



Office of the Mayor

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2008 Executive Capital Budget: The Imagine Madison Projects

In 2005, I proposed **Imagine Madison**, an ambitious agenda for building projects in Madison over the next decade. This agenda highlights some of the long-term capital projects that will shape Madison's future. I promised to report on progress on that agenda annually in my capital budget plan. Each year some projects are completed, some come off the list and some are added. Here is my 2008 list of six Imagine Madison projects.

Central Library. Madison's Central Library is a focal point for the downtown. Now in the shadow of the Overture Center, this well-used building needs to reflect the community's commitment to learning and to quality design. I have continued to include the expanded Central Library in my Capital Budget with planning scheduled for 2009 and construction for 2010. At the same time I am challenging the private philanthropic community to fund half of the project's costs.

Warner Park Pool. Madison's first municipal swimming pool, the Goodman Pool on the South side, has been a success with hundreds of families enjoying the facility every day, hundreds of kids learning to swim who might otherwise have never learned and master swim classes daily. But a community the size of Madison needs another pool. So, we should plan for the next pool at Warner Park, the second site chosen by the Pool Committee. I have included the City's share of funding for this pool in the "post 2013 notes", which is essentially a placeholder that can be moved up when private sector funding is secured.

The Villager. This aging shopping mall on the City's South side was acquired by the City in 2005 because it represents a crucial spot in a fragile neighborhood, a key entrance point to the City and the University, and an important service collaborative in the Harambee partnership. My 2008 budget begins the work of redeveloping the mall with exciting changes such as a new South branch library, a new home for Access Community Health Center and the Wingra Clinic and new space for the Urban League, Planned Parenthood and more.

Garver Feed Mill. This historic building at Olbrich Park is owned by the City, but it is deteriorating from lack of use. I expect mixed-use redevelopment plans to be adopted in 2008 with construction to begin in succeeding years.

Central Park. By the end of 2008, a committee will complete its work forming a unified private-public partnership for the redevelopment of this former railroad yard and industrial land on Madison's near East side. When the committee's work is complete, I will evaluate City investments for subsequent capital budgets.

Public Market. My capital budget continues exploration of a year-round facility to house local food producers and to be a catalyst for the local food movement, which has economic development as well as nutritional and environmental benefits. Site selection and more detailed plans should be available late in 2008.