

Vilas Park Master Plan
Draft Master Plan Review Meeting
RRG/CPAG Meeting #4 – October 15, 2020
Questions and Answers

The following questions were submitted by meeting participants before the October 15th meeting and are listed and answered in the order received.

Q1. How is the parking on nearby streets (Drake and Randall) counted as part of the total parking capacity of the “North Lot”? If the total capacity for North Lot is 133 (as stated in the “Decision Matrix”), with 123 (61+62) of those in the new lots inside the park, where exactly is it assumed that the additional 10 are located?).

A1. The total should have been shown as 119 in the North lot. Previous versions of the presentation showed an incorrect parking count and have been updated in presentation materials. Added per City of Madison Traffic Engineering estimates, there are 62 existing parking spots on Drake Street between Grant and Randall. With the addition of the new entrance at Campbell Street, there is an anticipated loss of about 19 parking spots on Drake Street.

Q2. What is meant by “emergency-access only” for the entrance/exit to Randall from the North parking lots? Will there be anything (besides signage) that prevents cars from entering and leaving there?

A2. This is the type of detail that will be determined at such time as the parking lot is identified for replacement in a future capital budget cycle. However; use of a removable bollard or gate to prevent ingress/egress is something that has been used at other locations requiring periodic access for specific events or on an as-needed emergency basis – which would be the anticipated use of this entrance/exit

Q3. What is the thinking for what kinds of vegetation and vegetation management would be in the designated “natural areas”? Would existing grass turf be removed and replaced, or would these areas be no-mow or restricted mowing? What are the various options, and how and when would such decisions be made?

A3. The final determinations related to vegetation and land management will be made as projects develop over time and will be consistent with the current Parks Land Management Plan. At Vilas, most of the naturalized areas shown on the plan would be impacted with project work over the next 20 years and Parks Operations staff might look to contract initial restoration work with a land management consultant in the larger areas. The general approach would seek to remove turfgrass in the disturbance areas and replant with native vegetation. There are invasive species present in the park and in the soil seed bank, so it would take several years for the native vegetation to establish.

Depending on the weed species present, alternative management practices would be assessed before the application of chemical herbicides. For example, if the site does not have weeds such as birdsfoot trefoil, quack grass, or Canada thistle, the process could include scalping the grass,

raking up the dead grass to expose the soil, and then seeding. For the next two years, the area would be mowed short to give light to establishing plants.

If these aggressive weeds are present, there are some alternative site preparation methods that would not require herbicide. These include:

1. Repeatedly smothering the area throughout a full growing season.
2. Shallow repeated cultivation of the area throughout a full growing season. This can bring up an older weed seed bank, so deep to shallow cultivation throughout the season is helpful.
3. Sod removal - this is expensive and not 100% effective because there could be an older weed seed bank beneath the sod that would now be exposed and germinate.

An assessment of both the proposed naturalized areas and wetland areas are a necessary first step in determining the best transition plan.

Q4. With respect to the proposed relocation of the Annie Stewart Fountain:

- a. How did this proposal come about, given that the future of the fountain was earlier said to be off the table for the Master Plan and no public input has occurred on this?

A4a. Correct - it was stated at the commencement of the master plan that the fountain would not be considered in the MP; however, given the concurrent information regarding the placement of an ornamental fountain not being ideal in burial mound areas, interest in finding a more prominent and public-facing location to deter vandalism, and the potential to combine the fountain with other memorials, the Design Team (Parks and MSA) made the decision to offer an alternate location for the fountain. The Draft Final Master Plan documents will maintain reference to the fountain relocation for consistency in upcoming public presentations.; however, the Final Master Plan will not show or suggest the relocation of the Annie Stewart Fountain to avoid conflicts with the ongoing Madison Arts Commission-led planning process.

- b. Who would oversee its removal and new installation?

A4b. As a piece of public art in the Madison Art collection, Karin Wolf with Madison Arts Commission (MAC), will be leading this effort with her team. The scope and schedule of work will be directed by MAC.

- c. To what extent will it be restored, who will do this, and how will decisions about this be made? will it be removed? A4c. See answer 4b

- d. What is the timeline for removal and for restoration? A4d. See answer 4b

- e. What would done with the current sidewalks and area after the fountain is removed, and would that work be done so as not leave an unsightly and/or unusable space for any length of time? A4e. See answer 4b

Q5. Shelter design/energy efficiency: the draft plan documents say that the open-air shelter is not energy efficient as one of the reasons for its removal and the new closed building design, and that the community is asking for an indoor gathering space in the Vilas Master Plan.

a. Will the new design necessitate air conditioning in the summer?

A5a. This is the type of design detail that the MP is not intended to cover – the specifics regarding building systems and energy efficiency will be discussed when a shelter replacement project is identified for a future capital budget request.

b. Has the new design energy usage estimates been analyzed against an open-air design that can be closed in the winter or the current design with renovation?

A5b. No, See answer 5a.

c. Which interest groups are asking for an indoor community gathering space in the park?

A5c. The need for indoor space is tied to the Parks Division's experience in operating park facilities across the system -the park system's limited indoor space is very popular – to the extent that a shelter reservations "lottery day" is held annually to allow users to secure the most popular dates. As one example, the Highland Manor Storm Shelter is a well used and appreciated amenity heavily used by diverse members of the Madison community.

Q6. Playground by tennis courts removal: the draft plan documents say that the removal of the playground is being done to save cost.

a. What is the dollar cost of keeping the western playground versus the consolidation concept?

A6a. Two closely adjacent playgrounds are inefficient and not an effective use of limited resources. See below for further explanation.

b. Why is it more cost efficient operationally to consolidate the playgrounds?

A6b. Two separate playgrounds mean more parts, more surfacing, more trips for inspections and maintenance and more record-keeping. A larger consolidated space can provide satisfactory play conditions for both the 2-5 and the 5-12 age ranges that can still be separated for the variable levels of play. The existing Western playground features a 5-12 age range structure, as is the main structure and many of the stand-alone pieces at the Shoe playground. Both have swings for tots as well as belt seats and the Shoe offers accessible seats but very limited options for the youngest visitors outside of swings.

Q7. Parking: the new design keeps close to the same number of parking spots (reduced by 7)

a. Has there been any parking study completed, including an assessment of available street parking (and potentially available parking if the 1-hour restriction on Vilas is lifted?)

A7a. A parking inventory and periodic parking usage counts were conducted as part of the site observations. The findings of these observations will be made available in the Master Plan Report.

Within the Vilas Park Master Plan, the Parks Division has sought to avoid either increasing or decreasing total parking space within the park. Additionally, consistent with the stated preferences of the Friends of Lake Wingra and the Clean Lakes Alliance, the Parks Division would like to pull parking and roadways away from the edge of Lake Wingra. The Parks Division further seeks to reduce the surface area of impervious pavement within the park and to consolidate parking such that accessible spaces are available with close proximity to key amenities within the park.

- b. What neighbors are concerned about parking on our streets? Surveys I've seen of Vilas say neighbors are not bothered by this.

A7b. Public comment on the parking has not been limited to survey responses. The intent of the design is not to capture all of the required parking within the park – nor would that be possible on peak demand days such as UW football home game days. It is assumed people will still have to park on the surrounding streets with this plan. Parking capacity is reduced from a current 429 stalls, to 422 stalls.

- c. Does the design need to be so car/parking centric? Does taking up potential park space for car parking align with City and current urban design priorities that move away from reliance on cars? Case in point -- does the parking lot by the beach or the parking lot by the tennis courts need to be so big? There is plenty of street parking all around and very few times where peak capacity parking extends beyond one block from the zoo or park.

A7c. - See A7a and A7b. Placement of parking locations must also consider access for those with disabilities and those with limited access to public transportation and non-motorized means of access to the park.

- Q8. There are two new covered picnic areas in the park.

- a. What group requested a shelter for picnics?

A8a. Parks Division has heard 'picnicking' often and early: from the Focus Groups that Urban Assets conducted; from Comment Cards and intercept interviews; and as a top activity from the Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment during the 2018 Park and Open Space Plan update. Providing a range of reservable shelter options also fits within the goals of the City's 2018 Park & Open Space Plan, which showed that the Vilas Shelter was among the top 10 most-reserved shelters. Providing both open-sided picnic shelters at \$35/day and an enclosed shelter for \$100-\$295/day expands the range of reservable options for gatherings and picnics within the park.

The Parks Division recognizes that gatherings and picnics are an important part of Vilas Park. This is one example where the need is not about a specific interest group. It is about the known needs of the community and responsively designing the park system

to accommodate those needs. Adding picnic shelters will add lower cost options for families in the community.

b. How much do each of these shelters cost?

A8b. Construction cost could range from \$80,000 to \$100,000 depending on the size and materials selected at the time of installation, as well as specific site conditions such as soils.

Q9. How many acres and what percentage the Park's open green space will be converted to natural areas?

A9. The goal is to develop a more balanced park that reduces fossil-fuel intensive mowing operations. The draft plan shown on 10.15.2020 has approximately 14.5 acres of natural areas, the majority of which is currently maintained as mowed turf. Plans for these areas have not been finalized yet (please refer, also, to the answer provided in question #3).

Q10. The current hockey area is low and wet much of the year. Given the amount of land proposed as natural areas, it is important that the remaining green space be usable. What measures, if any, will be taken to ensure that the relocated hockey area will be dry enough for year-round use?

A10. A proposed hockey rink would most likely be installed utilizing a product – one example is a lined rink utilizing a structure similar to the “Nice Rinks” that Parks has been using in other park locations in recent years. Our experience with this method is that it minimizes the impact on the turf and reduces drainage issues dramatically.

Q11. Will any areas of the Park be filled to make the remaining green space more usable and to ensure that water and ice does not collect on the walkways?

A11. To the extent practicable, yes. Future projects would look at options for regrading the large meadow for better drainage - particularly if an open-water lagoon option moves forward to the Final MP, where dredging will be a necessity. The use of the dredge material on-site is more cost efficient than the added cost of trucking it off-site to an acceptable waste facility (which can be as far away as Sun Prairie). Capping of the dredged fill material would likely be required due to contamination found in recent soil sampling. Paths and trails identified in the plan will be constructed to a more rigorous standard that is much easier to maintain.

Q12. How long would it take the speed skating side of the lagoon to turn to wetland naturally? What is it expected to look like during the transition and at its conclusion?

A12. It will look a lot like it does currently for quite a long time with no human intervention. Based on research done during this planning process, the lagoons may have only been dredged a single time in the early 1960s since their original construction in 1905/6 (there is some conflicting information about even that single dredge event). Additional recommendations regarding the lagoon management will be made in the Master Plan Report.

Q13. What will the fore-bays look like? How will they be divided from the lagoon? What vegetation will grow there?

A13. Fore-bays are sedimentation zones that are a Best Management Practice (BMP) for stormwater runoff to allow sediment to settle out from incoming stormwater from piped systems and hardscapes prior to entering the lagoon. A fore-bay is usually linear in plan layout and located adjacent to the larger BMP or in this case the lagoon. The fore-bay is separated by a narrow landmass that is set at an elevation higher than the high water mark. The vegetation is wetland and deep marsh natives in the lower basin portion along with the option to have some standing water or marsh. The edges are typically wet meadow emergent native plants transitioning into mesic meadow in dryer areas. Additional recommendations regarding the lagoon management will be made in the Master Plan Report.

Q14. The emerald ash borer is devastating urban streetscapes and forests. How many ash trees are there in the park? Which of the large shade trees in open areas of the park are vulnerable to the ash borer? How will the visual screen that the trees provide between the park and surrounding neighborhoods be affected? What is the plan for replacing trees that are lost?

A14. The plan incorporates multiple areas and opportunities for additional tree plantings. There are 17 White Ash and 9 Green Ash throughout Vilas Park. Emerald Ash Borer has only been found in one species besides ash, the White Fringetree, of which there are none in Vilas Park. The City's urban forestry guidelines will provide recommendations for diversity in future tree plantings.

Q15. Shelter location was covered in the earlier public input phase and the design was going to be addressed as implementation decisions were made, yet key design elements are included in the draft plan. What public input on shelter design is planned, beyond minor issues such as color and materials.

A15. The plan includes a general vision. The Parks Division will go through substantial future public engagement around the specific design and construction of the facility. Character images are shown in the powerpoint and the following is a list of "Design Considerations" from the Master Plan:

- Fully accessible facility
- Act as a warming shelter for skating and hockey
- Community meeting room
- Views from shelter onto lagoon and lake
- Views from park to shelter
- Stormwater management
- Energy efficiency
- Existing (main) shelter to remain in place while changes to Vilas Park Drive and multi-use path are developed, allowing time for budgeting and community involvement

Q16. How will the edible landscape area be tended and managed?

A16. By interested volunteers. The existing tree planting in that location is under a current Edible Landscaping Permit. Expansion would only happen if a group or individual sought out a permit for a new or expanded Edible Landscape planting in the area.

Q17. What will happen to the pump house near the island? It is not shown on the map. Will it be removed?

A17. The proposed draft master plan shows the pump house moved, to the interior/mechanical room of the new main park shelter. In the interim, it would remain in its current location.

Q18. What is the history of traffic accidents at the intersection of Randall and Drake near the entrance to the north parking lot by the Zoo? How does this compare to the numbers of accidents at controlled intersections of streets with similar traffic volumes? The drive from the north parking lot enters Randall Ave. shortly before Randall intersects with Drake St. Have there been any traffic accidents at that intersection?

A18. The design is reflective of current best-practices at intersections per Traffic Engineering. According to traffic incident reports there were three crashes from 2014-2018.

Q19. Stop signs control traffic at both the entrance and exit from the north side of the park. Will there be stop signs on Drake St. by the relocated entrance/exit near Campbell St.?

A19. The Parks Division would defer to Traffic Engineering to make the traffic-control signage and devices decisions (this includes pedestrian crossing markings, signs, lights/signals). Analysis of the impact would be conducted as part of the future design and recommendations based on that assessment.

Q20. Homes on Drake St. are not currently visible from much or most of the park, creating a sense of separation and spaciousness. How will the Campbell St. entrance affect the view from the Park? How wide will the opening be and how many trees will be cut down?

A20. The view will change, some – homes located across from public properties (parks, schools, etc.) don't have direct control over changes made to those properties. A simulated graphic showing the proposed entrance can be found on the Story Map at the following link: <https://arcg.is/1fTuW5>. Traffic Engineering would provide final road dimensions. The Draft Plans shows a road width of 38 feet from back of curb. The clearing for the road right-of-way is about 54 feet wide. Some additional clearing may be required for the sidewalk, but its layout could be modified to account for trees. The following trees may be impacted or need to be removed:

Parks Property:

- 14" dia. Black Walnut
- 23" dia. Red Maple
- 21" dia. Red Maple
- 10" dia. White Ash
- 12" dia. Green Ash
- 11" dia. Green Ash
- 13" dia. Black Cherry
- 15" dia. Black Cherry
- 10" dia. Elm

- 31" dia. Swamp White Oak – west side of entrance, about even with existing Campbell Street ROW, concept shows it remaining. Proper construction protection measures would be recommended.

City Right-of-Way:

- 6" dia. Green Ash
- 11" dia. Norway Maple
- 18" dia. Hackberry (2)
- 20" dia. Swamp White Oak
- 31" dia. Swamp White Oak – west side of entrance, about even with existing Campbell Street ROW, concept shows it remaining. Proper construction protection measures would be recommended.
- 22" dia. Red Maple

Q21. Who will pay for moving and restoring the Annie Stewart Fountain? What is the plan for the promenade if the fountain is not restored and moved?

A21. Please refer also to Question #4 and its answer for information related to the Annie Stewart fountain. As a piece of public art in the Madison Art collection, Karin Wolf with Madison Arts Commission (MAC), will be leading this effort with her team. The scope and schedule of work will be directed by MAC. Also, see answer 4a.

The promenade could include an open plaza/gathering space, an alternative public art installation, and/or landscaping. The details of the installation would be determined at the time of installation.

Q22. What is the nature and frequency of the Metro transit service that is planned to serve the south entrance of the Zoo?

A22. Metro is currently in the process of undertaking a city-wide route study, which is anticipated to begin in 2021 and continue through 2022. The north entrance at Drake and Randall is Metro's preference, per discussions during Interagency Staff meetings, for a regular route service stop. The south stop would most likely be shuttle type service, but no official route is planned yet and will not be planned until the route study findings are completed.

Q23. Use of the Park has increased and changed during the COVID-19 pandemic and with closing of the Drive. What changes do you see, which are likely to continue post-COVID, and how does the plan support those activities?

A24. The closure of the drive was a lesson in how many people would like to walk or bike there. Similarly, Parks saw an overall increase in park use across the system – open field space walking paths and canoe/kayak storage interest and boat launch use were extremely popular as the warm weather set in and when sport court facilities (tennis/pickleball and basketball) and playgrounds were closed in the earlier phase of COVID; use of all of those amenities shot up when we were able to reopen them under Public Health guidelines, and the open space activities remained popular for socially distanced outdoor activity. As such, the proposed plan provides improved paths around the park as well as providing new opportunities for pickleball and foursquare, as well as increased shoreline access for canoes and kayaks, all while preserving

open space for activities such as hammocking, picnics, frisbee/catch – all of which were activities observed by staff during various months of the pandemic.

Q24. What is the remaining life expectancy of the play equipment on Wingra Overlook?

A24. It was installed in 1996 and is already past its life expectancy.

Q25. Shoe playground:

a. Do the different section of the Shoe playground in the design correspond to different age groups? For example, is the plan to have one section have equipment appropriate for ages 2-5? Another with equipment for ages 5-12?

A25a. Yes – that is the space allotment and would fit with other recent community-level playgrounds in the parks system wherein equipment for both the 2-5 age range as well as the 5-12 age range is provided while also providing separation between them.

b. Does the plan preserve the existing trees?

A25b. This is an evolving topic – a tree by the shoe playground was recently (within the past month) removed based on a determination by Parks Division arborist staff – but generally, yes, we seek to preserve existing trees where possible. With the playground replacement project, Parks Division arborist staff will be making a determination as to trees and limbs/branches that should be removed due to the overall health/condition of the tree. The playground shown in the draft plan was designed around the trees. Proper measures for protection during any future construction would be needed, but outright removal to fit the playground is not necessary as drawn.

c. Are the memorial benches currently around the Shoe Playground preserved in the draft plan?

A25c. Parks Division is actively working with the Compassionate Friends donor group to ensure that we have a plan to address these memorials, while recognizing that the benches are failing and reaching the end of their useful life

d. How much of the play equipments' useful life is left?

A25d. – Also, see A24. Other than the Shoe and webbed climber, the equipment is at the end of its useful life and recommended for replacement. Replacement parts are no longer available from the manufacturer.

e. What is the cost saving associated with consolidating the two playgrounds into one?

A25e. – Please refer, also, to question A6b.

Q26. North parking lot entrance:

- a. What traffic studies have been done and/or will be done prior to implementing this change?

A26a. The Parks Division will look to Traffic Engineering to make recommendations at such time as a capital project is added to the budget. Please refer, also, to questions #18-20.

- b. Will there be a requirement for no left turns from the exit onto Drake or from Drake into the entrance?

A26b. The Parks Division will look to Traffic Engineering to make recommendations at such time as a capital project is added to the budget. Please refer, also, to question #19.

Q27. Lagoon:

- a. What studies have been done to determine what is best lagoon option? What studies will be conducted and when?

A27a. No studies have been conducted by the City at this time – modification to the lagoon has been largely driven by public input, which has indicated that maintaining open-water and on-lagoon skating were a priority.

- b. Does everyone recognize that there's a connection between what is best for the lagoon and other decisions that are being made (e.g. shelter placement, walkways/boardwalk placement), making identifying the best option for the lagoon health an important issue for the master plan?

A27b. Shelter placement had much to do with recognizing the importance of the lagoon as a recreational and aesthetic amenity per the comments received in comment cards, surveys and via email that access from the shelter to the lagoon for skating and views from the shelter to the lagoon and lake are important attributes.

Q28. Open air shelters:

- a. Please describe these shelters—there have been a few questions from neighbors about what these shelters will be like.

A28a. The open-sided shelters would likely consist of a roofed structure with a concrete base and an opportunity for picnic tables inside. The design may additionally provide the option to have electrical outlet service for nesco-type items.

- b. What is driving these shelters' inclusion in the plans?

A28b. See A8a.

Q29. Does the footprint of the proposed tennis courts, pickle ball court and basketball court match the footprint of the existing tennis courts?

A29. As drawn, it is wider to the south to accommodate the basketball court. The footprint of the tennis/pickleball section is the same square footage as the existing.

Q30. What traffic studies have been done/will be done related to the increase in parking spots and shelter at the Edgewood Avenue end of the park?

A30. No formal studies completed to date. Observations during the COVID shutdown of Vilas Park Drive showed heavy use of this lot, with parking in grass at times. Please refer, also, to question #7.

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Some comments have been reordered to align with the questions they are in reply to – timestamps are relative to the meeting timeline.

00:30:44 James Tye - Clean Lakes Alliance: Could the Terrace/Lawn between walking the road be a native swale strip vs grass/sod

00:31:22 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): Are you referencing along the Zoo?

00:31:30 James Tye - Clean Lakes Alliance: yes

00:32:05 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): that could certainly be a consideration

00:32:12 Ann Rivlin: How large are the open air shelters?

00:33:05 Ann Freiwald (Madison Parks): They fit 3 to 4 picnic tables. One can see similar ones at Meadowood Park and at Glacier Hill Park. Kate, correct me if I am wrong.

00:34:17 Kate Kane: correct - an open-sided sun shelter typically holds 3-4 picnic tables

00:35:13 Wendy Fearnside: What is the width of the pavement on the current one way portion of the Drive?

00:36:27 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): it is about 36 feet

00:41:22 pauldearlove: Are there minimum parking requirements that had to be followed for a park of this type and size?

00:45:52 Ann Freiwald (Madison Parks): I know of parking requirements/standards for parks but they relate to specific uses, such as how many stalls are needed for a soccer field or for a softball field. I am not aware of standards for a park such as Vilas, with a wide variety of uses.

00:44:33 Ann Rivlin: Is there demand for four square? Or could this be a space for benches by the basketball court?

00:45:30 Kate Kane: Four Square was a request that we heard from our Youth Engagement with Boys & Girls Club and the Midvale/Lincoln online survey

00:46:43 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): as kate mentioned fore square was mentioned in youth engagement, the space shown would be much larger than required for benches and, but could be an alternate surface or omitted but shown as a request of youth engagement

00:45:31 pauldearlove: Was the public asking for more active recreation space on the peninsula (vs. passive recreation such as walking trails through prairie or oak savanna)?

00:46:32 Kate Kane: @pauldearlove: Yes, minimally maintaining the existing facilities (basketball) but also a great extent of interest from, particularly, the pickleball community in adding dedicated courts for play of that sport

00:47:33 sheri carter: Are the mounds going to be protected and identified with signage
00:48:00 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): yes, the mounds would be preserved as outlined in the City's current mound management plan
00:48:20 Maia: signage is important
00:48:56 Kate Kane: @Alder Carter - yes protect the mounds; Parks would work with the Ho-Chunk to identify what level of interpretation would be the best fit.

00:48:04 Ann Rivlin: What is the expected useful life left for the Dinosaur Playground?
00:50:50 Kate Kane: @Ann Rivlin: all of the playgrounds at Vilas date to 1996 (with some elements at each slightly younger); Madison begins to contemplate the replacement of playgrounds at around 20 years, as replacement equipment for repairs begins to become harder to obtain

00:49:30 Ann Rivlin: Sorry if I missed this, but would the different playground sections in the Shoe Playground have different age options? Or would the different age appropriate equipment be mixed together?
00:51:23 Kate Kane: @ Ann Rivlin: yes, the Shoe playground as proposed in the Draft would feature a younger (2-5 age range) area and an older (5-12 age range option

00:50:33 pauldearlove: Can we designate the lakeshore between the sand beach and Edgewood Ave. bridge as a native restoration area? Controlled access to the lake would then been through the planned fishing piers, overlooks and kayak launch.
00:52:09 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): @ paul Dearlove the plan shows that condition - native plants with specific access points. specific plant types and the final extent of native plants is to be determined

00:51:29 Wendy Fearnside: What would you expect the east lagoon to look like during the transition to wetland? How long would it take to become a wetland? And what would the eventual wetland be like?

00:51:40 Casey Hanson: Is the maintenance of the western part of the lagoon going to change significantly compared to now?
00:52:27 Kate Kane: @ Casey Hanson the lagoon has not been dredged and would require dredging soon to maintain an open-water (and on-lagoon skating) possibility

00:58:19 James Tye - Clean Lakes Alliance: Clean Lakes and City Parks are working with UW Engineering CAP Stone students on Lagoon Options this semester

01:01:16 Wendy Fearnside: Shouldn't the UW/Parks/Clean Lakes study of options for the lagoon be completed before the decision about the shelter location and access road is made?

00:58:37 Maia: I agree

01:04:46 Ann Rivlin: Are the memorial benches currently around the Shoe Playground preserved?

01:05:49 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): @Ann Rivlin, we have had a meeting with the Compassionate Friends have discussed future options such as moving the plaques to the pedestrian bridges

01:06:04 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): some of the benches are nearing the end of their life

01:07:51 sheri carter: can someone provide a short overview of their concerns

01:09:02 Tag Evers: 1. Loss of mature trees. 2. Traffic backing up to Bear Mound Circle 3. Increased traffic congestion

01:08:02 pauldearlove: Are we letting the tail wag the dog with the main shelter location staying at its current location? The Concept B plan for the location and access to the shelter seemed to offer a nice option that would limit the amount of hard-surface area.

01:08:28 Ann Rivlin: Pauladealove—I agree.

01:11:39 James Tye - Clean Lakes Alliance: How does the plan address the zone between the zoo, zoo fence and the east lagoon, lots of unstable ground

01:13:31 Ann Rivlin: Perhaps the response document would be a good place to put information about future chances for public input as projects are implemented?

01:14:36 Jim Lorman: Yes, that makes sense, Ann (to include details on future input)

Discussion regarding stormwater runoff and drainage in and around the park:

01:25:00 Peter Witucki: Isn't there a drainage just west of Orchard St?

01:25:29 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): yes, but that is outside the Vilas Park boundary

01:26:12 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): the only discharge to the lagoon from the neighborhood is where the red arrow is on the screen near the "I" on the plan

01:26:01 Wendy Fearnside: Has the option of dredging the lagoon been explored?

01:27:21 Ann Freiwald (Madison Parks): Parks is considering it, if the master plan calls for it.

01:27:25 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): Dredging has only been discussed conceptually, we do have the permitting requirements from Army Corp of Engineers and DNR that will be included in the report text, additional research on the environmental impacts of dredging are not specifically part of the master plan

01:27:56 Ann Freiwald (Madison Parks): We have had recent boring done (last winter) to figure out how deep the "muck" is in the lagoon.

01:29:07 Casey Hanson: I believe some studies have shown that restored wetlands can contribute phosphorus to bodies of water if not placed/designed properly (again a 30,000 ft response)

01:29:25 Paul Dearlove (Clean Lakes Alliance): We need to explicitly define what is meant by "maintained open space," which represents the vast majority of the park. It would be disappointing if all that expansive area was all maintained as geese-loving turf grass, particularly on the peninsula.

01:29:35 Casey Hanson: or engineered wetlands*

01:29:40 Wendy Fearnside: Could the sediment from the lagoon be used as fill in some of the low lying areas of the park?

01:30:05 Eric Knepp: we hope so Wendy

01:30:24 Eric Knepp: that would be a very efficient multi part solution

01:30:25 Kate Kane: @Wendy Fearnside - yes, use of the dredge spoils on-site (through controlled dewatering structures) would likely be the most economical way

01:30:37 Ann Rivlin: I thought there were contamination concerns?

01:31:05 Kate Kane: @Ann Rivlin - the dredge spoils will likely need to be capped

01:31:30 Jim Lorman: The question of what the range of options for what "natural areas" might be has come up several times, and would one useful to address at least briefly here

01:32:38 Wendy Fearnside: The current hokey rink area is wet and unusable during most of the rest of the year. Will the new location be similar? Is there a way to make the relocated hockey rink usable at other times?

01:33:42 Kate Kane: @ Wendy Fearnside - a future land hockey rink would likely utilize a 'nice rink' type membrane to ensure better ice throughout the skating season and less on-site grading required to support a flooded rink type

01:34:54 Wendy Fearnside: I would like to see the large swing set in the Shoe playground area preserved. The more modern swings I've seen have much shorter chains and don't let users swing as high. A fair number of young adults enjoy swinging when the playground is not being much used by younger children.

01:39:20 Kate Kane: @ Wendy Fearnside when the playground replacement project comes along for the Shoe, there will be additional meetings to discuss the project; however, it is fairly safe to say that the swings will be removed (and replaced)

01:43:36 James Tye - Clean Lakes Alliance: Thanks everyone for all your time and effort

01:44:11 Kate Kane: Thank-you James for attending and offering your comments/questions

01:45:51 Wendy Fearnside: I appreciate the discussion of how decisions about natural areas will be made and what is trying to be achieved. I had previously envisioned natural areas as interfering with views and less open green space which could be used for a variety of purposes. Maybe that doesn't have to be the case.

01:46:15 James Tye - Clean Lakes Alliance: YES

01:47:07 Kate Kane: @ Wendy - indeed! Vilas has incredible views unparalleled elsewhere in our system

01:47:13 Wendy Fearnside: Thank you!!

01:46:30 Jim Lorman: Love 2024 as a goal for the new multi-use path from the east!

01:49:11 Jim Lorman: Could the story maps you're using (showing existing vs proposed) be made available to everyone?

01:49:40 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): Yes, Jim. We plan to release a detailed story map prior to the next CIM

01:50:40 Ann Freiwald (Madison Parks): I have to run everyone. Thanks for your time. Great meeting.

01:51:03 Ann Rivlin: I would urge a reconsideration of the shelter location—what about putting it by the beach? There would be parking and limited traffic through the rest of the park.

01:51:32 Peter Witucki: @Ann - a shelter on the lagoon supports winter activities (skating)

01:51:53 Ann Rivlin: There could be a smaller structure on the lagoon for skating.

01:52:30 Kate Kane: @ Ann Rivlin - not sure what you mean by structure on the lagoon?

01:53:00 Ann Rivlin: A small warming shelter on the lagoon that could serve ice skaters instead of the main shelter.

01:53:59 Wendy Fearnside: Dredging the east side of the lagoon and putting the shelter on its shore would solve some of the problem of increasing pedestrian/vehicle conflicts and having too much pavement on the peninsula.

01:54:17 Kate Kane: Our reservations staff runs skate and hockey stick rentals (as well as concessions) from the main shelter supporting ice skating as well - having these operations within the interior of the warming facility is similar to Tenney, Vilas

01:54:38 Kate Kane: *Elver* sorry

01:55:17 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): Parks Operations has also observed overtime the eastern portion of the lagoon is much more difficult to maintain and sediment depths there are deeper than the west.

01:54:42 Catherine Jagoe: Several DMNA residents have expressed concern about whether there will be extra screening on the west side of that expanded parking lot at Vilas and Edgewood Ave, and whether there will be limited parking times to deter students from Edgewood College from using it during the day?

01:56:01 Kate Kane: Screening parking lots is something that we will need to take a careful look at - too much screening makes hidden away spaces that can become problematic. We will seek a balance between the two should that option move forward.

01:56:21 Catherine Jagoe: OK, thanks!

01:56:40 Casey Hanson: I think the decision matrix is a great tool to help understand the main features that would be helpful for the public. Especially if additional detail we discussed in this meeting is added.

01:57:41 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): @Casey Hanson the decision matrix (provided to this group) is available on the website for public access but will also be mentioned at the public meeting in an updated form

01:59:02 Jim Lorman: And I hope you will consider the recommendation that Ann R made about allowing RRG/CPAG to comment on a draft survey in order to provide feedback that may make the instrument more useful (and reduce negative reactions later)

02:00:00 Ann Rivlin: Thanks everyone!

02:00:10 Jim Lorman: Need to go - thanks everyone!

02:00:12 Peter Witucki: Thanks!

02:00:13 Catherine Jagoe: Thank you so much for all your work.

02:00:17 Paul Dearlove (Clean Lakes Alliance): Thank you! A lot of interests being balanced. Appreciate the opportunity to offer continued feedback.

02:00:18 Daniel Schmitt (MSA): We will provide an update to the group as to the status of the reply to the questions submitted

02:00:21 sheri carter: I will be leaving I have another meeting at 4:30 pm

02:00:27 Casey Hanson: Thank you for all of your work on this project!