



Vilas Park Master Plan

Public Engagement Action Items

Resident Resource Group - RRG (2/10/2020)

- A. Define the top 5 issues as identified by public engagement, provide to group participants for review and defining the focus of future design (concept) discussions.

See "Themes from Public Engagement".

- B. Request Benchmark Progress Report summarizing public engagement process from each engagement group, develop a compiled summary of findings.

Follow up required.

- C. Peak Use/Event Parking:
i. Is lot sharing with St. Mary's Hospital feasible?

No response as of 4/21/2020.

- ii. Is a Madison Metro Shuttle from Bowman Field feasible?

No response as of 4/21/2020.

- D. Were beach observations taken when the beach was closed due to contamination?

From Public Health - Beach was closes 6/25/2019 and 8/6/2019 through 8/29/2019. High bacteria levels seem due to high amounts of birds around the beach and Vilas park. Reports from citizens of 80+ geese/day. Complaints about the geese not being harvested this year ahead of beach season. While not always seen at the beach during monitoring, often seen upstream in large groups and often see feathers and feces in the water.

Observations were made on 6/20, 6/26, 6/28, 6/30, 7/11, 7/20, 7/30, 8/5, 8/21 and 8/23, 8/29. Thus two observations were made during beach closures (8/21 & 8/23) and two the day the beach re-opened (6/26 & 8/29).

- E. Why has the zoo reduced the number of public entrances to two, one north and one south?

2/13/2020 - From Joseph Darcangelo – entrances have been consolidated for public safety (control access in and out of zoo), additionally limiting entrances reduces control points if an animal were to escape from an enclosure.

- F. Consider realignment of Vilas Park Drive to be further from the lake shore in at least one concept plan.

See Concept Plan A (and Sections)

- G. What are the contaminants identified in the Lagoons and what does that mean for disposal of dredged materials?

2/14 reply from City Engineering – samples showed elevated levels of arsenic, among others, dredged material would likely need to be landfilled or managed at another controlled fill site.

- H. Have the lagoons or lake been tested for PFAS?

Not as of 2019.

- I. Was it identified why past food cart/truck placements in the park failed?

3/4 reply from Parks - Food cart permits were last issued to the 'Let's Eat Out' organization at Vilas in 2017. With a little extra digging, I found out that their scope changed in 2018 (so they didn't apply for permits at Vilas that year) and the program seems to have faltered somewhat beginning that year & 2019 - for 2020, their website describes no longer overseeing food cart programs of any kind (<http://www.letseatoutwi.org/>).

- J. What would be the anticipated effect (increased number of cars) of putting commuter traffic from Vilas onto surrounding streets if closed to through traffic?

Further analysis needed, outside the scope of the Master Plan.

Community Partners Advisory Group - CPAG (2/11/2020)

- A. Identify and clearly define the goal of the lagoons as a feature in Vilas Park –
- i. where is open water desired?
 - ii. return portions to wetlands?
 - iii. shoreline naturalization?
 - iv. ice skating?

Based on feedback from public engagement the desire is to maintain at least a portion of the lagoons as open water, specifically to provide for winter skating. Removal of mowed lawn around the perimeter of the lagoons is also desired. See concept plans for modifications including returning portions of the lagoons to wetlands and addition of wetland forebays around the perimeter.

- B. What is the value of the lagoon as fish or amphibian habitat?

Follow up required.

- C. Does the Boy's and Girl's Club operate a swimming program from Vilas Park Beach?

Follow up required.

- D. What are options for multi-purpose pavements to allow for summer activities and winter skating?

Improvements to the lagoons to improve skating were preferred to additional pavement, however parking lots could be used as temporary ice facilities. Concrete surfaces are preferred due to lower solar gain but asphalt can be used if covered with a light colored membrane (plastic sheet) to reduce ice melt.

- E. Does the Fire Department use/need the boat launch in Vilas Park?

2/14/2020 Follow up from MFD – “We have better access to Lake Wingra from the Wingra boat launch at the end of Knickerbocker St., so we wouldn’t need to use the Vilas Park location if it was eliminated.”

Interagency Staff Meetings - IAS (2/13/2020)

- A. What, if any, effect on crime/vandalism be if Vilas Park drive was closed to through traffic?

Undetermined. Further analysis needed, outside the scope of the Master Plan.