

MADISON PARKS

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

Door Creek Park by Andrea Gugel

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**MADISON  
PARKS**

# Equity • Public Health • Sustainability • Adaptability

Through data and analyses, the 2023 Madison Parks Annual Report highlights the work of Parks staff and volunteers. The 2023 year saw its challenges with poor air quality canceling outdoor activities and a mild winter resulting in fewer traditional winter recreation opportunities. Using the **2018-2023 Park and Open Space Plan's** four guiding lenses of equity, public health, sustainability and adaptability to further illustrate our work and our commitment to the community and the world beyond.



**Equity:** The inherent worth of each individual in Madison should be esteemed and fostered, enabling them to reach full potential.



**Public Health:** The access and contribution to mental and physical health of a community.



**Sustainability:** Management of resources to promote welfare and equity for current and future generations.



**Adaptability:** Preparedness and ability to respond to and recover from hazards and threats with minimal damage to safety, health, security, and the economy.

The Park and Open Space Plan (POSP) is a tool used to guide decisions for issues such as city policies, park acquisitions, facility development and park funding and will be updated again in 2025.



**69**  
acres **grazed** in  
**8 parks**  
15% increase  
from 2022

Turville Point Conservation Park by Beth Holden



**153**  
acres **burned**  
including managed  
meadows for the first  
time in **10 parks**

Door Creek Park



**426**  
acres of  
**managed  
meadows**

**8.16**  
acres of park  
land  
acquired

North Star Park by Elliott Veith

Goodman Pool by Josh Wilber, KL Engineering

**1** All-City Swim hosted at Goodman Pool with 6,000+ attendees

**3,983** scholarships for admissions to Goodman Pool  
19% increase from 2022



**31** Sina Davis Movies in the Park

**4,021** attendees

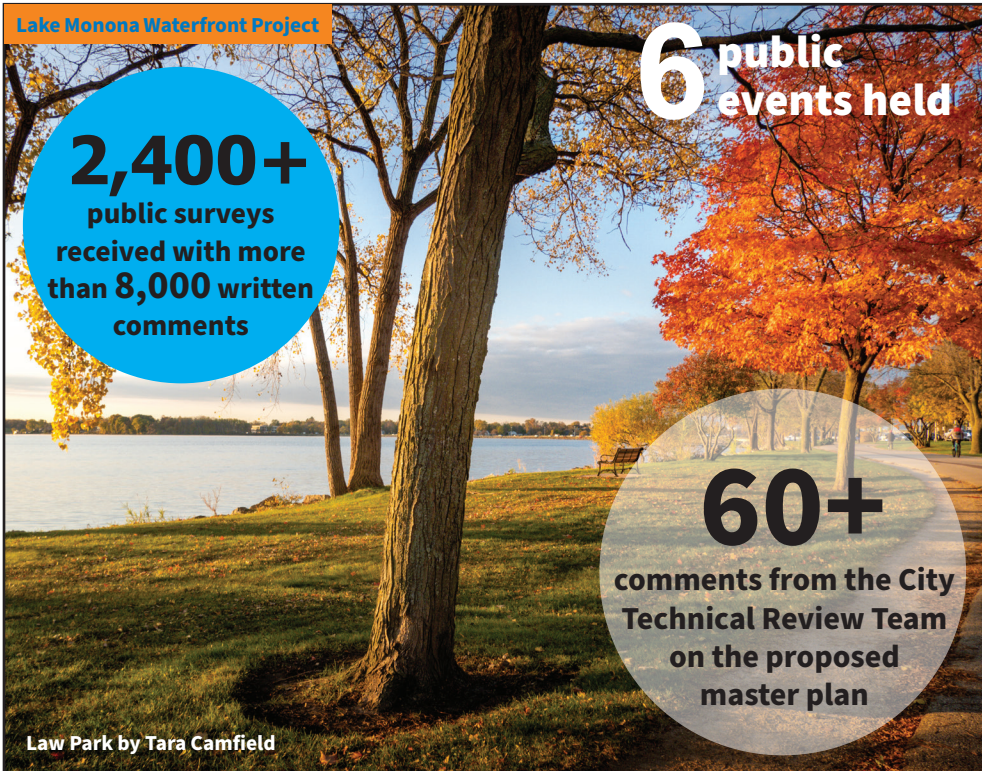
Aldo Leopold Park

Lake Monona Waterfront Project

**6** public events held

**2,400+** public surveys received with more than 8,000 written comments

**60+** comments from the City Technical Review Team on the proposed master plan



Law Park by Tara Camfield

**14** Learning Series events sponsored by the Madison Parks Foundation



Brittingham Park



**2**  
accessible  
playgrounds  
opened

Warner Park



Yahara Hills Golf Course

**152,884**  
rounds of golf at four  
City of Madison  
courses  
14% increase  
over 2022



**24**  
new youth referees  
through the WPCRC  
KNOW Referee  
Apprenticeship Program  
71% increase  
from 2022

Warner Park Community Recreation Center

**1,055**  
KNOW  
programming  
hours, a 4%  
increase from  
2022

**1** official  
WIAA  
certified

**81**  
formal  
partnership  
agreements



**344,000**

visitors to **Olbrich Botanical Gardens**  
1% increase from 2022  
despite reconstruction  
of Atwood Avenue

**21,158**

volunteer hours  
at **Olbrich Botanical Gardens**



**79**

disc golf kits checked  
out from **Madison Public Libraries**



**282**

permitted park events  
7% increase  
from 2022

Warner Park by Kristin Mathews



**4**

bicycle &  
pedestrian  
accessible gates  
installed

Westmorland Park



**12,809**  
park visits by  
ranger staff



**680+**  
youth served  
through the Quality  
Discounts Program  
pilot

Photo Courtesy of Southside Raiders Youth Football



**1**  
lifesaving award  
presented to Park  
Ranger Brien



**14,447**  
volunteer hours  
for Madison  
Parks



**1**  
new driving range  
donated at Hiestand  
Park disc golf course  
in memory of  
Tasha Cheney



**26**  
Parks Alive  
events

Penn Park



**41,334**  
athletic  
reservation  
hours

Warner Park by Rita Cairns



**38,966**  
admissions to  
Goodman Pool  
17% increase  
from 2022

Goodman Pool by Stephanie Skladzien



**80**  
seasonal banners  
changed 4 times  
per year by mall  
maintenance  
crew

# The Impacts of Climate Change

For the first time in notable history, the summer of 2023 in Madison saw the air quality index (AQI) reach levels of more than 150 and several days reached levels skirting 200 AQI. Anything more than 151 AQI is deemed unhealthy for prolonged outdoor activities. Days and weeks of hazy, milky skies blanketed the Madison area. As such, Madison Parks, in guidance and consultation from Public Health Madison & Dane County modified or canceled numerous outdoor activities and events.

A beloved winter recreation activity saw a significant change. The City's potential ice-skating locations saw a drastic reduction in the number of skateable days. The average number of skateable days decrease by nearly 80% from the previous winter, seeing just 8 days in the 2022-2023 winter season compared to 38 days in 2021-22 and 40 days in 2020-21.

Is this the new normal? What does this mean long-term for the future of outdoor activities? As we continue to monitor and compare data, staff will make the best decisions for outdoor recreation in Madison's parks.

**433**

**athletic reservation hours canceled due to poor air quality helping to create a 33% decrease in hours from 2022**

**7**

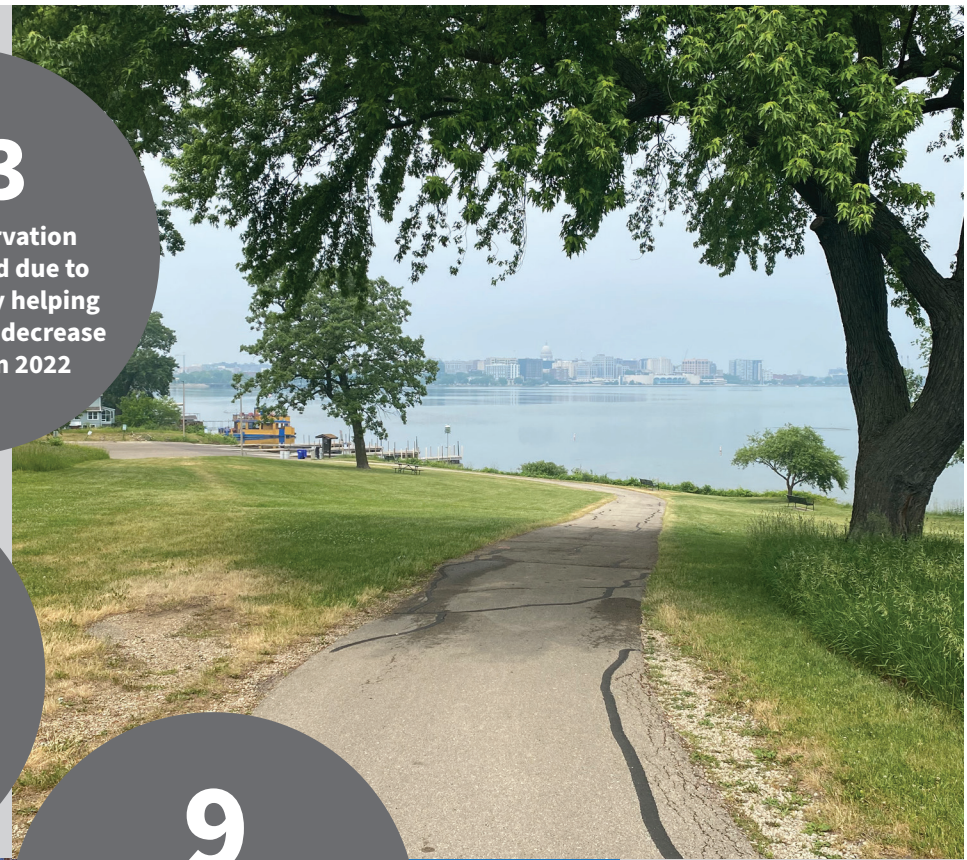
**full days Goodman Pool closed due to poor air quality or weather**

**9**

**Parks Alive events canceled due to poor air quality or weather**

**79%**

**decrease in skateable days across all potential ice skating locations**



**MADISON PARKS**