Final Report

Central Park
Design and Implementation Task Force

Madison, Wisconsin • March 2010
Final Report
Central Park Implementation and Design Task Force
March 2, 2010
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A Very Brief History
The concept of a large urban park located along the East Isthmus rail corridor originated with local neighborhood groups interested in revitalizing an area of post-industrial brownfields. Discussions for this park were originally advanced in the early 1970s. The Urban Open Space Foundation (UOSF) championed this idea for several years, developing a plan for a grand 25-acre Central Park. Despite public enthusiasm following an extensive public process and some success at fund raising, progress eventually stalled on the project.

In 2007, the Common Council established the Central Park Design and Implementation Task Force (Task Force) to determine the need for and feasibility of such a park and chart a path forward. The Task Force presented its preliminary report to the Council on May 14, 2008, and they were accepted by Council on June 3, 2008. A copy of the Preliminary Report is attached as Appendix A.

This report, along with all Appendices, constitutes the Final Report of the Task Force.

Structure of the Task Force
The following members comprised the Task Force:

- Marsha A. Rummel  Common Council Member, District 6
- Joseph R. Clausius  Common Council Member, District 17
- William W. Barker  Parks Commission Representative
- Nancy T. Ragland  Mayoral Appointee
- Joe Sensenbrenner  Center for Resilient Cities Board Representative
- Bradley C. Mullins  Area Property Owner
- Leslie C. Schroeder  Neighborhood Resident
- M. Nan Cheney  Neighborhood Resident
- Phyllis E. Wilhelm  MG&E Representative
- Amy T. Overby  Madison Community Foundation Representative
- Susan M. Schmitz  Downtown Madison, Inc. Representative
- Truly Remarkable Loon  Citizen Member

We also appreciated the services of Benjamin Sommers, neighborhood resident who left Madison for an extended work experience in South America.

Process
The Task Force strove for a transparent, open and participatory public process. Over a period of two years, the Task Force held 35 open meetings, including preparation and well-attended public meetings. Additionally, subcommittees were established to further address the questions posed in the authorizing Resolution, namely Land Acquisition/Rail Relocation, Concept Park Plan, Fund Raising, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and Alternative Design. In addition to well-attended meetings, all printed materials were digitized and made available online on a dedicated web site. Much additional discussion occurred on various neighborhood listservs, and the local press covered the Task Force in some detail.

Should Central Park exist?
First and foremost, throughout our process, citizens voiced strong support for a park. Indeed, the site currently serves as an informal park and a vital component of the local economy. Not only has it hosted music festivals that raise critical funds for the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center, but informal use of the open space by neighbors commonly occurs. Additionally, a farmer’s market offers local farmers and providers access to a vibrant marketplace. The site’s location along a major bike corridor offers a highly sustainable model for urban food distribution that could be propagated throughout the city.

Stimulation of adjacent development offers more proof of the existing positive economic and social impact a park on this site will offer. For example, R.P.’s Pasta located a restaurant and production facility on Wilson Street in anticipation of an urban park. Similarly, Park Central apartments provided welcome new property tax revenue providing a mix of affordable and market rate rentals. All this just on the rumor of a park!

Of course, the true utility of a quality urban park on this site only becomes more apparent as one contemplates the future of the East Washington Avenue Capitol Gateway Corridor. The Task Force carefully considered the Park in the context of the existing plans for redeveloping this vitally important Corridor, as well as relevant transportation studies detailing the potential for light or commuter rail in addition to the prospect for inter-city high-speed rail. Viewed through this lens, the imperative of building a high quality urban park on this site becomes ever more apparent. In addition, Central Park offers a unique opportunity to enhance the connectivity and utility of existing green space in the East Isthmus area and beyond. There can be no more effective investment than open space, if we intend for Madissons 25 years from now to enjoy the high quality of life we currently experience.
Responding to a Shifting Landscape

Before detailing our answers to the remaining questions posed by the charge to our Task Force, one should consider the dynamic environment in which the Task Force performed its work. While much of the Task Force’s early deliberations centered around determining the feasibility of the Park plan drawn up for the Urban Open Space Foundation (UOSF) by McCarthy and Associates (the McCarthy Plan), multiple events beyond our control shaped our perceptions and ultimately combined to cause us to scrap the McCarthy Plan altogether.

A strong economy and robust investor and philanthropic climate prevailed during the years in which UOSF worked to create Central Park. Shortly after the Task Force began its work, we experienced a major global recession from which we have yet to fully recover. Certainly this sensitized the Task Force to the need to protect local jobs and strongly influenced our view of what parcels might be suitable for adding in the short term to the nucleus of land currently dedicated to the Park. The Task Force also recognized that local entrepreneurial investments had transformed buildings once regarded as challenged tear downs into artistic workspace for a variety of professional, non-profit, and incubator businesses.

Further complicating the picture, UOSF expanded its mission to a national focus on urban sustainability issues, changing its name to the Center for Resilient Cities (CRC). Additionally, the long-time UOSF Director, a stalwart champion of Central Park, retired.

One final change represented a tectonic shift and effectively sealed the fate of the McCarthy Plan. The existence of an active rail corridor diagonally bisecting the Park represented a significant obstacle to realizing the McCarthy Plan and thus moving the railroad tracks formed a critical step in the evolution of this parcel of open space. The collapsing economy and the estimated costs to acquire the land and rights-of-way rendered this step improbable. Following this development, the Task Force realized it had painted itself into a corner, investing much time into a plan impossible to achieve in the near term.

Fortunately, spontaneous partnerships arose to rescue the project from oblivion. The MG&E Foundation provided funding and a local coalition of landscape architectural firms (Schreiber/Anderson Associates, Inc. – JJR, LLC - Ken Saiki Design, Inc.) collectively known as “3” donated half their costs to envision a park responsive to community input that fit on a much reduced footprint and accommodated an active rail corridor. Their plan was accepted by the Task Force as the Conceptual Master Plan for Central Park. Appendix B contains the “3” Plan.

Questions Answered

a) What is the final concept for the Park?

The Task Force envisions Central Park as a vibrant public-private partnership closely modeled on a local and extremely successful exemplar, Olbrich Botanical Gardens. This model succeeds via an articulated mission statement and an innovative municipal partnership with a dedicated philanthropic organization, the Olbrich Botanical Society. Thus the Task Force, reflective of our strong environmental ethic and endorsement of sustainable concepts as enumerated in The Natural Step, adopted the following mission statement: “Central Park serves as a test bed for sustainability and resiliency strategies in urban settings.” This sensibility infuses and informs our vision for Central Park, from support for local food production (community garden space and farmer’s market) and edible landscaping to infrastructure for alternative transportation.

The second component of the model, a dedicated philanthropic organization, underpins the long-term success of the Park. While the CRC deserves much credit for nurturing Central Park in its infancy, their change in focus to a more national perspective decreases their suitability as the best partner for further stewarding Central Park. Thus the Task Force recommends establishing a new organization to solely focus on supporting Central Park. A Memorandum of Understanding effecting transfer of the land currently held by CRC to municipal ownership and establishing a support organization accompanies this report in Appendix C.

Rather than specify a detailed plan for Central Park, the Task Force chose to endorse the conceptual plan detailed in the “3” Plan. In part, the design of the “3” Plan dictated this decision. As part of an attempt to link green spaces in the East Isthmus area, “3” reclaimed the Few Street crossing (right-of-way) as the main entrance, thus linking Central and Orton Parks. Conversion of the existing, but unimproved right-of-way to create an active pedestrian, bicycle, and emergency vehicle crossing requires approval by the State of Wisconsin Office of Commissioner of Railroads (OCR). While the approval process is underway, we do not expect a definitive answer until the second or third quarter of 2010. Rather than delay progress on the Park, we chose to endorse a pragmatic footprint and encourage development of appropriate infrastructure to support four main uses consistently voiced and supported by the public. Those main uses are:

- Performance space engineered to support up to three large festival events per year
- Small raised-bed community gardening and local agriculture
- Skateboard Park
- Playground
While the “3” Plan articulates an inspired solution to an exceedingly difficult design challenge and provides for the above uses, if by some chance we do not gain permission to use the Few Street crossing, major design realignments will be required. Nonetheless, if one views the design as a smorgasbord of elements, clearly work can move forward on designing the skate park, multi-use performance space, gardens and playground. This perspective might even allow for incorporating elements from the earlier McCarthy Plan.

The Task Force hopes that by crafting a flexible path defined by a footprint and articulated major uses, Parks Division staff can take over the design and implementation and move the project forward. Such flexibility, coupled with an active partnership should allow the Park to nimbly maximize future opportunities for further development as they arise. After all, who could have foreseen the Thai Pavilion?

b) Explore additional lands to be purchased

The Task Force recommends two immediate property acquisitions, the Robert Sands property, as well as the MG&E parcel located at the SE corner of the intersection of Brearly and East Wilson.

Note that City property transects the Sands parcel twice, by the Few Street crossing as well as by a former railroad right-of-way bisecting the eastern fragment along a SW-NE line. Not only is acquisition of this parcel crucial for the Park itself, but also the “3” Plan designates this area as the site for a future light rail stop and alternative transportation hub. The Task Force carefully weighed the economic consequences of acquiring the Sands property and determined the long-term economic gains of developing the whole block as Park, or services that will benefit from their proximity to the park and surrounding community, will outweigh the continued use of these under-utilized parcels.

The small MG&E parcel links Central Park with the existing and adjacent Willy Street Park, creating a direct connection to Williamson Street at South Brearly Street.

c) Explore options for developing the park in phases and develop a phased implementation strategy for the Park

The Task Force feels all the main elements of the Park should be developed as quickly as possible. Community sentiment infuses this perspective, for we heard pleas for a quick delivery voiced again and again. Due to the existence of ongoing large music festivals, the multi-use performance space should receive priority. Given the demonstrated demand for skateboard facilities and the presence of skate parks in many surrounding communities, the City should work with the skate park group to ensure this project succeeds.

A playground can go in as soon as a site is designated and funding raised. Community gardens and orchards are certainly affordable and will develop at a rate determined by gardener governance. Further enhancements can be added as time goes on and opportunities arise. For example, educational materials detailing the natural, geological, archaeological and industrial history of the East Isthmus have been proposed, as well as spaces for public art. An example of how a proposed Arts Trail located on City-owned parcels between Blair Street and the Garver Feed Mill could enhance the work proposed at Central Park, with potential locations of these art installations, is shown in Appendix D.

The Task Force understands that building Central Park requires flexibility in amendments to the phasing plan to take advantage of funding opportunities or other opportunities that will influence the ultimate implementation of the Central Park Master Plan. The Task Force viewed the “3” phasing plan as a viable plan if funding, ownership issues and other things would not affect the implementation of Central Park. Clearly resources available to implement portions of this plan may cause some re-prioritization from that shown in the “3” Master Plan.

For example, the Task Force understands and supports that the Phase 1 Construction project that will be funded through the Rep. Baldwin earmark does not exactly match Phase 1 from the “3” Master Plan. The Task Force also supports utilizing Rep. Baldwin’s funds to complete a project utilizing lands fully under the control of the CRC and the City. As such, we offer our strong support for a Phase 1 Construction project that includes:

* The “Mile Zero” bicycle trailhead plaza
* Gateway crossing of the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad (WSOR) rail line, including the Entry Plaza at Few Street
* Few Street and Wilson Street right-of-way improvements
* Entry Plaza north of the Few Street crossing
* Great Lawn improvements, including landscaping, walkways, etc.
* Ingersoll Street entry plaza
* Mass grading of the Skate Park
* Railroad safety plan, including retaining walls and fencing required providing a strong safety component for Park visitors.

This will provide an immediately usable park and provide the kind of overall visitor experience we believe Central Park will offer once fully developed. Other modifications to the future phases of the Central Park Project may also be needed as necessary to fit funding availability.
d) How does the relationship in terms of governance, financing, management and maintenance of the Park work among the parties involved?

Central Park governance should mirror that of any City park under the auspices of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners. As for funding, the public-private partnership will require time to establish itself. Ideally, the City might choose to invest in the Park’s initial construction with the idea that, as is the case with Olbrich Botanical Gardens, the philanthropic and volunteer activities would sustain and grow the Park over the long term. Ideally, an endowed fund to provide for maintenance should be established. To maximize efficiency, the Parks Division could provide day-to-day basic maintenance, scheduling and management. Any maintenance required above a normal basic level of service should be funded by the private partner and/or performed by volunteers.

The Memorandum of Understanding concerning these issues is attached as Appendix C.

e) What is the best plan of action regarding moving the railroad tracks?

Given the magnitude of the expenditure estimated to move the existing rail, in light of the current state of the economy, the Task Force does not support moving the rail at this time. Nonetheless, should a future opportunity arise to move the tracks, the City should move expeditiously to do so. Clearly, a much higher quality park will result.

f) What do stakeholder groups think about this plan?

The public enthusiastically embraced the “3” Plan, but on a more fundamental level they support the expeditious creation of a park supporting their clearly articulated uses. Local business and property owners, local philanthropic groups, neighborhood associations are also pleased with the prospects for Central Park. Indeed, creation of a collegial, collaborative and enthusiastic stakeholder coalition represents one of the major achievements of the Task Force process. We must not squander or hinder this unique opportunity created by our work to bring this park to fruition.

g) What is needed in terms of private fund raising?

Robust private philanthropy must comprise a major ingredient in the long-term success of Central Park. As mentioned before, private funding must provide aesthetic and educational enhancements, as well as provide for long-term maintenance. As we have seen in Olbrich Botanical Gardens, private funding comprises an invaluable component of funding for additional property acquisition.

h) Review the proposed Park footprint and address the relationship of park space to redevelopment plans in the corridor.

The Task Force held several meetings where representatives of the Center for Resilient Cities, City staff to Transport 2020, the East Rail Corridor Plan and the East Washington Avenue Capitol Gateway Corridor Plan presented their work and how it relates to the development of Central Park. In addition, the Task Force met on the site and walked it to get a good sense of the context and issues surrounding the development of the Park. In addition, Nan Fey and Karl van Lith provided training in The Natural Step and helped the Task Force integrate this conservation ethic into Park design and philosophy.

i) Design integration with other nearby green space.

The Task Force specifically charged “3” with addressing linkages between Central Park and existing parks in the East Isthmus area. Their report contains many recommendations and design elements for linking these public spaces along existing bicycle paths and the Yahara River Parkway. Additionally, “3” designed streetscape improvements to enhance connections between Orton and Central Park along Few Street. The Task Force emphasizes how such a “green web” enhances the city, and recognizes the efficiencies realized by linking Tenney, Olbrich, James Madison, Central, Orton, and Olin-Turville Parks via alternative transportation corridors. For example, the proximity of excellent ice skating facilities at Tenney obviates the need to provide duplicate rinks at Central Park.

Conclusion

When the Task Force began its work, it was not clear whether or not an actual project would emerge from our deliberation. However, it is now evident that a great urban park is possible. While it may not initially resemble the park imagined in the 1970s, the Task Force is confident a truly unique park for Madison can be established at Central Park. What the park will ultimately become is up to future generations of Madisonians to answer, but we believe that we have helped set that process in motion. The Task Force is proud of its work and urges the Madison Common Council to accept this final report as the first step in realizing this vision.

Respectfully submitted,

William W. Barker, Chair
Nancy T. Ragland, Vice Chair
M. Nan Cheney
Joseph R. Clausius

Truly Remarkable Loon
Bradley C. Mullins
Amy T. Overby
Marsha A. Rummel

Susan M. Schmitz
Leslie C. Schroeder
Joe Sensenbrenner
Phyllis E. Wilhelm
APPENDIX A

PRELIMINARY REPORT:
CENTRAL PARK DESIGN
AND IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE

ACCEPTED BY COMMON COUNCIL: JUNE 3, 2008
LEGISLATIVE FILE ID NO.: 10506
Background

For several years the City of Madison, the Center for Resilient Cities (CRC, formerly known as Urban Open Space Foundation), neighborhood residents, local businesses and other stakeholders discussed and planned for a Central Park in the East Isthmus of Madison (please see Figure 1). The City of Madison noted this park in both its adopted Comprehensive Plan and the adopted East Rail Corridor Plan. Informed by an extensive public process involving multiple stakeholder groups such as neighborhood associations, gardeners, skateboarders, the CRC developed detailed plans (referred to herein as the “McCarthy Plan,” please see Figure 2), acquired parcels of land, and raised and expended over $1,000,000 in funds to make the park a reality.

As a way to advance the process, effect review of Central Park by affected City agencies, and advise the Mayor and Council on the role of the City in the Central Park initiative, on January 16, 2007, the Common Council adopted Amended Resolution RES-07-00256, creating a 12-member ad hoc Task Force to answer a series of questions regarding implementation and governance of the proposed Central Park.

The Task Force includes the following members:

- William W. Barker
  Park Commission Representative
- Joseph R. Clausius
  Common Council Member
- Bradley C. Mullins
  Area Property Owner
- Amy T. Overby
  Madison Community Foundation Representative
- Nancy T. Ragland
  Mayoral Appointee
- Marsha A. Rummel
  District Common Council Member
- Susan M. Schmitz
  Downtown Madison, Inc. Representative
- Leslie C. Schroeder
  Neighborhood Resident
- Joe Sensenbrenner
  Center for Resilient Cities Board Representative
- Benjamin R. Sommers
  Neighborhood Resident
- Phyllis E. Wilhelm
  MG&E Representative

As per the adopted Amended Resolution, the charge of the Task Force anticipated a multi-phase approach. At the beginning, the Task Force was to examine and offer a recommendation on the following:

- Review all work to date on the project.
- Consider all of the outstanding issues and determine whether the project should move forward.

Once the preliminary work was done, and the Task Force concludes that the work of the Task Force should continue, the Task Force would answer the following questions:

- Are additional land acquisitions required to make the Park possible?
- Are options for developing the Central Park in phases possible, and if so, develop a phased implementation strategy for the Park.
- What is the final concept plan for the Park?
- How does governance, financing, management and maintenance of the park work among the parties involved?
- What is the best plan of action regarding moving the railroad tracks?
- What do stakeholder groups think about this plan?
- What is needed in terms of private fundraising?
- What is the proposed Park footprint's relationship to redevelopment plans in the corridor?
- How does the Park's design integrate with other nearby green space?

Lastly, the Task Force shall engage the community, conduct several public meetings as part of the process, and report their findings to the Common Council by January 2008.

The Task Force's final report shall include:

1. A final plan of the Park to recommend to the Common Council;
2. A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among all parties to deal with ownership, fundraising, implementation, management, and maintenance of the Park;
3. A phased implementation strategy for the Park;
4. A draft fundraising plan.
Work to Date

Since its first meeting in June 2007, the full Task Force has held 22 meetings. In addition, the Task Force has delegated much of the work to various sub-committees to handle the larger issues the Task Force needs to address:

1. Land Acquisition/Rail Relocation (3 meetings to date)
2. Concept Park Plan (10 meetings to date)
3. Fundraising (meetings to be scheduled)
4. Memorandum of Understanding (5 meetings to date)
5. Alternative Design (1 meeting to date)

While good progress has been made, many challenges to bringing this Park to fruition remain, such as the question of moving of the rail line, additional land acquisitions, fundraising for needed capital and operating endowments, and formulating a plan to phase Park development. Additionally, the Task Force must identify and make recommendations regarding Park ownership, governance and fiscal responsibility. Issues related to funding mechanisms, as well as park development, maintenance and management must be resolved. Further progress on Central Park depends on workable answers to these questions.

Responses to date regarding the charge of the Task Force follow:

• Review all work to date on the project.

The Task Force held several meetings where representatives of the Center for Resilient Cities, City staff to Transport 2020, the East Rail Corridor Plan and the East Washington Capitol Gateway Corridor Plan presented their work and how it relates to the development of Central Park. In addition, the Task Force met on the site and walked it to get a good sense of the context and issues surrounding the development of the Park. In addition, Nancy Fey and Karl van Lith provided training in the Natural Step and helped the committee address integration of this conservation ethic into park design and philosophy.

• Consider all of the outstanding issues and determine whether the project should move forward.

The Task Force supports the idea of a Central Park in the Isthmus. It is an idea worth fully exploring and implementing. The Task Force believes that a Central Park could support other planning and implementation initiatives in the neighborhood and help offset identified park deficiencies, and catalyze neighborhood, business and economic development activity along the Capitol Gateway Corridor. The detail work of the Task Force related to design, location of Park elements, budget, continues.

• Explore additional lands to be acquired.

While some parcels are critical to the success of the Park, not all of the land identified in the most recent working version of the Central Park Master Plan is necessary for the park to be developed initially. More work will be required to identify those parcels as design work progresses.

In addition, the Task Force removed 203 South Paterson Street from the list of properties to be acquired for development of Central Park. The Task Force voted to remove acquisition of the entire parcel, but did not rule out working with the owners of the property to work on the frontage along South Brearly Street as part of the Park’s development (please see Figure 3).

Likewise, the Task Force reached consensus that, in order for Central Park to achieve its potential, the area bordered by South Ingersoll Street, South Baldwin Street, East Wilson Street and the existing railroad right-of-way should be acquired.

• Explore options for developing the park in phases and develop a phased implementation strategy for the park.

The Task Force agrees that developing the Park in phases, focusing on the proposed Skate Park on S. Brearly, and the Great Lawn development on S. Ingersoll—both parcels presently owned by the CRC—merit further discussion and detailed planning. However, the ability to raise sufficient capital to develop, maintain, and provide for the long-term maintenance of the Park is a significant issue that the Task Force has not fully resolved at this point.

• How does the relationship in terms of governance, financing, management and maintenance of the park work among the parties involved?

This is a topic for the Task Force in the coming months as the concept designs are finalized.

• What is the final concept plan for the Park?

The Concept Plan Sub-Committee of the Task Force will complete its report on the review of the existing McCarthy Plan and offer certain changes that better reflect the context of the Park both in terms of its location and the uses that are anticipated to come out of the early phases of the concept Plan, and ultimately, implementation. The full Committee will review suggested plan amendments.

The Alternative Design Sub-Committee will work with Madison Gas and Electric to select a landscape architectural firm(s) to help prepare an alternative plan as proposed and funded by Madison Gas and Electric and supported by the Task Force.

• What is the best plan of action regarding moving the railroad tracks?

Task Force consensus exists that realization of a centerpiece-quality urban park, as specified in the modified McCarthy Plan, requires rail relocation (please see Figure 4). This is a topic for the Task Force in the coming months as it develops a
final concept design. The spur track for MG&E must remain and the relocation plan allows for this. While it may be possible to develop a plan for the Park with the rails in their current configuration, the Task Force believes that the possible introduction of passenger rail services, e.g., commuter rail, will ultimately afford an opportunity to reconstruct and relocate the rail line.

Cognizant of the financial difficulties presented by rail relocation, the Task Force believes that it must also fully explore the option of not moving the rails and develop a park with the rails in their current location. The Alternative Design Sub-Committee will work with Madison Gas and Electric to select a landscape architectural firm(s) to help prepare an alternative plan as proposed and funded by Madison Gas and Electric and supported by the Task Force. That planning process will be undertaken soon and included in the final report of the Task Force.

What do stakeholder groups think about this plan?
Public outreach, including public meetings will occur as soon as the Concept Plan Sub-Committee finishes its work, the alternative plan is completed, and conceptual plan maps showing both rail location options are prepared. The alternative plan will require an opportunity for public comment since the development of the alternative plan is a significant departure from what has been shown. The Task Force hopes to have the public meetings as soon as these plans are completed.

What is needed in terms of private fundraising?
Total Park cost is estimated to be $30 million. A minimum of $20 million must be raised from private sources to fully fund and endow Central Park. Full consideration of this issue depends upon acceptance of a park design and the Fundraising Sub-Committee will address this issue in the coming months.

Review the proposed Park footprint and address the relationship of park space to redevelopment plans in the corridor.

With the recent adoption of the East Washington Capitol Gateway Corridor BUILD, TID 36 Plan, an anticipated Neighborhood Conservation District, Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Plan, and amendments to the East Rail Corridor Plan by Council, the Task Force can address this issue and will by the time of the Final Report. The relationship of the Park to adopted plans in the vicinity, including the proposed land uses that are contained in these plans, is shown in Figures 5 and 6.

Design integration with other nearby green space.
This will be more fully developed as the Task Force revises the Central Park Plan for presentation to the public. Preliminary analyses indicate the recently completed Isthmus Bike Path and Yahara River Parkway afford excellent linkages of Central Park with other municipal and regional open spaces.

• A final plan of the Park to recommend to the Common Council.
  
  This will appear in the Final Report.

• A draft MOU between all parties to deal with ownership, fundraising, implementation, management, and maintenance of the Park.
  
  The MOU Sub-Committee is now meeting to develop this element of the project.

• A phased implementation strategy for the Park.
  
  The Task Force believes that a phased implementation strategy is in the best long-term interest of the Central Park. A phasing plan and budget will be included in the final report.

Recommendations
The Task Force is fully engaged in the process to handle significant park issues, public meetings, etc. With the recent decision to look more closely at how a park may be designed that works with the railroad tracks remaining in place, more time is needed to explore and develop another park concept plan. The Task Force recommends extension of its work through December 31, 2008.
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City of Madison

- David J. Cieslewicz, Mayor

Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development

- Mark A. Olinger, Director
- Don Marx, Manager, Office of Real Estate Services
- Dan Rolfs, Community Development Project Manager
- Nancy A. Prusaitis, Program Assistant III
- Donna Collingwood, Clerk Typist II

Parks Division

- Kevin Briski, Superintendent
- Si Widstrand, Parks Planning & Development Manager (Retired)
- Kay Rutledge, Parks Planning & Development Manager
- Bill Bauer, Parks Landscape Architect
- LaVonne LaFave, Program Assistant III

Central Park Design and Implementation Task Force

- Bill Barker, Chair, Park Commission Representative
- Nan Cheney, Neighborhood Resident
- Joe Clausius, Alder 17th District, Common Council Member
- Bradley Mullins, Area Property Owner
- Amy Overby, Madison Community Foundation
- Nancy Ragland, Vice Chairperson, Mayor’s Designee
- Marsha Rummel, Alder 6th District, Common Council Member
- Susan Schmitz, DMI Representative
- Leslie Schroeder, Neighborhood Resident
- Joe Sensenbrenner, Center for Resilient Cities Representative
- Benjamin Sommers, Neighborhood Resident (former member)
- Truly Remarkable Loon, Citizen Member
- Phyllis Wilhelm, MG&E Representative

“3” Design Team

Schreiber/Anderson Associates
Ken Saiki Design
JJR, LLC

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INTRODUCTION
For approximately a decade, the City of Madison, the Center for Resilient Cities (formerly the Urban Open Space Foundation), and many stakeholder groups have discussed and planned for an urban park to be located in the East Rail Corridor on Madison’s east side. The Park is expected to provide park and recreation facilities to meet the needs of the neighborhood and community, enhance the city’s economic development potential, and stimulate renewed focus of the greater Isthmus as an employment center. The Park will interconnect jobs, housing, and recreation and create a signature feature and destination for the city.

BACKGROUND
The concept plan previously prepared for Central Park (the McCarthy Plan) has been presented in many venues, to many people and groups and has generated much interest and discussion. While widespread support exists for the concept of a park, concerns expressed stalled momentum of this plan, particularly relating to rail relocation.

The McCarthy Plan depends upon acquiring land through purchase or condemnation and moving the existing railroad tracks 100 yards to the north edge of the Park at an estimated cost of $10 million. Public funds for this expressed purpose are limited. The purpose of this plan is to explore additional options and develop an alternative Park design that does not require relocation of the railroad tracks. Instead this plan creates a usable, safe, functional park around the current railroad tracks. This will allow the City and public to evaluate how to proceed to implementation of the Park. The alternative plan, as well as the McCarthy Plan will link bike trails, open space, and established parks throughout the Isthmus.

The alternative plan celebrates the rich history and architecture of the East Isthmus. The plan provides the framework for future expansion, park uses and activities, open space network, trails, recreation facilities and celebrations. The alternative plan provides a prioritized approach for the implementation of the Park and recreation facility projects. Preparation of the alternative plan has involved participation of City staff, the Mayor’s Central Park Design and Implementation Task Force, neighborhood groups, the Center for Resilient Cities (CRC), and many other stakeholders. The alternative plan has been presented at two public meetings, one at the onset of the project and one to present the final alternative Conceptual Master Plan.

Park Acreage
When the McCarthy Plan was developed the assumed acreage was approximately 15 acres. Since that time the available land for the Park has been reduced to approximately 7 acres. However, future expansion of the Park remains strong as several parcels of land may become available in the future. The Conceptual Master Plan could accommodate future growth if additional lands become available.

CENTRAL PARK AREA DESCRIPTIONS
Great Lawn
The Great Lawn is the largest open space in Central Park and is intended to be the location of a limited number of festivals each year. The Great Lawn area comprises approximately 2 acres of the Park. The open lawn itself is roughly 1 acre providing space for people to picnic, sit, stand or dance during performances and to have open lawn for play during non-performances. The lawn slopes up from the stage at the Few Street right-of-way (east) to Ingersoll Street (west) at 3% to an elevation 12 feet above the street.

At Ingersoll Street the Park will have a street level plaza with interactive fountain and restroom and/or storage under the raised portion of the Park. The upper Park will be connected to the street level plaza via steps on the north and an ADA accessible walk at 5% slope on the south of a wall retaining the elevation difference.

At the convergence of the steps and upper walkway will be another small plaza overlooking the lower plaza/fountain and providing views to the West. The sloped lawn will focus views to the stage area of the Great Lawn while also expanding park views to surrounding lands. Raising the park elevations will enhance open views given the narrowness of the site.

On the north side of the Great Lawn, along the MG&E spur line, an “Art Walk” or widened walkway provides area for art display and other activities. Small wind turbines with pedestrian lights are spaced along the walk illuminating the area as well as generating power for the Park. A 10’ wide walk will be located on the south side of the lawn along the active rail line. Both walks are accessible routes and allow for emergency vehicle access to the interior of the Park.

At the active rail right-of-way a retaining wall topped with an ornamental fence will deter park users from crossing the tracks at inappropriate locations. The fence is pedestrian-scale and would be no taller than 6’ in height.

A double row of canopy trees is located along Ingersoll Street providing shade and separation for the fountain plaza. The wall between the lower and upper plazas could be a “Living Wall” that adds vegetation to the vertical edge through the use of native plant materials arranged artfully in tray systems. At the upper level of the Great Lawn, canopy trees are used to define the edges of the Park and direct views to the stage area.

The stage plaza is centrally located aligned with the Few Street right-of-way to provide access for temporary stage configurations delivered on flatbed truck systems. Power would be provided at the plaza from improvements as part of the development of the Great Lawn.
Gateway Plaza

The Gateway Plaza walk is the ceremonial entrance into the Park beginning perhaps, with the Mile “0” plaza at the intersection of Few and East Wilson Streets. The Mile “0” plaza connects the Park with the State bike/trail system as well as providing an opportunity for a Bike Center on site. The Gateway Plaza walk utilizes the existing Few Street right-of-way to extend an at grade walk to the Great Lawn and Skate Park. Formal crossing gates and fencing located at the Gateway Plaza on both sides of the active rail line will provide a strong system of safety for Park visitors.

Accessible Playground

Located to the west of the Gateway Plaza, the Accessible Playground provides area for 3 play structures for multiple age groups. The playground would be enclosed by an ornamental fence providing a safe and visible play area. Entry into the playground would be from the Gateway Plaza. The Accessible Playground is approximately 1/3 acre in size and would serve children of all abilities.

Skate Park

The Skate Park has been a staple program element of Central Park. The over 1/2 acre site provides the opportunity to develop an urban plaza setting, integrating skateboarding into the Park fabric, which is the desire of current skate enthusiasts. The Skate Park would have the look and feel of an outdoor plaza space with seat walls, steps, and landscaped areas. The Park can also function as a gathering space for other activities. The Skate Park would have an ornamental fence around the perimeter with access at the stage plaza of the Great Lawn.

Bike Center

The Bike Center is located on the east side of the Gateway Plaza. The facility would house a bike/service center. The building could be large enough to accommodate storage, restrooms, and other vending opportunities such as a skate shop affiliated with the Skate Park. The architecture of the building could reflect the metal and rounded roof structures reminiscent the Trachte buildings found on properties and throughout the East Isthmus. An area to the east with bike bollards placed around landscaped beds would provide secure parking for those cyclists using the Park, shopping at the proposed market, or commuting on the commuter rail.

Rail Station

Central Park is a potential location for a future commuter rail station. The Rail Station could be located adjacent to the Bike Center to allow for commuters to ride to the site and secure their bicycles with convenient access to the employment centers in the area. Future rail commuting would provide another transportation source to events held at Central Park. The development of the Market area can provide for “Kiss-and-Ride” drop-off to the station. The Rail Station would also provide a central location for multi-modal transportation hub for East Isthmus residents in the surrounding neighborhood.

Market

With the purchase of the Sands Property and with the existing City right-of-way there would be approximately 1 1/2 acres to develop as some type of market. While a program for the market has not been developed at this time the market will most likely be a protected open air market with some ability to provide year-round use. Other space needs may include short-term vehicle parking and service access.

Brearly Street Park

The Brearly Street Park is a somewhat separated component of Central Park. It is slightly less than one acre in size. This Park is envisioned as a multi-purpose open space, ultimately depending on regular, active programming to reach its fullest potential and use. This park area will provide open space amenities to area workforce, residents and visitors. As the East Isthmus redevelops, its value and use will increase. The Park is purposely organized simplistically to optimize flexibility in its use. The north and south borders are designed as a strolling and sitting park. Double rows of canopy trees define more heavily-planted beds of shrubs, perennials and grasses. Benches, tables and chairs, seat walls and small-scale sculptures could occupy this space providing a respite from the urban condition. A larger central lawn allows for other uses. A paved plaza space that incorporates a length of Brearly Street provides space for a Farmers’ Market, small-scale activities and events. Brearly Street could be closed for some of these activities and the street surface integrated into the Park space.

Small buildings housing public restrooms and providing storage or other uses are located north and south along Brearly Street, framing the open space and serving to announce this portion of Central Park.

A small raised, paved platform at the east end of the site could be used for other events, performances or simply serve as a small plaza for concentrated activities. The plan incorporates a large vertical frame that could serve as a movie screen or background for performances.

The Gardens

The Gardens are located on land currently owned by Madison Gas and Electric (MG&E). The intent is to use this area to complete an open space connection to the existing Willy Street Park to the south. While the Willy Street Park has a sculptural wall that physically separates it from the MG&E parking lot, this re-use of the parking lot will link open space to open space and provide garden spaces for community use. Most of this area is compromised by contaminated soils. The gardens are conceived as raised beds, providing above-grade access for disabled individuals and soil volumes above potentially contaminated soils and the cap required preventing further ground water contamination. Streetscape and street tree planting improvements to Brearly Street would strengthen the sense of park and open space, linking the Willy Street Park, the Gardens and the Brearly Street Park portion of Central Park.
PHASING

This plan does provide for a phased implementation approach. Details on how the phasing occurs can be found on pages 41-45.

The overall estimated budget of $18.3 million, not including acquisitions, will necessitate phasing to not only respond to available funds but also provide an opportunity for certain aspects of the Park to emerge as funding and timing are more conducive to that particular park element. The estimated budget detail may be found on pages 50-53.

It was not the intention of this plan to program every detail of the Park, but rather provide an over-arching conceptual framework that will be molded and refined over time. Parks that can evolve over time are parks that maintain their vitality and are cherished by their users.

This plan profices the framework to get the Park established and then, provides a canvas upon which future generations of users can leave their mark.
Central Park
a design collaborative  
Schreiber/Anderson Associates  JJR, LLC  Ken Saiki Design, Inc
Central Park Acreage

Central Park
a design collaborative

Schreiber/Anderson Associates  JJR, LLC  Ken Saiki Design, Inc
Central Park Master Plan: Safety Plan
Central Park Master Plan: Aerial View Facing East
Central Park Master Plan: Brearly Street Park

Performance Area
- Performance Stage/Plaza
- Bosque Border
- Open Lawn/Seating

Bike Path
- Willy Street
- Park Connection

Gardens
- Gardens

Restroom/Shelter

Performance Stage

Outdoor Movie Nights

a design collaborative
Schreiber/Anderson Associates  JJR, LLC  Ken Saiki Design, Inc
Central Park Master Plan: Brearly Street Park Performance Area Facing East
Central Park Master Plan: Brearly Street Performance Area Facing West
Central Park Master Plan: Great Lawn and Playground

- Great Lawn & Playfield
- Performance Area/Plaza
- Festive Gateway & Rail Crossing
- “Art Walk”
- Underground Storage/Restrooms
- Overlook
- Living Wall
- Bike Path
- South Ingersoll Street
- East Wilson Street
- Fountains
- Plazas
- Sundial
Central Park Master Plan: Street Level View of Great Lawn at Ingersoll and Wilson

Central Park
a design collaborative

Schreiber/Anderson Associates  JJ, LLC  Ken Saiki Design, Inc
Central Park Master Plan: “Living Wall” and Fountain Street View
Central Park Master Plan: View to Performance Area and Skate Park from Great Lawn
Central Park Master Plan: Environmental Enhancements

- Living Wall
- South Ingersoll Street
- Great Lawn & Playfield
- Performance Area/Plaza
- Mile "0"
- Festive Gateway & Rail Crossing
- Underground Storage/Restrooms
- "Arb Walk"
- Overlook
- Security Walk
- Decorative Fence
- Plaza/Fountain
- Living Wall
- Playground

Inset images:
- Living Wall
- Small Wind Turbines
- Solar Shade Structures
Central Park Master Plan: Skate Park, Bike Center, Rail Station, & Market

Skate Park

Rail Station

Park Gateway

Safety Gates

Bike Center

Multi-use Path

Sidewalk

Skate Plaza

Table-Top X-Walk

Wilson Street

Kiss & Ride

Permanent Market

Temporary Market

Rail Station

Bike Parking

Skate Plaza

Skate Park Features

Skate Park Art
Central Park Master Plan: View to Great Lawn and Capitol from Performance Area
Central Park Master Plan: Aerial View of Market Area
Central Park Master Plan: Skate Park, Bike Center, Rail Station, & Market
Central Park Master Plan: View of Rail Station and Bike Center
Central Park Master Plan: Implementation Strategy Outline

Phase I- Bike and Pedestrian Path Improvements (Ingersoll to Baldwin)

Wilson Street improvements
Few and Wilson intersection improvements
Mile “zero” bicycle trailhead plaza
Acquisition of Sands property
Few Street R.O.W. improvements, railroad crossing and entry plaza
Railroad R.O.W. fencing and crossing gates
Multi-Use path through Sands property
Central Park Master Plan: Implementation Strategy Outline

Phase II- Central Park (Blair to Baldwin)

Entry Plaza
Performance enhancements
Restrooms/Maintenance building
Skate Park
Arching central walkway
Landforms/Amphitheater
Ingersoll St. entry plaza
Plantings
Phase III - Bike Path Improvements (Ingersoll to Blair)

- Increase bike path width
- Green up edges
- Thematic lighting to tie into Central Park
- Central Park icons and sculptures
- Thematic banners
- Informational kiosks
Phase IV- Bike Path Improvements (Baldwin to Yahara River)

Improved path width on Railroad St. ROW
Green up edges
Thematic lighting to tie into Central Park
Central Park icons and sculptures
Public Art
Thematic banners
Informational kiosks
Interpretive sign system
Phase V- Central Park Pedestrian Green Corridors

- Improve sidewalks
- Thematic lighting to tie into Central Park
- Central Park icons and sculptures
- Thematic banners
- Informational kiosks
- Interpretive sign system
- Street trees
- Theme accent plantings
- Alternative storm water applications
The purpose of the connectivity plan is to show the larger context of bicycle and pedestrian paths connecting various Isthmus-wide parks, public facilities and attractions to Central Park, the Central Park District and ultimately the larger city and community.

Isthmus connections include parks and open space, employment centers, neighborhoods, historic buildings and sites, etc. Major parks include the Capitol Square, Monona Terrace, Law Park, Olin-Turville Park, Brittingham Park, Olbrich Park, Tenney Park, James Madison Park, Orton Park, Burr Jones Field, Reynolds Field, the Yahara River Parkway and several others.

Central Park will provide connection to several local and regional bike trail systems including the Capitol City E-Way Trail, Southwest Bicycle Trail, the Glacial-Drumlin Trail, Military Ridge Trail, Sugar River Trail, and linkages to local neighborhoods, points of interest such as Monona Terrace, Breese Stevens, the University of Wisconsin Campus, State Street, Camp Randall, etc. City-wide connections should include Vilas Park, the Arboretum, Picnic Point, UW Hospitals, and other key area attractions too numerous to mention here.

The primary components of the public network of bike paths, bike routes, pedestrian walkways and facilities (public spaces) include the following:

- Sidewalks and streetscapes
- Public transit facilities including, transit stations, bus shelters and transit information systems
- Crosswalk curb ramps, pedestrian signals, refuge islands, medians and other pedestrian accommodations at intersections
- Traffic signs related to bicycle & pedestrian operations and safety
- Pedestrian bridges, overpasses, underpasses and tunnels, associated ramps and public stairways
- Shared-Use paths (also known as multi-use paths)
- Other pedestrian walkways, signs and wayfinding information systems
- Public plazas, pedestrian alleys, festival sites, and public streets, etc.
- Pedestrian-scale lighting

The connectivity plan is organized into seven (7) strategies:

A. Land Use
B. Transportation
C. Pedestrian Streetscape
D. Pedestrian Plaza
E. Heritage Interpretation
F. Wayfinding
G. Accessibility

A. LAND USE STRATEGIES

As the various community redevelopment programs evolve and the real estate market strengthens, it is anticipated that mixed-use redevelopments will accelerate in the East Isthmus area driven by favorable market conditions. The plan proposes to locate these new mixed-use developments in a strategic fashion to help promote economic vitality in the surrounding areas as well as promote pedestrian activity centers that can be connected together with bicycle, pedestrian and automobile routes. The City has prepared redevelopment plans in the project area including the East Rail Corridor, Williamson Street Corridor and the East Washington Avenue Capital Gateway Corridor. In addition, the sites are located in areas that are void of pedestrian activity and are in need of activation. The development of Central Park will have a “momentum effect” on the surrounding areas and should “push” adjacent redevelopment activity. There are sites located adjacent to the park area that will inject residential and commercial vitality, some of which have already been developed.

A more complementary mix of land use in the area will stimulate excitement and provide for a full-range of activities that will mutually support full-time residential occupancy and extend business hours. Mixed-use developments should have retail on the ground floor, office on the second floor and residential use above. Pedestrian plazas should be incorporated to help soften the harder features of the urban environment. A quality pedestrian atmosphere will translate into increased economic activity and higher real estate values.
B. TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIES

A well-planned connectivity plan must have a strong interrelationship with the paths, trails, and roadway and transit systems in order to be successful. The roadway system must be designed to provide safe efficient access to and around the city and parking locations for pedestrians. The roadway must also function at required capacity while at the same time provide slower speeds and accommodate bicycle and pedestrian safety at street and railroad crossings.

A bus and commuter rail system must be designed to provide access from the residential areas to a central facility, or series of facilities that connects to local paths, trails and pedestrian walks and connecting streetscapes. The roadway system must also accommodate adequate bicycle lanes to provide for this excellent alternative transportation mode. The transportation system must also provide adequate satellite parking areas to service all parts of the community equitably.

Bicycle Routes – The hundreds of miles of bicycle routes that connect key areas of the city of Madison community are a major component of this initiative. Central Park is located along the Capital City Trail bike path that also connects to other major bike paths in the city. A bicycle trailhead facility is proposed for the park and will feature a bike dismount and parking area, shelters, directories, public restrooms, repair station and other related amenities. This could also be a location for a future bike rental facility including a proposed “mile marker 0" for the regional trail systems emanating from the Park. Bike system maps and informational kiosks will direct users to other area parks, local and regional trails, and city of Madison attractions as part of the connectivity plan. Relevant roadway and intersection improvements to accommodate bicycles are also recommended.

C. PEDESTRIAN STRATEGIES

The pedestrian streetscape strategies propose improvements to the streets in the area in order to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians in a better fashion and provide better connections to the various parks and facilities and attractions. To better improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity streetscape improvement may include pedestrian and bicycle wayfinding signs, kiosks, icons and directional signs; improvements to intersections including pedestrian crosswalks, crosswalk signals with countdown timers, improved ADA ramps, heritage interpretive signage, landscaping, benches and other amenities. Each of the streetscape types will have their own design character; however, all will be tied together with a common vocabulary.

Pedestrian Streetscape System

The roadway sections that are designated in the primary connectivity system are the streets with sidewalks that are most frequently used by pedestrians, of more importance in the walking network and provide more amenities to the pedestrians. These roads should be a high priority for reconstruction.

Proposed improvements to the typical sidewalk sections in the primary streetscape system are as follows:

- A minimum 5 feet in width
- High-quality paving materials
- Shade trees
- Seating areas at mid-block and intersection locations
- Protective bollards at crosswalks
- Pedestrian-scale lighting with common theme
- Themed wayfinding signage
- Themed informational kiosks and directional signage
- Themed and shaded bus shelters
- Pedestrian ‘bump-outs' at intersections and mid-block crossing locations (where practical)
- Corner crossing design for ADA handicapped accessibility (t. dome mats, ramps, striping, etc.)
- Median safe zones where possible (i.e., E. Washington Ave.)
- Family of themed site furnishings: benches, trash cans, planters, etc.
- Themed entrance pylons for the various park entrances to tie connectivity system together
- Redesign of the area should minimize steep slope conditions, pedestrian obstacles, trip hazards, and accessibility barriers
Chain of Parkways
The Chain of Parkways improvements should be accomplished from park to park. Connectivity improvements and recommendations will vary from park to park. It is recommended to upgrade this system of linear parkways and create a Chain of Parkways along key streets in the Central Park District and ultimately city-wide. The chain of parkways will incorporate bicycle paths and trails as a main component of this system. Recreate the original Madison “Park and Pleasure Drive Association” system to connect Madison’s parks. These improvements will enable the completion of a distinct open space pattern and a pedestrian and bicycle trail system that is unique in the city.

Proposed improvements to the Chain of Parkways include:

• Wayfinding signs for on-street and off-street connecting bicycle routes
• Minimum 5 feet wide sidewalks on each side of the street
• Pedestrian ‘bulb-outs’ at key intersections and mid-block crossings (where possible)
• Count-down timers at controlled intersections for pedestrians and bicyclists
• Preserve canopy trees in the terraces and medians and initiate a canopy tree replacement plan
• Individualized yet complementary landscape plans for each of the parkways in the chain
• High-quality paving in accordance with ADA guidelines
• Shaded seating areas along parkways with benches, trash receptacles, signage, etc.
• Pedestrian-scale lighting with a common theme (i.e., LED lights, colors, markers, banners, etc.)
• Themed informational signs, kiosks, and directional maps
• Minimum 10’ wide paths are recommended for the bike paths located in this system of parkways

D. PEDESTRIAN PLAZA STRATEGIES
The pedestrian plaza strategies propose connecting sites of existing and future urban pedestrian plazas and gathering places to enrich the pedestrian setting and provide enjoyable outdoor activity centers to celebrate the urban lifestyle of the Capital City. These spaces are meant to provide a setting for people watching, outdoor dining, shaded garden settings, public art and sculpture, cart vendors, and event sites. The sites that will be chosen are to provide a series of unique pedestrian “rooms” throughout the area. Each of these sites will in turn energize and reinforce the surrounding economic vitality.

E. HERITAGE INTERPRETATION STRATEGIES
The Heritage Interpretation aspect of the connectivity plan is an extremely important element. The history of the “industrial era” of the Central Park area and the East Rail/Capitol Gateway Corridors, as it relates to the city of Madison is very rich and the history of the Capital City is a very exciting one. For this reason, the bicycle trail and pedestrian systems must capitalize on this important attribute as a thematic structure for the design of its streetscape pedestrian environment. In addition, the pedestrian plan must incorporate a means to interpret the important elements of the city’s heritage in the connectivity system.

F. WAYFINDING STRATEGIES
The Wayfinding strategies will provide a means for visitors to Madison to easily find their way around the downtown and conveniently locate their respective destinations. There are two major aspects to the wayfinding system; the automobile orientation system and the bicycle/pedestrian orientation system.

Bicycle Wayfinding Signs – A consistent system of on-street bicycle wayfinding signs that identify clear routes from origin to destination should be developed and implemented for use in well-defined travel ways. In addition, a sign system for off-street paths that integrates a variety of information such as maps, distances, etiquette and regulations should be developed and implemented. In the interim, bike routes that need additional or different signs should be identified, and the gaps remedied. The possibility of adding signs directed at motorists should be investigated. Some bikeways are on State and Federal highways, which have restrictions on signs. The route segments where it would be most beneficial to have such signs should be identified.
Pedestrian Directional Signage – Pedestrian directional signage is a crucial element, not only to ensure a well-navigated pedestrian experience, but also to create a ‘sense of place.’ A consistent, pedestrian-scaled and easy-to-read signage system is proposed for the Central Park District.

The proposed locations are at critical decision-making locations. Major decision points for pedestrians are at parking areas and key intersections. Once a visitor has parked, they immediately want to know how to get to their destination. At these important locations, such as East Washington Avenue and Baldwin Street, there will be informational kiosks that map the downtown and provide clear directions to the major facilities and districts in the downtown.

The other key pedestrian points will be at major intersections. Directional signage will be located at the major intersections to point out landmarks. Finally, there will be directional and informational kiosks located in the major pedestrian plazas to provide overviews of the city and directional information and graphics.

Driver’s Directional Signage – The City of Madison has an existing system of wayfinding directional signage for visitors entering and navigating our complex city street system. This wayfinding system should be expanded to ensure easy navigation in the Central Park District for bikers and pedestrians as well. This expanded directional signage is proposed at major road intersections and at key linkages in the system. The signage will also help the visitors to find their way to the major public attractions and facilities in the Isthmus area.

G. ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGIES

The accessibility aspect of the plan emphasizes the need to upgrade the sidewalk system in the downtown to meet the national standards wherever possible. The City of Madison Engineering Division may wish to prepare a map indicating the locations in the city where the sidewalks, crosswalks, and ADA ramps do not meet current codes and should be upgraded. The City has an excellent ongoing program for the upgrades of these inadequate locations. As part of the pedestrian planning process, it is important that a set of sidewalk design guidelines be prepared that are compatible with the aesthetic streetscape design themes. With the design guidelines in place, accessibility and aesthetic considerations can be met on future road construction projects.
## Central Park Conceptual Cost Estimate

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APPENDIX C

Memorandum Of Understanding By And Among The City of Madison, Wisconsin, The Center for Resilient Cities, Inc., and Central Park Skate, LLC
Memorandum of Understanding by and Among
The City of Madison, Wisconsin, The Center For
Resilient Cities, Inc.
and Central Park Skate, LLC

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into this ______day of
____________, 2010 by and among the City of Madison, a Wisconsin municipal
corporation (the “City”) and the Center for Resilient Cities, Inc., a Wisconsin
nonprofit corporation (the “CRC”) and Central Park Skate, LLC, a Wisconsin limited
liability company (“CPS”).

RECITALS:
A. In 2001 the City conveyed to The Urban Open Space Foundation, Inc., now
known as the Center for Resilient Cities, Inc., the real property described as Parcels
A through F on Exhibit A attached hereto for the purpose of developing such
lands into a public park and location for passive outdoor recreation and open
space activities. In 2006, CPS acquired the real property described as Parcel G
on Exhibit A. Parcels A through F and Parcel G are referred to collectively herein
as the “Property.” The Property was acquired by CRC and CPS through generous
contributions made by: the Evjue Foundation; the Madison Community Foundation;
David Behrendt; Bob and Maureen Boelter; Jim Bradleby; Karen and Alan Crossley;
Earle Edwards; Lyn Falk; Nancy Frank; Judith Guyot; Home Savings Bank; Kahler
Slater; Robert Keller; Tom and Kitty Klement; Star Liquor; Heather and Dave
Mann; Hal Mayer; Briana Meier; Donovan Riley; Celeste Robins; Michael and Trina
Schuler; Joe and Mary Ellyn Sensenbrenner; Lisa Gaumnitz and Steve Silverberg;
Phil and Jane Stark; Stone House Development; and Red Thompson.
B. CRC and CPS desire to convey to the City Parcels A through F and Parcel G,
respectively, in order for the City to create thereon a public park that may include,
among other uses, and subject to future planning, fundraising and appropriations,
a skate park, festival grounds, children’s playground and community gardens. The
park shall emphasize sustainability and resiliency strategies in an urban setting.
C. This Memorandum of Understanding (the “Agreement”) is intended to set forth
the responsibilities and obligations of the parties in planning for the operation
and maintenance of the park, the conveyance of the Property, and the creation
of a nonprofit corporation to promote the park and to support the park’s future
financial well-being.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the mutual covenants and undertakings
herein contained, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt
and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as
follows:

ARTICLE I
CONVEYANCE OF THE PROPERTY
1.1 Conveyance by CRC and CPS. CRC shall convey Parcels A through F to the
City, and CPS shall convey Parcel G to the City subject to the terms and conditions
set forth in the Offer to Gift Real Estate between the parties, a draft of which is
attached hereto as Exhibit B (the “Offer to Gift”). The terms and conditions of the
Offer to Gift shall be submitted to the Common Council and to CRC’s and CPS’s
boards for their review and approval. The purchase price for parcels A through
F and Parcel G shall be Zero Dollars. The parties will be responsible for various
closing costs in accordance with the Offer to Gift.
1.2 Closing. CRC shall convey Parcels A through F and CPS shall convey Parcel
G to the City no later than _______________, 2010, or such other date as the
parties may agree to in writing.
1.3 Deed Restriction. The Property shall be subject to a deed restriction limiting
the use of the land to public park uses, and to other encumbrances as agreed to
by the parties.
1.4 Publicity Materials. The City will give CRC appropriate recognition onsite
and in publicity and printed materials regarding the park.

ARTICLE II
NONPROFIT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2.1 Creation. The City and CRC shall work together jointly to create and organize
a Wisconsin nonprofit nonstock corporation (the “Support Organization”) whose
mission shall be to provide funds for the development, operation and maintenance
of the park, to promote the new park and to demonstrate sustainability and
resiliency in an urban setting. The Support Organization shall be governed by a
volunteer board.
2.2 Purpose. The purposes of the Support Organization shall be to:
(a) promote and sponsor fundraising activities for the park’s development,
construction, operations and maintenance;
(b) recommend to the City future design and use of the park;
(c) promote the park and demonstrate sustainability and resiliency in an urban
setting;
(d) promote and sponsor landscaping, park activities and amenities;
(e) encourage groups interested in sustainability and resilience strategies to use the park;
(f) assist the City in planning and scheduling programs and use of the park;
(g) recommend to the Board of Park Commissioners proposed rules for the park, and proposed expansion plans of the park;
(h) discuss and reach agreement with the Board of Park Commissioners on the purpose of and expenditure of funds for the park raised by the Support Organization; and
(i) establish a nonrestrictive membership organization to promote activities of the park.

2.3 Board of Directors. The Board of the Support Organization shall consist of up to seventeen (17) directors. The initial board shall consist of the following nine (9) directors:
(a) one neighborhood resident, to be appointed by the Mayor;
(b) the alderperson of the District in which the Property is located;
(c) one member of the Board of Park Commissioners, to be selected by its Chair;
(d) the Park Superintendent or his or her designee;
(e) one Madison Parks Foundation member, to be selected by its Chair;
(f) one individual to be selected by CRC;
(g) one individual to be selected by Downtown Madison, Inc.; and
(h) two individuals to be appointed by the Mayor.

ARTICLE III
PARK MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION

3.1 Park Maintenance. The Board of Park Commissioners shall govern, manage, control, improve and care for the park, in accordance with all City ordinances and in consultation with the Support Organization Board. Maintenance of the park will be performed on an equal basis with other City parks pursuant to the standards used by the Madison Parks Division.

3.2 Park Programming. Activities in the park shall be programmed and managed by the Madison Parks Division, in accordance with rules and procedures adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners. The City shall consult with the Support Organization Board on the programming of activities and the use of the park for particular purposes.

3.3 Funding. The Support Organization Board shall promote the use of the park and provide ongoing fundraising to support the continuous maintenance and operation of the park.

3.4 Initial Development. The costs of funding the initial development and construction of the park, including but not limited to any remediation of the park lands, shall be provided jointly by the City and through an endowment created by the Support Organization for the sole use of the City to develop the park. The City’s 2010 Executive Capital Budget includes the sum of $982,015 to be expended towards park projects, including the purchase of lands, design and construction of the park, and surveys and soil tests. The City will publicly bid these projects between 2010 and 2013, and will consult with the CRC and the Support Organization regarding these projects.

3.5 Federal Funding. The City has received an allocation of $3,149,651 in funds from the federal government for the purpose of constructing bicycle/pedestrian paths and facilities in the Central Park area.

ARTICLE IV
MISCELLANEOUS

4.1 Nondiscrimination. In the performance of its obligations hereunder, CRC and CPS agree not to discriminate against any employee or applicant because of race, religion, marital status, age, color, sex, handicap, national origin or ancestry, income level or source of income, arrest record or conviction record, less than honorable discharge, physical appearance, sexual orientation, political beliefs, or student status. CRC and CPS further agree not to discriminate against any subcontractor or person who offers to subcontract on this Agreement because of race, religion, color, age, disability, sex or national origin.

4.2 Notices. All notices under this Agreement shall be sufficiently given and shall be deemed given when personally delivered or when mailed by first class mail postage prepaid to the proper addresses indicated below. The parties may, by written notice given by each to the others, designate any address to which notices or other communications to them shall be sent when required as contemplated herein:

TO THE CITY:  
Parks Superintendent  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Room 104  
P.O. Box 2987  
Madison, WI 53701-2987
4.3 **No Assignment.** This Agreement may not be assigned by any party, in whole or in part, without the express prior written approval of the other parties.

4.4 **Severability.** In the event any provision of this Agreement shall be held invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holdings shall not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provision.

4.5 **Amendments, Changes and Modifications.** Except as otherwise provided herein, this Agreement may not be effectively amended, changed, modified, altered or terminated by any party except by written amendment approved and executed by all the parties.

4.6 **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be simultaneously executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

4.7 **Wisconsin Law.** This Agreement shall be deemed to have been made in the State of Wisconsin and its validity, construction, performance, breach and operation shall be governed by the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

The parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed as of the date written above.
EXHIBIT A

Legal Description

The Property

PARCEL A: A parcel of land being part of Block 185, Madison according to the recorded plat thereof, in the City of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, to wit:

Commencing at the most Westerly corner of said Block 185; thence S44°57'27"E, 13.40 feet to the point of beginning; thence N44°58'38"E, 594.83 feet; thence S45°04'40"E, 105.61 feet to a point of curve; thence Southwesterly along a curve to the right which has a radius of 2834.04 feet and a chord which bears S37°40'21"W, 600.01 feet; thence N44°57'26"W, 181.90 feet to the point of beginning.

PARCEL B: A parcel of land being part of Block 199 and 200, Madison, according to the recorded plat thereof, in the City of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, to wit:

Beginning at the most Westerly corner of said Block 199 and 200; thence N44°58'38"E, 311.42 feet to a point on a curve; thence Southwesterly along a curve to the right which has a radius of 2441.67 feet and a chord which bears S25°03'27"W, 172.93 feet to a point of compound curve; thence continuing Southwesterly along a curve to the right which has a radius of 2834.04 feet and a chord which bears S28°39'14"W, 154.99 feet; thence N45°04'40"W, 102.48 feet to the point of beginning.

PARCEL C: Part of vacated South Few Street, Madison, according to the recorded plat thereof, in the City of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, described as follows:

Commencing at the North corner of Lot 9, Block 185, of the Original Plat of the City of Madison, said North corner being the intersection of the Southeast right-of-way line of Railroad Street as platted in said Original Plat and the Southwest right-of-way line of South Few Street as platted in said Original Plat; thence S45°04'40"E, 13.40 feet on said Southwest right-of-way line to the point of beginning; thence N44°58'38"E, 33.00 feet to the centerline of said South Few Street; thence N45°04'40"W, 13.40 feet on said centerline to said Southeast right-of-way line of Railroad Street; thence N44°58'38"E, 33.00 feet on said Southeast right-of-way line to the West corner of Lot 1, Block 199-200, of said Original Plat and the Northeast right-of-way line of said South Few Street; thence S45°04'40"E, 102.48 feet on said Northeast right-of-way line to the point of intersection with the Northwest right-of-way line of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad and a point of curve; thence on a curve to the right convex to the Southeast, having a radius of 2834.04 feet and a long chord that bears S30°57'49"W, 68.02 feet on said Northwest right-of-way line of said railroad to the Southwest right-of-way line of said South Few Street at the point of intersection with said Northwest right-of-way line of said railroad; thence N45°04'40"W, 105.61 feet on said Southwest right-of-way line of said South Few Street to the point of beginning.

PARCEL D: A parcel of land being part of Block 185, Original Plat, City of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, to-wit:

Beginning at the most Westerly corner of said Block 185; thence N44°58'38"E, 594.83 feet to the most Northerly corner of Block 185; thence along the Southwest right-of-way line of South Few Street S45°04'40"E, 13.40 feet; thence S44°58'38"W, 594.83 feet to the Northeast right-of-way line of South Ingersoll Street; thence along the Northeast right-of-way line of said street N44°57'26"W, 13.40 feet to the point of beginning. This parcel contains 7,974.00 square feet, 0.183 acres.

PARCEL E: A parcel of land being part of Block 185, Original Plat, City of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, to-wit:

Commencing at the most Westerly corner of said Block 185 of the Original Plat; thence S44°58'38"E, 195.30 feet to a point on a curve and the point of beginning; thence Northeasterly along a curve to the left which has a radius of 2,834.04 feet and a chord which bears N37°40'21"E, 600.01 feet to the Southwest right-of-way line of South Few Street; thence along said right-of-way line S45°04'40"E, 11.34 feet to a point on a curve; thence Southwesterly along a curve to the right which has a radius of 2,845.04 feet and a chord which bears S37°42'05"W, 600.00 feet to the Northeast right-of-way line of South Ingersoll Street; thence along said right-of-way line N44°57'26"W, 11.00 feet to the point of beginning. This parcel contains 6,637.52 square feet, 0.152 acres.

PARCEL F: parcel of land being part of Block 199-200, Original Plat, City of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, to-wit:

Commencing at the most Westerly corner of said Block 199-200 of the Original Plat; thence S45°04'40"E, 102.48 feet to a point on a curve and the point of beginning; thence Northeasterly along a curve to the left which has a radius of 2,834.04 feet and a chord which bears N28°39'14"E, 154.99 feet to a point of compound curve; thence continuing Northeasterly along a curve to the left
which has a radius of 2,441.67 feet and a chord which bears N25°03'27"E, 172.93 feet to the Southeast right-of-way of Railroad Street; thence along said line which bears N44°58'38"E, 29.59 feet to a point on a curve; thence Southwesterly along a curve to the right which has a radius of 2,452.67 feet and a chord which bears S24°44'35"W, 200.62 feet to a point of compound curve; thence continuing Southwesterly along a curve to the right which has a radius of 2,845.04 feet and a chord which bears S28°40'58"W, 158.47 feet to the Northeast right-of-way line of South Few Street; thence along said right-of-way line N45°04'40"W, 11.37 feet to the point of beginning. This parcel contains 3,674.89 square feet, 0.084 acres.

PARCEL G:

Part of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 15, 16, 17 and 18, Block 173, Original Plat, in the City of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, which is more fully described as follows: Commencing at the most Westerly corner of said Block 173; thence S45°00' East, along the Southwest line of said Block 45.55 feet to a point which is 9.0 feet Southeast of the centerline of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company Spur Track I.C.C. No. 82, measured at right angles to said track, and the point of beginning of this description; thence continue S45°00' East, along said Southwest line of Block 173, 149.6 feet to a point which is 44.0 feet Northwesterly from the centerline of the Eastbound Main Track of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company, measured at right angles to said main track; thence N45°00' East, parallel to said centerline of main track, 240.0 feet; thence N45° West 160.35 feet to a point which is 9.0 feet Southeast of the centerline of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company Spur Track I.C.C. No. 82, measured at right angles to said Spur Track I.C.C. No. 82; thence S42°26' West parallel to said centerline of Spur Track I.C.C. No. 82, 240.25 feet to the point of beginning.
Appendix D

Proposed Arts Trail Plan and Proposed Art Locations
ARTS TRAIL – PROPOSED LOCATIONS
Prepared January 9, 2009 by City of Madison Parks Division

SITE INDEX:
1  ‘Arts Trailhead’: Entry feature at Williamson Street & South Blair Street
2  ‘Evermor’ Birds at South Paterson Street
3  Proposed Central Park: Performance Venue at South Brearly Street
4  Proposed Central Park: Focal Point at Proposed E Wilson St Cul-de-Sac
5  Proposed Central Park: Promenade
6  Proposed Central Park: Entrance
7  Proposed Central Park: Skate Park
8  Proposed Central Park: Market Area at South Baldwin Street
9  Isthmus Bike Path at South Thornton Avenue
10 Neighborhood Entry Feature at Division Street & Eastwood Avenue
11 Abandoned Boyum Site at St. Paul Triangle
12 ‘Industrial’ Gateway & Goodman Atwood Community Center at Waubesa Street
13 Starkweather / Eastside Bike Link at South Marquette Street
14 Starkweather / Eastside Bike Path at Dixon Greenway
15 Olbrich Park
16 Hargrove Greenway at Harding Street
17 Capital City Bike Path at Ring Street / Hargrove Greenway
18 ‘Arts Trailhead’: Royster-Clark Redevelopment at Ontario Park Access
Site 1: ‘Arts Trailhead’:
Entry feature at Williamson Street & South Blair Street
Site 2: ‘Evermor’ Birds (existing) at South Paterson Street
Site 3: Proposed Central Park:
Performance Venue at South Brearly Street

Graphic from August 2009 Central Park Alternative Master Plan
Site 4: Proposed Central Park: Focal Point at Proposed East Wilson Street Cul-de-Sac

Graphic from August 2009
Central Park Alternative Master Plan
Site 5 & 6: Proposed Central Park: Promenade (5) & Entrance (6)

Graphic from August 2009 Central Park Alternative Master Plan
Site 7 & 8: Proposed Central Park: Skate Park (7) & Market Area at South Baldwin Street (8)
Graphic from August 2009 Central Park Alternative Master Plan
Site 9: Isthmus Bike Path at South Thornton Avenue
Site 10: Neighborhood Entry
Feature at Division Street & Eastwood Avenue
Site 11: Abandoned Boyum Site at St. Paul Triangle
Site 12: ‘Industrial’ Gateway (12a) & Goodman Atwood Community Center at Waubesa Street (12b)
Site 13: Starkweather / Eastside Bike Link at South Marquette Street
Site 14: Starkweather / Eastside Bike Path at Dixon Greenway
Site 15: Olbrich Park

BIKE PATH

EMMET ST

GARRISON ST

OLBRICH PARK/ GARDENS

Site15
Site 16: Hargrove Greenway at Harding Street
Site 17: Capital City Bike Path at Ring Street / Hargrove Greenway
Site 18: ‘Arts Trailhead’: Royster-Clark Redevelopment at Ontario Park Access