

# Old Timber Park Development Plan

10305 Hazy Sky Pkwy

City of Madison Parks Division  
Madison, WI



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**MADISON  
PARKS**

Board of Park Commissioners  
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**Prepared by the City of Madison Parks Division**

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## Table of Contents

Introduction	p. 1
History	p. 2
Existing Planning Documents	p. 3
Existing Conditions	p. 3
Current Uses and Maintenance Practices	p. 3
Park Naming Process	p. 3
Development Plan Process and Public Input	p. 4
Development Plan Proposed Improvements	p. 5
Exhibits	p. 7
Exhibit 1: Adjacent Parks	
Exhibit 2: 1000 Oaks Development Survey Map	
Exhibit 3: Pioneer Neighborhood Development Plan	
Exhibit 4: Existing Topography	
Exhibit 5: Existing Slope Analysis	
Exhibit 6: Community Survey Results	
Exhibit 7: Public Information Meeting Slides	
Exhibit 8: Old Timber Park Development Plan	

## INTRODUCTION

Old Timber Park is a 5.52-acre mini park located on the far west side of Madison, located at 10305 Hazy Sky Parkway, and was acquired by the City of Madison Parks Division in 2018. Following the National Recreation and Parks Association recommendations, Old Timber Park is classified as a mini park and has a service area of 1/4 mile. The nearest developed parks to this location are Cardinal Glenn, Sugar Maple, and Thousand Oaks. Sunshine Ridge and Acacia Ridge Parks are also near Old Timber Park, but at this time are undeveloped. See Adjacent Parks Map (Exhibit 1).

It is the intention of the Parks Division that this area's parks and amenities act as a cohesive system in order to maximize recreational potential. Therefore, in an effort to address the greater far west planning area as a whole, three undeveloped parks were included in this development planning process, including: Acacia Ridge, Sunshine Ridge, and Old Timber Parks. These parks underwent the site inventory and analysis and public input process as a group; however each has a separate development plan document and corresponding report.

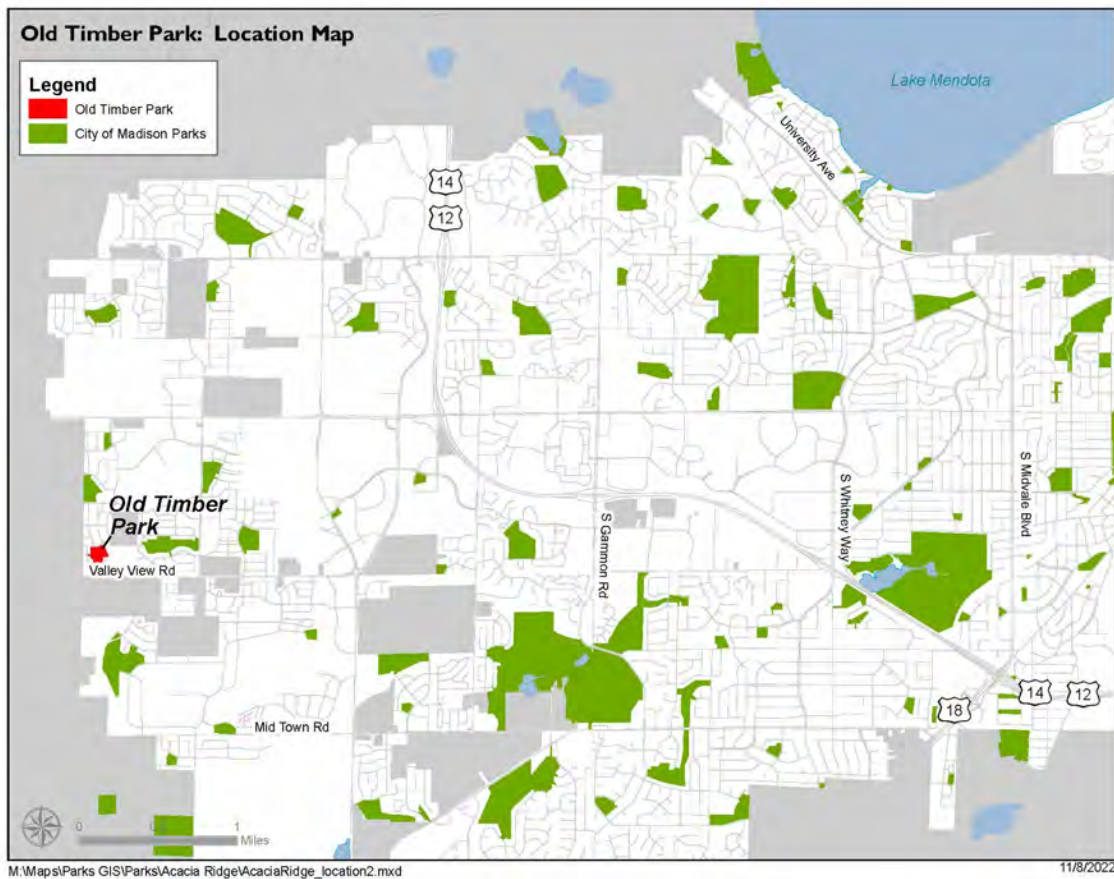


Photo: Location of Old Timber Park

## HISTORY

The parcel for Old Timber Park has extensive history as agricultural property. In the year 2018, this parcel was dedicated as public parkland in Outlot 18 as part of the 1000 Oaks-West development (see Exhibit 2). Old Timber Park and the surrounding neighborhood are part of the Pioneer Neighborhood Development Plan (see Exhibit 3).



Photo: Aerial view of Old Timber Park, circa 1937

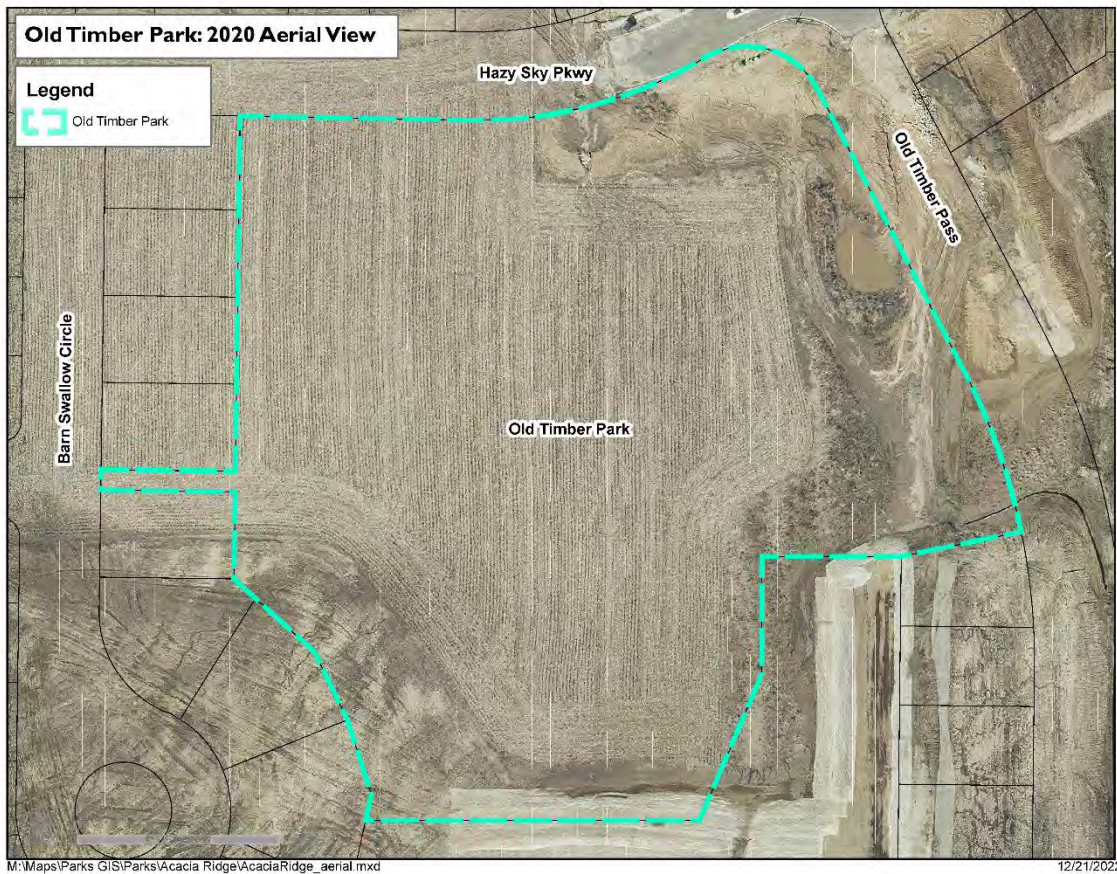


Photo: Aerial view of Old Timber Park, circa 2020.

## **EXISTING PLANNING DOCUMENT**

The Pioneer Neighborhood Development Plan contains general recommendations for park acreage and location for this area, including for Acacia Ridge, Sunshine Ridge, and Old Timber Park. However, as an undeveloped park, and a relatively new acquisition, Old Timber Park has not previously undergone any planning processes by the Parks Division.

## **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

Old Timber Park consists of 5.52 acres of abandoned agricultural crop field. The parcel slopes downwards from the northwest to a low area in the southeast corner, which can be seen on the Topography Map (see Exhibit 4). A majority of the park area features slopes between 1-5% as shown in the Slope Analysis Map (see Exhibit 5).

The dominant soils on site are Kegonsa, Troxel, and Plano Silt Loams; typical characteristics of these soils include 0-6% slopes.

A vegetation survey was not undertaken, as no existing trees were on site at the time of this report.

## **CURRENT USES AND MAINTENANCE PRACTICES**

As an undeveloped park, Old Timber Park offers no formal amenities. The parcel is open to the public for unprogrammed activities.

There are no current maintenance practices at the time of the writing of this report.

## **PARK NAMING PROCESS**

Park parcels receive “working names” when the City of Madison becomes the owner of the land. The names for the three parks involved in this development planning process, Acacia Ridge, Acer (now Sunshine Ridge), and Birchwood South (now Old Timber), are examples of working names. The Parks Division presented the official park naming policy and process to the public during both public meetings, and invited suggestions for new park names to be submitted through the community survey. At the second public input meeting, Parks staff polled participants on which new, official name they preferred. The Long Range Planning Committee then reviewed these names, which were accepted at the December 2022 Board of Park Commissioners.

Birchwood South Park received several suggestions for a new name, including: Birchwood Park, Old Timber Park, or Thousand Oaks West Park. Attendees of the second public information meeting preferred Old Timber Park, and so after review by the Long Range Planning Committee and the Board of Park Commissioners the official name was revised from Birchwood South to Old Timber Park.

## **DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS AND PUBLIC INPUT**

The development plan process included public input meetings (PIM), a community survey, and review by the Board of Park Commissioners, which is consistent with the adopted [Park Master Plan Policy](#).

### **Public Input Meeting #1**

The first public input meeting (PIM) was held on June 23, 2022 and was advertised with signs placed in the park, postcards sent to residents within a 1/2 mile radius of the park, email notifications sent to the alder and Cardinal Glenn and Birchwood Oaks neighborhood associations, social media posts, and on the Parks Project webpage. The public input meeting provided history, background, and context for the sites and elicited neighborhood input on the park and potential amenities. This meeting was recorded and, along with a PDF version of the presentation, made available on the Park Project webpage.

### **Online Community Survey**

To gather additional feedback, a community survey was created to gauge the desire for specific amenities that are typically offered within neighborhood parks while also identifying seasonal usage patterns and demographic information. A additional section was designed to elicit feedback and ideas regarding the names of the parks involved in this development planning effort. This survey was made available online and garnered 146 individual responses. The results of the survey were then compiled; these results can be seen in Exhibit 6.

### **Neighborhood Association Meeting**

Representatives from the Cardinal Glenn and Birchwood Oaks neighborhood associations also independently gathered feedback, and met with Parks staff on August 1, 2022 to discuss their findings in relation to the draft development plans.

### **Public Input Meeting #2**

After analyzing the input received at the first public information meeting, through the community survey, and from the neighborhood associations, two development design concepts were created. These development plans were provided for the community to review at a second public input meeting which was held on August 11, 2022. The second meeting was advertised with signs placed in the park, email notifications sent to the alder and Cardinal Glenn and Birchwood Oaks neighborhood associations, email notifications to those who attended the previous PIM, social media posts, and on the Parks Project webpage. The majority of attendees expressed a preference for the final proposed development plan for Acacia Ridge Park. This meeting was also recorded and made available on the Project webpage. The presentations provided at both public input meetings can be seen in Exhibit 7.



## **DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

For all three parks the top desired amenities identified through the development planning process were hiking/walking paths, sun/picnic shelters, off-leash dog areas, and preservation of the existing natural areas. Overall, there was strong representation and support for the broader themes of socializing, nature, shade, connectivity (in particular for pedestrians and bicyclists), variety (in terms of recreational opportunities), and canine access. The proposed park development plan for Old Timber Park (see Exhibit 8) took into consideration the topography, existing vegetation, and public input received by Parks staff.

### **Native Vegetation**

The development plan includes the addition of “no-mow” vegetation areas along the south and west boundaries of the park. Parks staff received several comments supporting the reintroduction of native vegetation in the park, as neighbors were in support of providing resources for wildlife and minimizing mowing. Additionally, over 82% of survey responses indicated natural areas as fairly or very important. The native vegetation also provides a buffer between residential lots and park users, and provides additional interest for the proposed trails.

### **Trails**

A variety of trails, including paved and mowed, will take advantage of the proposed native vegetation restoration and pleasing viewshed in the park. Over 40% of survey respondents indicated they typically visit parks or outdoor recreation areas to walk/hike or view nature, and 26% said the opportunity to do so was lacking in their local public areas. Nearly 92% of respondents ranked hiking/walking paths as fairly or very important amenities to be included in their local parks. Adding trails to Old Timber Park will not only help meet this need, but will help improve connectivity throughout the Cardinal Glenn and Birchwood-Oaks neighborhoods.

### **Sun Shelter**

An open-sided sun shelter with picnic tables is included in the proposed development plan. The new shelter will be located near the Community Recreation Area in the north-east corner of the park, affording neighbors a shaded seating area from which to supervise children and a space to hold informal gatherings (a feature currently lacking in the neighborhood per public input responses). In the community survey, over 80% of the respondents thought a sun shelter was fairly or very important to include in the development plan.

### **Community Recreation Area**

The overarching goal of the Community Recreation Area is to provide the neighborhood with a space which supports gathering and socialization. The Parks Division intends to achieve this goal at Old Timber Park by providing amenities such as lawn games (bag toss, ladder golf, etc.) and additional seating options such as patio-style swings. These amenities would complement the proposed sport court

area and sun shelter, and provide neighbors with a more comprehensive recreation experience which is appealing to a wide range of ages.

### **Sport Court Area**

Adjacent to the Community Recreation Area, the intention of the Sport Court area is to provide court-based amenities such as tennis, pickleball, and basketball. According to studies conducted by Parks staff, the far west area of Madison is deficient in court-based amenities, particularly tennis/pickleball. In addition, approximately 46% of survey responses rated tennis/pickleball courts as fairly or very important to include in the park development plan. Informally, Parks has received strong support for pickleball from residents of the neighborhood and staff anticipate exploring this option further.

### **Mowed Field Area**

Ideal for pickup games and informal activities, a mowed field area will be located on the north side of the park, to the west of the Sport Court Area. Over 48% of community survey respondents rated open fields (for soccer, Frisbee, catch, etc.) as fairly or very important to include in the development plan.