

DECISION MATRIX

The following table lists key recommendations of the Master Plan. Summary of comments from public engagement as well as professional opinions are listed to describe how the recommendations were derived along with overall effects of the proposed changes.

RECOMMENDATION	PUBLIC COMMENTS	PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS	EFFECTS
VILAS PARK DRIVE			
<p>Recommend closure and removal of Vilas Park Drive along the peninsula (Lagoon and Lake Wingra), between the existing bridge and the southern zoo entrance. Replace with multi-use path.</p>	<p>Focus groups and online surveys expressed desire for improved pedestrian and bicycle safety and reduced vehicle presence within the park.</p>	<p>Routing non-park trips through a park is not compatible with park user safety and natural resource protection. This should be avoided whenever possible.</p>	<p>The shift of commuter and park user traffic that utilizes Vilas Park Drive will likely increase traffic on neighboring streets. Closure will require coordination with City Traffic Engineering for proper signage and street improvements. City staff may also need to monitor the local roadway network after the closure to determine if any additional traffic control or calming methods are needed. Accessibility modifications will be required along the lake shore to ensure equitable lake access for fishing and other recreation activities.</p>
PLAYGROUNDS			
<p>Permanent removal of formal play equipment in North-Eastern section of Vilas Park at Erin St. and Orchard (also known as - Wingra Overlook/ Dinosaur Playground)</p>	<p>Greenbush Neighborhood residents showed a strong desire to retain the existing playground.</p> <p>Ho Chunk representatives identified a larger footprint for the historic effigy mounds and noted that playground equipment is not preferred on a site intended to honor the dead.</p>	<p>Removal of play structures and an expanded buffer around the remaining effigy mounds is strongly preferred as the most appropriate outcome, to show respect for the indigenous history of this site and to restore its purpose as a place for quiet reflection.</p>	<p>Existing play equipment will remain in place until it is identified by City staff as no longer meeting required safety standards. At that time the equipment will be removed in accordance with Wisconsin Historical Society permitting and observation requirements regarding disturbance near effigy mounds. Other passive features such as sidewalks and overlooks are in alignment with appropriate use for a burial mound site, when properly located and constructed.</p>



RECOMMENDATION

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

**PROFESSIONAL
COMMENTS**

EFFECTS

PLAYGROUNDS... CONTINUED

Addition of a playground near the beach/bathhouse.

Site interviews and the online survey identified the desire for a playground near a restroom, specifically for users who are not from the surrounding neighborhoods and may have come to the park by car, bike or transit and not have access to these facilities elsewhere nearby or want to enter the zoo to use restroom facilities. Shelter users also noted the appeal of a playground within eyesight of the shelter.

Additional amenities near the beach would provide a dynamic recreation/play space at the beach with both wet and dry play opportunities for children.

A small play area, such as a small structure and swings, near the beach would activate the non-aquatic space around the bathhouse.

Consolidation of play equipment around the open fields (western and shoe playgrounds) into a single play area.

Public comments showed desire for a playground to remain on the western side of the meadow and also around the location of the existing shoe. Comments identified frequent use from local residents as well as zoo users in this location.

Both playgrounds are nearing the end of their useful life. From a park operations perspective, a single play area is more cost efficient for replacement and maintenance, while allowing for a high-quality playground

A single play area would replace the two current play areas. While the master plan doesn't identify specific equipment, the design allows for inclusion of natural play elements and opportunities for shade. Design should accommodate children ages 2-5 and 5-12 to play safely, while providing a variety of interesting and unique play features and comfortable observation areas for guardians.

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MAIN SHELTER			
<p>Location of shelter to be maintained on peninsula, moving slightly to the west from the current footprint.</p>	<p>Feedback on the concept plans favored a location on the peninsula, south of the island, including the survey responses (41% preferred) and verbal comments during Community Input Meeting #2.</p>	<p>Existing utilities would be easily extended to proposed location, saving infrastructure cost.</p>	<p>With the closure of the bridge for vehicle traffic, this shelter placement will require extending two-way traffic past the zoo entrance and new parking, including accessible parking, near the shelter. Metro transit service would extend only to the south zoo entrance due to amount of space required for an adequate bus stop and turn around.</p> <p>Additionally, the placement of the shelter correlates to the proposed locations on the lagoon for ice skating, allowing continued use of the shelter as a warming house and skate rental facility in the winter.</p>
BEACH AND BATHHOUSE			
<p>Maintain footprint and structure of existing bathhouse.</p>	<p>Beach access and associated amenities have been supported by the public as priorities through all public engagement through all phases of the Master Plan project.</p>	<p>The existing bathhouse is structurally in good condition for its age (built in 1979) but its layout and current facilities are not ADA accessible and do not meet the current needs of park users.</p>	<p>Existing bathhouse structure to be maintained and renovated. Possible addition of an open air shelter could be considered. Modifications for accessibility within the restrooms and beach access would be implemented.</p>
<p>Maintain location and overall footprint of existing beach.</p>	<p>See above</p>	<p>The existing beach location functions well. Relocating would not be practicable due to DNR guidelines and restrictions.</p>	<p>Access improvements including an access sidewalk to the water are needed to provide equitable access to the water and meet ADA requirements.</p>

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PARKING			
<p>North Lot Entrance - The entrance to the north parking lot is eliminated from the Drake Street and Randall Avenue intersection and a new 4-way intersection is developed at Drake Street and Campbell Street.</p>	<p>Response to this proposed change has been mixed; some have supported the need for safety improvements at Drake and Randall, while others that live along or near Drake St. are concerned about changing traffic patterns.</p>	<p>The existing angled entry is unconventional and has more points of conflict than a typical intersection, which reduces safety for walkers and drivers. Current traffic design standards would not permit a five-way intersection as it exists.</p>	<p>Moving the entrance to the opposite side of Drake Street from Campbell Street creates a standard, four-way intersection. Traffic calming, such as mid-block islands and signage would be implemented to maintain safety of pedestrian crossing on Drake Street as well as discourage traffic entering Campbell Street northbound.</p>
<p>North Lot - Capacity is expanded from 88 to 119 stalls, while also improving entrance and exit safety for all users.</p> <p>On-Street Parking on south side of Drake Street is reduced from ~32 to 22 due to proposed the entrance at Drake St. and Campbell St. An additional 7 to 9 stalls would be lost on the North side of the street.</p>	<p>Response to the concept plans indicated preference for maintaining green space along Randall Avenue. Size of lots as shown at that time, with 146-165 stalls, was seen as excessive by focus groups. Neighbors also expressed concerns about Zoo users occupying street parking surrounding the park.</p>	<p>Parking lots must provide for both Vilas Park users as well as Henry Vilas Zoo users (per agreements with Dane County).</p> <p>Lots will be designed to current City of Madison ordinances including stormwater treatment standards and landscaping requirements.</p>	<p>Final parking layout would be arranged to maintain existing trees when possible. Particularly existing old growth Oaks near Zoo entrance.</p> <p>Need for parking to serve parking and the Zoo is still necessary. Improved public transit access and pedestrian and bicycle facilities would reduce peak demand but not eliminate the need for parking.</p> <p>Emergency-only access maintained on to Randall Avenue.</p>
<p>South Lots - Lots along Vilas Park Drive are consolidated, overall capacity is reduced slightly from the existing 132 stalls to 126 stalls.</p>	<p>Some public comments expressed concern regarding the amount and proximity of impervious surface to the Lake Wingra.</p> <p>The design which is similar to that presented in Concept B was favored by 41% of respondents.</p>	<p>Consolidating parking east of the zoo entrance allows for increased open space on the peninsula as well as improves wayfinding and parking access for those accessing the Zoo. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be utilized to reduce runoff and sediment.</p>	<p>Parking count was reduced from 111 stalls in the original concepts to 93 stalls and additional accommodations were made for a metro transit stop and larger school bus staging area. Any implemented design would be reviewed for compliance with City of Madison ordinances regarding landscaping and stormwater management.</p>



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LAGOON			
<p>Maintain and improve open water quality on West side of island, remainder of lagoon east of the island would be allowed to convert or be converted to a bog or wetland type habitat.</p>	<p>Maintaining the existing character of the lagoons, including opportunities for winter skating on the lagoons were desires heard throughout all phases of public engagement.</p>	<p>Maintaining the entire lagoon as open water for winter skating is not sustainable. The eastern side is shallower than the western side, and likely costlier to dredge and to maintain as open water.</p>	<p>Dredging will likely be required to remove accumulated sediment within the lagoon. Contaminated soils identified by 2018 soil sampling, will need to be properly landfilled.</p>
ANNIE STEWART FOUNTAIN			
<p>Relocate a rebuilt or repurposed Annie Stewart Fountain as part of a pedestrian gateway at the intersection of Drake St. and Randall Ave.</p> <p>The Fountain was not included in the overall master plan project due to ongoing conservation efforts, however as the Master Plan evolved and additional details were uncovered regarding the adjacent mounds and recommendations from Ho-Chunk representatives relocation was suggested by Parks Superintendent, Eric Knepp.</p>	<p>None prior to inclusion in the Draft Master Plan.</p>	<p>A preservation report was completed in 2017 that outlines the steps needed to preserve the fountain. The report noted much of the fountain needs to be replaced and it is not expected that it will ever function as a fountain again.</p>	<p>City of Madison Parks and the Madison Arts Foundation will continue conservation efforts. Final form and placement of the fountain to be determined as part of future development.</p>

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NATURAL AREAS			
<p>Convert existing mowed lawn to other vegetation/habitat types, highlighting native plants and plant communities.</p>	<p>Feedback on the concept plans favored inclusion and protection of existing open space and natural features in the park. Additionally, enhancing open space and natural areas was in the top ten amenities in include in Vilas Park from the online survey.</p>	<p>There are certainly invasives present in the park and seed bank within the soil, it would a take multi-year of effort to get plantings stabilized and optimized.</p> <p>Native plantings can be designed to allow for additional stormwater management, pollinator habitat, reduced maintenance inputs, and general aesthetic improvements. Selection of what type of vegetation will be critical.</p>	<p>Most of the naturalized areas shown on the plan would be impacted with project work over the next 20 years and we would try to remove turfgrass in those areas and replant with appropriate vegetation. Some areas may be practicable for a no mow approach and restoration from there.</p> <p>The Master Plan will not show final mow lines, or plant specifications those will be determined during ongoing vegetation management and specific project implementation.</p>