

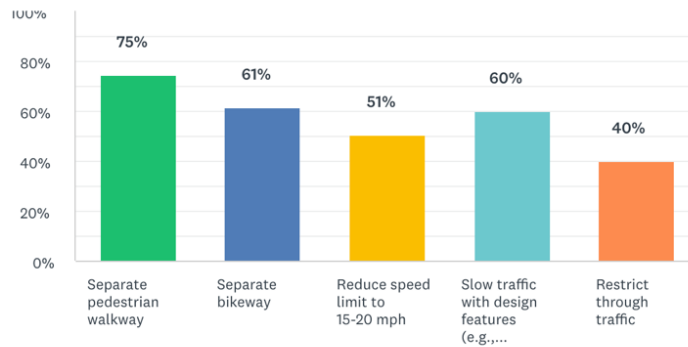
Vilas Park Master Plan Community Input: Results of Engagement with the Greenbush Neighborhood¹

Jan 31, 2020



Contents:

1. Summary of key recommendations
2. Background
3. Traffic management on Vilas Park Drive
4. Parking and access
5. Wingra Overlook area
6. Possible new park features



¹ Produced by Jim Lorman, Green Team Coordinator, Greenbush Neighborhood Association; GNA representative on the Resident Resource Group

Summary of key recommendations

Below are the recommendations with the strongest support from Greenbush residents, based on electronic survey results and subsequent consideration at the GNA January 27 meeting. More comprehensive lists of conclusions & recommendations are provided under each topic (with the survey results).

Overall planning process:

- We encourage priority-setting during the City's planning process that allows those stakeholders who are most impacted by particular decisions to have more say in those decisions.
- We ask that controversial decisions by consultants and City Parks involving challenging trade-offs be made transparent and justified based on clear criteria.

Traffic management on Vilas Park Drive:

- Greenbush residents have serious concerns about the negative impacts of the high volume and speeds of drive-through (particularly commuter) car traffic along Vilas Park Drive. We ask that designs recognize that normal park use, and the safety, health, and convenience of park users, have priority over commuters and drive-through users.
- There is very strong support for taking a variety of measures to ensure safety for pedestrians and bikers, while also providing appropriate car access to the park and shoreline, and without encouraging drive-through commuter traffic that is excessive in both volume and speed.
- We would like to see options for re-designing the street in order to reduce car speeds and discourage drive-through commuter traffic.
- A pedestrian walkway separate from cars is essential; there is strong support for allowing walkers access along the shoreline and moving cars further away from the lake.
- There is strong support for a separate bike path along the lake, but also a recognition that bikers could share pavement with either walkers or drivers, depending on cars volumes/speeds and various design considerations.
- There is significant (40%) support for eliminating (or restricting at times) drive-through (especially commuter) car traffic among Greenbush residents, and we ask that consultants provide at least one design option for this in their initial schematics.

Parking and access:

- There is significant support (45% like; 22% don't like) for the idea of shuttle service to the park from elsewhere (e.g., Bowman Field) during peak visitor time.
- We ask that designs be developed that provide additional options for minimizing parking problems, including more efficient use of existing parking space; better directional signage; parking restrictions and/or fees; better public bus service.
- We recommend that options are provided for developing partnerships with key nearby institutions (Vilas Zoo, St. Mary's Hospital, Edgewood schools) to find solutions that alleviate parking (and associated traffic) problems in the area.
- Greenbush residents are concerned about the impact of stormwater runoff on Lake Wingra, and we ask that any designs for parking aim to decrease rather than increase the amount of impervious surface and runoff (e.g., through the use of permeable pavement, bioswales, etc.).

Wingra Overlook area:

- There is broad, strongly felt, and emotionally expressed agreement within GNA to protect and enhance the special qualities of this part of Vilas Park (bordered by Erin, Randall, and Vilas

Zoo). There is strong support for interpretive features to describe the unique features of this area.

- It is our strong recommendation that park planning, design, and on-going management decision reflect these *special qualities of Wingra Overlook*:
 1. Offers an exceptional overview of Lake Wingra (neighborhood volunteers work with parks to clear brush to allow the open view)
 2. Represents historic and geologic heritage: Native American Mounds; lost “Dividing Ridge”; Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain
 3. Serves as a neighborhood park, physically separate from rest of Vilas Park
 4. Used as a quiet, contemplative space
 5. Serves as a location for regular neighborhood-wide gatherings
 6. Features unique toddler-friendly play structures
- There is strong interest in having more shade trees, near the playground, to replace the condemned ash, and at other locations.
- GNA supports the re-use the wood from the condemned ash (following the specific steps outlined in that section of report).
- With respect to the Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain, GNA recommends that the Master Plan:
 1. Recognizes the fountain as a critical component of the “Wingra Overlook” park area;
 2. Includes an agreement to create a task force to include neighbors, park staff, Ho Chunk representatives, Madison Arts Program Administrator Karin Wolf, and others – within 1-2 years the task force will develop a plan that modifies restoration designs to funds that can be available to use within 5 years;
 3. Presents landscape designs that contextualize the fountain within the larger “Wingra Overlook” park area (e.g. effigy mounds; Lake Wingra overview; neighborhood gathering area; memorial, sacred, contemplative, aesthetic, and play spaces; etc.).

Possible new park features:

- There is strong support for “edible landscaping” in Vilas Park, and GNA recommends that options for expanding the existing modest area be provided in draft plans.

Background

Greenbush neighborhood residents have been engaged in the Vilas Park Master Plan process beginning with the first Community Input Meeting held on June 26, 2019, at which a number² of Greenbush residents participated.

Representation on the Resident Resource Group

In response to a June 24 invitation from Urban Assets to the Greenbush Neighborhood Association (GNA) for “someone from the GNA to participate” in the Resident Resource Group (RRG) intended “to provide periodic feedback to the project team from a community perspective,” the Greenbush Neighborhood Council (GNC) chose the coordinator of the GNA “Green Team,” Jim Lorman, who has therefore facilitated the subsequent neighborhood engagement process and the production of this report.

Greenbush Green Team meeting (July 24, 2019)

We held a Greenbush Green Team meeting (8 participants, including Alder Tag Evers) to identify the issues that our neighborhood has the greatest stake in, and how to best the engage neighborhood in the planning process.

Key issues identified by this group as of particular interest to Greenbush included:

- 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)

We agreed to explore the following options for soliciting public participation from our neighbors:

- Surveys to measure issues of greatest concern and support for various options for addressing these issues
- Use of alder’s email list
- Events, including a Greenbush Neighborhood meeting
- Collaboration with the Vilas neighborhood

There was general support among the meeting participants for the following:

- We feel that all Greenbush residents who care about the future of Vilas Park should know about the Master Planning process and have their voices heard.
- We encourage priority-setting during the City’s planning process that allows those stakeholders who are most impacted by particular decisions to have more say in those decisions.
- We ask that controversial decisions by consultants and City Parks involving challenging trade-offs be made transparent and justified based on clear criteria.

² According to the report from that meeting on the City’s website (www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/vilas-henry-park-master-plan), 79 people signed in at the June 26 meeting; while information on which neighborhood participants reside in is not available, many were Greenbush residents.

Surveys

Based largely on the key issues identified at the July 24 meeting (above) as of particular importance to Greenbush, and based also on new developments (particularly the City's determination that the large ash tree next to the Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain will be cut down), we developed and distributed a 4-part series of short electronic surveys³.

These surveys were intended to get a measure of Greenbush residents' current thinking, particularly related to potentially difficult decisions (i.e., how to manage traffic on Vilas Park Drive) that will need to be reflected in the final Vilas Park Master Plan. These surveys were not intended to be a final gauge of public opinion, even within the Greenbush neighborhood, but as a basis for dialogue at a later Greenbush Neighborhood Association, leading to recommendations for the consultants as they draft design options.

As people became aware of these surveys, they were distributed more widely through the Alder's email list, the Vilas and DMNA neighborhood listservs, and other social media, with nearly 300 people from more than a dozen neighborhoods responding by the January 30 deadline.⁴

Greenbush Association Meeting (January 27, 2020)

The Greenbush Neighborhood Council agreed to dedicate one of the three Greenbush Neighborhood meetings held each year to follow up on the above electronic surveys, with the following goals:

1. Start with, but begin to move beyond, the survey results
2. Generate new ideas for what we might want the park to be
3. Discover possible solutions to hard questions and trade-offs
4. Come to some agreement on what recommendations to provide now, as consultants draft preliminary plans

The results of Greenbush responses to the surveys, and the subsequent discussions of these results at the Greenbush Neighborhood meeting, constitute the remainder of the present report.⁵

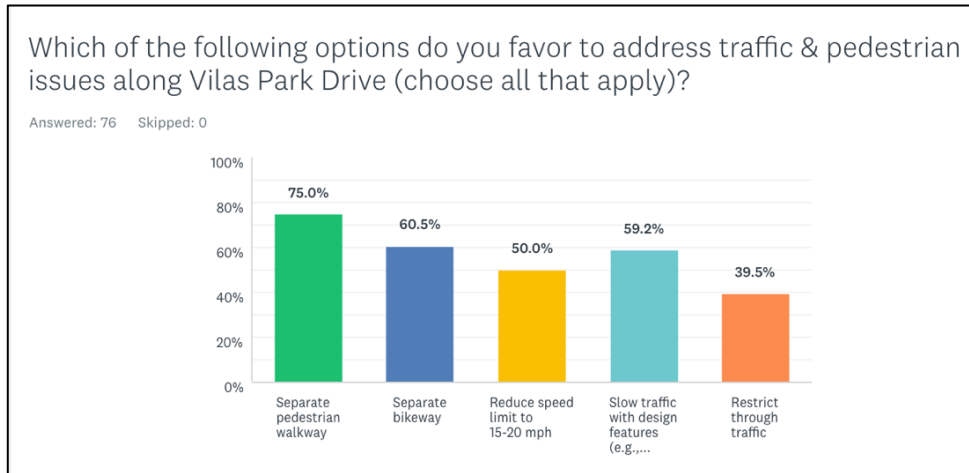
³ Survey questions are provided as Attachment 1. These questions show the full text of options provided, some of which are not fully visible on the labels for the individual charts.

⁴ The greatest # of responses was on the survey on traffic on Vilas Park Drive (n=289), which had 84 respondents from DMNA, 76 from Greenbush, 65 from Vilas, 26 from Bay Creek, and 11 from Bay Creek, and the remaining 27 from other neighborhoods.

⁵ Summary results from all respondents (not just Greenbush) are provided in Attachment 2; Excel files with all survey results are available on request to lorman@edgewood.edu.

Traffic management on Vilas Park Drive

Survey Results (Greenbush residents only):



Comments from survey:

Vilas Park Drive: Sample comments on need for traffic controls

This beautiful park is overwhelmed by cars and traffic with probably 80% of eastbound traffic using the drive as a shortcut, many speeding.

It is such a shame that we can ALMOST get safely to the zoo with our young child on a bike, but we have to share a narrow road with traffic and parking...

Clearly any of the above options would be safer than the current situation! ...I can't believe someone hasn't been seriously hurt yet.

Right now, walking through the park, as I often do, feels a bit risky.

I found cyclists ride on either side of the road when going eastbound, confusing drivers and runners.

It's amazing to me it's taken this long to address the problem. I walk through the area regularly and am scared, walking with a stroller and dog, that people zipping through are going to hit us.

Many of the "pedestrians" are infants and toddlers, going between beach and zoo or walking in or across the Drive to get to or from parking. This design facilitates tragedy.

Too much impatient commuter traffic through the park, both in the morning and evening. It makes it dangerous for all the children, dog walkers, and pedestrians trying to enjoy the park.

I do not feel safe walking or biking here because I have to share the road with cars and there isn't much space. Visibility near and on the little bridge by Edgewood is bad - I worry cars won't see me when I walk there. And biking along the road by the zoo/boat house...feels very unsafe. Let's make the park as attractive as possible for walking, biking and quiet enjoyment, and not for drivers taking short cuts.

It's very unsafe to bike near the parking lots by the beach. Cars nearly backed over my preschool aged son when he was biking by.

There must be a safe path for pedestrians and small children on bikes/scooters.

Lane width is way too wide and makes it too easy to speed.

I feel nervous walking gone in Vilas Park Dr after dark, because of the cars

Separate ped and bike paths or combo ped/bike paths is a great idea to ensure safety. Calming devices to slow the traffic are needed...

There must be a safe path for pedestrians and small children on bikes/scooters.

Vilas Park Drive: Suggestions improving safety

At a minimum there should be separation between pedestrians and cars. Lane width is way too wide and makes it too easy to speed. Narrow road, add speed bumps, and don't give cars 18' width to speed through.

A wider, better maintained pedestrian path would go a long way to improving the situation.

create a combined bike/walk path separate from auto traffic.

Traffic calming design features would be my top choice. Most important is pedestrian safety...especially by the beach/rear entrance to the zoo.

Along the zoo needs particular attention

bike and pedestrian can be combined like along the creek.

Traffic design should create disincentive for drivers to use this as a shortcut. I'm a biker. If speed limit is 15-20 mph then adult bikers can safely ride alongside cars.

Constrict entry point for autos so they know it is no longer a "road". Vary the width, paving, alignment, site furnishings to optimize pedestrian use and feel.

...speed limit reduction would be followed as it is already not followed.

Without constant enforcement, or physical deterrents like speed humps, reducing the posted speed limit will not matter to drivers so I don't see the point. Physical separation for bikers and pedestrians is the safest.

Please NO speed humps. They're expensive, ugly, annoying, and largely ineffective.

It would be great if the pedestrian side was on the side of the lake.

If cars remain, pull them away from the shoreline and replace with walking/biking path.

Move the road and parking areas away from the lake edge.

If bike lanes remain along the road, a tiered or stepped system (where the bike lane is raised a few inches higher than the road, and the pedestrian lane is higher still) would be a good solution.

Vilas Park Drive: Sample comments on restricting through traffic

Keep the option of through traffic, just slow it down and engineer it to make it safer for pedestrians and bikers. Some of use...it as a pleasure drive, as it was built to be. Please keep this option open, otherwise it will complicate things for other users of the park. The traffic can be calmed and the other users protected without eliminating the drive through option.

I don't have a problem with the way it is laid out currently.

Please allow through automobile traffic at all times! I have mobility issues and it is one of my favorite scenic drives.

It is fine as is.

I think I'm most in favor...but I don't really understand how it would work.

I'm intrigued by the idea of eliminating thru-traffic on VPD, but considering the needs of zoo parking as well as bus turn-around. I think these concerns can be accommodated.

I would love to see automobile traffic eliminated completely from that roadway, but then parking access to the beach and park shelter would have to be addressed.

It would be very easy to close the Drive to traffic but maintain access for emergency vehicles.

I very much approve of stopping through car traffic, even though I occasionally use it.

It seems to me that eliminating through traffic entirely would be the simplest and most cost-effective solution.

Separation of uses is important but restricting access is the best way to reduce traffic

I would prefer there not to be cars. It would add to the park like atmosphere.

Adopting the arboretum model would be a fantastic development, eliminating the throughway aspects while maintaining users access to the park from either direction. I strongly support this idea

Don't like idea ← → Like Idea

Conclusions and recommendations on traffic management on Vilas Park Drive:

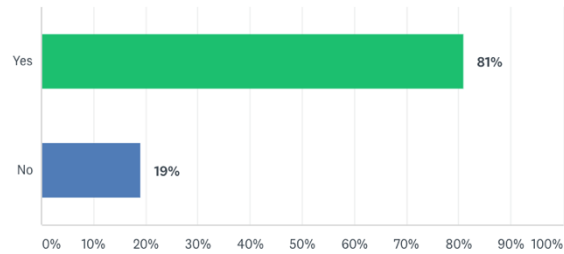
- Greenbush residents have serious concerns about the negative impacts of the high volume and speeds of drive-through (particularly commuter) car traffic along Vilas Park Drive. We ask that designs recognize that normal park use, and the safety, health, and convenience of park users, have priority over commuters and drive-through users.
- There is very strong support for taking a variety of measures to ensure safety for pedestrians and bikers, while also providing appropriate car access to the park and shoreline, and without encouraging drive-through commuter traffic that is excessive in both volume and speed.
- We would like to see options for re-designing the street in order to reduce car speeds and discourage drive-through commuter traffic.
- A pedestrian walkway separate from cars is essential; there is strong support for allowing walkers access along the shoreline and moving cars further away from the lake.
- There is strong support for a separate bike path along the lake, but also a recognition that bikers could share pavement with either walkers or drivers, depending on cars volumes/speeds and various design considerations.
- There is significant (40%) support for eliminating (or restricting at times) drive-through (especially commuter) car traffic among Greenbush residents, and we ask that consultants provide at least one design option for this in their initial schematics.
- Greenbush residents are also concerned about the impact of stormwater runoff on Lake Wingra, and we ask that designs be developed that do not increase the amount of impervious surface and runoff (e.g., through the use of permeable pavement, bioswales, etc.).
- We recommend that one option to consider for restricting traffic would be to have gates and “real-time” signage that provides on-going flexibility in determining potential restrictions on through traffic.

Parking and access

Survey Results (Greenbush residents only):

Do you ever notice increased parking pressure on your street that you attribute to drivers visiting Vilas Park and Zoo (i.e., not UW football games)?

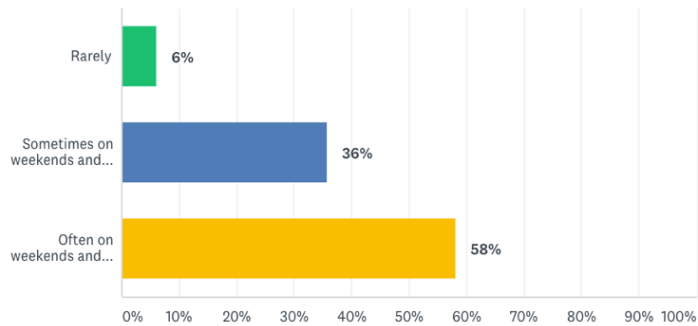
Answered: 84 Skipped: 0



(Questions 2-5 were only asked for those who responded “Yes” to Question 1)

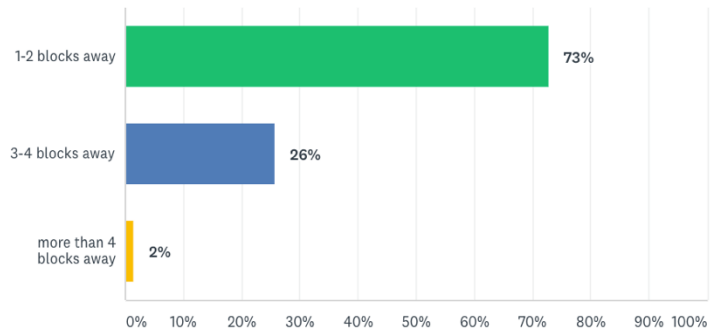
How often is there increased parking pressure on your street that you attribute to use of Vilas Park & Zoo (not UW football games)?

Answered: 67 Skipped: 17



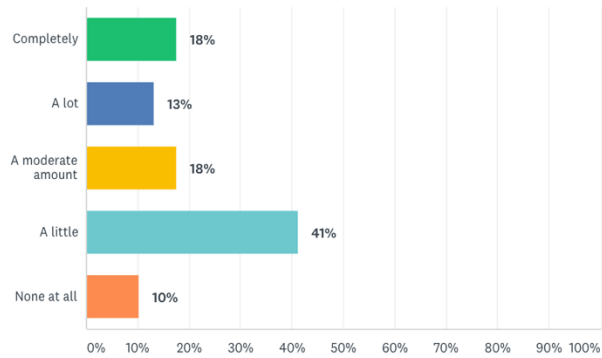
How close to you live to Vilas Park?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 18



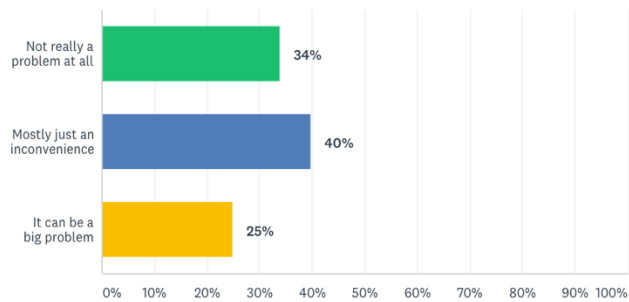
How much do you rely on on-street parking for your own vehicle(s) and for guests?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 16



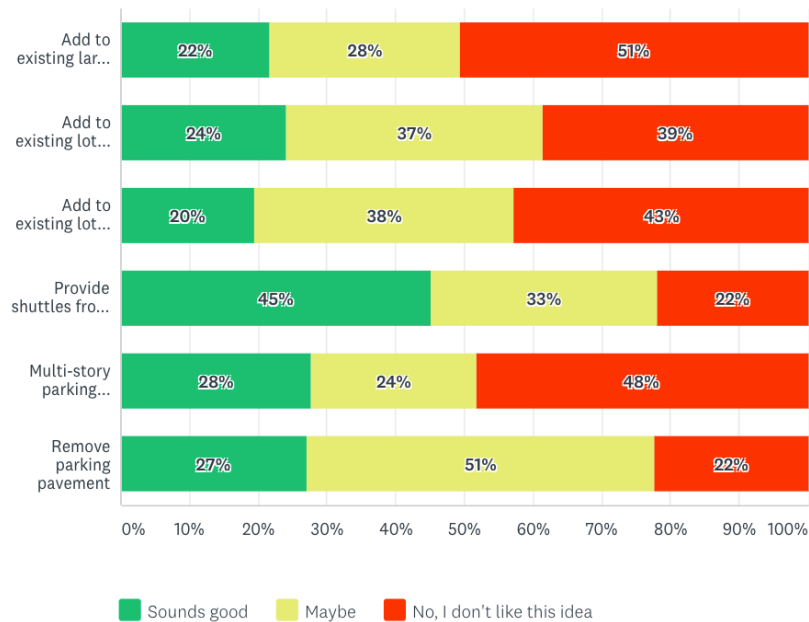
How big a problem do you consider the parking pressure on your street due to use of Vilas Park (other than associated with UW football games) to be?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 16



What is your current thinking with regards to options for parking to serve visitors of Vilas Park (and Vilas Zoo) in each of the following locations?

Answered: 84 Skipped: 0



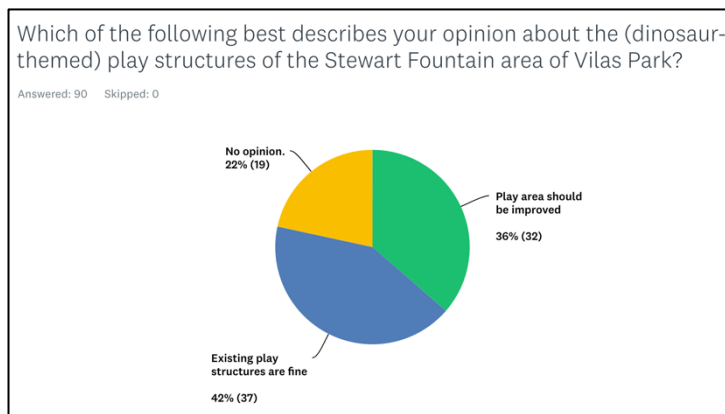
Conclusions & recommendations regarding parking & access:

- There is significant support (45% like; 22% don't like) for the idea of shuttle service to the park from elsewhere (e.g., Bowman Field) during peak visitor time.
- We ask that designs be developed that provide additional options for minimizing parking problems, including more efficient use of existing parking space; better directional signage; parking restrictions and/or fees; better public bus service. (Of particular concern are the large number of school & charter buses transporting school children on spring field trips; these buses cause traffic jams on Drake Street and in the parking lot and contribute to congestion along Vilas Park Drive by driving and parking there.)
- We recommend that options are provided for developing partnerships with key nearby institutions (Vilas Zoo, St. Mary's Hospital, Edgewood schools) to find solutions that alleviate parking (and associated traffic) problems in the area. (For example, might Vilas Zoo patrons be allowed & encouraged to use St. Mary's parking on weekends?)
- Greenbush residents are concerned about the impact of stormwater runoff on Lake Wingra, and we ask that any designs for parking aim to decrease rather than increase the amount of impervious surface and runoff (e.g., through the use of permeable pavement, bioswales, etc.).
- There is no clear consensus for either adding or reducing parking in the park.
- Many neighbors recognize that limited parking availability, and increased traffic associated with people looking for parking, are challenges that "come with the territory" for people living in a highly appealing area.

Wingra Overlook area (Bounded by Erin, Randall, and Vilas Zoo)

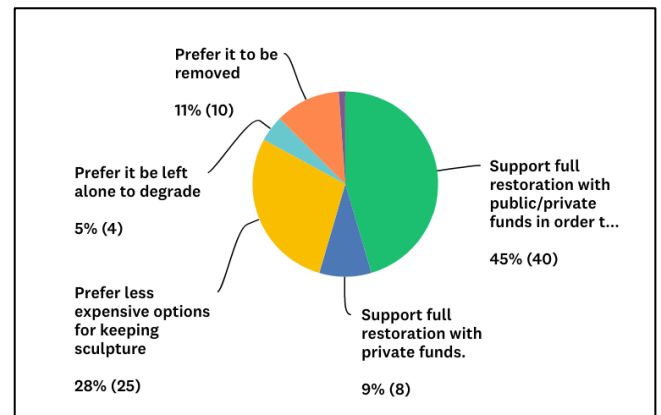


Survey Results (Greenbush residents only):



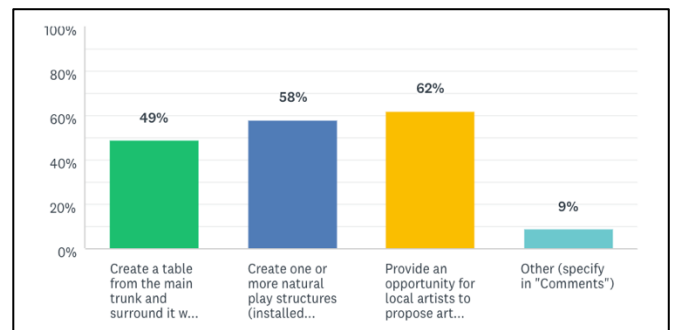
The Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain, which has seriously degraded since it was installed in 1925, has been the subject of recent study for possible preservation or restoration (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/annie-c-stewart-fountain-conservation-preservation-plan>). InSight Consulting Architects (full 2017 report available from that link) concluded that the concrete sub-base and the limestone base are beyond repair and should be replaced, and that the "marble fountain figures are historic, should be landmarked, and must be preserved/conserved," at a total estimated cost of \$350,000 - \$425,000, plus unknown expenses for on-going protection and maintenance. Given this information, which of the following best describes your current thinking about what should be done with this fountain?

Answered: 88 Skipped: 2



After a thorough study, Parks concluded that the large ash tree adjacent to the Annie C. Stewart fountain has internal instability that make it a risk and must be removed early in spring 2020. Parks staff have agreed to consider options for memorializing the tree by re-using its wood. Which of the following ideas would you like to be seriously explored for this (choose all that apply)?

Answered: 90 Skipped: 0



Comments from survey:

Sample comments on "Wingra Overlook" play area

My 10 year old daughter loves it. Could use more equipment.

We love the dinosaur theme!

The play structures are good, but minimal. Additional structures would be nice.

We love how the play equipment at this park is particularly toddler friendly and tends to attract families with younger children. ...other play structures at Vilas...are often occupied by bigger kids making it less suitable for younger children.

The kids love the dinosaur theme but there's just not enough to hold their interest.

We currently have a toddler and it is so helpful to have a park with basically only age appropriate play equipment. ...I also appreciate that the modest equipment (is compatible with) the ridge (as) a peaceful, sacred place.

There are plenty of newer parks/play structures very close by! And I'm saying this as the mom of a three year old. And it would be nice to avoid excess construction in a park that's very near/on top of effigy mounds.

I would be happy if more play structures were added!

[Would like] swings for kids not just baby swings

Could use play structures for older children, even adults. Perhaps natural structures?

The dinosaur is classic please keep it. However the play structure is for only very little kids. Can it be updated to a 5-12 year old playground?

I would prefer the play structures be removed ...and that this part of the park be for quiet contemplative, historical and sacred purposes.

The kid's play area at the Dinosaur Park feels redundant to the existing 2 play areas at Vilas Park. I rarely see kids here. Perhaps removing the kids play structures at Dinosaur Park would be the best option, and instead having the area be a natural Oak Savannah Area would be more consistent with the effigy mounds and the site's history.

We...use this playground all the time. Please keep the larger dinosaur climbing structure! The smaller dino with the slides is great for toddlers ...Also a slide built into the hillside would be amazing. (Like this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ModH2ZecU2g>)

Sample comments on memorializing ash tree

All are good ideas, but whatever is made of the wood should be placed where the tree was. An explanation of where the wood came from on the piece itself would be great too.

All three [ideas] sound good and not mutually exclusive

Create chainsaw art that would be consistent and appropriate to the site's history and possibly a tie-in thematically to the effigy mounds.

Benches would be nice with signage to instruct

Are there funds to replant another tree there (ideally not a sapling but something a little more mature)?

I'd also like to see the primary trunk remain in place if possible as used as an art installation

Instead of option 1, make only benches, not a table, to be placed throughout the park with a placard identifying they were built with wood from this historic tree.

A pavilion structure, (slab, roof, and supporting structure with open walls), would be a great improvement to the park that could incorporate wood and art created from the ash tree, foster greater community utilization of the park space, and likely cost less than fixing and maintaining the fountain.

Memorialize the tree by planting many more to replace it.

Do not spend public funds on this.

Chip the tree down and turn it into mulch for homes. Drill a deep hole in the base and plant a new tree into it's base so by the time it rots the new tree can fill in the forming hole and stop the ground sinking.

Don't do anything with the wood, it's just a tree.

Sample comments on Annie C. Stewart Memorial

I think the fountain is both historic and lovely and should be renovated as completely as possible.

I...prefer the 1st option, but have a hard time using potential funds for the fountain when there are still so many homeless folks who could be helped by those funds going to shelters, rehab, etc.

Given the current location of the fountain and sculptures in relation to the adjacent properties, this area feels like an extension of the adjacent private properties. When visiting the fountain area of the park I feel as though I'm invading someone's private yard.

Remove it to an indoor location for preservation, replace with something more useful (seating/picnic table, play area, bandshell/performance stage).

The report states...that more work is needed to evaluate the condition of the fountain. ...I feel that the cost estimates are likely unreliable. It would be good to identify and evaluate options before committing to a potentially large expenditure. Also, the location of the fountain is not one that lends itself to being seen by many people. This should also be figured into the alternatives and the decision.

It is a frequently visited and photographed location and could better be landscaped into the surrounding park as a beautiful, accessible, and contemplative space

This is a beautiful fountain...I am sorry that it has been allowed to deteriorate. It is a fountain — not a garden. Restoration with less expensive materials would be grand. It is a treasure in a pocket park — it is quiet, serene and a calm place.

I am not personally attached to the fountain, although it has a certain charm. ...I think it makes more sense to divert such funds to other projects in the park such as adding more native plantings, trees, park benches, or possibly a small covered area that could be used for picnicking or small events.

(That's) a lot of money for restoring that old fountain. The site...could be nice for something else, like stone seating and an interpretive display explaining the site's history and significance...

(Invest) in a newer fountain that is covered so it can better survive the winters. We should stop wasting money on opulent marble structures outdoors.

Too much vandalism for full original restoration

Not worth spending too much money on

The expense of restoration is prohibitive, however removing the fountain or taking no action is not desirable as the large ash tree is slated for removal and the fountain will be more prominent

This structure while pretty does not fit with the aesthetic of the park. Sell it and use the funds for planting trees in the park

Other comments on "Wingra Overlook" area

I would center it on the view and making it a unique place that people will go out of the way for.

I think some information or interpretive display would be beneficial to helping visitors appreciate the mounds and the history of the site. I assume that overlooking Lake Wingra like it is, this site was important to Native Americans for some purpose?

I love the simplicity, character and history of this park. It is a quiet spot to take my 1-year-old.

Honor the Indian mounds. They are a gem. The solitude of this park is special in contrast to the busyness of Vilas Park.

Please plant more trees in this park.

Continue removal of invasive plants in the woods along the south-facing hill to open the view to lake.

I would be in favor of consulting with the Indigenous People (Ho-Chunk?) to see what, if anything, they think should be done to mark or designate the mounds.

More seating arrangements should be available in the park for residents to enjoy the views and the quietness of the park.

Conclusions & recommendations on the Wingra Overlook area:

Key recommendations for Wingra Overlook

There is broad, strongly felt, and emotionally expressed agreement within GNA to protect and enhance the special qualities of this part of Vilas Park. There is strong support for one or more interpretive features – to be placed away from the Mounds, perhaps as a brochure and/or web site link – to describe the unique features of this area.

Most importantly it is our strong recommendation that park planning, design, and on-going management decision reflect these *special qualities of Wingra Overlook*:

1. Offers an exceptional overview of Lake Wingra (neighborhood volunteers work with parks to clear brush to allow the open view)
2. Represents historic and geologic heritage: Native American Mounds; lost "Dividing Ridge"; Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain
3. Serves as a neighborhood park, physically separate from rest of Vilas Park
4. Used as a quiet, contemplative space
5. Serves as a location for regular neighborhood-wide gatherings

6. Features unique toddler-friendly play structures

Recommendations for play area:

- There is no clear consensus for changing the existing play area, although some mentioned adding options for older children; most prefer to keep this area for smaller children as there are options for older children in the main areas of Vilas Park
- There is interest in the idea of a slide built into the hillside behind the dinosaurs (see picture); this would be in the hillside, some distance from the Mounds!
- There is strong interest in having more shade trees, near the playground and to replace the condemned ash, and at other locations

Recommendations for use of condemned ash tree:

GNA supports the following proposed steps to re-use the wood from the condemned ash tree as follows:

- City notifies Wood Cycle of cutting date (as per common practice) and the unique features of this job; and also notifies GNA whose representatives will remain in safety, far from the demolition activity, to observe
- City cuts the main trunk at a height ~4-6 feet
- City staff and/or Wood Cycle evaluate the condition of the remaining stump (location and extent of decay) for possible future use (e.g. table and/or chainsaw art)
- Wood Cycle removes and stores upper sections of trunk suitable for drying and milling, as well as smaller pieces suitable for wood carving
- Wood Cycle and/or City staff identify 1-2 large branches to be left on site for natural play structure
- Details for proposals for the use of the wood and artist selection led by City Arts Coordinator Karin Wolf

With respect to the Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain:

- The survey showed very strong support (81% of Greenbush respondents) for preservation and some extent of restoration of Annie C. Stewart Memorial
- There is also strong support (50%) for the “full” restoration (estimated ~\$400k) recommended by consultants

Based on these results, and the discussions at the GNA meeting, with respect to the Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain, GNA recommends that the Master Plan:

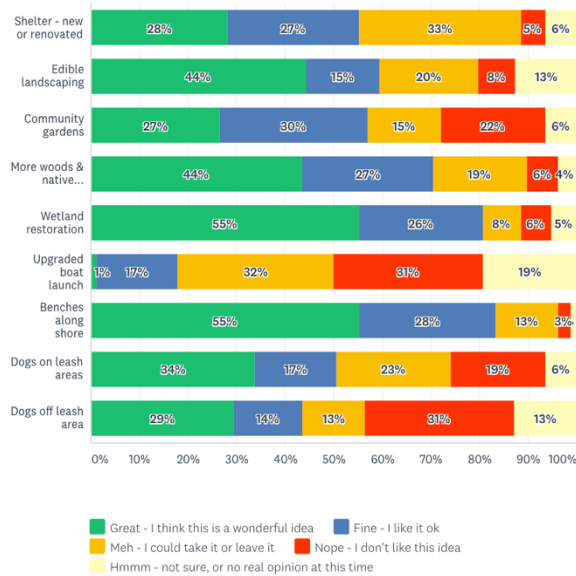
1. Recognizes the fountain as a critical component of the “Wingra Overlook” park area;
2. Includes an agreement to create a task force to include neighbors, park staff, Ho Chunk representatives, Madison Arts Program Administrator Karin Wolf, and others – within 1-2 years the task force will develop a plan that modifies restoration designs to funds that can be available to use within 5 years;
3. Presents landscape designs that contextualize the fountain within the larger “Wingra Overlook” park area (e.g. effigy mounds; Lake Wingra overview; neighborhood gathering area; memorial, sacred, contemplative, aesthetic, and play spaces; etc.).

Possible new park features

Survey Results (Greenbush residents only):

Below are features which have been suggested (in addition to the current playgrounds, playing fields, paths, etc) for Vilas Park. What best represents your current view of each of these ideas?

Answered: 79 Skipped: 0



Comments from survey:

Sample comments on natural habitats

- As a bird lover, I want to preserve native vegetation.
- Arb provides the woods.
- Plant large trees that we can't find on our streets: oaks, hickories, black walnuts, catalpas, etc. and a section of pines for a wonderful pine needle floor and aroma. Or our children will never know their beauty. Also, as wildlife habitat.
- How about a Bird and Butterfly Garden? That would be amazing!
- There is an awful lot of grass north of the lagoon.
- The key factor regarding "More woods and areas with native vegetation" is isolated location. For example, up against the bike path that runs from the tennis courts to Drake St. The park is heavily used, so no point putting in gardens & native vegetation that will get stomped. Another place for more trees & native plants would be just west of Randall Street by the entry parking lot.
- I think planting native plants/bushes/trees that provide food and shelter to wildlife (birds, ground mammals, butterflies, bees, etc.) would be fantastic. It's a beautiful park already, but I think it could serve more people and animals with more native plantings/landscaping.
- The eastern lagoon is usually nasty in terms of water quality and level of trash in water.
- It appears Vilas Park was originally marsh, restoration of wetlands along with native wetland plants may help improve water quality of the entire lake itself.
- Consider establishing native habitat on island
- Island as a peaceful, more wild area
- Continue removal of invasive plants above south-facing hill in "dinosaur park" to open up view to lake.
- Wetland and/or woodland restoration in chronically wet grassy areas
- Consider extending wetland into the field north of the lagoon. Portions are frequently waterlogged and would help address water quality issues with runoff from Vilas neighborhood.
- Complete native plant restoration on lagoon shoreline

Sample comments on shelter, boat launch, and benches

Shelter:

- I would prefer we pay back our debts rather than spend more money our children will have to pay back.
- Think about adding a year-round publicly accessible toilet facility for all park visitors (not associated with the pavilion)
- I think a simple and inexpensive open pavilion with some picnic tables & grilling facilities would be nice.
- Support for summer & winter activities
- Rustic feel
- Access to public restrooms

Upgraded boat launch:

- No parking for boat trailers. Parking is a poor use of space. Lake Wingra is best suited for small watercraft, not motorized boats.
- I prefer upgrades that everyone can use as opposed to more expensive ones that fewer people can use (i.e. an upgraded boat launch).
- Motor boats are not allowed on Lake Wingra; don't need a boat ramp.
- Could be a need for better access for paddlecraft, not motorboats

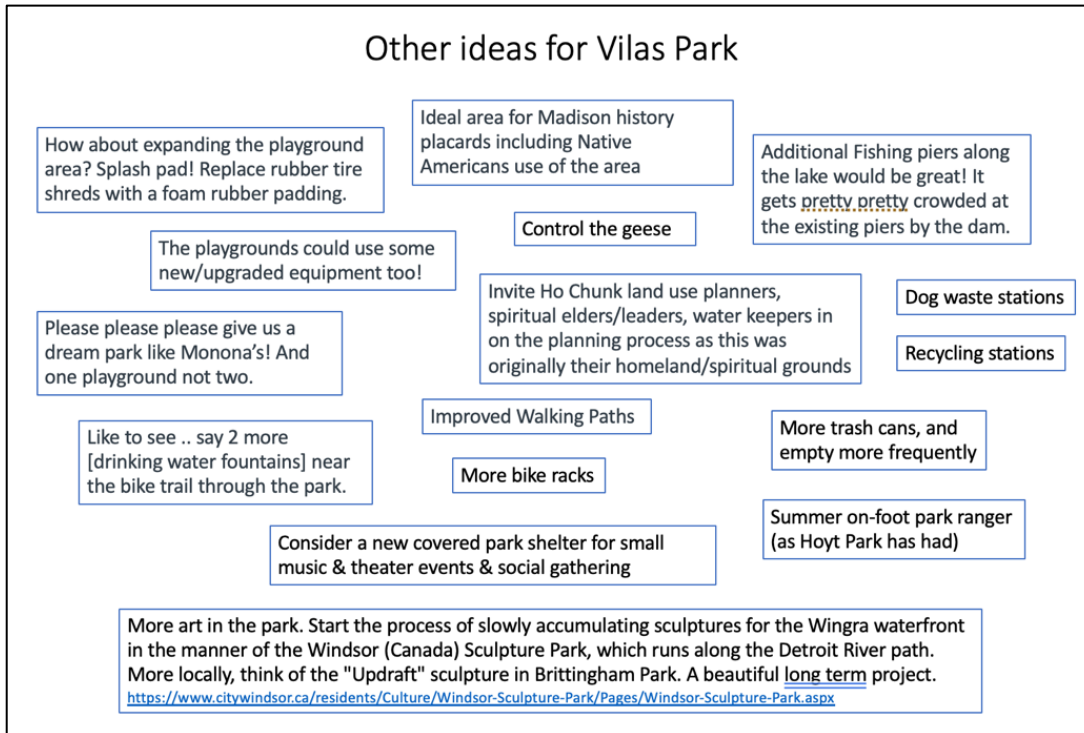
Benches on shoreline:

- A couple benches along the shoreline would be ok, but not a lot of benches.
- Really like the idea of benches for public seating as long as they don't have bars, weird shapes, or anything that prevents people from laying down on them.

Comments on gardens in Vilas Park

- Will fruit trees attract more bugs?
- Edible landscaping!
- My experience is that edible plant areas in other parks attract bees.
- How about a Bird and Butterfly Garden? That would be amazing!
- Community gardens are nice but they use a lot of land and only benefit a handful of people.
- No Garden Plots! Don't carve up the Park that way for private individual's benefit.
- The community garden idea gets more people in the park so I like it for that reason.
- The key factor regarding community gardens...is isolated location. For example, up against the bike path that runs from the tennis courts to Drake St.

Miscellaneous comments about possible park features:



Conclusions & recommendations about possible new park features:

- There is strong support for “edible landscaping” in Vilas Park, and GNA recommends that options for expanding the existing modest area (4 fruit trees near shoe slide) be provided in draft plans
- There is less support for community gardens- concerns expressed about allocating public park space for individual garden plots, and uncertainty about need in this part of city; however, GNA feels that it is enough support for this idea that we would like to see options for them in one of the draft plans
- We would like to see draft options for wetland restoration in a portion of the lagoon (e.g., eastern part of east lagoon near zoo)
- We would like to see draft options for wetland restoration (including water-tolerant trees) in specific areas of park that are subject to frequent flooding
- We would like to see draft options for expanding wooded areas and/or native understory under existing trees, with “keyhole” (peninsula) access to grassy areas for picnicking, etc.
- We would like to see options for locating benches, particularly along the lake shoreline, and consideration for creative funding (e.g., encouraging donations for dedicated benches)
- Although there is considerable opposition to having off-leash area(s) for dog, some feel there an appropriate location that might be fenced off for such use might be found

Attachment 1. Survey Forms

Survey introduction & disclaimer:

This survey was created by volunteers in the Greenbush Neighborhood Association (GNA) to provide information for the Vilas Park Master Plan (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/vilas-henry-park-master-plan>) being developed by City Parks, and to support the representatives from GNA to that formal planning process. The questions and options have been generated by neighbors, not by City staff or consultants. The intention is to provide a sense of how people might like to address issues that are seen as of particular significance to our neighborhood.

Social media has led to an interest in these surveys beyond GNA (and specifically, they have been shared on the Vilas and Dudgeon-Monroe neighborhood listservs), and it is important for respondents to identify their home neighborhood so results can be most usefully interpreted. Also please note the results are simply advisory, and do not reflect preconceived preferred choices among alternatives.

Part 1. Vilas Park Drive traffic

1. Which of the following options do you favor to address traffic & pedestrian issues along Vilas Park Drive (choose all that apply)?

- ☐ Create a pedestrian walkway that is separate from automobile traffic
- ☐ Create a bike path that is separate from automobile traffic
- ☐ Reduce the speed limit (currently 25 mph) to 15 or 20 mph
- ☐ Utilize design features (such as speed humps, curves, vegetated traffic islands) to slow automobile traffic
- ☐ Eliminate through automobile traffic (except Sundays, as in UW Arboretum?), allowing automobile access and access to parking from both ends

Other (please specify)

2. What other comments/suggestions do you have about the issue of traffic and pedestrian & biking safety on Vilas Park Drive?

3. What neighborhood do you live in?
(<https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/neighborhoods/436/>)

- ☐ Greenbush
- ☐ Vilas
- ☐ Bay Creek
- ☐ Dudgeon-Monroe
- ☐ Regent

Other (please specify)

Part 2: Wingra Overlook area

1. Which of the following best describes your familiarity with the Stewart Fountain area of Vilas Park?

- ☐ Very familiar with this area of Vilas Park.
- ☐ Somewhat familiar with this area.
- ☐ Barely familiar or totally unfamiliar with this area.

2. Which of the following best describes your opinion about the (dinosaur-themed) play structures of the Stewart Fountain area of Vilas Park?

- ☐ The play area should be improved with additional and/or replacement structures.
- ☐ The existing play structures are just fine as they currently are for this space.
- ☐ No opinion.

Comments:

3. The Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain, which has seriously degraded since it was installed in 1925, has been the subject of recent study for possible preservation or restoration (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/annie-c-stewart-fountain-conservation-preservation-plan>). InSight Consulting Architects (full 2017 report available from that link) concluded that the concrete sub-base and the limestone base are beyond repair and should be replaced, and that the "marble fountain figures are historic, should be landmarked, and must be preserved/conserved," at a total estimated cost of \$350,000 - \$425,000, plus unknown expenses for on-going protection and maintenance. Given this information, which of the following best describes your current thinking about what should be done with this fountain?

- ☐ I would likely support efforts to raise such funds in order to achieve the preservation/restoration objectives outlined by this architectural study using funds raised through a combination of public and private sources.
- ☐ I would likely support efforts to raise such funds in order to achieve the preservation/restoration objectives outlined by this architectural study, as long as these funds come entirely from private sources.
- ☐ I prefer that less expensive options be considered that would result in an aesthetically pleasing and durable structure. Although these options have not yet been detailed, they could, for example, include patching the concrete and limestone, converting the area that once held water into a flower planter, and/or re-creating the original sculptures using inexpensive materials like cement, plaster, or plastic instead of the original marble.
- ☐ I prefer that the entire structure be simply left alone, removing whatever should be removed as necessary for safety.
- ☐ I prefer that the sculpture be removed from this location, saving elsewhere whatever is worth preserving/restoring.
- ☐ Other (specify in "Comments")

Comments:

4. After a thorough study, Parks concluded that the large ash tree adjacent to the Annie C. Stewart fountain has internal instability that make it a risk and must be removed early in spring 2020. Parks staff have agreed to consider options for memorializing the tree by re-using its wood. Which of the following ideas would you like to be seriously explored for this (choose all that apply)?

- ☐ Create a table from the main trunk and surround it with seats (stools/benches) cut out of larger branches
- ☐ Create one or more natural play structures (installed nearer to the current play area) from upper branches (similar to those existing in Orton and Brittingham parks).
- ☐ Provide an opportunity for local artists to propose art installations created from the tree's wood, and create a good process for choosing and funding one or more of these.
- ☐ Other (specify in "Comments")

Comments:

Part 3. Possible new park features

1. Below are features which have been suggested (in addition to the current playgrounds, playing fields, paths, etc) for Vilas Park. What best represents your current view of each of these ideas?

	Great - I think this is a wonderful idea	Fine - I like it ok	Meh - I could take it or leave it	Nope - I don't like this idea	Hmmm - not sure, or no real opinion at this time
A renovated or totally new park shelter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More public fruit trees/edible landscaping (there are now 4 fruit trees next to shoe slide)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community gardens (plots allocated for individual use)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More woods and areas with native vegetation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restored wetlands (e.g., in a portion of the eastern lagoon near zoo where it is currently not plowed for ice skating)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Upgraded boat launch, with boat trailer parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Benches located along shoreline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designated areas for dogs on leash	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designated area(s) for dogs off leash	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other/Comments

Part 4: Parking

1. Do you ever notice increased parking pressure on your street that you attribute to drivers visiting Vilas Park and Zoo (i.e., not UW football games)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Comment:

2. How often is there increased parking pressure on your street that you attribute to use of Vilas Park & Zoo (not UW football games)?

☐ Rarely

☐ Sometimes on weekends and/or when weather is particularly good

☐ Often on weekends and/or when weather is good

Comment:

3. How close to you live to Vilas Park?

☐ 1-2 blocks away

☐ 3-4 blocks away

☐ more than 4 blocks away

4. How much do you rely on on-street parking for your own vehicle(s) and for guests?

☐ Completely

☐ A little

☐ A lot

☐ None at all

☐ A moderate amount

Other (please specify)

5. How big a problem do you consider the parking pressure on your street due to use of Vilas Park (other than associated with UW football games) to be?

- ☐ Not really a problem at all
- ☐ Mostly just an inconvenience
- ☐ It can be a big problem

Comment:

6. What is your current thinking with regards to options for parking to serve visitors of Vilas Park (and Vilas Zoo) in each of the following locations?

	Sounds good	Maybe	No, I don't like this idea
Add to existing large parking lot at main entrance (Drake & Randall)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add to existing lot near tennis courts (at Edgewood Drive, Vilas Park Drive, Edgewood Park & Pleasure Drive)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add to existing lot at the shelter (off Vilas Park Drive)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide shuttle vans or buses (during busy times) from other parking lots (e.g., Bowman Field, approx. 1 mi)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build a 2- or 3-story parking garage on existing lot at Orchard St & Vilas Park Drive (across from SSM Health Child Care Center)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Remove some of the current surface parking and reclaim as green space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

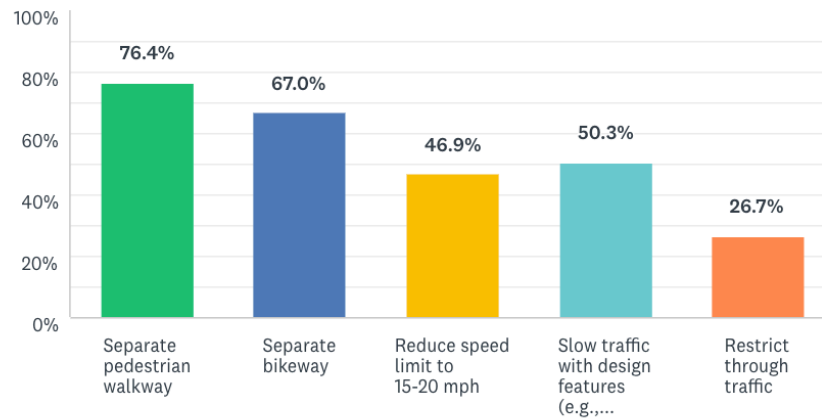
Comment:

Attachment 2: Survey results for all respondents

Traffic management on Vilas Park Drive

Which of the following options do you favor to address traffic & pedestrian issues along Vilas Park Drive (choose all that apply)?

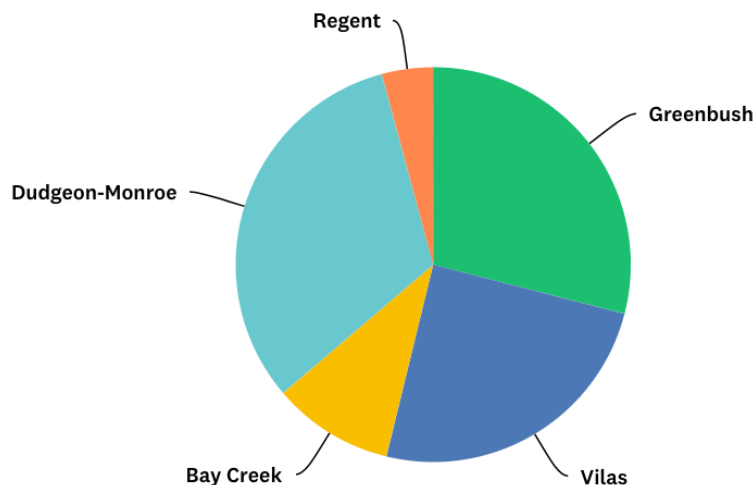
Answered: 288 Skipped: 2



What neighborhood do you live in?

(<https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/neighborhoods/436/>)

Answered: 289 Skipped: 1



Traffic management: Comments on question #1

- If autos are limited except Sunday, I think it can be OK not to make designated bike or pedestrian paths...and traffic is slowed with bumps and vegetated islands
- I would comment that eliminating through traffic would potentially reduce the need for separated pedestrian/biking infrastructure since the only reason we need that is because of cars.
- Allow through traffic.

- Really, really need to work on accessible pathway on Vilas park drive between the zoo back entrance and where the bike path on Wingra Creek begins. It feels very precarious with a stroller along this part of the path, and I can't imagine how it works for a wheelchair or walker.
- I would like a nice gravel/cinder path for running. Right now it is on the grass and looks bad.
- I frequently use Vilas Park Drive to get to the south side of town. I am definitely NOT in favor of lowering the speed limit. There are already bike/pedestrian lanes. Are these somehow insufficient? I am also definitely NOT in favor of closing the street to cars except on weekends.
- I would like to have bike and pedestrian traffic along Lake Wingra, able to travel freely without worrying about a large volume of traffic. I like the system for managing the volume of cars adopted in the Arboretum, where people can access parking lots from both ends.
- I drive through Vilas at least weekly, but strongly support stopping all through traffic
- I think it's fine. I walk/jog there several times a week and it's fine
- I oppose eliminating the through traffic. This traffic will just end up on Vilas Ave in the neighborhood, endangering residents and kids on their way to school.
- If you actually monitor traffic speed flows there are two times a day that speeding is a challenge, morning commuters and evening commuters. Ticket them to pay for the new off leash and on leash dog park.
- "Has anyone looked at impact on traffic in surrounding neighborhoods vs many people actually bike on this section? It would be awesome to join up with other bike paths, but if it's just this section I'm not sure bike demand makes it worth building a bike lane.
- We use Vilas drive a lot to get out of the neighborhood when Monroe/park and regent are packed. "
- I would move the road along the lake closer to the lagoon (and for bikers to the West) and then where the road is could be for bikes (to the East) and walkers.
- Instead of lowering the posted speed limit, design the road so drivers instinctively want to slow down: islands, curves, speed humps. If drivers see a wide road with open lanes, they'll drive 30mph regardless of what the posted signs say!
- The most frequent use I observe is that of work commuters using it as a cut through path. They are going too fast and are not interested in a pleasure drive. Walkers, runners, and bikers have too small of area - especially if car traffic would be increased or two way.
- I think it might be sufficient to block through traffic on weekdays (perhaps just during rush hours) while allowing full access at other times. Experimentation might be needed.
- While I would prefer to cut off through traffic, having one-way traffic is preferable to having cars going in both directions. Could the road be cut off after the parking lot at Edgewood Dr allowing only 2 way traffic from the east to the shelter? Is there any need for a road from the bridge to the shelter if through traffic will be restricted?
- It is fine as is.
- None of the above - I don't have a problem with the way it is laid out currently.
- It would be very easy to close the Drive to traffic, but maintain access for emergency vehicles.
- we're down there frequently and have not seen any problems. what's wrong with current usage/flow?
- I prefer eliminating automobile traffic, but short of that, there must be bike/ped lanes instead of mud trails.
- Traffic calming design features would be my top choice. Most important is pedestrian safety, in my opinion, especially by the beach/rear entrance to the zoo.
- I use the area biking and driving frequently. I don't think it requires changes.
- Walking paths can't be below water level or in low spots as in shoe park. The walking path is usually under water
- Move the road and parking areas away from the lake edge.
- Please NO speed humps. They're expensive, ugly, annoying, and largely ineffective.
- All of the above. Separation of uses is important but restricting access is the best way to reduce traffic. I suggest one other addition to reduce car traffic and make this area much nicer for everyone: Installation of real-time digital parking information signs at the entrance to both ends of Vilas Park Drive that indicate the

fullness of the parking and that the drive is closed or open. The rapid development of video camera technology allows even unmetered parking areas to be identified as very full, medium or empty. These types of systems would also make it even easier for rangers to monitor overnight parking.

- Constrict entry point for autos so they know it is no longer a "road". Vary the width, paving, alignment, site furnishings to optimize pedestrian use and feel.
- Should include separation of bicycles and pedestrians at the old bridge where the lake and lagoon meet
- If you eliminate traffic entirely, Drake St will be super busy. With kids going to the zoo, we don't want more traffic on Drake st. You would be just moving the problem to Drake St.
- I like the idea of eliminating the automobile traffic, but don't know how you would address parking from both ends when the road is one way (e.g. could drive in to park, but not out to leave).
- Move the zoo boundary further back from Vilas Park Drive to allow for safer passage
- Please do not eliminate through traffic. During busy times near campus, such as football game days, being able to sneak through Vilas Park and avoid the stadium area is crucial for those of us who live in the Bay Creek area but may need to get to the West High School area and back.
- Please keep a bike lane on Vilas Park drive (in both directions).
- I would not eliminate the traffic considering the parking that is available to zoo patrons on that side unless there were alternate accessibility.
- I utilize Vilas Park Drive quite often by bike and car, and I have looked for yet have never seen a posted speed sign. Whatever is done, I hope multiple speed signs are visible and enforced.
- A wider, better maintained pedestrian path would go a long way to improving the situation.
- Please allow through automobile traffic at all times! I have mobility issues and it is one of my favorite scenic drives. I never see cars speeding but would be ok with a lower speed limit or speed bumps.
- There is a desperate need for a pedestrian/bicycle path from the Zoo's East parking lot, on Vilas Park Drive and S. Orchard St. to the Zoo's south entrance. This area is typically flooded when it rains, has only a narrow dirt path, not wide enough for two people to pass, thus forcing wheelchairs and baby strollers to walk in the street with back to traffic -- street parking makes this stretch difficult to face traffic.
- Therefore, extend the existing, separated-from-traffic Bike Trail/pedestrian way 500 feet on the south side of the Vilas Park Drive from where it currently crosses Vilas to the Zoo's south parking lot by removing the street parking spaces there next to the creek.
- Make the existing bike lane on the south edge of the Zoo's south parking lot a bike trail/pedestrian way separated from traffic for the additional 400 feet between the entrance parking lot and the entrance to the Zoo/Beach area.
- Place a flashing yellow, push button pedestrian light at the crosswalk between the Zoo and the Beach entrances.
- Extend the Bike Trail/Pedestrian Way the entire length of Vilas Park Drive to Edgewood Drive.
- Close down the small section of Vilas Park Drive by the Vilas Shelter permanently to automobiles, making it possible to walk or bike to Lake Wingra from Vilas Park without having to cross traffic. Cover the 350 feet of existing street with grass between the Wingra Shelter parking lot entrance and the west end of Beach parking. Leave a wide bike path capable of handling emergency vehicles. Each side of Vilas Park Drive would now dead end at this reclaimed-from-traffic park land, and would have two way traffic.
- Close Vilas Park Drive from the Wingra Shelter parking lot entrance to the bridge on the east end of Vilas Park -- cover road with grass, leave a wide bike path that could accommodate emergency vehicles. Most Zoo, Beach, and Shelter traffic would come from the east. Some would park by the tennis courts on the west. Vilas would be two way with a dead end at the Shelter.
- I walk through Vilas Park every single workday on my way to work. This beautiful park is overwhelmed by cars and traffic with probably 80% of eastbound traffic using the drive as a shortcut, many speeding. Adopting the arboretum model would be a fantastic development, eliminating the throughway aspects while maintaining users access to the park from either direction. I strongly support this idea
- create a combined bike/walk path separate from auto traffic.
- I don't believe that changing the speed limit will have any impact.

- Keep the option of through traffic, just slow it down and engineer it to make it safer for pedestrians and bikers. Some of us drive by Vilas to check out the lake, we use it as a pleasure drive, as it was built to be. Please keep this option open, otherwise it will complicate things for other users of the park. The traffic can be calmed and the other users protected without eliminating the drive through option.
- It seems to me that eliminating through traffic entirely would be the simplest and most cost effective solution. Short of that, and if you're really intent on spending tax dollars, all of the options presented would be an improvement.
- I think I'm most in favor of the last idea but I don't really understand how it would work.
- Better striping, to make it clearer which directions to expect car traffic?
- I would love to see automobile traffic eliminated completely from that roadway, but then parking access to the beach and park shelter would have to be addressed. Creating separate roadways for pedestrians, bikes, and cars might be the better answer. I'm in favor of increasing the shoreline along the lake as pedestrian access and moving car-ways more interior away from the lake. That drive also becomes a convenient place for sketchy folks to hang out in their cars doing sketchy things while having a beautiful view of the lake.
- bike and pedestrian can be combined like along the creek. Bikes and peds. should safely be able to go from path that ends at Orchard, along the lake to the Edgewood dr.
- If traffic is restricted through the park, then Drake Street will receive more traffic so that will need to be addressed.
- I would like to see all of these options implemented.
- Extend and clearly mark existing bike lane along Vilas Park Drive
- Divide these up like we talked about today ;)
- Combine some of the above items. On the west end of the drive, allow driving access only to the shelter, and in that stretch, create a walking/biking path on the north side of the current drive. Similarly, on the east end of the drive, allow driving access only to the beach house parking lot, and in that stretch, create a walking/biking path on the south side of the current drive. In the middle stretch, minimize car traffic: ideally eliminate; if not possible, limit to Sundays; if not possible, reduce speed to 10 or 15 mph, and design features that dramatically reduce speed.

Traffic Management: Other comments & suggestions (question #2)

- We should absolutely be banning through traffic, and I would argue there's no reason for allowing it here even on Sundays. It's a huge safety issue, especially given the number of children at the zoo and in the park.
- Must have public transport. Find out what Metro is willing to do
- More emphasis on walking paths along the lakeside instead of parking lots. I also feel that to preserve bike path coherence there should be a separate two way bike path along the one way Randall street entrance to the zoo. If you're on the bike path and want to get to Randall Avenue you have to either dodge pedestrians or cars.
- I walk there most every day, would be great walkers on LAKE side to appreciate the lake and wildlife and not thinking about traffic
- There at least needs to be a sidewalk that goes from the S. Orchard zoo parking lot to the back entrance of the zoo. It is currently a dangerous set up, especially when there are large rain puddles
- Don't close this Drive; it's the only way to get to the shelter, ice skating, beach, and south Zoo entrance.
- My second choice would be separate bike/walking space, but only if my first choice isn't selected.
- If anything, I would add better signage to prohibit cars from going the wrong way out of the parking lot.
- I really like running and biking on Vilas Drive, but it is unsafe. A dedicated walking/biking lane would address this problem (like the lakeshore path). I also appreciate being able to drive on Vilas Drive and get from my house (off of Monroe street) to Fish Hatchery without having to drive on many neighboring side streets.
- The one-way nature can make finding parking on the weekend very difficult.

- All of the ideas above make little sense
- It should be as car-free as possible- only the traffic necessary to use the park. THERE SHOULD DEFINITELY BE GOOD BUS ACCESS!
- Having a uniform, smooth surface for cars, bikes and feet will eliminate the need for traffic crossing into each other's lanes.
- I'm not hung up on a specific plan. I'd just like to greatly reduce vehicle speed. Changing the speed limit without speed bumps or closing it to through traffic seems the least useful, because no one will be checking their speed.
- There needs to be a sidewalk where the dirt path is.
- less cars will also make for a nicer park. A lot of cars use it as a short cut I think.
- Stop sign at bottom of Edgewood Dr is constantly ignored esp at rush hour. Suggest there also be a stop sign at Vilas Ave/Edgewood Dr as cars come fast down the hill and there's lots of pedestrian/cycling traffic crossing at Edgewood Pleasure Dr
- It seems like an area where a designated pedestrian / bike path could be very effective, while still allowing vehicle traffic. Eliminating vehicle traffic may just result in diverting it to other neighborhood streets, making them busier.
- More enforcement on the current "no left turn" from Vilas Park Dr to S Orchard St
- Police the area at times above, you'll increase revenues as they, (speeding drivers), come off the stop sign at Jefferson and Edgewood to Adams and Edgewood. They (speeders) are in excess of 40 MPH daily.
- Vilas is such an underutilized park I'm not sure the drive is a problem. With increased amenities it might attract more visitors, so would be interesting to understand expectations of whether people will come by bike.
- Consider to use a corner of the zoo to add space to allow for a sideway, etc near the "pinchpoint" towards the damn.
- I occasionally use Vilas Drive for commuting. It provides good access to the Bay Creek neighborhood, where I live. There are many months of the year, especially in winter, when this route is not widely used for "pleasure" activity, meaning walking, running, biking. I support traffic calming measures and a pedestrian walkway, while still keeping Vilas Drive open to through traffic.
- I'm a year round family cargo-biker and I find the Vilas Park dr to be beautiful, but too many buses idling and cars going too fast.
- Eliminating cars from the park would be great!
- We're new to town. Took the family here on what I thought would be a nice walk along the lake; turned out we were just walking in the road, not along the lake, and dodging cars and parked semis. Such a beautiful place, but not at all friendly to pedestrians. Please create a walking path along the shore!!
- See comments above
- Do not allow school buses to park on Vilas Park Drive.
- As a runner, traffic was never the problem but more so just having a dedicated space to run on the side is the road.
- It is too close to the lake and it is terribly unfriendly for self-locomotion.
- retain the current 1-way traffic and ENFORCE it;
- Main issue I see (besides the road condition) is cars parking near beach area and crossing bike lanes. Would be great to separate somehow. Such an awesome park
- Please make it so Vilas Park Drive doesn't flood
- The traffic is too fast and unsafe
- adding non-motorized paths for pedestrians and bikes and slowing one-way traffic would help.
- Resurface the road. Paint lanes, I found cyclists ride on either side of the road when going eastbound, confusing drivers and runners.
- Where Vilas Park Dr becomes one-way, but bicyclists can continue west, the marked bike lane feels much too narrow and therefore unsafe. It is also missing near the shelter and the pavement is very bad.
- Make the parking flow better.

- I have never felt unsafe as a pedestrian or bicyclist on Vilas Park Drive. The road is wide and has good visibility.
- Along the zoo needs particular attention
- This should be a pedestrian friendly area- not full of speeding cars, and rows of parked buses or cars.
- Crossing the street at Orchard and Vilas Park Dr. is extremely hazardous. Cars drive too fast and there are no stop signs.
- If nothing else, please put in a sidewalk east of Vilas beach!
- If cars remain, pull them away from the shoreline and replace with walking/biking path.
- More lighting in the parking lots and on the street
- Without constant enforcement, or physical deterrents like speed humps, reducing the posted speed limit will not matter to drivers so I don't see the point. Physical separation for bikers and pedestrians is the safest.
- "Add Turtle and people crossing signs!
- Add a bright green lane for people to bike/walk on that's clearly marked with a median if there are cars allowed."
- Traffic design should create disincentive for drivers to use this as a shortcut. I'm a biker. If speed limit is 15-20 mph then adult bikers can safely ride alongside cars. There's already a bike path along the other side of the park for kids' use.
- This is a regional park and vehicle access is important. There also MUST be public transportation to the park and beach.
- Why on earth does a car need access here?! If you're handicapped, I guess it's OK, but otherwise walk or bike! That road is dangerous and terrible.
- It seems like zoo parking needs to be a part of this process. It doesn't seem like there is enough.
- It would be great if the pedestrian side was on the side of the lake.
- paint pedestrian safe crossings like those on city streets
- Repave
- Current bike lane is shared with pedestrians walking in both directions and it is never clear who has right of way.
- Assuming you mean the road along Wingra, by the beach, I've never thought there was a problem there.
- Please put a stop sign where vilas drive hits wingra dr/Mills. it's where the Wingra bike path ends and meets the road and from a pedestrian/biker standpoint it feels like cars should stop to give the right away but no signage or crosswalk is in place.
- At a minimum there should be separation between pedestrians and cars. Lane width is way too wide and makes it too easy to speed. Narrow road, add speed bumps, and don't give cars 18' width to speed through.
- Get rush hour cut through traffic to slow down
- Lots of foot and bike and running Now ebikes too. Need 2 separate lanes for this type of traffic and enough for. Bikers to pass walkers and strollers
- Incorporate green infrastructure such as bioswales, rain/pollinator gardens, and permeable pavement options. As mentioned above, move the road and parking spaces away from the shoreline.
- It's very unsafe to bike near the parking lots by the beach. Cars nearly backed over my preschool aged son when he was biking by.
- I personally have had no issues with it but am open to any and all of the above ideas to improve safety.
- If you create barriers and narrow traffic a bit it will be safer. Consider a protected by parked cars path on the interior or exterior.
- Banning through traffic on Vilas Drive will activate an important transportation corridor that interconnects with other major bicycle routes. This would also be one piece of the ultimate goal to have a low stress bike route around Lake Wingra
- The bridge area (especially the neighborhood side and crossing from sidewalk to the opposite side bridge sidewalk) is the only area that consistently concerns me when I run or bike.

- Make cars the permitted “guests” in a pedestrian/bike “ruled” landscape.
- There must be a safe path for pedestrians and small children on bikes/scooters.
- what is wrong with the way it is?
- I haven’t experienced it very much except a few times at rush hour or on football Saturdays.
- Commuting through the park is a major issue. Move all St. Mary’s traffic off Vilas Park Drive. All other through traffic is ok
- A bike and pedestrian path is important. Right now, walking through the park, as I often do, feels a bit risky. Please continue to allow a vehicle through-way for reasons described in response to question 1.
- If possible, widen the stone bridge over the water connection of Lagoon & Water Lily area. Too many pedestrians & bikers veer into the driving lane, more so when there is fishing ON the bridge.
- Keep it a good place for runners.
- Please please please install some park benches so we old folks can walk the whole drive but with a welcome break that will make it possible.
- I'd like to say that eliminating traffic except on Sunday is a good option. But, preventing cars from traveling through the park will push speeding commuter traffic into the neighborhood streets that surround the park, and thereby create even more safety issues for school age children and other pedestrians.
- Keep Vilas one-way.
- "Bike lanes should not run behind cars backing out of their parking spots.
- Pedestrians should be completely separate from traffic! "
- I personally have never felt unsafe biking or walking/running the drive, but I would prefer there not to be cars. It would add to the park like atmosphere. As long as there is access for vehicles to the small boat launching areas.
- I would love to see a path for both pedestrians and bikers. Perhaps narrowing the road and including other design features to slow down traffic. While I chose to reduce the speed limit, it likely won't be obeyed and monitoring is likely not a long term feasible option. Signage needs to be improved for zoo patrons on where to park and gain access to the zoo.
- We would like to see bike paths or lanes on both sides of Vilas Park Drive. Many children, including ours, use the lane with their families, so we would like to see safer lanes. Thank you for all of your work with this project!
- Please don't force cars to use only neighborhood streets or Regent St. alone to get from Park St. to Monroe St. or west Regent St. Keep Vilas Drive through for cars.
- See above priorities.
- Narrow the road and perhaps realign it so it does not visually dominate the lakeshore. And if the above Arboretum style plan is adopted, perhaps leave a gap between the East and west access roads so there's a spot on the lake that is roadless like at Wingra Park
- Too many parked cars in area. How about a satellite lot with a shuttle?
- Clearly any of the above options would be safer than the current situation! There needs to be a separate path/sidewalk for bikes/walkers/zoo users and traffic. I can't believe someone hasn't been seriously hurt yet.
- Many of the “pedestrians “ are infants and toddlers, going between beach and zoo or walking in or across the Drive to get to or from parking. This design facilitates tragedy.
- I often drive through there because it's beautiful, especially during the summer or after a snowfall. It would be a shame to close it off to cars. I think having a designated bike/pedestrian path would be more cost-effective, less contentious, and would allow people who can't walk there to enjoy the scenery.
- Too much impatient commuter traffic through the park, both in the morning and evening. It makes it dangerous for all the children, dog walkers, and pedestrians trying to enjoy the park.
- If bike lanes remain along the road, a tiered or stepped system (where the bike lane is raised a few inches higher than the road, and the pedestrian lane is higher still) would be a good solution.

- Separate ped and bike paths or combo ped/bike paths is a great idea to ensure safety. Calming devices to slow the traffic are needed, but please do not eliminate the drive through option, it is not for the commuters, it is for the users of the park.
- Pedestrians and bikers are confused about in what "lane" they should be walking or pedaling. Yes cars so go fast. I run there early mornings and cars whiz down Edgewood and speed down the drive.
- Raised platform crossing for pedestrians at three critical points along drive between zoo side and lake side of road, with zebra stripe markings or comparable safety measure for walkers
- Look forward, not backward; when planning for transit and safety on Vilas Park Drive!
- Cyclists and pedestrians (especially strollers) right of way. A separate pedestrian walkway would fix that.
- It is such a shame that we can ALMOST get safely to the zoo with our young child on a bike, but we have to share a narrow road with traffic and parking for that last bit (approaching from the east)
- The road is currently only one-way for cars any how, so it's not serving that great of a purpose as a through-fare, nor should it. Additionally, the proximity of the drive to Lake Wingra seems problematic with respect to the wildlife that uses the lake and park for habitat. A physically separated walkway on the stone bridge would also be helpful and increase safety for pedestrians/cyclists in the park.
- I do not feel safe walking or biking here because I have to share the road with cars and there isn't much space. Visibility near and on the little bridge by Edgewood is bad - I worry cars won't see me when I walk there. And biking along the road by the zoo/boat house is impossible and feels very unsafe. Let's make the park as attractive as possible for walking, biking and quiet enjoyment, and not for drivers taking short cuts. Thanks for listening.
- unfortunately I've had more incidents as a runner/pedestrian with bicyclists than cars: bike riders who believe the bike lane is only for bikes, not runners/pedestrians. so either clearly mark joint use or have a separate pedestrian path.
- "I'm intrigued by the idea of eliminating thru-traffic on VPD, but considering the needs of zoo parking as well as bus turn-around. I think these concerns can be accommodated. As this will make the entire VPD two-way auto traffic (for inbound/outbound parking), it makes dedicated bike/ped facility even more important.
- Any plan must emphasize Vilas Park Drive as PARK infrastructure; not a transportation corridor."
- I don't think this speed limit reduction would be followed as it is already not followed.
- I favor the above solutions AND I would like the solutions to be aesthetic and appropriate to protect and highlight the shoreline. Lots of vistas, picnic tables, and benches to view the lake, birds, fish.
- Even now I find it easy to bike through Vilas. It is less easy to walk or run without a segregated path. I very much approve of stopping through car traffic, even though I occasionally use it.
- If a car roadway remains in place, it's important to keep it one way. I would like to see separate and bi-directional roadways for pedestrians and bikes so they are not using the same paths and are on separate paths in each direction.
- The issues are summer and the school bus season trips, primarily. If you can solve the three I checked, you are on your way.
- I feel nervous walking alone in Vilas Park Dr after dark, because of the cars
- I would keep the current on-street bicycle/pedestrian lane, maybe enhance it with bright paint. I don't like the idea of a separated path because that would chew into park lands and also because the low speed of car traffic (15mph) makes an on-street path feel safe enough.
- A pedestrian/biking path from the parking lot adjacent to the tennis courts eastward to the bridge connecting the lagoon island would also be a useful addition to the park.
- It's amazing to me it's taken this long to address the problem. I walk through the area regularly and am scared, walking with a stroller and dog, that people zipping through are going to hit us.
- Fix it!
- Make biking easier across Vilas Park to Drake Street, not only at the tennis courts, but also near the walking path that passes the shoe playground. Definitely a trial use of offsite parking and shuttle on high traffic days, perhaps combined with parking meters on the 2 lots along the lake.

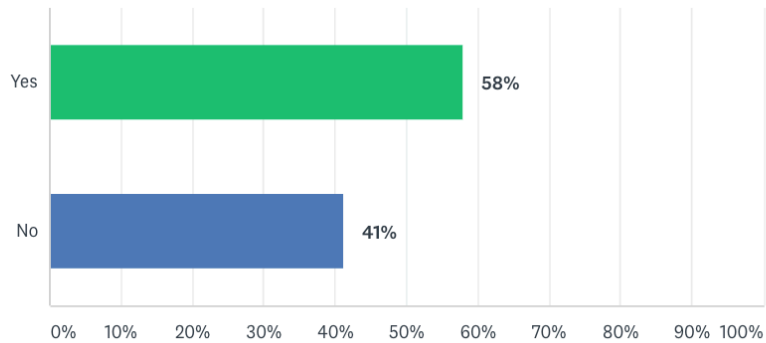
Traffic Management: Question #3, other neighborhoods

- Oregon, WI though I cycle to work in Madison year-round and use the Vilas Park route somewhat regularly.
- Midtown commons
- Far west side, but grew up at Adams/Harrison, biked Vilas Park Drive then and now.
- Westmorland
- Marlborough Heights (south Nakoma)
- Westmorland
- Westmorland
- Sunset Village
- Westmorland
- Westmorland
- Westmorland
- Westmorland
- Middleton (moved, but this was my daily commute)
- Hill Farms
- Eastmorland
- Westmorland
- village of shorewood hills
- Nakoma
- Crestwood
- Nakoma
- Nakoma
- Greentree
- Nakoma
- Wexford
- Monona Bay
- Monona Bay
- We live in Bay Creek near the entrance to the Arboretum.
- The Bay creek neighborhood near the entrance to the arb.

Parking and access

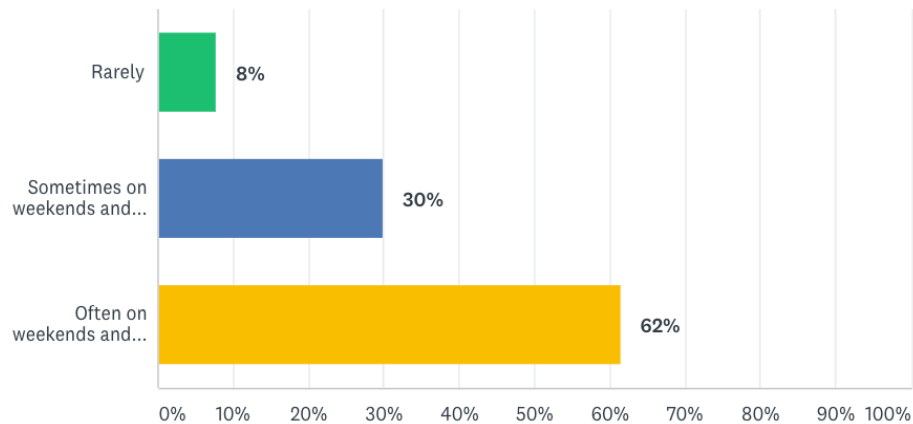
Do you ever notice increased parking pressure on your street that you attribute to drivers visiting Vilas Park and Zoo (i.e., not UW football games)?

Answered: 231 Skipped: 1



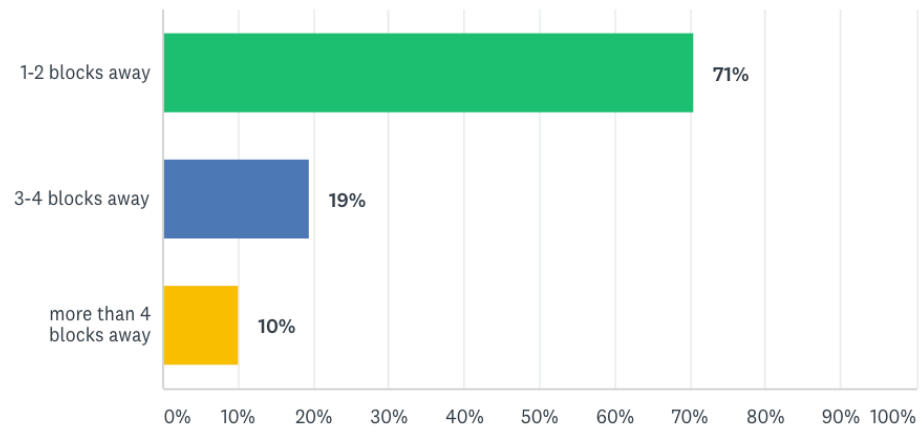
How often is there increased parking pressure on your street that you attribute to use of Vilas Park & Zoo (not UW football games)?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 102



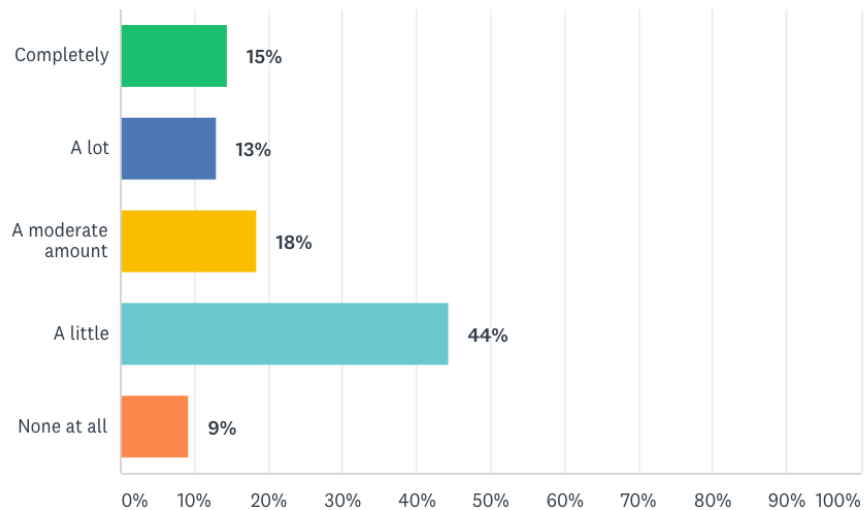
How close to you live to Vilas Park?

Answered: 129 Skipped: 103



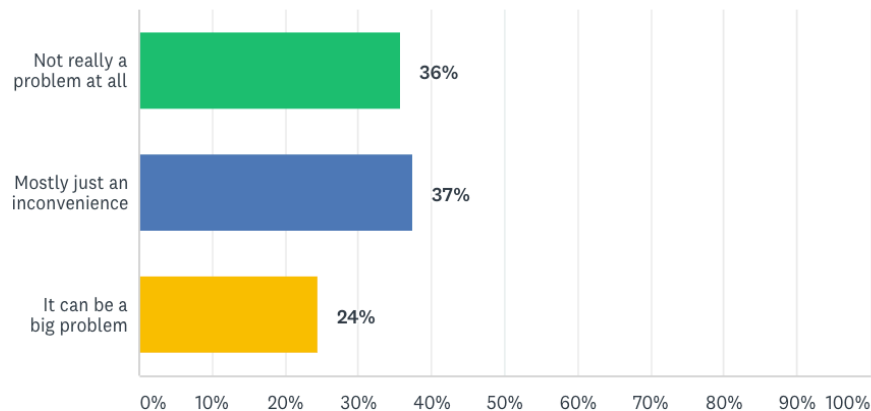
How much do you rely on on-street parking for your own vehicle(s) and for guests?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 101



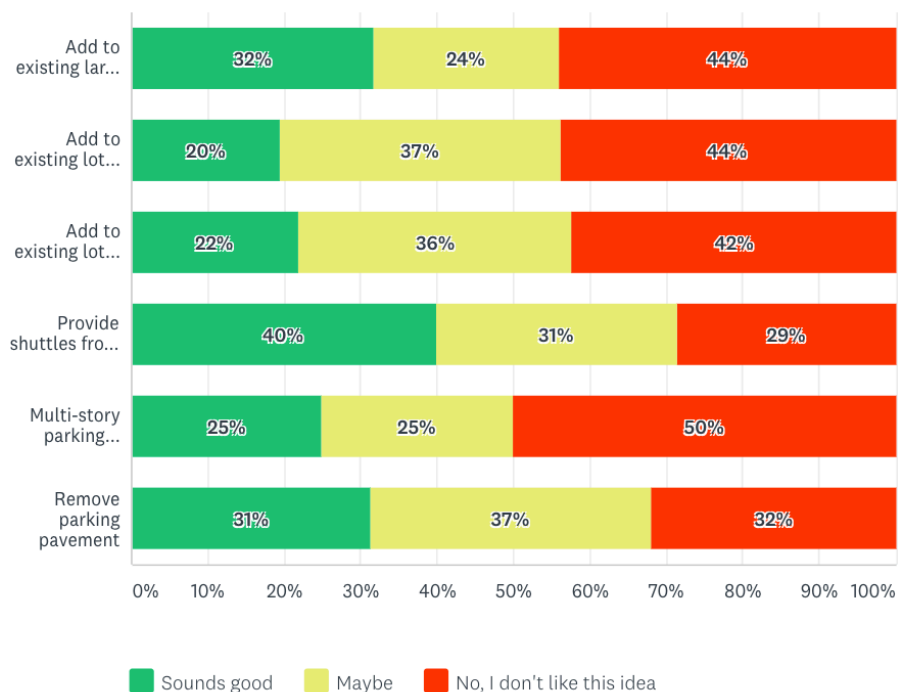
How big a problem do you consider the parking pressure on your street due to use of Vilas Park (other than associated with UW football games) to be?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 101



What is your current thinking with regards to options for parking to serve visitors of Vilas Park (and Vilas Zoo) in each of the following locations?

Answered: 217 Skipped: 15



Parking question #1 comments

- Zoo lights, Boo at the Zoo and first nice weekends in spring bring lots of extra traffic
- Spring weekends with nice weather, boo at the zoo and zoo lights evenings mean that there is no street parking on my block.
- zoo traffic fills our street, so does football but that's only a few weekends
- Mostly noticeable on really nice warm weather weekends.

- This happens once or twice a year on heavy zoo traffic days like Trick or Treat at the Zoo Day. I do notice it one street over from our house, on most weekends Spring through Fall.
- I live in Dudgeon Monroe
- Duh
- All the time! But I live near the park/zoo. What else should I expect? I'm so glad people are getting out and using these facilities in our community.
- We are on Drake near Mills
- Families visiting the zoo often park on Vilas ave where I live. This is not a problem.
- Huge traffic increase in last several years. Most do not read parking restriction signs.
- Major events but not necessarily a problem.
- Not on Madison St
- Not on our street, but very nearby.
- Only around special events
- And they don't always obey the parking regulations.
- Very noticeable impacts up Garfield St to Chandler St. I do not mind though. Vilas Park is a great resource and it is not worth paving over the park just so that I do not have to hear car doors on beautiful weekend mornings.
- I live in the Triangle Monona Bay Neighborhood
- We live on Drake street. Lots of traffic on football Saturdays. Zoo traffic isn't horrible.
- I live on Drake street!
- Usually on weekend days when the weather is nice and when there are special events at the zoo (e.g. Boo at the Zoo)
- We generally do not mind. We welcome visitors who are visiting the neighborhood for the zoo or games. We understood what we were getting into when we moved here.
- I live on the 1100 block of Emerald Street.
- Yes, on days with nice weather and special Zoo events, the traffic is heavy and parking in our area is too crowded.
- But, they compete with St. Mary's employees who refuse to park in their own assigned lot, as many are chain smokers. I think part of the plan should be require St. Mary's to mandate parking in their structures. Admin will tell you their lots are often full, not true as I look out on one, the issue is latecomers do not get "prime" spots and if smokers are there their peers see them
- Same as always
- But only on certain days—Mother's Day and the Halloween Candy day (Boo at the Zoo), Memorial Day, Most days it is not a problem.
- I live on Drake right across from the zoo and basically do not move my car on summer weekends (renter with street parking). As a biker and walker, I also notice increased cars on Drake street headed into Monroe and campus.
- And football games
- The parking has remained the same in the time we have lived here
- Especially in summer, on weekends, if the weather is nice. Lots of zoo and park parking in our neighborhood.
- However, this is part of living in an urban neighborhood. As long as the cars are not on my property we should encourage more visitors.
- I don't mind the increase in parkers. Most houses in my area have driveways for residents.
- Not my neighborhood but I'll continue the survey
- I live across the street from the zoo. Halloween and xmas lights at the zoo are especially busy. As are the music benefit nights in the zoo.
- I don't live near enough to the Park/Zoo for "Parking Pressure" to be an issue. Do public streets fill up with people using the park? I hope so. Public streets near the Park/Zoo should fill up so there can be more more Park and less parking lot.

- "I would rather put up with increased parking pressure
- On my street from Vilas and Zoo visitors than having
- Any more of the area of those places taken up by
- Parking spaces.... "
- But during football games our neighborhood becomes a parking lot.
- Generally people stop short of my street but people circling around looking for parking impacts biking too and from my street.
- I live on the corner of Emerald and S Mills St for reference.
- I'm glad people are visiting the zoo and park. I don't consider it a problem.
- I live east of Park St, so no effect here.
- But I'm in Dudgeon-Monroe, so this does not surprise me.
- Pretty much every nice summer weekend
- I live a bit further out from the park though.
- I don't mind it as long as they park legally (not too close to or across driveways, not by yellow curbs).
- Yes. In the spring and the summer. It is VERY annoying that buses and tour buses park on our street near the zoo. They often run their engines (when only the driver is in the bus) and there is noise and smell.
- Especially during the Halloween Zoo event.
- I live about 4 blocks from the park (5 from the zoo), and during big events like Halloween at the Zoo, yes -- neighborhood streets fill up that far away.
- Football also causes hours of tough traffic
- Yes, every weekend day when the weather is reasonably nice
- I'm new, so no comparison, actually.
- Absolutely, especially on the weekends or during events like Zoo Lights.
- 600 block of Orchard st
- Especially for big zoo events or run/walks and on weekends but it is not burdensome, it is just part of living in a city.
- Erin Street near the Orchard corner
- Wingra Street is usually parked full on weekends in the summer. I can tell the families are going to the zoo bc I see them park, walk away with kids in strollers, then return to their cars in 90 minutes or so, often with zoo gifts in hand. The street is also full during Boo at the Zoo, and other special events like Zoo Lights.
- In the summer and on nice days, it's hard to find parking in our neighborhood. I've also seen school buses parking on our street (Erin St) when kids are on field trips at the zoo.
- I am 3 blocks away from the area of the park near the tennis courts and do not believe that parking on our street is impacted. Closer to the park is certainly impacted.
- especially for Halloween event and any nice weekend day in summer
- I live closer to St. Mary's Hospital
- Only during major zoo events like Boo
- As the zoo gets more popular, parking and parking aggression has already become an issue.
- Zoo goers

Parking question #2 comments

- Also zoo lights and boo at the zoo
- we live on Orchard, the closing of East entrance did help a little
- Maybe 6 times a year I notice people parking, I wouldn't call it "pressure", more like outsiders coming into the neighborhood to park and walk down to Vilas Zoo. It's principally the Zoo that's the purpose of their visit.
- Once or twice per year is the norm.
- People like to visit the park and zoo from out of town
- My block in particular is always packed with parking because we don't have 2 hour parking restrictions.

- I would say that it is primarily seasonal. Spring (field trips) and summer are the heaviest. There is some heavier parking in the fall on few times and the holiday lights. I chose "sometimes" because it is not a year round occurrence. FYI, I live across the street from the zoo and work from home.
- Also during Zoo lights in Dec
- I oppose any new parking lots.
- I live on Erin Street - constant overload parking. It makes it unsafe at times because the streets are narrow, there is parking on both sides of the street, and traffic can be coming fast off of Park Street/Mills. There is also a low-visibility intersection at Orchard and Erin - would encourage a stop sign
- No place for BUS parking at the zoo ... so if one bus goes to the zoo, it goes by my home 4 times. This means when the zoo is busy there are between 40 to 60 buses going by my home that day.
- Really only in the height of summer
- It usually occurs when major events are planned at Vilas (e.g. races or walks)
- See previous comment
- In the warm weather months
- See comments above; this increase is a good thing. Should be more.
- "I don't mind it .. I knew that Vilas was there before
- I bought my house, but the advantages of living so
- Close the the UW and the monroe street area far outweigh the disadvantages."
- And in winter for the lights in zoo
- NA
- Every weekend with good weather. I have often had to call parking enforcement for vehicles being illegally parked on my street.
- Not just from the zoo, though. I believe people use Orchard to get from Vilas Park Dr to Drake, as a shortcut of sorts.
- See previous comment
- Every weekend when the weather is good and on the myriad of special events that the zoo holds.

Parking question #4 comments

- Only for guests, not for my car, and not that often.
- We organized our backyard to accommodate more parking spaces
- Except for UW football games, there is always space available even though I live right across the street from Vilas park. This is not a problem except for folks who insist that there always be a space available right in front of their house.
- Only needed for guests, we can plan ahead by moving our car to the street before the guests arrive. There has almost never been zero spots on our block due to Vilas park traffic.
- I sometimes host meetings at my house, which can be difficult in the summer (unless raining).
- Renter without other options.
- I pay the fee for street use. and sometimes have to park around the block because the street is full of zoo goers.
- We don't own a car, like many other people in the neighborhood, especially those with lower incomes
- when having work done that requires the use of our driveway
- Have to tell visitors to park blocks away. Why doesn't the zoo have parking for the 800,000 + visitors that they get?

Parking question #5 comments

- It can be unsafe when biking and walking and running because so many cars on each side of road. Very congested. I park in a garage, so i don't use street parking.
- The football games are by far a bigger problem than the park/zoo
- I can be a problem on our street due to it being narrow and some people don't park well. We've experienced a hit and run due to the zoo (not a game day which we find less problematic on our street).

Zoo goers tend not to pick up their trash as well. We often find empty soda bottles/cans, dirty diapers and wipes, tags from zoo purchases, etc in the park and in the street. It's gross! I wish the zoo would own the clean up!

- More concerned with the speed drivers drive looking for a parking spot, obviously frustrated. Speed bumps would be preferred over more parking
- I'm proud to live in a neighborhood with regional amenities right outside my door, that comes with welcoming regional guests to my block on occasion.
- In Spring with multiple school buses at the zoo parking is limited and in Aug. the parking situation becomes a safety concern and trash clean-up is a big problem.
- Zoo and park people come n go. Problem is with zoo events where people stay longer.
- The worst park is school and tour buses parking on residential streets.
- I answered with suggestions in question 1
- I think the parking, and the subsequent traffic, are challenging. I'm actually more bothered by the driving than the parking, because I realize I underpay for my own parking as a city commodity. But, I would support all efforts to reduce vehicular traffic (including parking) in our neighborhood.
- I live far enough away that it isn't an issue
- Again, expected inconvenience. I have no more right to the public right away than an out of town visitor
- Let's stop giving on-street parking away for free. Lots of my neighbors park on the street, even though they have garages and driveways.
- It's the combo of zoo + SSM employees+ football; I have off street parking so I'm ok but difficult to have meetings of any kind
- The inconvenience is more than outweighed by the benefits of living near the park and arboretum.
- Besides those days of heavier parking occur when there is wonderful parade of young children in Halloween costume or families enjoying themselves together on a sunny outing to the zoo/park. "
- In the spring and summer, people are parked on most of the street. Buses are a problem and take up space that should be for cars. People throw trash on lawns of nearby homes and into the streets and bushes. Including dirty diapers.
- Becomes a problem when cars park illegally on the street.
- It's only an issue during large events at the zoo.
- We have much more of a problem from St Mary's staff parking and football parking. We only have Vilas park issues related to parking on special events such as the zoo Halloween
- I can still find spots
- Parking for the hospitals and football games is a bigger issue than parking for the park and zoo.
- I have a garage and a driveway that parks two cars. So, parking spaces isn't the issue for me, but I can see how it could be for others on our street.
- I am more concerned about driving habits and overall pedestrian safety as it relates to people looking for parking than I am about the street being full of parked cars. That is more of an inconvenience; flustered or frantic drivers driving erratically is more problematic.
- Except for the school buses - I think they should be parking elsewhere.

Parking question #6 comments

- This is a regional park and a destination. There are people who come from the neighborhood and they can and should bike or walk but the reality of a destination is that people are going to drive here - we must plan accordingly.
- We also must provide public transportation to both the zoo and the beach. This is an equity issue and one that must be addressed in this plan.
- Cars will become less important in the next 50 years. Building massive infrastructure for them does not make sense. I think that the parking is more of a problem for zoo attendees than for my family, so zoo attendees will maybe consider public transit or other options if they don't like parking so far away.

- Heavy construction in the lot across from lake wingra removes permeable surfaces at a time when we're experiencing more and more flooding with very high lake levels. Basically all of the zoo used to be under water and probably will be again with climate change. The flood zone maps need to be rewritten.
- I think removing the street parking in front of vilas beach (on both sides) and then adding a parking lot would make biking and walking a lot safer, because then a bike lane could be added
- No parking, please! This is an urban site and space is far too valuable to waste with parking slots.
- There is a definite parking crunch on my street. BUT we chose to live downtown, and we accepted as part of the deal with that that parking might occasionally be a headache on game days especially, or with people wanting to come downtown to all our great amenities! I personally feel like I'm fine with a little planning ahead and/or warning potential guests that parking may/will be tight. Again, just seems like part of living "downtown" to me.
- It would be nice if people were not allowed to park along the vilas park drive.
- There is a parking lot next to zoo entrance, how about a parking structure there (not across from SSM).
- I might be wrong, but I don't see parking for the park and zoo as a big problem. Shuttle buses seem like a good idea for football parking.
- If the parking garage were big enough, then you could reclaim some of the green space, but I'm not sure where.
- Need more parking, should be close to a zoo entrance
- Wow. Just a bunch of poor ideas.
- The park should be as car-free as possible. City bus access is important. parking should be concentrated at the edges of the park except for the shelter which should have expanded parking for boat trailers that will serve a much improved boat launch as the main access to Wingra. It should only be accessible from 1 direction- probably the west.
- I think many of the streets around the zoo/park should remove the 2 hour parking restriction. So many families struggle to load/unload their kids/gear every 2 hours. It makes going to the park more of a headache than it's worth. There are not many reasonable places for a family, or worse, a mom w/ multiple kids, to park the car and enjoy the day. Keep it simple and everyone will have a more enjoyable time.
- Adding extra spaces for vehicles with boat trailers near the shelter to go along with improving the boat launch would work well. Spaces could be designated for vehicles with trailers and other spaces just for cars. Thank you.
- I think the parking lot at Randall and Drake is too small. I would maximize parking there since it is already dedicated zoo parking. There should NOT be football parking there! It would be a shame to cut into the park to add parking.
- SSM Health already has a parking garage that is rarely used on weekends. In addition to shuttles, I feel that the field trip buses should have to wait away from the park. Despite not being allowed to sit in Randall/Drake lot, they do and they often idle. I've asked the zoo to enforce but they will not because it's not their parking lot (a lousy response in my opinion and I don't want them to own the parking lot). The idling is a bigger problem than the traffic. We can smell it in our house! There are plenty of existing lots on Fish Hatch.
- Increase use of public transportation to these areas. Tie into bike path infrastructure to encourage bikers to visit/visitors to bike.
- Some of the parking should be surfaces that let water thru. This can be done, especially if it is 'over flow' parking. Say by the corner of Randall Street.
- I'm all for returning this park to its natural state
- I walk the area regularly during warmer weather. Often the parking lots are empty Except for weekends and empty lots anywhere are not attractive and take away from nature. Empty lots attract late night parties or game day parking.
- Free parking isn't free. Would hate to lose greenspace to cars. Create non-car options
- No more parking at the South end of Orchard St.

- Driving is on the decline and spending money to increase parking seems silly. I could perhaps see setting up shuttles from remote parking sites for high-profile events.
- I like the idea of adding a multilevel garage and reclaiming green space around Randall Street entrance!
- I'm concerned about traffic at the Drake and Randall intersection, especially how it influences the safety of children. Thousands of commuters roll through that corner every day at rush hour, cutting through on Grant/Drake between Park and Monroe. Building new lots will not help us who live close to the Zoo, it will only bring more traffic and dangers.
- By the way, the Zoo is a bad neighbor--they never warn us of upcoming events (or invite us to attend).
- The corner of Drake and Randall already handles hundreds of cars each day aside from zoo/park traffic. Adding another lot would make the traffic worse for those of us most impacted now. It would only help those two or three blocks away from the brunt of the parking issues. No new lots, please!
- I love your searching for alternate possibilities.
- "99% of the time there is no problem finding parking at or near the zoo. The other 1% of the time there is sufficient street parking within a 5 to 10 minute walk to accommodate the influx. Please don't waste any of our valuable tax dollars (and more importantly valuable real estate in the Greenbush, Vilas, and Bay Creek neighborhoods) on increasing surface parking as we already have an excess of useless paved space actively reducing the livability of our neighborhoods. If 'we' really feel that increased parking is needed, and for some reason a shuttle is just unacceptable, then maybe consider converting some of the existing surface parking into parking structures (although this land would be much more valuable, and therefore a greater source of revenue to the city, used for housing or business development). My family specifically moved to this neighborhood because of it's walkable character and the lack of a need to drive to places like the zoo, parks, University, business districts, and downtown. For a couple of the more egregious examples of useless parking see these links:
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/43%C2%B003'00.5%22N+89%C2%B023'44.8%22W/@43.0501304,-89.3965528,438m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m14!1m7!3m6!1s0x8807acd4725145ff:0x6a4c29c59e6b9c9d!2s926+Emerald+St,+Madison,+WI+53715!3b1!8m2!3d43.061164!4d-89.401913!3m5!1s0x0:0x0!7e2!8m2!3d43.050129!4d-89.3957792;>
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/43%C2%B003'08.9%22N+89%C2%B023'49.2%22W/@43.052484,-89.3981023,438m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x0:0x0!7e2!8m2!3d43.052481!4d-89.3970079>
- I am strongly against a garage across from St Mary's daycare. The intersection at the top of the hill (Erin and Orchard) is already dangerous because of a mix of speeding commuters vs folks who mistakenly think it's a four-way stop, and funnelling more traffic that way will be worse than dealing with zoo-going parkers. In the other direction, commuting traffic on the pleasure drive is already out of hand (and since much of the traffic is hospital employees it can still be think on the weekends). A parking garage there will create more problems than it solves.
- It would be helpful to know what the projected demand is as it relates to "new parking spaces" needed.
- Just improve on what you have, with lines, even another row. We are beyond reclaiming, better to improve w native plants on shore side, reducing mowing
- I think we're at a time in human existence where we know better than removing green space to pave more parking lots for gas guzzling cars. There's plenty of street parking, and that lot by the shelter always has spots. Also let's promote taking the bus (kids ride busses too!) and riding bikes (kids ride bikes too!)
- Add city bus routes - this neighborhood is very underserved.
- Let's get better buses and other options coming this way
- There is already a large SSM parking structure that increases traffics and obscures the view. Another structure across the street would add another eyesore.
- As a home-owner on Orchard Street, very near the zoo, I am strongly opposed to a parking structure placed on the current parking pad at S Orchard and Vilas Park Drive. This would be an eyesore and greatly inhibit my ability to enjoy my home and my neighborhood — it would Completely obscure our view of the lake I would consider moving if a parking structure were placed. The St. Mary's hospital structure is already a monstrosity.

- Parking is sufficient now. Neighborhood streets should be used for this purpose. Don't destroy the park by adding parking; spend the money on more programs to attract more people to these great public amenities.
- It doesn't need to be busier. We don't need to accommodate more people or cars. Perhaps less is more. the planet needs less traffic, clean air, let's figure out how to save our planet and how to say no to "progress"
- Provide better CITY bus service to the park during busy times. Nobody lives near Bowman Field; a shuttle from there would only be for drivers who couldn't find a closer parking spot. Establish decent bus service (possibly a summer city shuttle) directly to the park from the major roads around the park (University, Monroe, Park streets), where housing is dense, to get people to leave their cars at home, thus leaving more space in the existing parking lots. Run ""Parks only"" buses whose whole point is to take people in the city to and from the park (They could add other parks -- Goodman, Olin Turville).
- Negotiate with SSM to share their abundant parking lots -- they are usually empty to half full.
- Build better (covered) bike shelters and provide bike amenities (air pump, stand) to encourage bicycling to the park.
- Build affordable housing apartments on the Orchard St. and Vilas Park Drive site, not more (insanely expensive) parking garages. Or build luxury housing on this super desirable spot, and use the income from these apartments to run the park.
- Bottom line: use space for people, not cars. "
- Stop incentivizing individual vehicles and promote/expand public transport.
- If parking is consolidated or other options are available.
- "It is rare that the zoo has so many visitors that they spill over onto other streets. It does happen, but I don't think it's frequent enough to justify converting green space into parking.
- I WOULD recommend adding additional bike racks."
- I see Zoo traffic on our street every nice weekend day, but it never bothers me, and I value green space over parking.
- The area can easily support patrons without expanding parking lots. Lots of on street parking and alternatives.
- I don't think extra parking is needed other than for zoo access.
- Please don't waste precious riparian land on surface parking!!!
- Almost all your options are in favor of more parking -- what we need is less parking and better options for people getting to the park without a car.
- "Garage would be good--but where? Can't imagine along lake! (Would hate that.) And hard to imagine Vilas neighborhood allowing a garage off Drake but maybe In the main surface lot?? Dunno)
- I'd love to have more green space but how can we have more parking? I dunno. Wish parking lots were permeable surfaces. "
- Land appears to have been marsh at one time. Water drainage from lots onto land will only make the (filled) marsh and lake gunkier. Heat from surface lies may (or may not) make lake warmer (???)
- Enforce parking rules, especially all-day parking used by people not using the park
- We are in a climate crisis. We need to encourage other forms of transportation instead of subsidizing driving and paving paradise even more.
- It seems to me that parking is adequate at most times. I don't see a need to add more parking right now.
- Who will pay for the parking? If a wealthy non-resident driving alone to park pays the same as a low-income resident with a full minivan of folks from a different neighborhood in Madison that would be unjust and unequitable. Likewise, if parking is completely free, as it is now, that means Madison residents who walk, bike or take a bus to Vilas Park are subsidizing those who drive.
- Explore rerouting a Metro bus past the zoo on estimated heavy traffic days or regularly run the Mills St. buses up to Randall/Drake and then back to Mills.
- To clarify, I like the idea of adding lots by going upward, not outward.
- Provide regular Metro bus service to the park/neighborhood.

- I think options that make better use of space (e.g. a 2-3 story parking structure) is a good idea, I do hope that it's a structure that fits well with the scenery/is sustainably built, includes some greenery.
- The zoo and park were never meant to serve the large numbers of people who now come there. We cannot control who comes, but we can make the impact of crowds or people less difficult for those who live near this area.
- Adding to the lot by the tennis courts seems the least likely to be helpful. Due to the distance to the shelters and the zoo entrances...along with the one-way flow of traffic along the lake (people can't easily turn back around if the shelter lot is full...although some do it anyway...
- I would like to see shuttles and a parking garage to reduce the amount of overall car traffic. I don't want to provide more parking options for football (the football people will use the parking even if it's not meant for them, unless restrictions are strictly enforced).
- Green Space is too valuable in this downtown area to waste on parking- remove all of it.
- It's hard to answer this question -- I don't have a sense of whether the current amount of parking is adequate. Maybe what we have is already enough. A multi-story parking garage certainly seems out of place in a park.
- Could potential new additional parking be shared with SSM? There are a ton of SSM employees who regularly park in the neighborhood and may use additional parking. There is also a large SSM lot right next to the park that is underutilized on the weekends, when the park has the most parking demand.
- People won't use the shuttle parking because Madison isn't an "urban enough" city yet for people to think it's a good idea as compared to finding parking closer. For football games this would be a good idea but it won't take pressure off the neighborhood, other people will take the spots those parkers would have used.
- I hate the idea of a vertical parking structure. The park is wetlands and low vegetation, a structure would greatly impact the visual appeal of the park. I also hate the idea of losing park space to parking lots, but there is a lack of parking. A tough problem! Thanks for thinking about it.
- The tennis court lot is pretty far away for families to navigate. Parking ramps are typically unattractive in a neighborhood setting, but may be the best solution, esp if saving green space is a priority.
- Any changes to parking lots, with the exception of the lot across from SSM Health's child center, has the additional negative effect of feeding traffic along limited and sometimes confusing driving routes. A ramp on Orchard would most easily feed traffic back to feeder streets like Mills, Park St, and Fish Hatchery. The current string of small parking lots, combined with one-way streets and parking lot access, encourages drivers to make a loop around the park, through all of the lots, on the hunt for a parking spot. Consolidating parking in one, bigger lot would pull cars to a single location and should cut down on cars hunting for parking.
- As a close neighbor of the zoo/park, I feel strongly that the inconvenience of busy street parking is just a part of the deal living in the neighborhood. I strongly oppose major changes to off street parking that would change the feel of Vilas Park or consume a large amount of green space. I'm not sure the zoo can even accommodate many guests in excess of current parking capacity.
- "Parking will continue to be an issue no matter what we do. Expansion of existing parking lots - potentially even doubling their size - is unlikely to solve the problem.
- Perhaps some additional restrictions on parking on nearby streets would be appropriate, including enforcement of time limited parking for non-residents. I would be interested to know if the Streets Division has any suggestions to facilitate parking for people visiting residents, perhaps a temporary visitor placard. Other than that, I see it as one of the trade-offs for living in a neighborhood that other people want to visit."
- The area near Drake & Randall is already too busy with cars coming from all directions. Would like to explore parking options, shuttles or increased bus routes leading to other quieter areas of the park.
- We live on Orchard and already have to deal with city trucks idling in that lot across from SSM Health Child Care Center. We also have to hear the "beep, beep, beep" of the garbage trucks at 5:00 am 3 days a week. What about serving the zoo by public transportation instead of cars, cars, cars?

- There should be other options than immediately increasing parking spots. For instance, better signage and/or more signage or changing times for allowed parking. This survey has tunnel vision.
- Depending on if there is a shuttle bus and/or a parking garage, it would be nice to see some of the paved areas be reclaimed as green space

Parking question #7, other neighborhoods

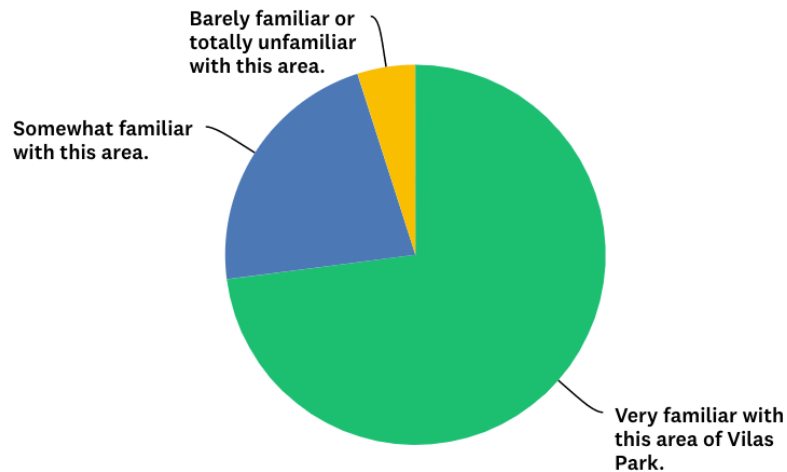
Arboretum

Eastmorland

Wingra Overlook Area

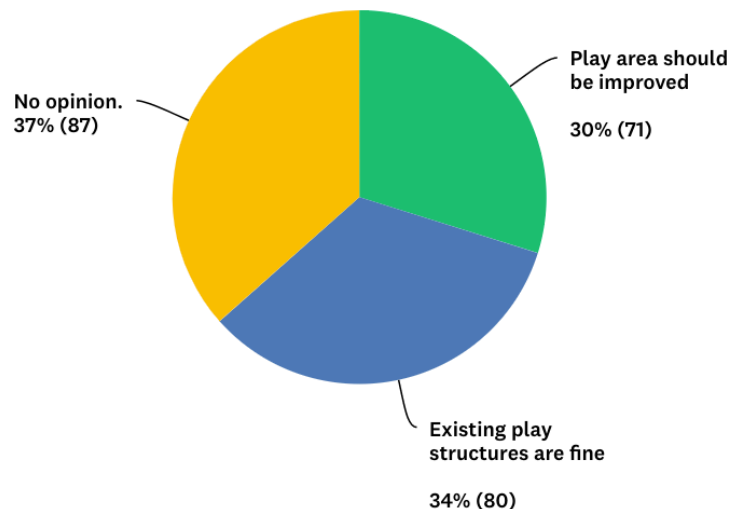
Which of the following best describes your familiarity with the Stewart Fountain area of Vilas Park?

Answered: 244 Skipped: 0



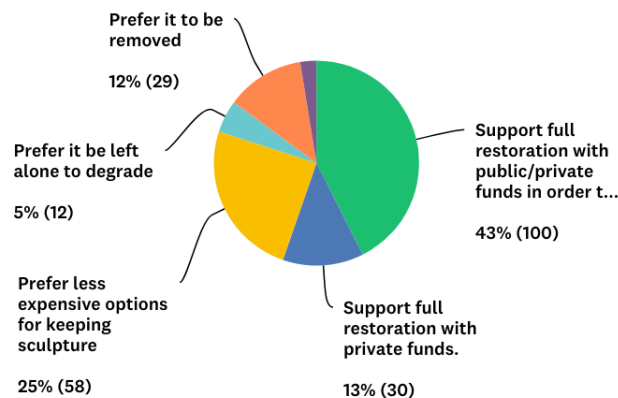
Which of the following best describes your opinion about the (dinosaur-themed) play structures of the Stewart Fountain area of Vilas Park?

Answered: 244 Skipped: 0



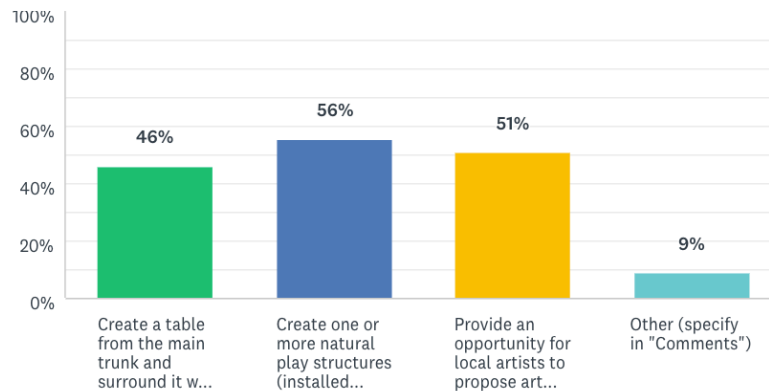
The Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain, which has seriously degraded since it was installed in 1925, has been the subject of recent study for possible preservation or restoration (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/annie-c-stewart-fountain-conservation-preservation-plan>). InSight Consulting Architects (full 2017 report available from that link) concluded that the concrete sub-base and the limestone base are beyond repair and should be replaced, and that the “marble fountain figures are historic, should be landmarked, and must be preserved/conserved,” at a total estimated cost of \$350,000 - \$425,000, plus unknown expenses for on-going protection and maintenance. Given this information, which of the following best describes your current thinking about what should be done with this fountain?

Answered: 235 Skipped: 9



After a thorough study, Parks concluded that the large ash tree adjacent to the Annie C. Stewart fountain has internal instability that make it a risk and must be removed early in spring 2020. Parks staff have agreed to consider options for memorializing the tree by re-using its wood. Which of the following ideas would you like to be seriously explored for this (choose all that apply)?

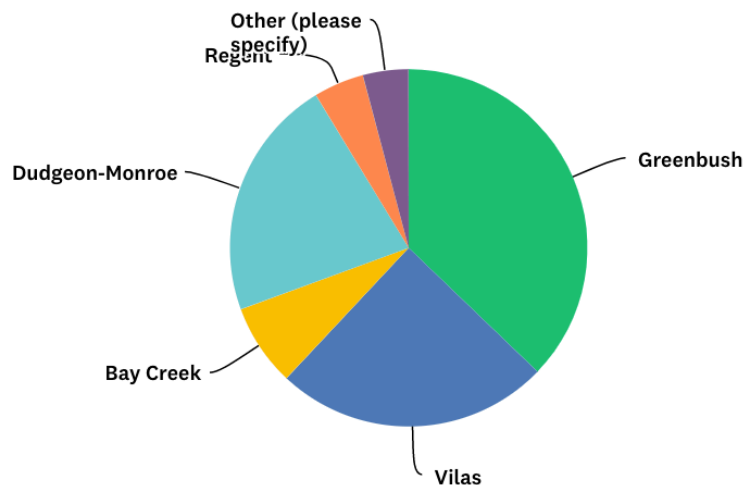
Answered: 239 Skipped: 5



What neighborhood do you live in?

(<https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/neighborhoods/436/>)

Answered: 242 Skipped: 2



Wingra Overlook comments: Play structures

- "I miss the great oak that was downed several years ago.
- treasure the park and the mounds. Have known them for 50 years, and my friend for 92years!!"
- I would support replacing play structures that are worn out or unsafe, but not expanding the play area.
- This park should stay small and lightly trafficked. Park users should respect the mounds more. People walk on them, allow dogs to run on them and there's a mowing ear going on between the parks Department and neighbors

- But please keep the dino-theme!
- This park seems like it is for younger kids and could really use some older kid play structures, swings, etc
- Replace it all
- Replace rubber mulch with wood mulch. Such a gem of a playground that my children enjoyed very much when they were little.
- It would be nice to have a variety of swings, rather than just small-child size.
- Additional play structures might be nice, although, my family enjoyed the "old-school" nature of this park when the kids were small.
- Have not observed play equipment being utilized on my frequent walk of this area
- Please keep the dinosaur theme
- I'd prefer that the Annie Stewart fountain was fixed and maintained rather than adding to the existing play structures.
- My 10 year old daughter loves it. Could use more equipment.
- The dinosaur is classic please keep it. However the play structure is for only very little kids. Can it be updated to a 5-12 year old playground?
- get rid of play area
- My kids enjoyed going there to play when they were little. Now they've "outgrown" the Dinosaur Park and we rarely go by there.
- I would be happy if more play structures were added!
- I love that they are dinosaurs and different from other parks in the area.
- I might add more play structures to the space, but I certainly wouldn't remove or change what is there.
- Despite living in DM neighborhood for 22 years, didn't know this park existed.
- I love the dinos. I would hate to see them go. But if they aren't safe for kids, I'd like to see a new option
- The kids love the dinosaur theme but there's just not enough to hold their interest.
- I'm not sure where this comment fits, but I moved to Wingra St. in August and pass by this park 2-3 times per week. I always wondered if there were effigy mounds, is there a sign? If not, I would be in favor of consulting with the Indigenous People (Ho-Chunk?) to see what, if anything, they think should be done to mark or designate the mounds.
- I love this park. We currently have a toddler and it is so helpful to have a park with basically only age appropriate play equipment. Given the effigy mounds in the park I also appreciate that the modest equipment results in it not being as much of a zoo as the actual zoo or the main Vilas park area as the ridge is a peaceful, sacred place.
- I love the simplicity, character and history of this park. It is a quiet spot to take my 1-year-old.
- The dinosaur structures are delightful and should be retained. A few additional structures, like swings for older children and a picnic table, would be a welcome additions. That said, the area is small and should not be cluttered with a lot of structures.
- Swings for kids not just baby swings
- More seating arrangements should be available in the park for residents to enjoy the views and the quietness of the park.
- If the play area is on or near enough to the mounds that children run all over them, I would suggest removing it. C'mon...there's enough fun at the zoo for kids.
- I have never seen anyone in that park. I would center it on the view and making it a unique place that people will go out of the way for. What can we install there that makes it....visit worthy?
- Honor the indian mounds. They are a gem. The solitude of this park is special in contrast to the business of Vilas Park.
- If they are replaced for any reason, I would request that the replacement structures be made of wood, metal, or other natural and biodegradable materials rather than plastic or non-biodegradable material.
- Ask the younger kids about this.
- The kid's play area at the Dinosaur Park feels redundant to the existing 2 play areas at Vilas Park. I rarely see kids here. Perhaps removing the kids play structures at Dinosaur Park would be the best option, and

- instead having the area be a natural Oak Savannah Area would be more consistent with the effigy mounds and the site's history. Is there a reason why long grasses have been allowed to grow on top of the effigy mounds? They make it extremely difficult to discern and appreciate the shape of the effigy mounds. Are the effigy mounds birds, bears, who can tell anymore? Also, I think some information or interpretive display would be beneficial to helping visitors appreciate the mounds and the history of the site. I assume that overlooking Lake Wingra like it is, this site was important to Native Americans for some purpose?
- We live in the neighborhood and have a toddler and during the warm months, we go to Dino playground multiple days a week. We love how the play equipment at this park is particularly toddler friendly and tends to attract families with younger children. When we take our kiddo to the other play structures at Vilas, they are often occupied by bigger kids making it less suitable for younger children. Because we have no yard, toddler-friendly public play spaces are especially important for our family. I'm fine with the current playground equipment at the Dino Park or would be happy with newer equipment as long as it was similarly geared toward younger children. Thanks!
 - We love the dinosaur theme!
 - We live on Erin St and use this playground all the time. Please keep the larger dinosaur climbing structure! The smaller dino with the slides is great for toddlers and if it's replaced, I'd hope to see a similarly sized toddler friendly play structure (as opposed to a tall climbing structure for older kids that toddlers can't climb on independently). I also love the idea of a natural playscape including the ash tree branches described below, boulders or logs to climb and jump off, etc. Also a slide built into the hillside would be amazing. Something like this <https://images.app.goo.gl/fafMpdrkZaecsd2z9>
 - The play structures are good, but minimal. Additional structures would be nice.
 - Very good for small kids. Some structures that would appeal to bigger kids would be terrific. We've noticed some ziplines in parks around the area (e.g., Monona, near Sun Prairie), perhaps a zipline would be a great way to engage older kids in this space?
 - The existing play structures are good but there could be more
 - There are plenty of newer parks/play structures very close by! And I'm saying this as the mom of a three year old. And it would be nice to avoid excess construction in a park that's very near/on top of effigy mounds.
 - I love the current play structures. Maybe the one thing to add is more swings for a variety of sized people. I don't want more large equipment added. It would overwhelm the space and take away the nice open meadow feel to the park, which I love.
 - They should be updated eventually, but really appreciate that the play area is low key and geared towards younger kids.
 - I would prefer the play structures be removed entirely and that this part of the park be for quiet contemplative, historical and sacred purposes. If the structures remain then they ought to be updated to something that blends with nature and moved away from the burial mounds
 - I would like to see one of the swings (or a second swing set) with "regular" (not baby) swings. The playground area is very sunny and used to be shaded... replant trees!
 - It would be nice to have regular swings as well as bucket swings. The play structures feel geared towards younger children.
 - Could use play structures for older children, even adults. Perhaps natural structures?

Wingra Overlook comments: Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain

- I have donated to the restoration project already and would do so again.
- I will support options a, b, or e. I believe that c and d options are the status quo and don't serve the art, the neighborhood or the park. The statue is already unsafe as it is now. I've witnessed a lot of hair-raising scenarios with kids climbing it.
- I love this bit of history, want see it restored

- I know it is likely not possible, but I would love to see the fountain restored to full functionality. Especially with the ash tree having to come down, having a working fountain would preserve some of the magic of that quiet little corner of the park.
- "This fountain must also be preserved and recognized as a caring tribute to a young woman who died by suicide, and as a moving symbol of the need to better address the pernicious, and contemporary, health condition of depression and suicidality.
- The fountain also has historical significance because of the close relationship of the family with the Vilas family, who lost Henry Vilas as a young adult. All a vital and meaningful part of Madison history, and the history of the zoo and Vilas Park, that deserves preservation."
- I think it might be wise to use the fountain space for other activities- in which case historical statues can be used elsewhere.
- I would hate to see much if any public money be spent on it. Given the price tag, it would be better spent elsewhere.
- Has a feasibility study been conducted to determine likelihood of raising funding for this? I think the fountain is worth saving, but there might be a "best case", "medium case", and ok option here... perhaps the money can be raised to fully restore it. But if not, options like the third, fourth, or fifth choices in this list, are better than removing it and doing nothing at all.
- the fountain is a unique and unusual landmark in a quiet corner of the park, and worth saving
- We need a dog-friendly resource in the neighborhood. If dogs continue to not be allowed in Vilas could this be another solution to give our furry friends somewhere to romp? My first choice would be to allow dogs on leash in Vilas with a small fenced off-leash play area. ...this could be small and extremely beneficial. It is crazy to live a block away from Vilas, yet be required to drive elsewhere to except use and socialize my very well trained/sociable puppy.
- Once restored is there a plan to protect from vandalism? It is a beautiful idea
- My second choice would be a mix of public/private funds but at the lower cost
- Junk it. It's been neglected because nobody cares.
- The attempted repair was unsuccessful and the structure itself is crumbling. The cost of replacement is excessive and that money could be better spent elsewhere. Let it weather in place and use the "pond" as a planter, herb garden or the like.
- This is a beautiful fountain where I spent many happy hours as a kid. I am sorry that it has been allowed to deteriorate. It is a fountain — not a garden. Restoration with less expensive materials would be grand. It is a treasure in a pocket park — it is quiet, serene and a calm place. Would it be possible to fence it so that kids don't climb and trash it? Or put a lights on it so that it isn't so dark out there at night. It used to have steps leading up to it from the park.
- We could easily save the city \$3000 or more per year by cancelling the Goodman Pool Dog Wash, the most stupid event that my tax dollars subsidize.
- That fountain is in a weird location where few appreciate it. Move the marble pieces to someplace everyone will see it, like the entrance to the zoo or into Vilas park
- I really don't have a strong opinion.
- No public funds should be used.
- The money should be invested in a newer fountain that is covered so it can better survive the winters. Keeping fluid from falling into the fountain will help by preventing freezing and thawing tht can crack the structure. We should stop wasting money of opulent marble structures outdoors.
- If it can be moved to somewhere where it doesn't weather the elements, but isn't thrown out entirely
- I think the fountain is both historic and lovely, and should be renovated as completely as possible.
- no preference, since I don't know the fountain. Fine with whatever choice
- Given the current location of the fountain and sculptures in relation to the adjacent properties, this area feels like an extension of the adjacent private properties. When visiting the fountain area of the park I feel as though I'm invading someone's private yard. Additionally, fountains/water features seem unnecessary in Vilas Park given the proximity to Lake Wingra and the various ponds already in the main portion of the

park. Also, given our climate a fountain would only be operational for 6 to 7 months out of the year. Therefore, I don't think the city should spend much if any money restoring this fountain and preferably would remove it and place the statues somewhere more central to "Dinosaur" Park. Unless of course the adjacent property owners want to fund the entire restoration and maintenance budget for these semi-private structures on their own.

- The report states multiple times that more work is needed to evaluate the condition of the fountain. Given that, and the fact that the report did not look at alternatives to full restoration, I feel that the cost estimates are likely unreliable. It would be good to identify and evaluate options before committing to a potentially large expenditure. Also, the location of the fountain is not one that lends itself to being seen by many people. This should also be figured into the alternatives and the decision.
- Preservation for sure. I'm okay with gardens and benches
- This structure while pretty does not fit with the aesthetic of the park. Sell it and use the funds for planting trees in the park.
- I'm somewhere between options 1 and 3. I understand the reverse water flow technology has been lost. I've written about the fountain, but only been to see it twice.
- I don't know if it's worth it to keep it. It's been almost 100 years. What about more centering on the history of the mounds and the true ancestors of the land? That's a lot of dough for one statue and fountain.
- we need to save our historical monuments. but what can we afford? There are so many needs
- "From what I've found online, the sculpture and fountain are of relatively little historical significance. Considering we have numerous other city priorities, I do not think we should spend precious public funds on this fountain. It would be reasonable to just let it go already. If it is to remain in place, then it could become a lovely flower planter. Or, it could simply be removed and/or re-purposed elsewhere with private funds.
- If, for reasons I don't understand, the prevailing sentiment is that the fountain is worth investing \$400,00 (it's always at the top end of the estimate or higher), then do it right: relocate it to a more prominent location where it can be enjoyed as a focal point of the zoo entrance or a more prominent part of the park. The current location is a little odd and it's seen by few people. "
- Not worth spending too much money on
- I am not personally attached to the fountain, although it has a certain charm. Considering the expense of repairing it, I think it makes more sense to divert such funds to other projects in the park such as adding more native plantings, trees, park benches, or possibly a small covered area that could be used for picnicking or small events. Or the money could be used to create a butterfly garden or more diverse flora in other parts of Vilas park. I love this little dinosaur park! But several hundred thousand dollars for the fountain seems ridiculous. And no plastic please!
- I don't know, \$425,000 is sure a lot of money for restoring that old fountain. I'm not sure it's worth it. The site where the fountain sits could be a nice site for something else, like stone seating and an interpretive display explaining the site's history and significance,. maybe some stone or metal artwork that ties into the site's history, like a metal figure that's the same shape of the effigy mound shapes.
- Remove it to an indoor location for preservation, replace with something more useful (seating/picnic table, play area, bandshell/performance stage).
- Again, would like to avoid construction efforts in this area given the effigy mounds, and any replacements to this structure should recognize the native tribes that lived on this land before Madison built on top of them.
- The expense of restoration is prohibitive, however removing the fountain or taking no action is not desirable as the large ash tree is slated for removal and the fountain will be more prominent
- Too much vandalism for full original restoration
- I would actually prefer the 1st option, but have a hard time using potential funds for the fountain when there are still so many homeless folks who could be helped by those funds going to shelters, rehab, etc.

- I prefer a combination of the first and third options. Restoring properly what is historical and can be restored, using public & private money, creating the landmark, and converting the base into something more aesthetic and usable by the public. It is a frequently visited and photographed location and could better be landscaped into the surrounding park as a beautiful, accessible, and contemplative space
- Although I would be open to the first item above, I am interested in learning about these other options before committing that much money.

Wingra Overlook comments: Use of ash tree wood

- And replanting a fine large shade tree
- I can support any of these. I hope we will plant another tree like a hackberry or oak nearby. We've lost so many big trees in this park over the last 20 years. I was extremely disappointed when the parks department would not plant a new tree near the existing play equipment after the big maple died in 2004 or so. The reasoning was never clear to me, but I had the impression it was because they did not want tree litter to mix with the shredded tire substrate under the play equipment. That did not seem like good reasoning and I really dislike the shredded tires too, both aesthetically and as a parent.
- heh, love the idea of using the wood
- Please DO NOT have an artist create something from this beautiful tree. The process takes so long and expensive for what is produced.
- Just cut it down
- Trees die. Plant a new one.
- I would be willing to look additionally at using the Ash tree for Woodturning-I.e. our local Woodturning club (Badger Woodturners) could turn pretty Ash bowls and have them sold to benefit the fountain
- Adding natural play structures to the existing playground could be really perfect for this park.
- All sound wonderful. Thanks for making this happen.
- Donate the wood to Madison's High Schools where "shop" class or art classes are still taught and allow our future artists the opportunity to create something memorable for the parks around Madison. One for each side of town and all of the high Schools.
- rather than a table with seats, how about benches overlooking Lake Wingra - since it is noted that this park area has a nice view.
- I like a combination of benches and commissioned art work
- Also, please plant a new tree that will grow large
- Tell the sentimental types to find a new tree to revere. Trees do not need memorials. Better yet, those who are emotionally attached can haul away the leftover wood to remember and cherish forever. The savings can reduce my property tax bill.
- All the above
- Plant another tree there too.
- All of options sound great
- Benches would be nice with signage to instruct
- Do not spend public funds on this.
- Don't do anything with the wood, it's just a tree.
- It's such a naturally beautiful play space for children and it's view and Native People presence is felt by the adults who walk there too. Keep it natural for future generations to appreciate it's significance.
- I like the idea of benches and tables, but not one big one; rather, several smaller ones to accommodate several smaller groups at one time. if not feasible, then option 1.
- Chip the tree down and turn it into mulch for homes. Drill a deep hole in the base and plant a new tree into it's base so by the time it rots the new tree can fill in the forming hole and stop the ground sinking.
- Damn, damn, damn

- A pavilion structure, (slab, roof, and supporting structure with open walls), would be a great improvement to the park that could incorporate wood and art created from the ash tree, foster greater community utilization of the park space, and likely cost less than fixing and maintaining the fountain.
- "We will miss this tree, just as we miss the large tree by the playground closest to Vilas Avenue. The trunk that was left standing from that fine tree is now an eyesore. The sentiment attached to it has faded with time. It would be better if both that tree and the magnificent ash by the Annie Stewart Fountain were replaced with new trees that can grow and provide shade for future generations. Making the wood available to artists and woodworkers
- is also a good idea; I just don't think it has to be tied to this location. We will miss many more fine ash trees in our city and a way to memorialize that loss would be appropriate."
- Take it down and use dedicated memorial funds to plant more future canopy trees in the park.
- Instead of option 1, make only benches, not a table, to be placed throughout the park with a placard identifying they were built with wood from this historic tree.
- Aaron Laux!
- I think this is a neat option. give them the ability to get creative and create something interactive.
- Plant more trees
- Any of the above are acceptable and others may come forward with more compelling ideas.
- I love all these ideas! #1 and #2 both fit nicely with my previous ideas in this survey!
- Just let it go naturally. That's life. And it will be a good home for whatever creatures decide to take shelter.
- Create chainsaw art that would be consistent and appropriate to the site's history and possibly a tie-in thematically to the effigy mounds.
- All are good ideas, but whatever is made of the wood should be placed where the tree was. An explanation of where the wood came from on the piece itself would be great too.
- I like all of these ideas. :)
- Memorialize the tree by planting many more to replace it.
- Please plant more trees in this park.
- all three sound good and not mutually exclusive
- All sound great if you can get consensus
- I'd also like to see the primary trunk remain in place if possible as used as an art installation
- Are there funds to replant another tree there (ideally not a sapling but something a little more mature)?

Wingra Overlook: Question #5, other neighborhoods

Westmorland

village of shorewood hills

Nakoma

Crestwood

Nakoma

Nakoma

Wexford

Triangle Monona Bay

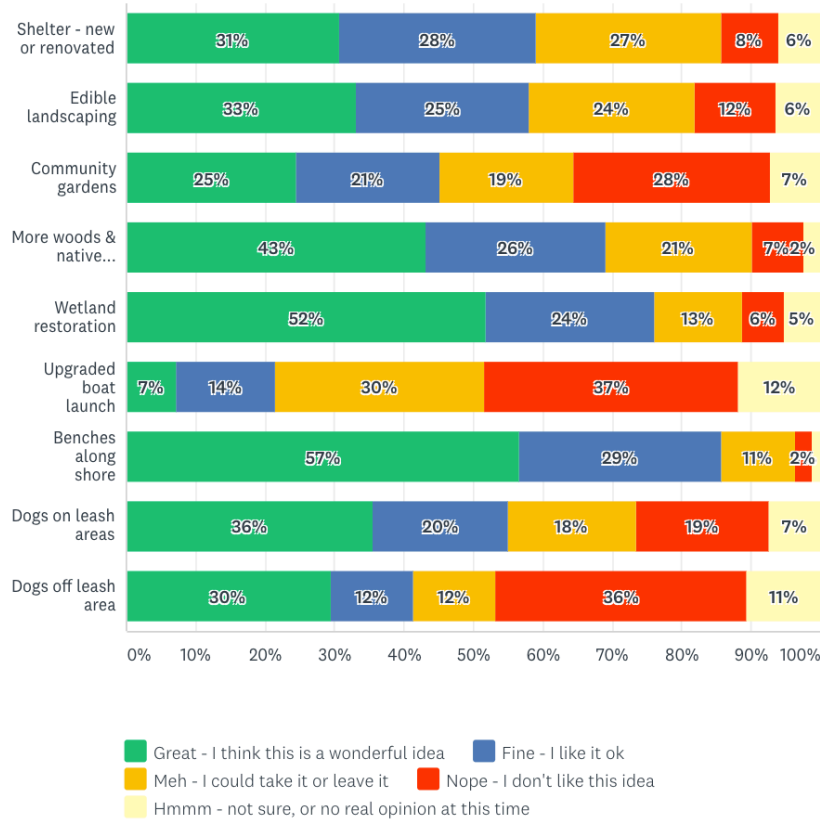
right between Vilas & Greenbush on Vilas/Randall corner

Monona Bay

Possible new park features

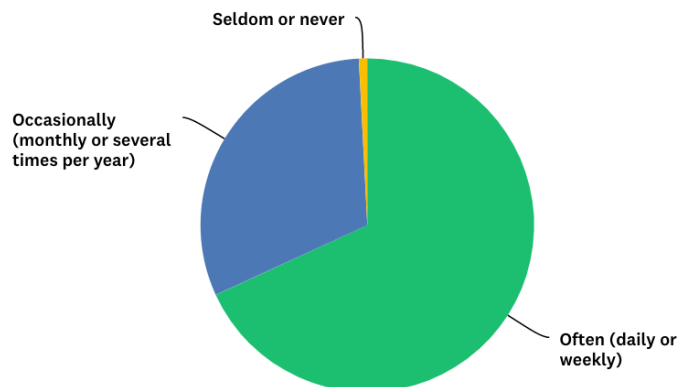
Below are features which have been suggested (in addition to the current playgrounds, playing fields, paths, etc) for Vilas Park. What best represents your current view of each of these ideas?

Answered: 249 Skipped: 0



How frequently do you visit Vilas Park (on average throughout the year, on foot or bike, not including driving through or visiting just the zoo)?

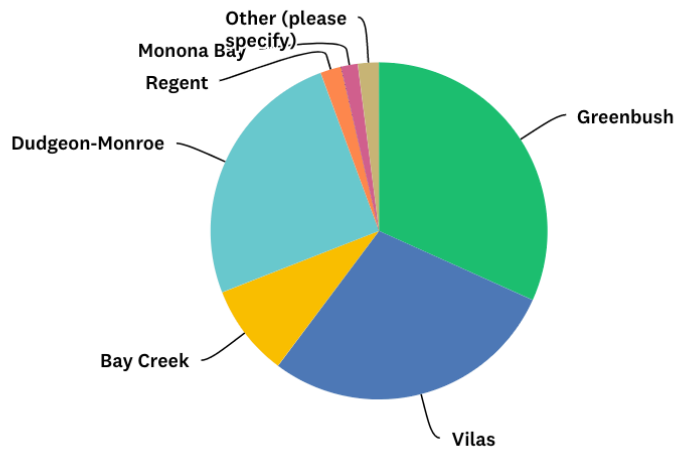
Answered: 248 Skipped: 1



What neighborhood do you live in?

(<https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/neighborhoods/436/>)

Answered: 249 Skipped: 0



Comments on question #1 (possible new features)

- Off leash idea is great in a fenced area. Even a small area would be great!
- Not enough room in Vilas park for a dog park proper. I think it's reasonable to allow people to walk leashed dogs on paths. I think we need to balance Vilas park between being a neighborhood resource and one for the whole city. In nice days Vilas Park is full of picnickers and family gatherings, children, and fishers. I think using it for community gardening would preserve too much space for too few people. People close by in the neighborhood have yards and community gardens appeal to people close by.
- not sure what meant by areas for dogs on leash, id like all areas except beach and zoo and playgrounds OK for dogs on leash
- The whole park should allow dogs on leash (except for the beach). Note: I am a cat owner and I even I see how anti-dog Madison is.
- Strong vote for off-leash dog area.
- I would not like a large enclosed building for the park shelter. I would prefer that it remain single story and open at the sides to the outdoors.
- The park should be 100% open to dogs but there should NOT be a designated "dog park." I am strongly against having a dog park in a location like this that has among the highest volume of young children visiting on a regular basis.
- Upgraded sport court. Bring back soccer!! Europe has soccer/basketball spotcorts that are a huge hit.
- Any upgraded park equipment should be geared towards older kids (older grade school/middle school) even adults. Allow for exercise use.
- Tennis courts needs a wall to hit off of.
- Focus should be on things that build community! Those of who live here use the park.
- Frisbee golf goals - just one or two for practice.
- Fix area that does not drain near shed.
- Plow bridges in the winter.
- No parking for boat trailers. Parking is a poor use of space. Lake Wingra is best suited for small watercraft, not motorized boats.
- Pickleball courts
- Will fruit trees attract more bugs?
- Plenty of kids have dog allergies or afraid of dogs. Keep the dogs away!
- How about expanding the play ground area?
- Splash pad!

- Replace rubber tire shreds with a foam rubber padding.
- Not a dog owner
- Many kids & adults have severe allergies to dogs and many people have dog phobias. Please do not push kids and families out of the park by making it dog-friendly.
- I would also suggest building up or adding more sledding hills, improved ice rink for skating and an additional area off the rink for open hockey, cross-country skiing trails, and bike trail to complete the circle around the park and to connect Vilas park to the "dinosaur" park."
- Off leash dog park!!!!
- As a dog owner, I don't want to take away valuable park land for dogs.
- As a bird lover, I want to preserve native vegetation.
- Ideal area for Madison history placards including Native Americans use of the area
- Very much for continued stewardship of Vilas as a community park; very much against allowing dogs - as I'm a dog owner and lover I understand others including children may not be okay with dogs.
- More art in the park.
- Start the process of slowly accumulating sculptures for the Wingra waterfront in the manner of the Windsor (Canada) Sculpture Park, which runs along the Detroit River path. More locally, think of the ""Updraft"" sculpture in Brittingham Park. A beautiful long term project.
<https://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/Culture/Windsor-Sculpture-Park/Pages/Windsor-Sculpture-Park.aspx>
- Arb provides the woods.
- I think dogs on leash should allowed anywhere in the park. The park is too busy to have an off leash area in my opinion. It would be nice to have a walkway/bike path from the bridge to the end of the zoo.
- any area for dogs off leash should be fenced
- Sorry, but dogs off leash in public spaces is a BAD idea. I've heard and seen too many people get bitten by unleashed dogs. My brother-in-law was in the hospital for a week because of that, and I've been attacked and bitten myself. I am not fond of dogs.
- I worry about combining dogs with playgrounds as well as the cranes that migrate through the park every year.
- Motor boats are not allowed on Lake Wingra; don't need a boat ramp. Dogs running free in the park is forbidden & should stay that way. Many families picnic and children are running — doesn't fit in with dogs. Could be a danger for dog bites. Let's please keep the park for people and not a dog potty.
- I am not in favor of using land, in the busiest park in the city, for a fenced-in off-leash dog park. I am a dog owner. I am in favor of allowing dogs to walk, on leash, on the paths.
- I prefer upgrades that everyone can use as opposed to more expensive ones that fewer people can use (i.e. an upgraded boat launch, but I also don't know what the current boat facilities are so take that as you will).
- I really like the idea of benches for public seating as long as they don't have bars, weird shapes, or anything that prevents people from laying down on them.
- I would like to see a long range plan to reclaim the lake and lagoon from excessive algae and aquatic weed growth. In warmer seasons they smell and are actually becoming dangerous for swimmers. Not everyone can afford to join a private pool. This is an equity issue that should be viewed through the City's equity lens tool.
- Discourage the use of Wingra/Vilas Drive as a commuter through street. Not only is it dangerous and bad for the Park, it has greatly increased traffic on Edgewood Avenue from Regent St into the Park itself.
- Thanks for having a survey to get neighborhood input!!!!!!
- Any and all of these would be a great improvement for Vilas Park.
- First priority should be to fix the mess that is pedestrian/bike/car traffic on villas park dr between Orchard and the beach. Dangerous for kids and frustrating for all.
- Boat rental at Vilas Beach

- I bike through the Vilas park and sometimes through the arboretum.. I like getting a drink of water and would
- Like to see .. say 2 more near the bike trail through the park. It is awkward getting to the the one near the swimming area, and the other is really part of the shelter which is not accessible if a group is in there.
- Yes, please add dog areas!
- I think planting native plants/bushes/trees that provide food and shelter to wildlife (birds, ground mammals, butterflies, bees, etc) would be fantastic. It's a beautiful park already, but I think it could serve more people and animals with more native plantings/landscaping. How about a Bird and Butterfly Garden? That would be amazing!
- Concerning the park shelter. I did not realize that this enclosed shelter is reservable space, so I have no experience upon which to base suggestions for renovations (maybe just better signage?). As far as a new shelter is concerned, I think a simple and inexpensive open pavilion with some picnic tables and grilling facilities would be nice. We could also think about adding a year-round publicly accessible toilet facility for all park visitors (not associated with the pavilion), but costs for such a project would be important to consider.
- Additionally, I had no idea dogs aren't technically allowed in Vilas Park. However, this is a city wide policy that needs to change. By default, on-leash dogs should be allowed in all parks. Unless there is a good reason to keep them out of certain areas (e.g. sensitive wildlife habitat, areas for very small children, etc.) and in these areas it should be clearly marked that dogs aren't allowed for X or Y reason.
- I don't think the park is big enough for a designated off leash dog area but perhaps designated off leash times (5-7am for example) could work.
- wow all of these suggests are really good ideas.
- The playgrounds could use some new/upgraded equipment too!
- Make the road less prominent. Stop allowing thru traffic. Leave a section of shoreline to be roadless
- It appears Vilas Park was originally marsh, restoration of wetlands along with native wetland plants may help improve water quality of the entire lake itself.
- Invite Ho Chunk land use planners, spiritual elders/leaders, water keepers in on the planning process as this was originally their homeland/spiritual grounds.
- I would prefer we pay back our debts rather than spend more money our children will have to pay back.
- A couple benches along the shoreline would be ok, but not a lot of benches.
- My experience is that edible plant areas in other parks attract bees. Community gardens are nice but they use a lot of land and only benefit a handful of people. Please please please give us a dream park like Monona's! And one playground not two.
- Park Rangers are GREAT! Vilas Park is much safer and quieter than before.
- The key factor regarding community gardens & "More woods and areas with native vegetation " is isolated location. For example, up against the bike path that runs from the tennis courts to Drake St. The park is heavily used, so no point putting in gardens & native vegetation that will get stomped. Another place for more trees & native plants would be just west of Randall Street by the entry parking lot.
- How about more (rather than less) dog control? It is not always safe to walk or run in the park as dogs already are not kept on leash.
- Additional Fishing piers along the lake would be great! It gets pretty pretty crowded at the existing piers by the dam.
- Improved signage regarding traffic flow, park entrance/exit, where is OK to park.
- Improved Walking Paths - Great
- Plant large trees that we can't find on our streets: oaks, hickories, black walnuts, catalpas, etc. and a section of pines for a wonderful pine needle floor and aroma. Or our children will never know their beauty. Also, as wildlife habitat.
- no dogs at all please
- There is an awful lot of grass north of the lagoon.

- I'd love to have an off-leash area in park but it would have to be fenced in. There's a small park near Hilldale that allows off leash dogs only a certain times. Not sure I want the expanse of the park broken up with a fenced area. Also, I think there are higher priorities for the budget. I feel the same about gardens. But I could be talked into them.
- I think park facilities are great as they are. It is wonderful to have the park so close to us
- Nice to be able to legally walk a leashed pet on the path's through all of Vilas Park.
- The community garden idea gets more people in the park so I like it for that reason. The eastern lagoon is usually nasty in terms of water quality and level of trash in water.
- I don't feel like I know the park well enough to have an informed opinion on any of these.
- Consider extending wetland into the field north of the lagoon. Portions are frequently waterlogged and would help address water quality issues with runoff from Vilas neighborhood.
- Although I don't have a dog, an area for dogs to run seems like a good idea. I'm not aware of any other dog areas within walking distance to Greenbush.
- dogs off leash only if inside fenced areas
- I selected ""Hmmm - not sure, or no real opinion at this time"" for community gardens, more wooded area, and dogs off-leash, as I'd like to better understand the idea behind and where these would be located. With the zoo expanding their hours, I am considerate of adding more car traffic to the neighborhood. Perhaps the gardens and off-leash wouldn't appreciably add to that but it did come to mind.
- I'd love for dogs to be allowed on the walking paths. Makes for safer parks by providing more eyes and activity in our parks. "
- No Garden Plots! Don't carve up the Park that way for private individual's benefit.
- Dogs should be allowed everywhere in the park!

Comments on question #2 (frequency of use):

- I walk through almost daily
- More during the summer (probably close to but not quite weekly), less during the winter (monthly at most -- though I do want to try the ice skating this year so maybe I'll be there more!)
- I walk frequently through the park.
- Two to three times a day with a dog on leash periodically off leash and have forfeited over \$400.00 in fees with a dog off leash but on vocal leash and in complete control. Y'all need to get your act together and allow off leash and in control dogs like Austin, Ann Arbor, Eugene and other progressive towns, BTW, why does Madison still lead the nation in dog hatred?
- Daily! Multiple times a day. With kids and puppy. :)
- Several times daily.
- Walking and running! It's dangerous - I'm excited for auto traffic to be stopped on the drive!
- Daily 1-3 times
- In addition to visiting the park, this is the preferred bike path from the south side to the Monroe St. area and the west side in general.
- I walk and bike a lot
- I grew up in the Vilas area and we spent every day at the park, zoo, skating rink, beach. It is a treasure!!
- Seasonally, weekly in spring, summer, fall, not winter
- We walk here, visit the lake shore, or sit in/near the ancient trees every day.
- Of the city's parks, I visit Vilas the most frequently
- I would do it more if I could take my dog
- I live on Wingra Drive and walk/bike/canoe/drive through the park most days at some point
- 3 times per month at least
- I come here nearly every day with my dog (leashed) and absolutely adore the park. I want to see it become more wildlife-friendly and educational for children/adults about environmental issues. Signage that

describes native plantings and wildlife ecosystems in the area could promote knowledge and appreciation of the natural beauty.

- I used to live a lot closer, but who knows, maybe i'll be back in the neighborhood in a year or two
- I live nearby and often walk there to relax and take my kids to play there (and would appreciate having more dog access)
- Playground and wandering in the grass in warm months and skating in winter.
- Regular zoo, beach & fishing w/ much Walking or driving through.
- I live across the street from Vilas Park. It is a traffic hazard and plenty busy and noisy. No need to increase attendance here. Let the nature part of the park thrive by not making busier.
- Bike and drive through daily...safer/better bike and pedestrian routing should be considered. (I realize that's a Streets, not Parks issue...humor me. Think wholistically.
- We live next to Vilas Park and go into the park everyday.
- we use it for soccer practice, ice skating, playgrounds, and tennis courts
- Foot and bike. Also by foot with on-leash dog. Current paths don't always accommodate this mix.
- I walk or run on the paths through Vilas.
- Almost always with my dog.
- I would use it more frequently if there were a nice running/ walking loop in the park. That the lakeside portion is mainly a road makes it less desirable for me to visit.
- Family of 4 and we use the park multiple times a day.
- I (illegally) walk my dog in the park at night or early in the morning a few times a week.

Question #3, other neighborhoods

Sunset/Westmorland

Sunset Village

South Madison

Westmorland