

# OUR CITY OF MADISON



## Parks Division Alder and Resident Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) & Answers

Eric Knepp, Parks Superintendent

# FAQ Overview

Inclusive – Innovative – Thriving



# Frequently Asked Questions

Alders and Residents commonly ask our agency the following questions:

## Questions

*How do I find a park amenity or facility in my Alder district?*

*How are improvements made in a park?*

*How can I volunteer in a park?*

*What is the dog policy for parks?*

*How do you reserve a shelter or athletic field?*

*How does a group reserve a park for a special event or a street for a parade or block party?*

*How are community gardens in parks managed?*

*How do park impact fees work?*

# FAQ Answers



## *How do I find a park amenity or facility in my Alder district?*

- From the Parks website, you can search by park name, amenity, feature, facility or by search by an address.
- See Find a Park: [www.cityofmadison.com/parks/find-a-park](http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/find-a-park)

## *How are improvements made in a park?*

- Through public engagement and assessing existing amenities and landscape, master plans are developed. Master plans incorporate any findings from the existing playground assessments, tree and building assessments, and park improvement ideas generated during the planning process. The master plans are designed as a broad concept for park uses, and do not include specific design elements, species of plants or specific equipment. Over the long term, plan implementation begins as budget resources become available and additional engagement is conducted as part of design/development.
- See Park Projects: [www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects](http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects)

## *How can I volunteer in a park?*

- Persons or groups interested in volunteering may view and register for an upcoming event or project, posted on the Parks website or complete the online Volunteer Interest Form.
- See Volunteer: [www.cityofmadison.com/parks/volunteer](http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/volunteer)

## *What is the dog policy for parks?*

- Through 2020 revision of MGO 8.19 leashed and licensed dogs are allowed in most Madison parks, with a few notable exceptions, including conservation parks. A daily or annual permit is required for any dog visiting a park where dog are allowed or an off-leash dog park. See Dogs in Parks On-Leash Policy for more information.
- See Dogs in Parks: [www.cityofmadison.com/parks/dogparks](http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/dogparks)



# *How do you reserve a shelter or athletic field?*

- Pavilions, picnic shelters and athletic fields and courts may be reserved online or by calling the Parks office. If not already reserved, they may be available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- See Reserve: [www.cityofmadison.com/parks/reserve](http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/reserve)

## *How does a group reserve a park for a special event or a street for a parade or block party?*

- The process for obtaining a permit depends on the type of activity or event you will be holding.
- See Special Events: [www.cityofmadison.com/specialevents](http://www.cityofmadison.com/specialevents)

## *How are community gardens in parks managed?*

- The City of Madison currently has an agreement with Rooted to manage community gardens throughout the city, including those located in a Madison park.
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- See Rooted Wisconsin: [www.rootedwi.org](http://www.rootedwi.org)

## *How do park impact fees work?*

- Impact Fees are collected in order to pay for the capital costs to construct, expand, or improve public park facilities which are needed to accommodate additional land development in the City. The fees are determined based on a Facilities Needs Assessment which was last completed in 2016. The fees are charged based on unit type, with fees driven by expected residents per unit.
- There is both an infrastructure fee and a land dedication requirement or Fee-In-Lieu of payment for new residential units constructed in the City.
- The infrastructure fee is deposited with 80% going to one of the four regional districts in the City and the other 20% going to the City wide benefit district.
- The only legal exemption for payment of impact fees is for affordable housing that meets specific criteria.
- See Parks Impact Fee Website:  
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/about/impactFees.cfm>

# How Our Agency Provides Customer Service



# We Provide Customer Service By...

- Website: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/>
- Telephone: Administrative Offices 608-266-4711
- Email: [parks@cityofmadison.com](mailto:parks@cityofmadison.com)
- In-person: Parks Lakeside Offices – 330 E. Lakeside St.
- Parks Calendar of Events – includes public information meetings
  - <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/events/>

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## Stay Connected!

Eric Knepp, Parks Superintendent

[eknepp@cityofmadison.com](mailto:eknepp@cityofmadison.com)

608-266-4207

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