

Sycamore Park Master Plan

830 Jana Lane

City of Madison Parks Division

Madison, WI



play
**MADISON
PARKS**

Board of Park Commissioners
May 17, 2023

Prepared by the City of Madison Parks Division

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INTRODUCTION

Sycamore Park is a 71.42 acre park located on the east side of Madison at 830 Jana Lane. Classified as a community park, the park focuses on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. The nearest developed parks to this location are Glacier Hill Park to the east and Mayfair Park to the west.

The park area is divided by Sycamore Ave. and the East Streets Maintenance Facility building. While the two park areas are not connected, an easement along the east side of the streets facility parcel is in place to allow for access between the park areas. However, no formal access route exists at this time. The southern park area consists of 57.5 acres while the northern wooded area is 13.7 acres. The park's most popular amenity is the large dog park located on top of a former landfill site. The dog park accounts for roughly 20 acres of the park and sees heavy use on a consistent basis.

Over time, parks has identified additional amenities that the division believes would be beneficial at Sycamore Park. However, no adopted master plan is known to have existed previously. Amenities that were identified include a sun shelter, off-road mountain biking trails, and a pump track. The Parks Division initiated this master plan process to gather input on proposed and existing park amenities and identify suitable locations for those amenities.



HISTORY

The City of Madison acquired the property now known as Sycamore Park in 1961. Prior to acquisition, the land was used primarily as agricultural fields. A landfill was operated on the site from 1972-1977. In 1977 the landfill was capped and a groundwater monitoring network was installed. In 1990 and 1991, the park area was expanded by park land dedication from the Prentice Prairie Plat and Ridgewood Plat. After 1991, park amenities were developed into what the park offers today. From 1990-1998, the remediation systems of the landfill were expanded. Finally in 1998, the landfill cap was rebuilt and dog park fencing installed on top.



1955



1976



2005

Photos: Historical Aerial Photography from Dane County DCi Map

EXISTING PLANNING DOCUMENTS

There is no known adopted master plan for Sycamore Park on file.

CURRENT USES AND MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

Sycamore Avenue Parking Lot

The existing parking lot is located just south of Sycamore Ave. and north of the dog park. The Engineering Division is responsible for upkeep and maintenance of the parking lot. The lot is used daily by employees working at the East Streets Maintenance Facility located on the north side of Sycamore Ave. It is also used for access to landfill remediation system mechanical facilities. The lot is also heavily used by park patrons, particularly dog park users.

Dog Park

The dog park enclosure was constructed after the reconstruction of the landfill cap in 1998. The primary entrance to the dog park is located in the northeast corner, adjacent to the parking lot. Improvements to the primary entrance area were completed in 2015. A secondary entrance is located in the southeast corner, however, the entrance does not include a dual gate.

The dog park includes a separated small and geriatric dog area in the northeast corner. The dog park has path “loops” which generally circle around the high elevation point in the middle of the area. The paths are mowed by parks maintenance, while the areas of the areas in the dog park are not. The outer loop is the most heavily used path, which leads to rutting and erosion of the paths. The paths are also used by the Engineering Division for access to landfill monitoring points.

The dog park fencing is generally in fair condition. Necessary repairs are typically identified by Park Rangers who monitor the site on a regular basis or from resident contacts. Fencing repairs are completed on an as-needed basis.

Soccer Fields / Backstop / Open Field Space

There are two adult sized soccer fields in the park. One is located near Sycamore Ave. to the north and one near the intersection of Jana Ln. and Kim Ln. to the south. These fields do not currently have a use agreement with any specific organizations, however they do receive consistent use.

There are two backstops located in the park. One is on the east side near Jana Ln. and the other on the south side near Nakoosa Trl. While the backstops are not regularly reserved, public input indicates they are used informally on a somewhat regular basis.

Playground

The existing playground was installed in 2016. The expected lifespan of the playground is 20-30 years. During that time typical maintenance, such as replacing broken parts and safety surfacing will be performed.

Basketball Courts

There are two basketball courts located in the park. The first is a full-court located just north of the playground. The second is a half-court located south of the landfill area. The existing pavement of both courts is in poor condition and are currently on typical maintenance and replacement schedules.

Drinking Fountain

The drinking fountain is located along the paved path near the southeast dog park entrance. The fountain is in good condition. The water supply requires yearly winterization by city crews.

Paved Path

The paved path begins at the end of Nakoosa Trl. in the southwest corner of the park and continues around the landfill to the north, ending at Sycamore Ave. A spur also connects the path to Jana Ln. to

the east. Short segments also connect the main path to the southeast dog park entrance and to the parking lot. The paths are well used and provide necessary pedestrian and bike connections through the park. They are also occasionally used for landfill maintenance access.

The segment of path adjacent to the existing playground and basketball court was identified during public input as having consistent drainage problems which often creates ponding and ice on that section of path.

Sun Shelter

A sun shelter is located on the south side of the park near Nakoosa Trl. The shelter is a wood structure, typical of shelters installed in the 1970's. The shelter is in fair condition and has been identified as being used somewhat frequently by park users.

Volleyball Court

The volleyball court is located just to the east of the sun shelter. The court consists of volleyball standards and net with a grass court.

Natural Areas (South)

There are numerous non-mowed areas in the park. A few specific locations are undergoing prairie restoration as a joint effort between parks, engineering and volunteers. The first location is on the west side of the paved path adjacent to the playground. The second location is the south side of the path near the intersection of the spur leading to the southeast dog park entrance.

Woodland (North)

The wooded parcel to the north does not currently have any defined permanent uses. However, since the winter of 2020-2021, parks has worked with volunteers to establish a temporary winter fat bike trail. The trail is accessible from an adjacent city owned parcel parallel to the railroad tracks connecting to Thompson Dr. Volunteer efforts have also included clearing invasive species such as buckthorn and honeysuckle from the woodlands.

Maintenance Practices

Current maintenance practices include turf mowing, tree trimming/removals as necessary, and regularly scheduled play equipment inspections and upkeep. This property will be maintained in accordance with the [City of Madison Adopted Land Management Plan](#).

MASTER PLAN PROCESS AND PUBLIC INPUT

Master Plan Process

This process consisted of three public input meetings. The timeline for this process was as follows:

- January 26, 2022 – Public Input Meeting #1
- February 27, 2023 – Public Input Meeting #2
- March 30, 2023 – Public Input Meeting #3
- April 19, 2023 – Board of Park Commissioners informational review
- May 17, 2023 – Board of Park Commissioners potential adoption of the master plan

Public Input

Public Input Meeting #1

Public Input Meeting #1 was held virtually via Zoom. Parks introduced the master plan process and presented background information about the park. A series of poll questions and an open comment period were used to obtain community input on existing and potential future park uses. Presentation Materials can be found in Appendix 1. A summary of feedback can be found in Appendix 2.

Public Input Meeting #2

Public Input Meeting #2 was held virtually via Zoom. Parks reviewed background information about the park and presented a summary of comments from Public Input Meeting #1. A draft master plan was also presented for community feedback. Presentation Materials can be found in Appendix 1. A summary of feedback can be found in Appendix 2.

Public Input Meeting #2

Public Input Meeting #2 was held virtually via Zoom. Parks reviewed background information about the park and presented a summary of comments from Public Input Meeting #2. A revised master plan was also presented for community feedback. Presentation Materials can be found in Appendix 1. A summary of feedback can be found in Appendix 2.

MASTER PLAN PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The master plan was developed by incorporating feedback received during the public engagement process with the expertise of parks staff to balance resident wants and needs with the present and future resources of the Parks Division. Specific improvement items are identified as numbers shown on the master plan graphic (Exhibit 1). Existing amenities which are not identified for improvements are expected to remain in place on typical maintenance and replacement schedules.

#1 – Off-road Mountain Bike Trails

In 2020 parks completed the Madison Bike Adventure Trail plan. The plan identified Sycamore Park as a vital hub for trails on the east side of Madison. The trails will have width that varies from just a little wider than your shoulders, up to a track that is just wide enough for two bikes to pass. Many single-track trails are open to one-way travel and wind their way through the best terrain that the landscape offers. Some trails also offer challenge elements.

The trail segments will be designed for varying abilities and also intended for use by existing mountain bike teams from Madison East and Madison La Follette High Schools.

#2 – Dog Park Improvements

The existing dog parks is well-loved and receives a high volume of users. Improvements identified to the existing facility include trail stabilization, the addition of a separated entrance to the small dog area, the addition of a dual gate entrance to the southeast corner, lighting focused on the main entrance area, and exploring alternatives to add shade in summer and a wind block in winter.

#3 – Pump Track

An additional element identified in the Madison Bike Adventure Trail plan is an asphalt pump track. This pump track would of similar size to the first pump track installed in the system at Aldo Leopold Park, completed in 2022.

#4 – Path Drainage Improvements

It has been identified that the section of paved path adjacent to the playground and basketball court regularly holds ponding water well after rain events. The ponding leads to unusable sections of path in the summer and ice patches in the winter. Improving the drainage of this path section may involve a slight path re-alignment and re-grading.

#5 – Sun Shelter

A new sun shelter will provide a space for park users to gather near the existing playground and basketball court. In the future, it could also serve as a gather spot for bike trail users. The sun shelter will include a new accessible path from the main bike/pedestrian path.

#6 – Non-mowed / Naturalized Area

The proposed area will include restoration with native grasses and forbs.

#7 – Restroom Building

Parks considers restroom facilities at community level parks and the need for facilities at Sycamore Park were identified through the master plan process. The elevations of the sanitary sewer system in the adjacent neighborhoods leave few suitable locations for a restroom facility. Parks has identified a location near the southeast dog park entrance as the most suitable location. The location is near an existing water service for the drinking fountain. It is also located centrally between the active use areas to the west and north, and the dog park.

Due to the suitable location, it is recommended for the facility to not include a covered gathering space. Covered spaces for park users to gather are provided with the one existing and one proposed sun shelter.

#8 – Non-mowed / Naturalized Area

The proposed area will include restoration with native grasses and forbs.

#9 – Trail Connections

Sycamore Park is unique with the park area being split with no existing connections between the two parcels. However, a 60' wide access easement is present along the east side of the Streets facility parcel for access to the north woodland parcel. Parks has identified that corridor as a potential trail connection to provide access between the two park areas. During the master planning process a secondary desired connection was also identified around the west side of the Streets facility.

The eastern connection is preferred as the most direct route. However, both options should be explored and creating both connections would create a beneficial loop for bike and pedestrian connectivity.

#10 – Woodlands Improvements

The existing social trails should be evaluated and purpose-built hiking and mountain biking trails constructed. Additionally, a management plan for the woodlands should be prepared.

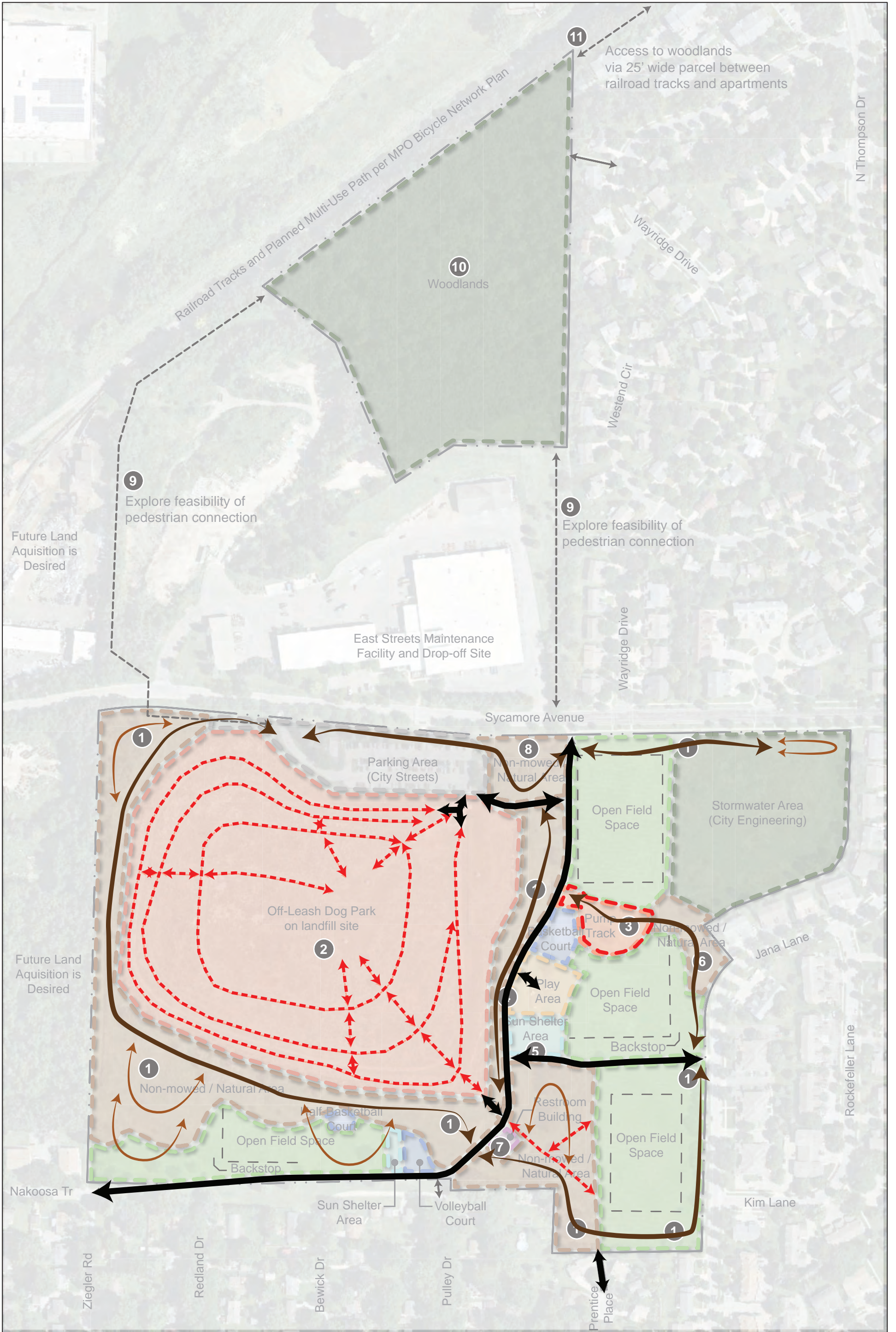
#11 – Woodlands Access Improvements

Improve access and signage to the woodlands through the city owned parcel parallel to the railroad tracks, connecting to Thompson Dr.

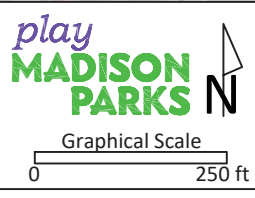
Land Acquisition

Parks is interested in acquiring land to the west of the existing Sycamore Park boundary if the land becomes available. The land to the west is likely suitable for expansion of the proposed off-road mountain bike trail system in the park.





City of Madison
 Department of Public Works
PARKS DIVISION
 330 E Lakeside St.
 Madison WI 53715
 www.cityofmadison.com



LEGEND


- Existing Path
- Existing Natural Surface Path
- Proposed Off-Road Bike Trail Corridors
- Proposed Off-Road Bike Trail Loops

ACTION	DATE
Board of Park Comm.	5/17/2023

MASTER PLAN for SYCAMORE PARK
 830 Jana Lane
 SHEET NUMBER: **1 of 1**


WHILE YOU ARE WAITING FOR THE MEETING TO START

- Check to see your name is correct.
 - The name must match the name you used to register for this meeting.
 - You can edit it if needed



Meeting Logistics


- All participants will be **muted** during the presentation and unmuted for the discussion sessions.
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SYCAMORE PARK MASTER PLANNING UPDATE EFFORT



Public Meeting #1
Zoom Meeting
01/26/2023

INTRODUCTION


Adam Kaniewski, City of Madison Parks Division Landscape Architect
Sarah Grimalkin, City of Madison Parks Division Landscape Architect




WELCOME

Thanks for coming, we're looking forward to working with you to update the Master Plan for Sycamore Park! We want to hear your thoughts and ideas, so to make sure everyone has an equal chance to speak...

- We address all comments/questions during discussion periods and at the end of the presentation.
- No disparaging remarks about others' comments.
- If you are not comfortable speaking tonight, please call or email



TONIGHT'S GOALS



- What are we talking about?
Park Classifications
Introduction to master planning process
- What is there now?
Review of existing park uses and history
- Public Input
- Now what?
Gathering public input/comments, preparing draft plan(s), follow-up public information meeting



PARK CLASSIFICATIONS



Community Park (Sycamore Park)
Typically greater than 20 acres, these parks serve a broader purpose than a neighborhood park. They focus on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.

Neighborhood Park
Greater than 5 acres, neighborhood parks remain the basic unit of the park system. These parks serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood.

Mini Park
Fewer than 5 acres and used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.


TWO PLANNING PROCESSES

Process One: Northeast Area Plan
A guide to physical changes of the community over the coming years

- Land use and future growth
- Transportation
- Parks and open Space
- Stormwater management, utilities and public facilities

www.cityofmadison.com/NortheastPlan/


- Interactive commenting map and survey
- January 31 meetings – info and registration
- Email list




TWO PLANNING PROCESSES

Process Two: Park Development Plans
A guide to park improvements planned in the coming 10 to 15 years at Neighborhood and Mini Parks

- Park's existing conditions
- Recent improvements
- Planned improvements
- Planned expansion, if any



MASTER PLANNING




What is it?

- Dynamic long-term planning document that provides a framework for future development and improvements.
- Establish the general location recommendations for desired amenities and resource protection.
- The identified improvements are often implemented in phases, with each phase requiring further design development and public engagement before construction.

Questions answered by a master plan: What is going to happen, where-ish, when-ish, and about how much will it cost?
A 10,000 foot view!

MASTER PLANNING


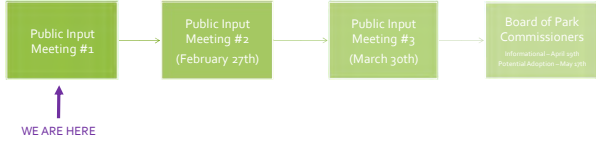


A master plan does NOT:

- Specify specific materials or finishes
- Designate exact locations
- Include a planting plan or tree management plan
- Contain construction drawings (which include information like dimensions, colors, products, quality requirements, etc.)

Questions NOT answered by a master plan: Who is going to build it, when (exact date), and how much will it really cost?

MASTER PLAN PROCESS

HISTORY

1961
City of Madison acquires property

1972-1977
Landfill Operations

1990-1991
Expansion via park land dedication from Prentice Prairie Plat and Ridgewood Plat

1991-Present
Park development

Landfill History

1972-1977
Landfill operations (1,100,000 cubic yards of waste)

1977
Landfill capped and groundwater monitoring network installed

1990-1998
Expansion of remediation systems

1998
Rebuilt cap
Dog park fencing installed

THROUGH THE YEARS...

1937

1955

1968

THROUGH THE YEARS...

1974

1976

1987

THROUGH THE YEARS...

1995


2005

2017



WHAT AREA DO YOU LIVE IN?

- A. Sycamore
- B. East Washington
- C. Swanton
- D. Other



HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

- A. Two years or less
- B. Three to five years
- C. Five to 10 years
- D. Ten years or more
- E. I was born in this neighborhood



WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS MOST LACKING IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY SPACES?

- A. Places to walk or bike for exercise
- B. Places for children to play
- C. Places to picnic and have gatherings
- D. Places to grow and eat local food
- E. Places for organized field sport matches or practices
- F. Other

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Aerial
- Existing Uses
- Topography
- Landfill
- Surrounding Area Park Amenities



EXISTING USES



TOPOGRAPHY



LANDFILL





HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT SYCAMORE PARK IN SUMMER/FALL (MAY-OCTOBER)

A. Three or more times per week
 B. One or two times per week
 C. Once or twice a month
 D. A few times
 E. Other

HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT SYCAMORE PARK IN WINTER/SPRING (NOVEMBER-APRIL)

A. Three or more times per week
 B. One or two times per week
 C. Once or twice a month
 D. A few times
 E. Other

WHY DO YOU VISIT SYCAMORE PARK? (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)

A. Go to the Dog Park
 B. Bring my child(ren) to the playground
 C. Play basketball
 D. Use the play fields myself
 E. Take my child(ren) to use the play fields
 F. To walk or run
 G. To bike
 H. Other

HAVE YOU VISITED THE WOODS AT SYCAMORE PARK?

A. Yes
 B. No
 C. Unsure

ARE YOU OR YOUR CHILD A MEMBER OF AN ORGANIZED CLUB OR GROUP THAT USES ATHLETIC FACILITY SPACE AT SYCAMORE PARK?

A. Yes
 B. No

WHAT AMENITIES SHOULD REMAIN AT SYCAMORE PARK? (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)

- A. Dog Park
- B. Playground
- C. Basketball Court
- D. Playfields
- E. Volleyball Court
- F. Paved Paths
- G. Backstops
- H. Sun Shelter



SUN SHELTER



COMMUNITY PATIO



GAGA BALL PIT



MADISON BICYCLE ADVENTURE TRAIL NETWORK PLAN (MADBAT)

- Plan for a citywide system of multi-use, bike optimized, off-road trails.
- Sycamore Park identified as suitable site for Bike Optimized Facilities
- Potential facilities include Singletrack Trails, Skills Development Features, and a Pump Track



Singletrack Bike Trails

Singletrack has a width that varies from just a little wider than your shoulders on up to a track that's just wide enough for two bikes to pass. Many singletrack trails are open to one-way travel and wind their way through the best terrain that the landscape offers. Some singletrack trails also offer challenge elements as seen below.



Pump Track and Skills Track

Photos of Aldo Leopold Park



MINI PITCH / FUTSAL COURT



PICKLEBALL COURTS



WHAT AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE ADDED TO SYCAMORE PARK? (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)

- A. Bike Optimized Facilities
- B. Sun Shelter
- C. Community Patio
- D. Gaga Ball Pit
- E. Pickleball Courts
- F. Mini-pitch/Futsal Court
- G. Community Gardens
- H. Naturalized areas
- I. Other

PUBLIC INPUT LISTENING PERIOD



NEXT STEPS

- Gathering public input
 - Be sure to contact us with comments
 - Madison Parks will analyze public input and site conditions
 - What do residents want and what can the site provide?
- Public Input Meeting #2
 - February 27th – Virtual via Zoom
 - A draft master plan will be presented for public review!

Watch the City Parks "Project Portal" website for project updates!
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/sycamore-park-master-plan>




COMMENTS?

CONTACT US:
ADAM KANIEWSKI
OFFICE: (608) 261-4281
EMAIL: AKANIEWSKI@CITYOFMADISON.COM




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SYCAMORE PARK MASTER PLANNING UPDATE EFFORT



Public Meeting #2
Zoom Meeting
02/27/2023

INTRODUCTION


Adam Kaniewski, City of Madison Parks Division Landscape Architect
Corey Stelljes, City of Madison Parks Division Civil Engineer



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play MADISON PARKS

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play MADISON PARKS

MASTER PLAN PROCESS

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    graph LR
      A[Public Input Meeting #1] --> B[Public Input Meeting #2]
      B --> C[Public Input Meeting #3  
(March 30th)]
      C --> D[Board of Park Commissioners  
Interim - April 19th  
Potential Addition - May 15th]
      E[WE ARE HERE] -.-> B
  
```

play MADISON PARKS

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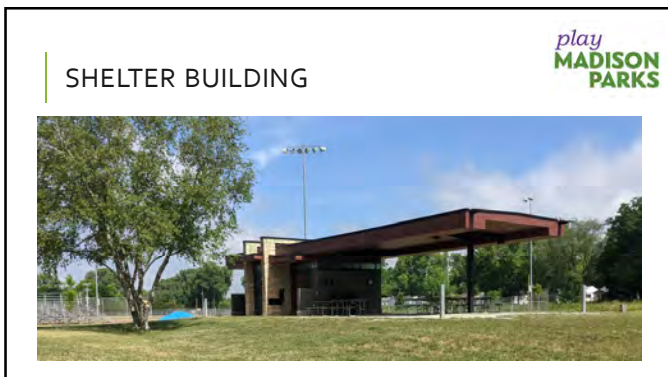
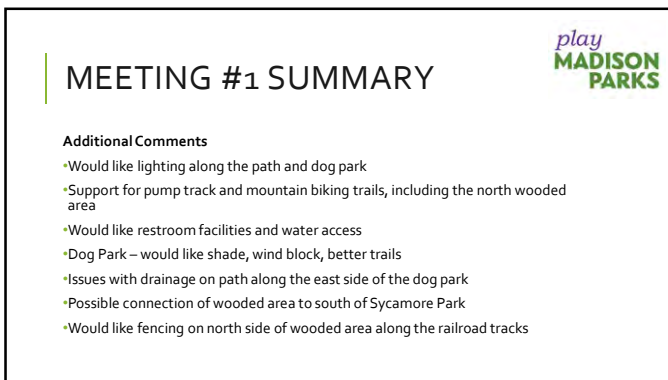
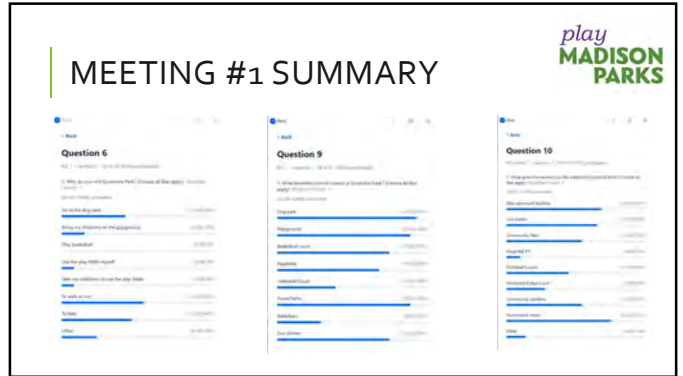
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Pump Track and Skills Track

Photos of Aldo Leopold Park

DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Sycamore Park Master Plan

List of Master Plan Improvements

- 1 Off-road mountain bike trails. Trail segments to be designed for varying abilities and also intended for use by existing mountain bike users from Madison East and Madison Lutheran High Schools.
- 2 Improvements to parking and area including trail station, and concrete apron to small dog area, and dog gate entrance to existing exercise to health/sports center, and add lighting focused on entrance area.
- 3 Area for wheelie pump track.
- 4 Area for mountain biker building non-accessible path from main bike/parkway path.
- 5 Change improvements for section of path adjacent to playground and basketball court.
- 6 Reconnect/rehabilitate area with native grasses and trees.
- 7 Non-accessible rehabilitated area with native grasses and trees.
- 8 Evaluate existing soccer field and build supports full hiking trails and mountain biking trails. Develop a management plan for the woodsland.
- 9 Create a trail connection from Sycamore Park to the woodsland parcel.
- 10 Improve access and signage to woodsland from N Thompson Drive.
- 11 New prototype shelter including to include restrooms and covered picnic area.

DRAFT MASTER PLAN

LEGEND

- Existing Path
- Existing Natural Surface Path
- Proposed Off-Road Bike Trail Corridor
- Proposed Off-Road Bike Trail Loop

1 Off-road mountain bike trails. Trail segments to be designed for varying abilities and also intended for use by existing mountain bike users from Madison East and Madison Lutheran High Schools.

DRAFT MASTER PLAN (SOUTH)

LEGEND

- Existing Path
- Existing Natural Surface Path

DRAFT MASTER PLAN (NORTH)

1 Evaluate existing soccer field and build supports full hiking trails and mountain biking trails. Develop a management plan for the woodsland.

2 Create a trail connection from Sycamore Park to the woodsland parcel.

3 Reconnect/rehabilitate area with native grasses and trees.

4 Explore feasibility of pedestrian crossing/dike.


DRAFT MASTER PLAN (SOUTH)

1 New prototype shelter including for include bathroom and covered picnic area.



LEGEND
 Existing Path
 Existing Natural Surface Path


PUBLIC INPUT LISTENING PERIOD



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WHILE YOU ARE WAITING FOR THE MEETING TO START

- Check to see your name is correct.
 - The name must match the name you used to register for this meeting.
 - You can edit it if needed



Meeting Logistics


- All participants should remain **muted** during the presentation. Please only unmute if called on.
- Please use the "Raise Hand" button if you have a question. We will take questions during discussion sessions.
- This meeting will be recorded and available online to view later.



DISCLAIMER

This meeting is being recorded.
It is a public record subject to disclosure.

By continuing to be in the meeting, you are consenting to being recorded and consenting to this record being released to public record requestors.




SYCAMORE PARK MASTER PLANNING UPDATE EFFORT



Public Meeting #3
Zoom Meeting
03/30/2023

INTRODUCTION


Adam Kaniewski, City of Madison Parks Division Landscape Architect



WELCOME

Thanks for coming, we're looking forward to working with you to update the Master Plan for Sycamore Park! We want to hear your thoughts and ideas, so to make sure everyone has an equal chance to speak...

- We address all comments/questions during discussion periods and at the end of the presentation.
- No disparaging remarks about others' comments.
- If you are not comfortable speaking tonight, please call or email



TONIGHT'S GOALS

- What are we talking about?
 - Park Classifications
 - Review of master planning process
- What is there now?
 - Review of existing park uses and history
- Draft Master Plan Presentation
 - Public Input
- Now what?
 - Board of Park Commissioners



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PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Community Park (Sycamore Park)
Typically greater than 20 acres, these parks serve a broader purpose than a neighborhood park. They focus on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.

Neighborhood Park
Greater than 5 acres, neighborhood parks remain the basic unit of the park system. These parks serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood.

Mini Park
Fewer than 5 acres and used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.

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MASTER PLANNING

What is it?

- Dynamic long-term planning document that provides a framework for future park development and improvements.
- Establish the general location recommendations for desired amenities and resource protection.
- The identified improvements are often implemented in phases, with each phase requiring further design development and public engagement before construction.

Questions answered by a master plan: What is going to happen, where-ish, when-ish, and about how much will it cost?
A 10,000 foot view!

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MASTER PLANNING

A master plan does NOT:

- Specify specific materials or finishes
- Designate exact locations
- Include a planting plan or tree management plan
- Contain construction drawings (which include information like dimensions, colors, products, quality requirements, etc.)

Questions NOT answered by a master plan: Who is going to build it, when (exact date), and how much will it really cost?

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MASTER PLAN PROCESS

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    graph LR
      A[Public Input Meeting #1] --> B[Public Input Meeting #2]
      B --> C[Public Input Meeting #3]
      C --> D[Board of Park Commissioners  
International - April 19th  
Potterfield - April 26th  
Potterfield - April 27th]
      E[WE ARE HERE] -.-> C
    
```

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HISTORY

1961
City of Madison acquires property

1972-1977
Landfill Operations

1990-1991
Expansion via park land dedication from Prentice Prairie Plat and Ridgewood Plat

1991-Present
Park development

Landfill History

1972-1977
Landfill operations (1,100,000 cubic yards of waste)

1977
Landfill capped and groundwater monitoring network installed

1990-1998
Expansion of remediation systems

1998
Rebuilt cap
Dog park fencing installed

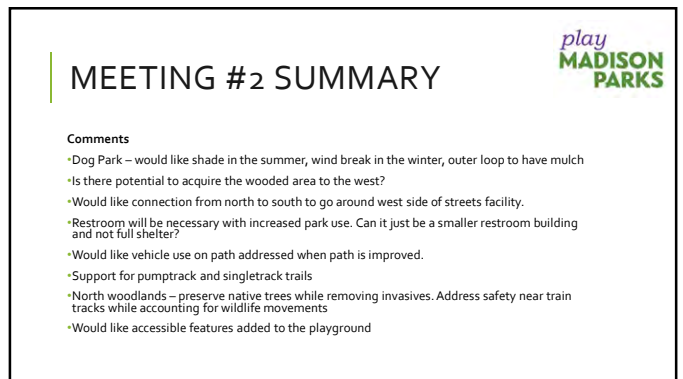
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THROUGH THE YEARS...

1937

1955

1968



SUN SHELTER

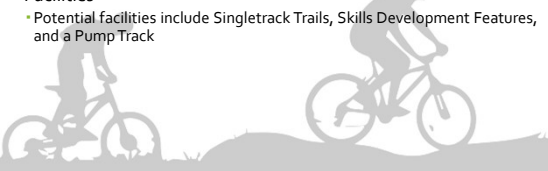


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MADISON BICYCLE ADVENTURE TRAIL NETWORK PLAN (MADBAT)

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- Plan for a citywide system of multi-use, bike optimized, off-road trails.
- Sycamore Park identified as suitable site for Bike Optimized Facilities
- Potential facilities include Singletrack Trails, Skills Development Features, and a Pump Track



Singletrack Bike Trails

Singletrack has a width that varies from just a little wider than your shoulders on up to a track that's just wide enough for two bikes to pass. Many singletrack trails are open to one-way travel and wind their way through the best terrain that the landscape offers. Some singletrack trails also offer challenge elements as seen below.




Pump Track and Skills Track

Photos of Aldo Leopold Park



DRAFT MASTER PLAN


Sycamore Park Master Plan

List of Master Plan Improvements

- Off-rail mountain bike trails. Trail segments to be designed for varying abilities and also intended for use by rolling mountain bike teams from Madison East and Madison Lafayette High Schools.
- Improvements to existing dog park including trail distribution, and expanded entrance to small dog area.
- Add dog gate entrance to existing entrance to east-point corner and lighting, fenced off entrance area.
- Explore adding alternatives to add shade in existing and wind block in center.
- Plan for asphalt pump track.
- Drainage improvements for section of path adjacent to playground and basketball court.
- Area for new sun shelter including new accessible path from main basketball path.
- Re-landscaped area with native grasses and forbs.
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- Re-landscaped area with native grasses and forbs.



DRAFT MASTER PLAN



LEGEND

- Existing Path
- Existing Natural Surface Path
- Proposed Off-Road Bike Trail Corridor
- Proposed Off-Road Bike Trail Loops

- Off-rail mountain bike trails. Trail segments to be designed for varying abilities and also intended for use by rolling mountain bike teams from Madison East and Madison Lafayette High Schools.

DRAFT MASTER PLAN (SOUTH)

1. Official mountain bike trails. Trail segments to be designed for varying abilities and also intended for use by existing mountain bike users from Sycamore East and Sycamore-Ludington High Schools.
2. Recommendations to modify dog park involving trail construction and expansion will serve to create dog area, and also provide evidence to existing evidence to southeast corner, and existing layout of entrance area. Major entry driveway to be added in future and used as a park.
3. Area for potential pump track.
4. Strategic improvements for section of park adjacent to playground and basketball court.
5. Area for new and/or existing new accessible path from main (Sycamore) path.
6. Non-mowed / undisturbed area with native grasses and trees.
7. New treatment building to include restrooms, water access, and lighting.
8. Non-mowed / undisturbed area with native grasses and trees.

LEGEND
 Existing Path
 Existing Natural Surface Path




DRAFT MASTER PLAN (NORTH)

1. Potential for connections from Sycamore Ave. to the existing park. The eastern connection is preferred as it would avoid the road. However, both options should be explored and existing trail connections used where a suitable route to the new path can be identified.
2. Evaluate existing water trails and build bypass path using trail and recreation trail. Consider a management plan for the woodlands.
3. Improve access and signage to woodlands from N Thompson Drive.

DRAFT




PUBLIC INPUT LISTENING PERIOD



NEXT STEPS

- Board of Park Commissioners
 - April 19th – Informational Presentation
 - May 17th – Consideration for Plan Adoption
- Budget Allocation
 - After plan adoption, parks will work to include funding for improvements at Sycamore Park in future Capital Improvement Budgets

Watch the City Parks "Project Portal" website for project updates!
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/sycamore-park-master-plan>



COMMENTS?

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 EMAIL: AKANIEWSKI@CITYOFMADISON.COM



Sycamore Park Master Plan – PIM #1 Meeting Comment Notes

- The park could use some more lighting at least along the bike path.
- Yes more lighting is a must
- Mike McGarry- head coach of Madison E and Lafollete mtn bike team. 6-12 grade. Interested in mtn biking on the east side, at Sycamore. Right now they drive all the way to Sun Prairie.
- Justin Duris “I highly support mtn bike trails. The woods is a fantastic area for it and the East side of Madison is poorly served for these trails.”
- Russell- daily dog park user. Would like a restroom. Geocacher, has one hidden in the woodlands. Conservation park type of thing like they have at Radar Hill.
- Sam Strawser- one of the kids that Mike coaches. Would love trails closer to home.
- Gardens existed before the landfill. Model airplanes used to fly. Uses the dog park frequently, looking for shade, wind block, water, better trails for the dogs.
- Kevin Leigeb- 2nd Mike’s support for trails. Another coach for high school mtn biking team. Upcoming Autumn Ridge Path good connector for folks south of Hwy 30.
- Dave- east part of trail along the dog park, icy, floods in spring, impassable. Wants to see drainage.
- Athena- agrees on ice, gets thick. Athena has suggested rain gardens to take the water away.
- Howard agrees on ice as well.
- George- restroom would be nice. Soccer very common in summer and nice to see. Trail around the dog park, outside path (for bikes?). Possibility of connecting the 2 parcels of Sycamore.
- Eric Gertner- agrees on bikes. Lives next to the park and Autumn Ridge Path and MTB trails are exciting improvements for NE side of city.
- Russel Foskett- little hill on the SE great for sledding.
- Mike McGarry- wooded areas great for single track MTB trails.
- Justin Duris- connecting 2 parts of Sycamore with a bike path is a very good idea.
- Athena- bike path network, overall, to connect to Sun Prairie was planned through Sycamore parcels. Clearing brush in there now. Interesting terrain. Good view of the capitol.
- Marleen Wade- used to be a hockey rink in the park when we were kids, near Pulley Dr.
- Bob Schaefer- northern parcel of Sycamore. 2009-10 high speed train to Milwaukee was going to be using this track. Travels at 80 MPH. Connecting the 2 parcels- not sure how that’s possible w/o making alterations to the Streets facility.
- Shari Pratzner- lives next to the wooded area. Many coyotes.
- Russell Foskett- used to be a Vita Course on the west side of the park.
- Wendy O’Donnell- backyard adjoins the N parcel. Did not know it was a park. Why is that area so neglected?
- George- simple fencing to address the train tracks. Also to separate private properties from parks parcel. (N parcel). Bob brings up a good point, crossing the road to connect the 2. Green paint, flashing lights for the crossing. Area along the fence at the Streets Facility, path of about 10’ wide could use to get back there. Terrain change, but lots of terrain back in the N parcel too.
- Russell Foskett- flashing lights for city workers to cross the road, very dark in the early mornings and evenings.

- Julie Downey- lighting at the dog park
- Aaron Moore- wondering if it isn't possible to add a windbreak because the dog park rests on top of the landfill?
- Jeff Fitzgerald- suggest using the woods for biking in all seasons. Winter and summer. No using when wet or muddy. Would like to use the forest in the summertime. No east side mtn trails for summer use.
- Athena- join Friends of Sycamore Park, see FB page if interested in restoration work. Brush clearing days this winter.
- Bob- current trains move at 15MPH. At 80 MPH the train wouldn't have enough time to stop to avoid a collision if something was on the tracks.
- Athena- support for downward warm colored lights if they get added. Easier on the eyes and slightly less light pollution.
- George- Lot of areas where ped. And cyclists are moving that aren't protected from traffic. High speed rail the same situation. If it comes through Sycamore, will need some serious barriers for protection. Not really supposed to cross the railroad tracks, generally supposed to cross at road crossings.
- Brian- vehicle traffic on the bike path has known to be an issue at times too.

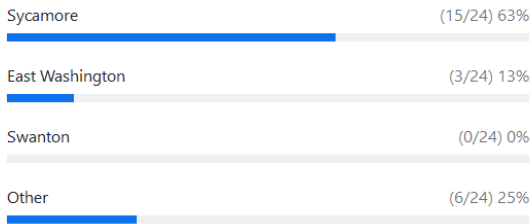
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Question 1

Poll | 1 question | 24 of 28 (85%) participated

1. What Area Do You Live In? (Single Choice) *

24/24 (100%) answered



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Question 2

Poll | 1 question | 27 of 28 (96%) participated

1. How long have you lived in your neighborhood? (Single Choice) *

27/27 (100%) answered



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Question 3

Poll | 1 question | 26 of 28 (92%) participated

1. What do you feel is most lacking in your local community spaces? (Single Choice) *

26/26 (100%) answered



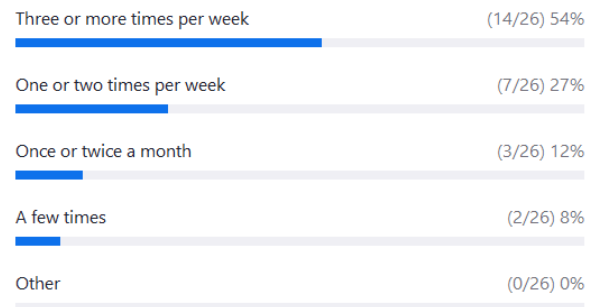
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Question 4

Poll | 1 question | 26 of 28 (92%) participated

1. How often do you visit Sycamore Park in summer/fall (May-October) (Single Choice) *

26/26 (100%) answered



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Question 5

Poll | 1 question | 26 of 28 (92%) participated

1. How often do you visit Sycamore Park in the winter/spring (November-April) (Single Choice) *

26/26 (100%) answered



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Question 6

Poll | 1 question | 26 of 28 (92%) participated

1. Why do you visit Sycamore Park? (Choose all that apply) (Multiple Choice) *

26/26 (100%) answered



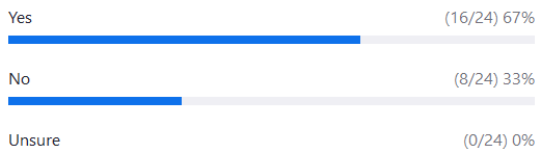
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Question 7

Poll | 1 question | 24 of 29 (82%) participated

1. Have you visited the woods at Sycamore Park? (Single Choice) *

24/24 (100%) answered



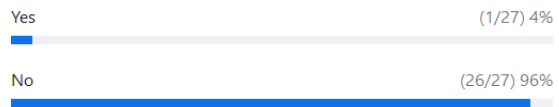
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Question 8

Poll | 1 question | 27 of 29 (93%) participated

1. Are you or your child a member of an organized club or group that uses athletic facility space at Sycamore Park? (Single Choice) *

27/27 (100%) answered



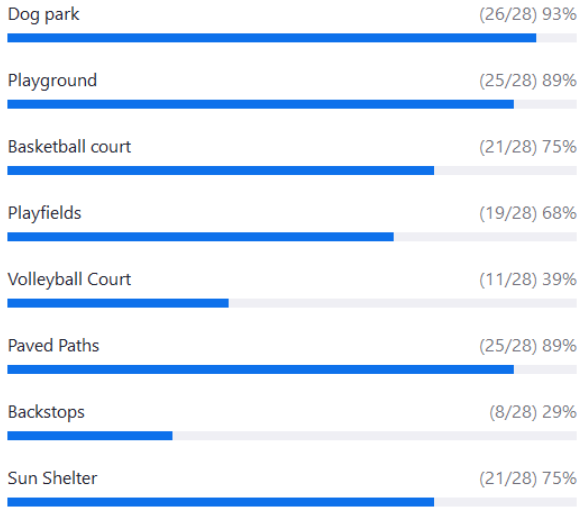
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Question 9

Poll | 1 question | 28 of 31 (90%) participated

1. What amenities should remain at Sycamore Park? (Choose all that apply) (Multiple Choice) *

28/28 (100%) answered



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Question 10

Poll ended | 1 question | 29 of 31 (93%) participated

1. What amenities would you like added to Sycamore Park? (Choose all that apply) (Multiple Choice) *

29/29 (100%) answered



Sycamore Park Master Plan – PIM #2 Meeting Comment Notes

- Dog Park – would like shade in the summer and wind break in the winter
- The whole path from just north of the basketball court down past the playground drains poorly
- What size will the pump track be? Similar to Aldo or slightly larger, will depend on budget
- Just to the west of the main park is a wooded area. Potential to acquire this parcel? There is a lot of slope there.
- Singletrack around drainage basin? Will coordinate with engineering, hopeful that there is potential there.
- Stormwater area, potential for native plants
- Agree that shelter and restroom will be necessary with increased park use
- Residents say they have been restoring native prairie on east side of recycling center. Ask to change connection to the west side of streets facility.
- Dog Park – would like outer loop of dog park to have mulch.
- Do they make shelters with bathrooms that are not as large?
- Support for pumptrack...portable skills track was a hit
- Are there plans for the backstop area to develop a true diamond? If not, can we add pickleball? There is not much on the east side.
- Support for pumptrack.
- Would like something done to deter vehicle access on paths.
- Baseball diamond is not really used.
- Surprising number vehicles drive on the path. (garbage trucks, parks vehicles, engineering vehicles). Large vehicles end up making ruts next to path
- Agree with bathroom/shelter. Also needed for severe weather for dog park users.
- Feel dog park is neglected
- Sidewalk on Wayridge Avenue. There is a pretty sunset view, maybe incorporate some sort of viewing area at end of sidewalk?
- Park rangers pick up dog droppings around back gate.
- Make sure to preserve native trees in woodland while removing large amounts of buckthorn.
- Connection from Redland Dr. is just grass and gets muddy. Potential paved connection?
- High speed trains may be coming. Add some sort of barrier for safety
 - Make sure to still allow wildlife to pass through
 - Potential for wood beam fence that animals could jump over
- Can we add accessible features to the playground?