



**MADISON
PARKS**

**Olbrich Park Nature Play
Public Input Meeting #1**

November 28, 2023
Presented by Adam Kaniewski

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City Staff

- Adam Kaniewski, Park Planner, Project Manager
- Ann Freiwald, Parks Planning and Development Manager

Meeting Agenda

1

- Background Information
- Project Timeline
- Site Information and Context

2

- Presentation of Concept Plans
- Precedent Images

3

- Public Input

Background Information

- Madison Parks Playgrounds
 - Offers 190 playgrounds throughout the City
 - Parks maintains a playground replacement schedule for all of our playgrounds
 - Typical lifespan for post and platform playground equipment is 20-30 years
- Previous playground removed in summer of 2023
- After review of playgrounds in the vicinity, parks determined to replace with a nature play area rather than post and platform playground equipment



Area Playgrounds



Nature Play Benefits

HEALTHY BABIES
Nature exposure for mothers can promote:

- BETTER FETAL GROWTH³
- HEALTHIER BIRTH WEIGHTS^{1,2,3}

HEALTHY EYES AND VITAMIN D LEVELS
Time spent in bright sunlight can:

- REDUCE NEARSIGHTEDNESS^{5,6,7}
- INCREASE VITAMIN D LEVELS⁸

NATURE CONTACT IS
especially beneficial for mothers of lower education and socio-economic levels^{2,3,4}

INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
Access to parks and greenspace can foster:

- INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY^{11,12}
- REDUCED RISK OF OBESITY¹³

OUTDOOR PLAY
increases the likelihood that girls will remain active into adolescence⁹

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING
Learning in nature can support:

- IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP SKILLS^{17,20}
- REDUCED STRESS¹⁷, ANGER^{18,19} AND AGGRESSION^{18,19}

Children are better able to cope with stress when they live near trees and other greenery.^{15,16}

HOW TO CREATE NATURE CHAMPIONS:

- Provide fun, hands-on nature experiences⁹
- Take learning outside^{10,11}
- Have kids note 3 good things in nature everyday to improve their connection to nature⁶
- Repeat!^{6,7}
- Share your love of the outdoors with children^{4,5}

Meaningful, positive experiences in nature guide children, youth and adults toward care for nature.⁴

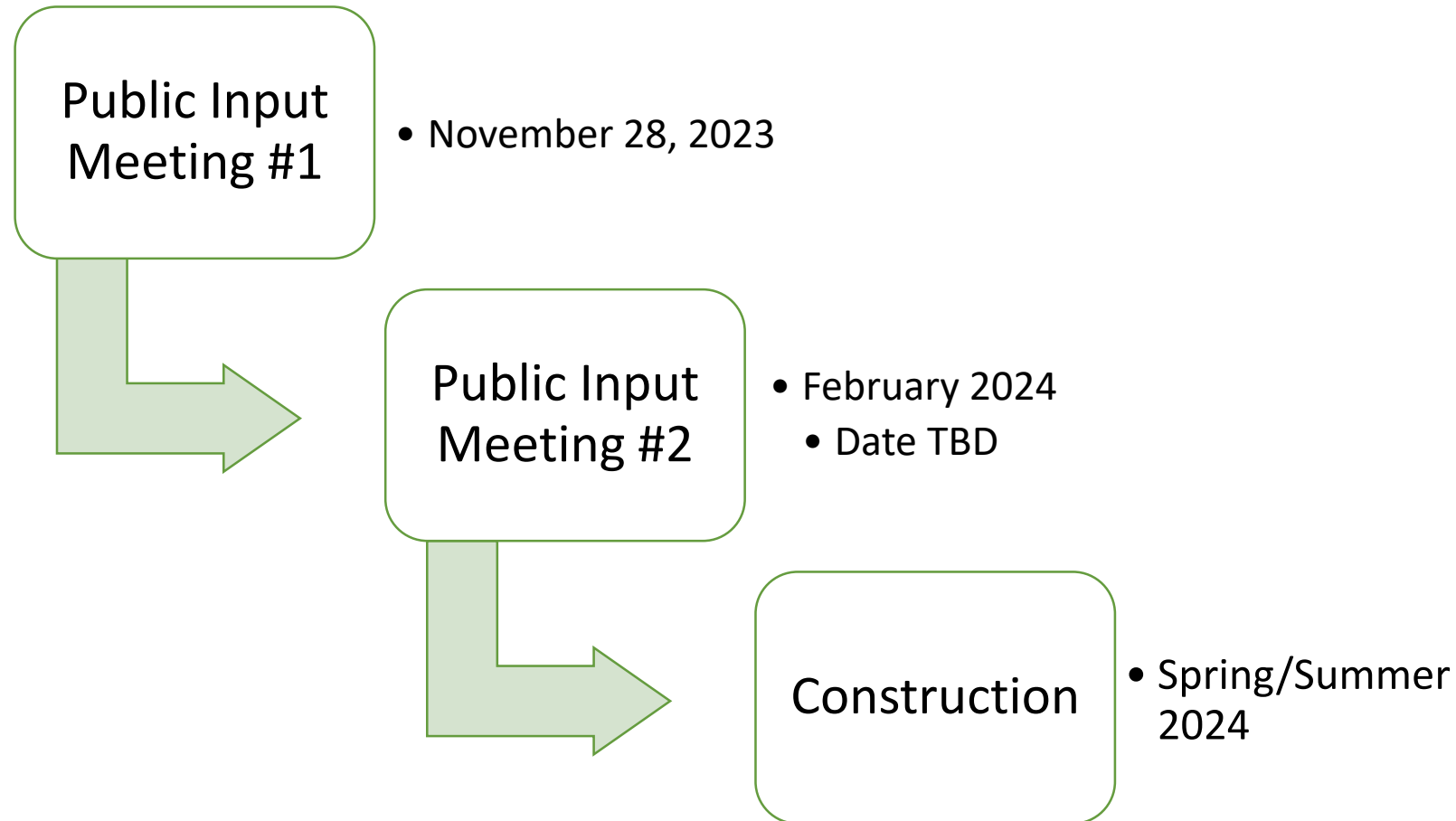
Time in nature during childhood and role models who care for nature are the two biggest factors that contribute to environmental stewardship in adulthood.^{4,5}

THE BENEFITS OF TIME IN NATURE:
Time outdoors in nature contributes to children's care for nature while supporting their healthy development.^{2,10,13}

- BETTER SOCIAL SKILLS^{2,13}
- ENHANCED HEALTH^{2,13}
- PRO-ENVIRONMENT BEHAVIORS^{1,2,3,4,5,10,13}
- INCREASED SELF ESTEEM^{2,13}
- STRONGER EMOTIONAL CONNECTIONS TO PEOPLE AND NATURE^{6,7,8,12}
- IMPROVED GRADES^{10,11}

Images from Children & Nature Network (<https://www.childrenandnature.org/resources/category/benefits-of-nature/>)

Project Timeline



Site Photos



Concept Plan 1



Concept Plan 2



Precedent Images

Natural Logs and Steppers



Precedent Images

Slides



Precedent Images

Natural Boulders



Precedent Images

Porch Swing



Precedent Images

Slater (William) Park



Precedent Images

Brittingham Park



Public Input

- Please raise your hand if you wish to speak and only unmute and speak when called upon.
- Please be respectful to others with your comments.
- If you do not feel comfortable speaking, please type your question or comment in the chat.



Next Steps

- Public Input Meeting #2 – February 2024
 - Staff will prepare a revised design based on feedback received
- Project Contact
 - Adam Kaniewski – (608) 261-4281 or akaniewski@cityofmadison.com
- Project Website
 - <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/olbrich-park-nature-play-area>

Thank you!