

Northeast Area Plan Open House

Community Feedback

Engineering Division Flood Inundation Studies

Regarding the Northeast Area, what strengths did attendees talk about?

- Proximity to lakes such as Lake Monona and Mendota
- Recreational opportunities in lakes and green spaces

What concerns / weaknesses did attendees talk about?

- Concerns about increasing density of recent and proposed development
- Concerns/questions about expansion of development into currently undeveloped areas
- Proximity of recent or proposed development to Starkweather Creek and other water bodies
- Concerns/questions about development occurring where topography is low and/or groundwater is suspected to be high – will this require a lot of sump pump drainage? Concerns about where sump pump discharges are routed to
- Perception that sometimes developers are obtaining variances or exceptions to allow them to build close to creek, in floodplain, etc.

What opportunities for improvement did attendees talk about?

- Use of existing undeveloped low areas, such as areas along Highway 51, for stormwater detention

What questions did attendees ask?

- How does this study relate to other studies and data collection efforts in the Starkweather Creek watershed, such as water quality sampling, PFAS study, water quality studies?

The watershed study is limited primarily to a flood study and does not take into account groundwater or chemical contamination. There is potentially some overlap into conventional stormwater quality (total suspended solids and phosphorous control).

- Are there future stormwater / flood control projects in the watershed being designed or recommended?

One outcome of the study will be recommendations of future stormwater management / flood mitigation projects to continue planning; this phase of the project has not yet been done).

- Alderperson Paulson said he'd recently gotten a question from a constituent about the possibility of stocking fish in stormwater detention ponds.

We discussed advantages and disadvantages of doing so; in Wisconsin, stocking fish in stormwater detention ponds is usually discouraged / not done. There are a couple primary reasons for this: 1) health concerns about eating fish from stormwater detention ponds if pollutants have accumulated in fish tissue. 2) certain fish species stir up / re-suspended sediment that has settled out in stormwater detention ponds and may have a negative impact on downstream water quality.

- Alderperson Paulson asked if the watershed map we displayed on poster board was available online.

Watershed maps have not been posted to the project website as the Consultant has not completed the calibrated existing conditions model. The maps will be posted on the website before the first public information meeting for the watershed study:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/starkweather-creek-watershed-study>

What were some key takeaways from your conversations with attendees?

- The large color map of the watershed, on poster board, was helpful and attention-getting. It was a good conversation starter; attendees could locate their residence / other places of interest, the map would spur questions about various places in the watershed.
- Several attendee questions / concerns centered on the impact of development, including increased density of development / redevelopment, and spread of urban development into currently agricultural or open areas. Related to the questions/comments about density of development are concerns about new development in close proximity to water bodies. Future messaging could include information on how zoning, development and design standards, codes and regulations provide protection and mitigation. Including stormwater management ordinance, floodplain and shoreline zoning. While not all impacts from development can be mitigated, new development and redevelopment has to follow many codes, ordinances and design standards that consider natural resources and environmental impacts.

Other feedback:

- One resident talked about his experience driving on the west side of Madison during the August 2018 flood event. When roads started flooding, it was difficult to know which routes / streets would be safe to travel.

Water Utility Well 15 PFAs Treatment

Regarding the Northeast Area, what strengths did attendees talk about?

- Positive feedback regarding the fact that the City holds meetings like this to plan future development
- Happy that treatment for PFAS is being pursued at Well #15
- Multiple attendees expressed that they really like this open house meeting format

What concerns / weaknesses did attendees talk about?

- Interested in receiving more concrete details about projects, but realize that some are still in the beginning stages
- Concerned that process for National Guard clean-up of PFAS contamination is so slow

What questions did attendees ask?

- What type of filtration is being installed at Well #15?
Activated carbon with ion exchange – vessels holding medium that traps the PFAS before it enters the system and can be disposed of.
- How much PFAS will be removed?
100% of [detectable] PFAS will be removed – at least to the point where it is undetectable
- Will VOC's also be removed?
VOC's such as PCE (perchloroethylene) and TCE (trichloroethylene) will be removed in addition to PFAS.
- Is the airport/Dane County paying for any remediation of PFAS?
Yes; we are working collaboratively with Dane County and the Air National Guard to remove PFAS not only from the water source, but the soils near the site.
- What is the status of the National Guard clean-up?
The Air National Guard is currently working diligently to monitor and manage PFAS near Well 15 (at the ANG Base).
- Has a source of the PFAS contamination been definitively determined?
While research and analysis was conducted, the exact source of PFAS contamination has not been definitively determined.

- Will the cost of PFAS treatment be borne exclusively by those who benefit or will it be distributed across all customers?

The cost of the Well 15 PFAS removal facility project will be distributed across all customers. However, it will positively affect the entire system.

- Who is eligible to receive assistance through the new MadCAP program?

Any customers that have the Municipal Services bill in their name and meet the income eligibility guidelines (see below):

Number of Persons in Household	Gross Annual Household Income (all household income before taxes)	
	30% AMI	50% AMI
1	\$24,250	\$40,400
2	\$27,700	\$46,150
3	\$31,150	\$51,900
4	\$34,600	\$57,650
5	\$37,400	\$62,300
6	\$40,150	\$66,900
7	\$42,950	\$71,500
8 or more	\$46,630	\$76,100

What were some key takeaways from your conversations with attendees?

- Attendees very supportive of Well #15 Treatment Project
- Support for choosing a more costly treatment alternative/system, based on feedback received at previous meetings, to ensure that all PFAS will be removed by treatment
- Interest among attendees in PFAS free products/product information
- Representatives of organizations who serve low income residents are interested in distributing information on MadCAP program
- Positive feedback on MadCAP program and financial assistance it can provide to low income customers
- Attendees support holding meetings with this open house type format

Parks Division Imagination Center at Reindahl Park

Regarding the Northeast Area, what strengths did attendees talk about?

- The biggest strength mentioned was just generally the amount of parks we have in the area

What concerns / weaknesses did attendees talk about?

- No good way to bike comfortably from the Sandburg neighborhood to downtown
- Concerned about health of the Sandburg Woods

What opportunities for improvement did attendees talk about?

- Would like grade separated crossing over HWY 51 to allow a safe connection from the Sandburg Neighborhood to the Starkweather Creek Path which starts at Madison College
- Idea for a covered sitting space by the playground at Westchester Park

What questions did attendees ask?

- Who is responsible for bike path connections?

The Parks Division works with other city agencies to create bike path connections through park land. The development of bike paths in the area is guided by the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board's "Bicycle Transportation Plan for the Madison Metropolitan Area and Dane County."

- What is the park development plan process?

The Parks Division is working in conjunction with the Planning Division's Area Plan process to complete Park Development Plans for all of the Neighborhood and Mini Parks in the Northeast Area. A Park Development Plan is a planning document that provides a framework for future park development and improvements. The Northeast Area includes 7 different Neighborhood and Mini Parks. The Park Development Plan process will include two public meetings, with the first anticipated to occur in June 2023.

- What is the process for volunteer work in parks? They would like to work on a garden area.

The Parks Division works with a multitude of volunteer groups throughout our parks system. Please visit www.cityofmadison.com/parks/volunteer/ for information about how to volunteer for Madison Parks.

What were some key takeaways from your conversations with attendees?

- Feedback was very positive about the amount of parks we offer in the area. Numerous residents were unaware of some of the parks and were interested in finding out where they are located. When I asked about what improvements residents would like to see in the parks, they mostly just started to point out existing park amenities that they use regularly and explained how they like to use them.

Community Development Division Temporary and Permanent Shelters

What questions did attendees ask?

- What are you doing about the recession?

We do our best to support vulnerable populations in Madison need of emergency shelter services. Larger economic conditions of the nation are out of our sphere of control.

Metro Transit Route Restructure

What questions did attendees ask?

- Is the BRT happening first?

Metro's complete redesign of all its routes starts in June, 2023. Bus Rapid Transit service, which includes new passenger stations, larger buses, and a streamlined east to west route, starts in 2024.

- What will my new rate/stops be?

Staff are finalizing route and schedule information. Online schedules are expected to be available at mymetrobus.com in early April. There are no plans to change fares for fixed-route or paratransit service.

- How safe is it to ride the bus?

While not being aware of any specific threat, Metro simply continues to ask customers to be aware of their surroundings and report anything unusual to a Metro staff person or Metro's customer service center.

What are some key takeaways from your conversations with attendees?

- Residents are very interested in the transit redesign and new routes.