



Vilas Park Master Plan

Resident Resource Group
Meeting #2
February 10, 2020



Vilas Park Master Plan – Resident Resource 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

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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)

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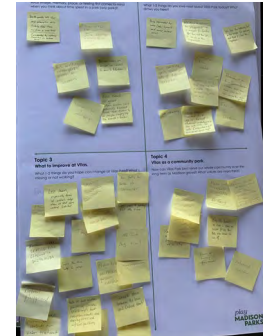
Engagement Overview

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



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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

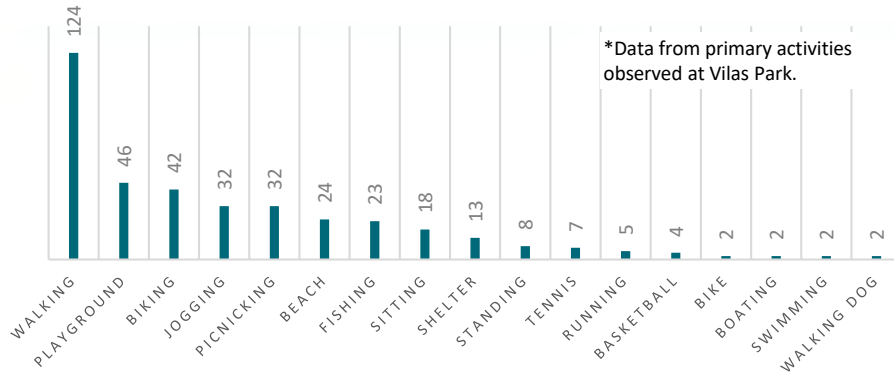
- 4 park observations & intercept interview sessions per month. To continue through June 2020
- **24** park observations conducted
- **1,250** individual activities observed
- **32** intercept interviews conducted
- **9** parking counts conducted



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Engagement Overview

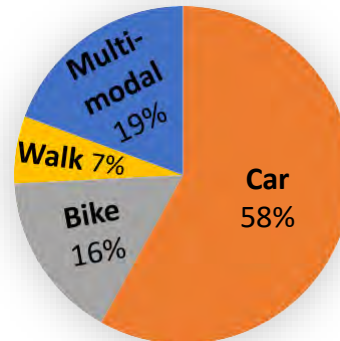
Popularity of Activities at Vilas Park



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.

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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](#).

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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

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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)

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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)

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Site Investigation: Slope Analysis



KEY

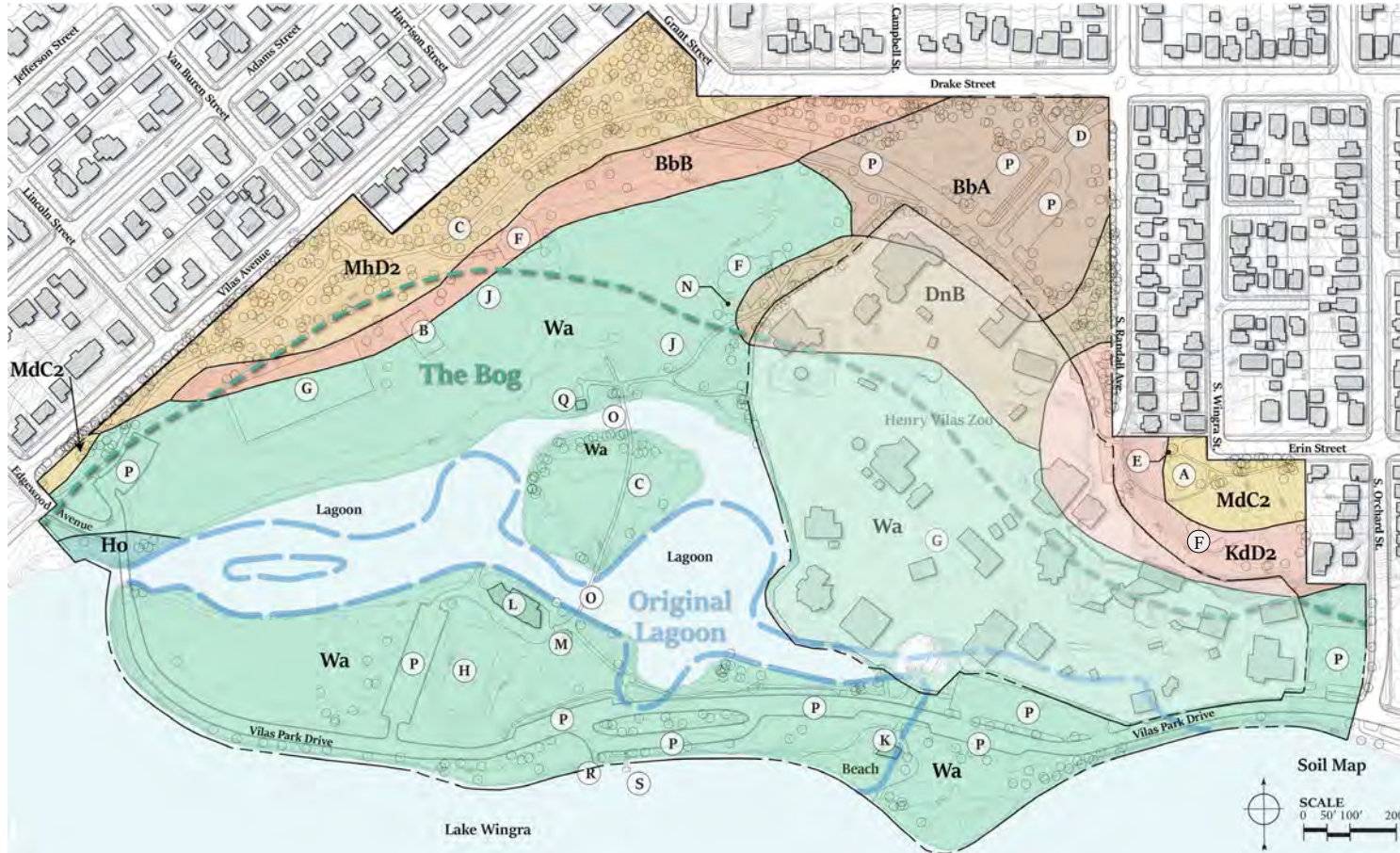
ID	FEATURE
A	Vilas Park Mound Group
B	Basketball
C	Multi-use Path (Formerly Edgewood Dr)
D	Entrance Road
E	Annie Stewart Fountain
F	Playground
G	Tennis Courts (6)
H	Hockey Rink
J	Ballfields
K	Beach House
L	Vilas Shelter
M	Speed Skating Plaque
N	Shoe Playground
O	Pedestrian Bridge
P	Parking Lot
Q	Pump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

LEGEND

	Slopes 0 to 6 Percent
	Slopes 6 to 12 Percent
	Slopes 12 to 20 Percent
	Slopes 20 Percent and Greater

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Site Investigation: Soil Conditions

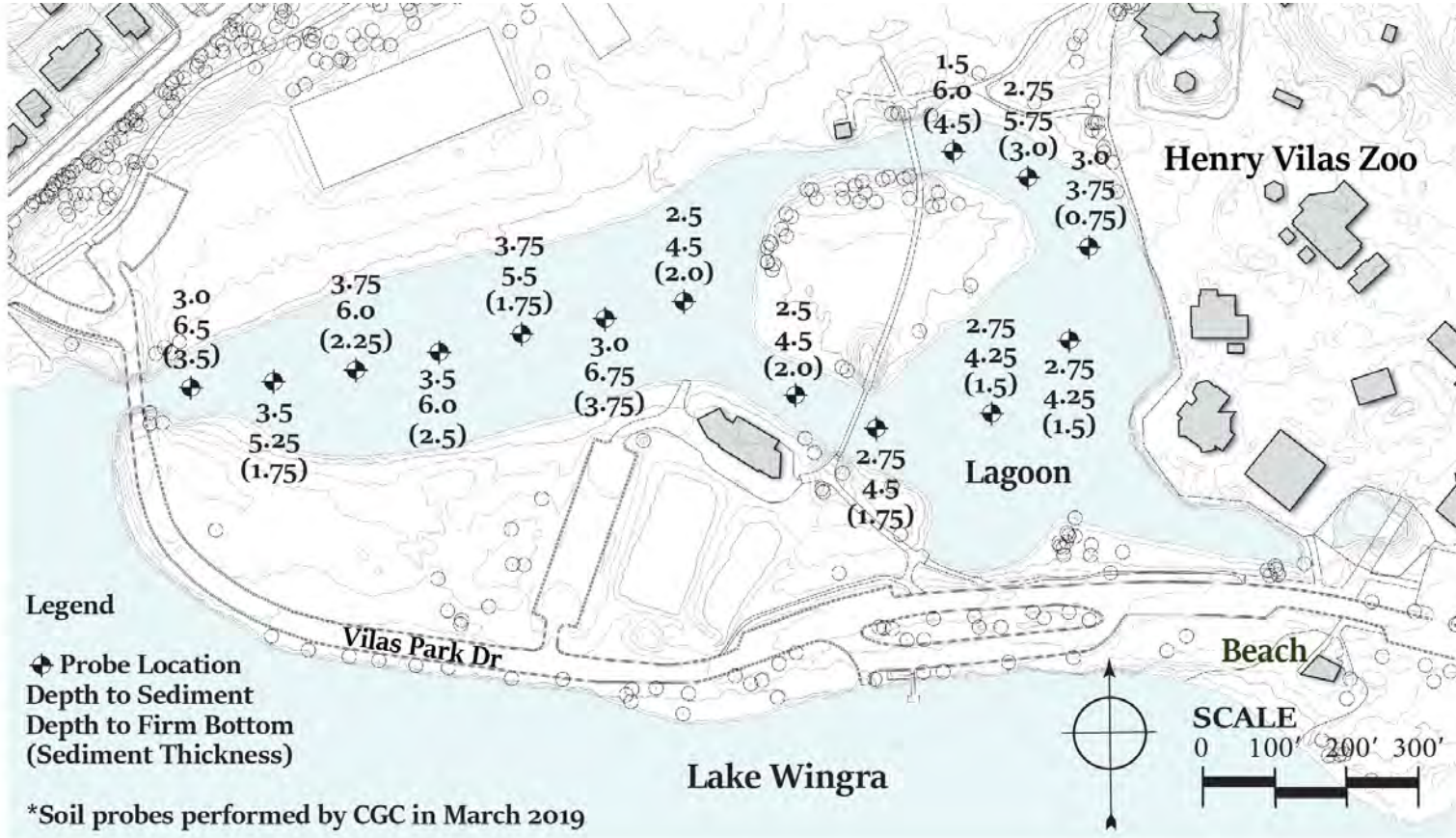


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LEGEND	
BbA	Batavia silt loam gravelly substratum 0 to 2 percent slopes Well drained
BbB	Batavia silt loam gravelly substratum 2 to 6 percent slopes Well drained
DnB	Dodge silt loam 2 to 6 percent slopes Well drained
Ho	Houghton Muck Very poorly drained
KdD2	Kidder loam 12 to 20 percent slopes Eroded, Well drained
MhC2	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

Legend

- ◆ Probe Location
- Depth to Sediment
- Depth to Firm Bottom (Sediment Thickness)

*Soil probes performed by CGC in March 2019

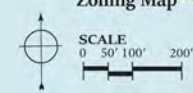
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Site Investigation: Zoning Map



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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



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Site Investigation: Existing Utilities



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LEGEND	
	8" Cast Iron Pipe - Water Line
	MG & E Electric Line
	MMSD Sanitary Line
	Clay Pipe - Storm Line
	Approx. 10' Deep Electric Line
	Gas Line

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Site Investigation: Tree Inventory



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)

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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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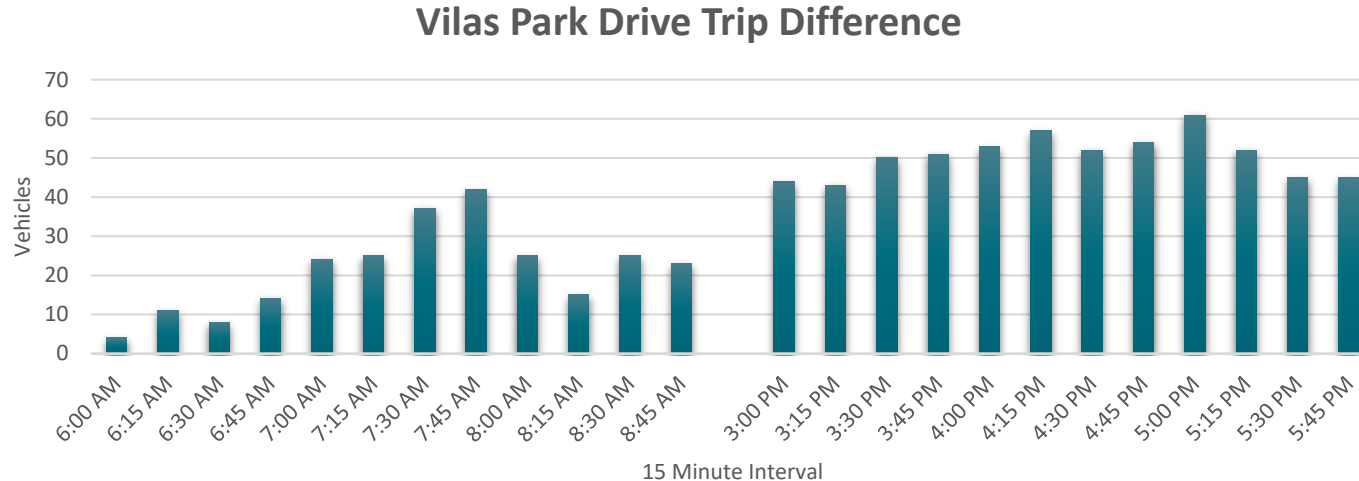
Site Investigation: Traffic Impacts

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:



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Site Investigation: Speed Study

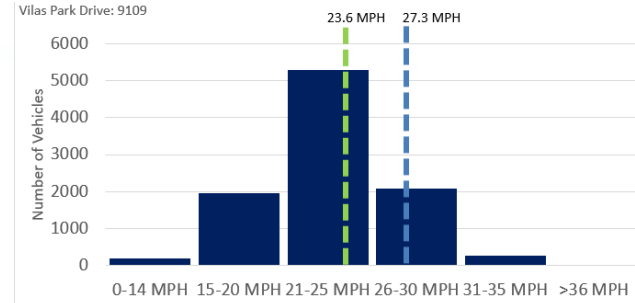
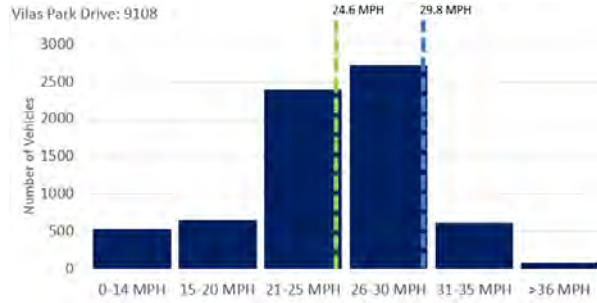
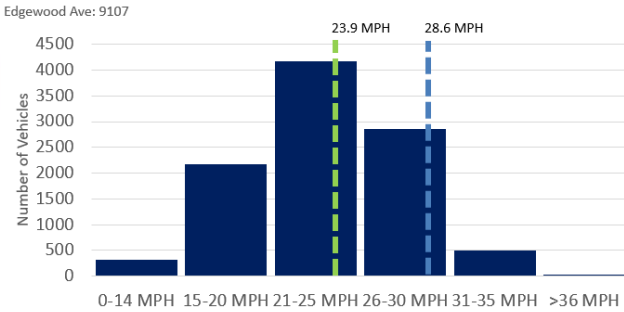
Traffic Analysis – Locations



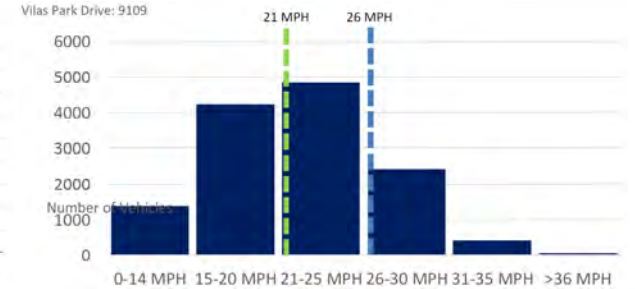
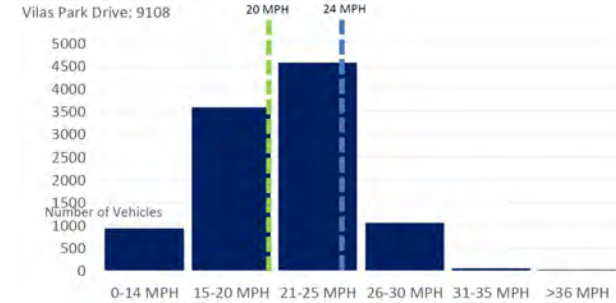
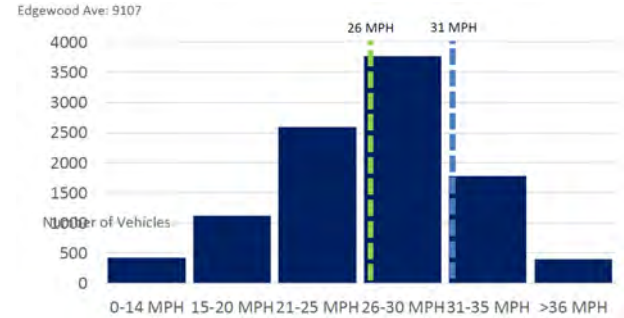
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Site Investigation: Speed Study

August



November



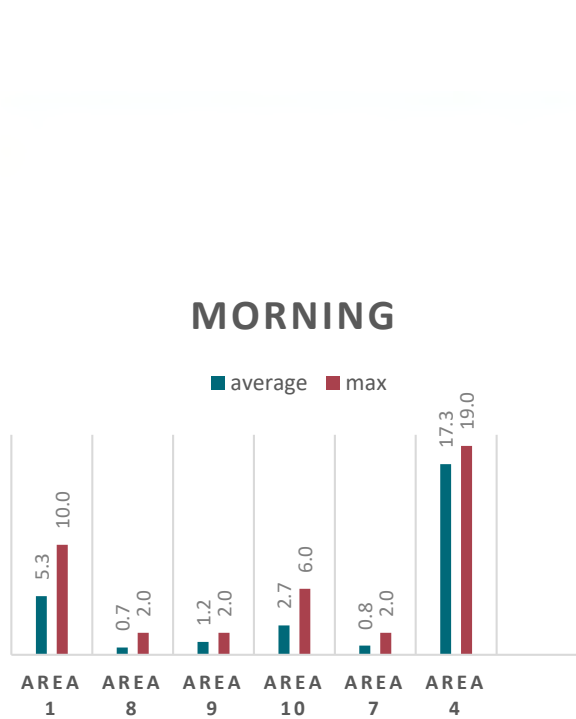
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Site Investigation: Parking Counts (Activity Areas)



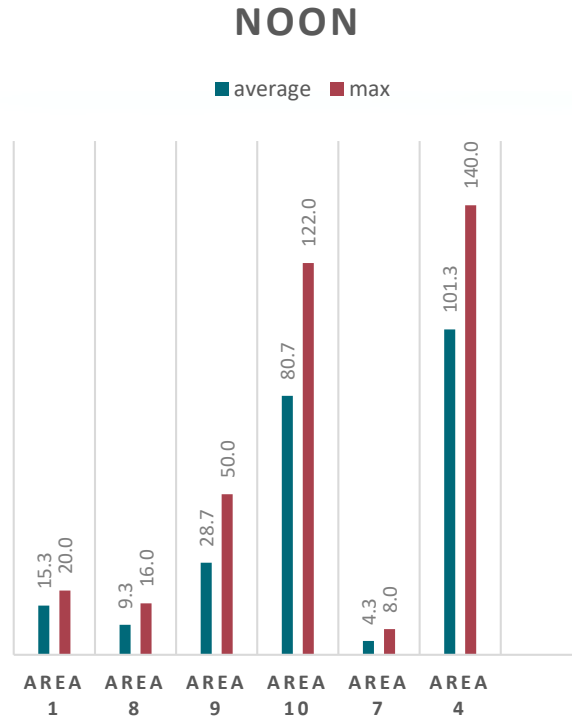
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Site Investigation: Parking Counts



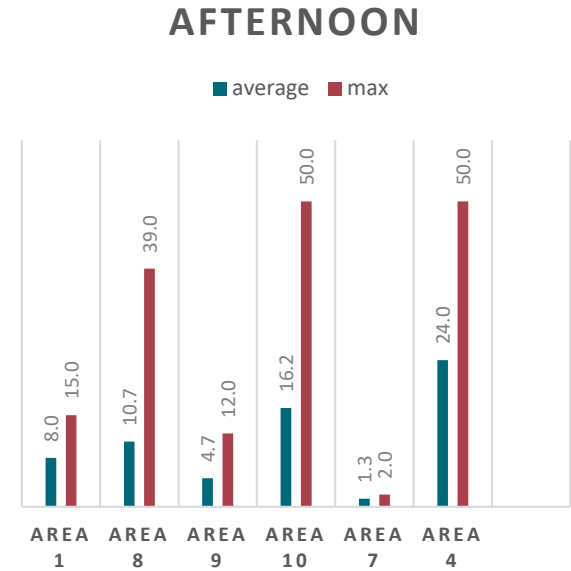
Dates of Observations

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

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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

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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

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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)

