



TOWN OF MADISON PARKS

Frequently Asked Questions 2022

Starting Monday, Oct. 31, 2022, three Town of Madison parks will become part of the City of Madison Parks Division. Below are answers to the most commonly asked and anticipated questions. Please [reach out](#) if you have a question or need additional information.

What Town of Madison parks will be managed by the City of Madison starting October 31, 2022?

- Fraust Park, 1499 Martin Street
- Harvey Schmidt Park, 1558 Carver Street
- Heifetz Park, 932 Burr Oak Drive

What steps have been taken to review and assess the acquired parks?

Since 2019, Madison Parks staff have visited the parks to learn of the seasonal terrain, current land management practices, inventoried amenities and assessed the maintenance needs, usefulness, and any land management or safety concerns. Parks ISPI certified playground technicians conducted several onsite evaluations of the current playground equipment at each of the parks using standards set by the [International Playground Safety Institute](#).

What immediate impacts will we see?

Madison Parks is dedicated to providing safe, quality spaces to all residents and visitors within the City of Madison. The Parks team have identified several playground features and several trees that pose safety hazards.

- Playground equipment that no longer meets safety standards will be removed.
 - See attachment A for photos of playground equipment to be removed.
- A mulch container will be added at Heifetz Park.
- A limited number of trees will be removed.
 - See attachment B for tree assessment maps and timeline for any removals.
 - We are committed to planting new diverse species of trees in the coming years.
- The restrooms at Fraust Park will remain closed.

What changes will I see next spring and summer?

- The Parks Division will also be assessing appropriate mowing lines and cycles based on existing conditions and topography.
- Residents will notice updated signage for park rules and locations.
- Park Rangers will add the three parks to their routes.

What longer term changes will happen at the parks?

Over the next several years, Madison Parks is requesting more than \$500K in the City's budget for park improvements. The process for improvements begins with creating master plans for the three parks. Starting in 2023, creating the three master plans will include, at a minimum, holding two public meetings and conducting a survey. The master plans will also incorporate any findings from the 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. The master plans are designed to be implemented over the long term, as budget resources become available.

Playground equipment replacement will occur over the next several years as budget and staffing resources become available. A separate public engagement process will occur when the Parks Division is prepared for playground equipment replacement.

In order to be notified about opportunities for participation in master plan development, please become a Madison Parks [e-news subscriber](#).

How will community gardens be managed?

The City of Madison currently has an agreement with [Rooted](#) to manage community gardens throughout the city. Rooted has already began collaborating with the Town of Madison regarding existing community gardens within the parks that will be coming to the City of Madison. We expect this relationship will continue.

What is the dog policy for parks?

Pending City of Madison [Board of Park Commissioners](#) approval in November 2022, leashed and licensed dogs will be allowed in Fraust, Harvey Schmidt and Heifitz parks with a dog park permit. A daily or annual permit may be purchased online or by calling (608) 266-4711. Dogs must be on a leash that is no more than 6 feet long, non-retractable, and held by a person at all times and owners must clean-up after their pets. See [MGO 8.19](#) for more information. Visit [Dogs in Parks On-Leash Policy](#), to learn more.

How do I reserve a shelter for a gathering?

Picnic shelters, such as are available at Fraust and Heifitz Parks are reservable or available on a first-come, first-served basis and are open year-round. These Parks will be available for reservations after November 1 on the Madison Parks website. See [Reserve](#) to learn more.

How do I reserve an athletic facility?

Fraust and Heifitz Parks both have basketball courts and field spaces that are available on a first-come, first-served basis or may be reserved for recreational purposes. These park amenities will be available for reservations after November 1 on the Madison Parks website. See [Reserve](#) to learn more.

How do I plan a special event in a park or have an event on the street, such as a parade or block party?

The process for obtaining a permit depends on the type of activity or event you will be holding. See [Park and Street Use events](#) for more information.

Who do I contact if I have an issue in the park?

In the event of an emergency, please dial 911. For non-emergency park issues, you can contact the [Park Rangers](#) by calling (608) 235-0448, 9:30am to 11pm daily. For issues outside Ranger hours, please call the Madison Police Department, non-emergency number: (608) 255-2345.

Have another question or need more information? [Contact Madison Parks](#) by phone (608) 266-4711, or [email](#).

Attachment A
Town of Madison Parks Playground Assessments 2022
Equipment to be removed in fall 2022

Fraust Park , 1499 Martin St.



Heifetz Park, 932 Burr Oak St.



Attachment B
Town of Madison Park Tree Assessments 2022

Color	Assessment Timeline
Red	Remove ASAP
Yellow	Remove in 2-3 years
Green	Watch



Harvey Schmidt Park



Heifetz Park (north)



Heifetz Park (south)

