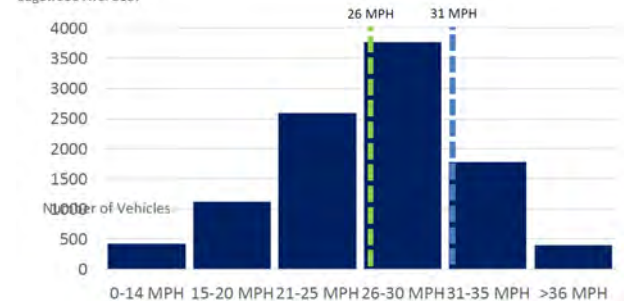


Vilas Park Drive: 9109

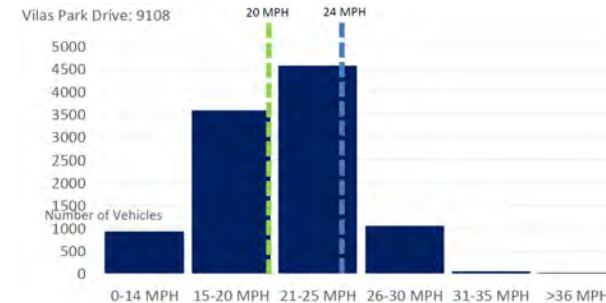


### November

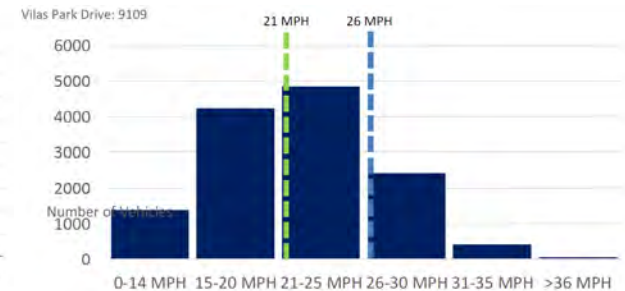
Edgewood Ave: 9107



Vilas Park Drive: 9108



Vilas Park Drive: 9109



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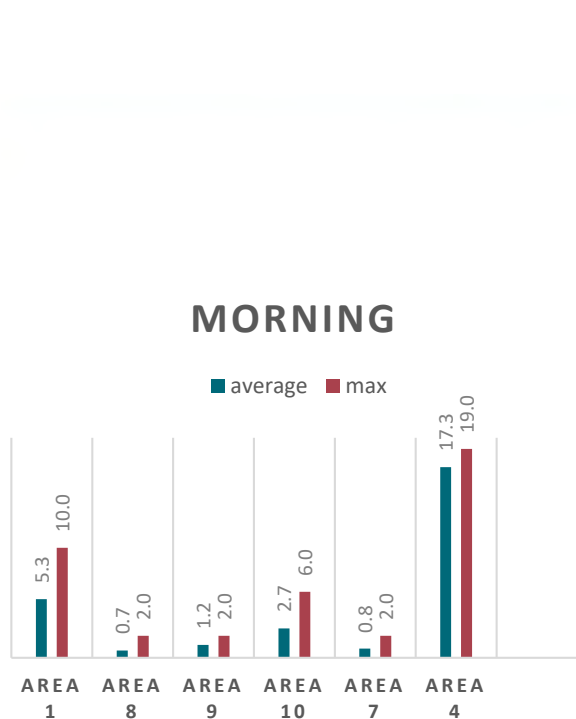
## Site Investigation: Parking Counts (Activity Areas)





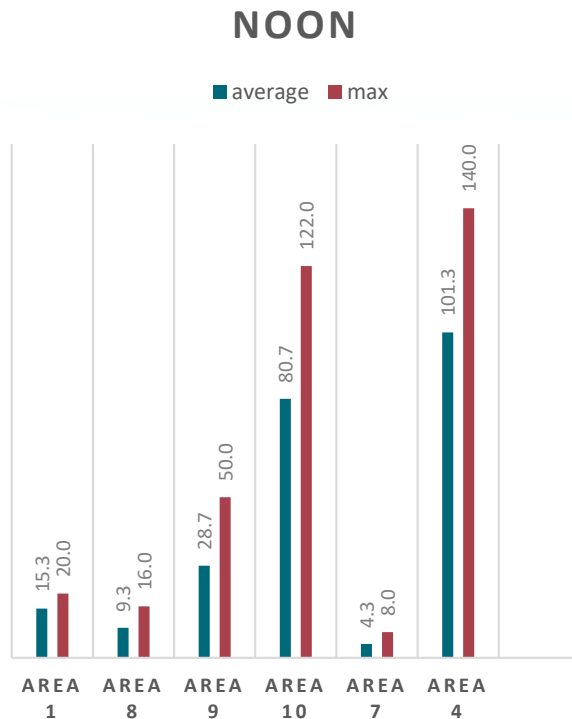
# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Site Investigation: Parking Counts



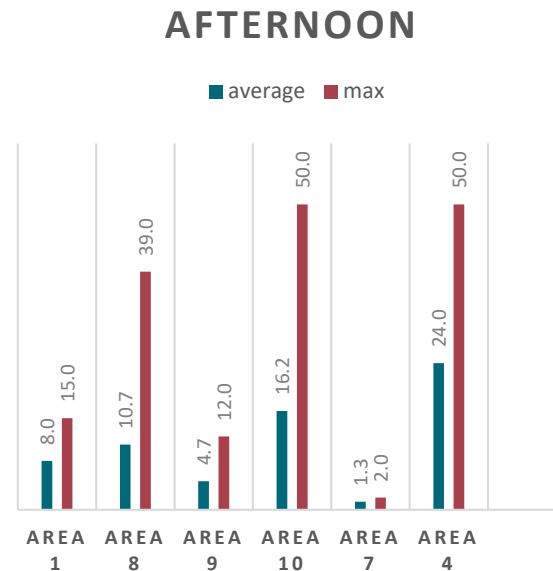
#### Dates of Observations

1. 6/28/2019 – 7:30 am & 8:30 am
2. 8/6/2019 – 7:00 am & 8:30 am
3. 12/7/2019 – 7:00 am & 8:30 am



#### Dates of Observations

1. 6/20/2019 – 12:00 pm
2. 8/28/2019 – 12:00 pm
3. 11/5/2019 – 12:00 pm



#### Dates of Observations

1. 7/11/2019 – 4:30 pm & 6:00 pm
2. 9/27/2019 – 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm
3. 11/22/2019 – 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Site Investigation: Tribal Preservation Officer Meeting

### Bill Quackenbush, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)

- Ho-Chunk Nation Cultural Resources Division
- Meeting Date: December 9, 2019

#### Meeting Summary\*:

- **ANY** land disturbance within 2018 Archeological Report boundary the must be supervised by a qualified archeologist
- Follow existing City of Madison Mound Management Plan regarding maintenance or disturbance (inadvertent discovery practice/protocol) around the existing mounds
- If neighbors are to assist in managing mound, if not already required, develop a release form to define guidelines and protocols
- If replacement of the “Dinosaur” playground is desired or required, consider location of replacement due to impact of excavation for the structures footings

\* - Full meeting minutes available

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Site Investigation: Interagency Staff Review

### Representatives from:

- City of Madison – Parks Division
- City of Madison – Traffic Engineering
- City of Madison – Stormwater Engineering
- City of Madison – Planning Division
- Dane County - Henry Vilas Zoo
- UW Madison Arboretum
- City of Madison – Police Department\*\*
- City of Madison – Fire Department\*\*
- Madison Metro Transit\*

### Meetings to Date:

7-24-2019 & 10-23-2019

\* = Guest Representatives 10-23-2019

\*\* = Guest Representatives Feb. 2020


### Summary:

- No bus routes planned to serve the Park/Zoo directly. A special shuttle could be considered if appropriate turnaround and staging area is provided in design
- Closest Transit Stop: Route 4 at Erin & Mills
- Single storm sewer discharge from a portion of Vilas Neighborhood into lagoons
- Consider control of nutrient inputs into Lagoons from lawn clippings, leaves, fertilizer, etc.)
- Lagoon core samples show contamination, special handling of sediment must be accounted for if dredging is considered
- Parking lots in Vilas used football Saturdays. Tailgaters willing to pay parking tickets to avoid paying for private parking
- No lighting in main parking lot for night-time zoo events
- Upcoming Zoo Master Plan and Strategic Plan

# Vilas Park Master Plan – Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting #2

## Meeting Summary: Phase 2 – Design Development

### Where do we go from here: Design Development

- 
- Meeting #3 - March/April (Combined RRG/CPAG Concept Review Meeting)
  - Meeting #4 – May 2020 (RRG & CPAG Draft Master Plan Report Review Meetings)
  - Meeting #5 – Late-August 2020 (Combined RRG/CPAG Final Master Plan Review Meeting)

