

## What is a master plan and why is this park being master planned?

Park master plans are a dynamic long-term planning document that provide conceptual layout to guide future park growth and development. A master plan includes analysis, recommendations and analyzes grading, utilities, regulatory requirements, and public engagement to develop a plan that is both flexible and constructible. A park master plan does not address maintenance for the park, since public facilities are maintained uniformly across the city for all mini, neighborhood and community parks. Madison Parks does have an adopted [Land Management Plan](#) for all parkland.

Park Master Plans are intended to:

- Provide a long-term plan for recreational amenities in a park that is consistent with the Park and Open Space Plan (15-20 year horizon).
- Achieve an equitable distribution of recreational amenities and facility standards in parks across the city.
- Encourage participation by the public in the identification and assessment of amenities and infrastructure to maintain transparency in the park master plan process such that citizens, staff and elected officials are informed throughout the process.
- Aid budgetary decision-making by identifying deficiencies and maintenance needs across the system.
- Provide a framework for staff implementation of desired changes to the system as recommended in the City of Madison Comprehensive Plan and Park and Open Space Plan.

More information on the City of Madison adopted Master Plan Policy can be found at:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/about/Policies.cfm>

For James Madison Park, discussions with the community in 2013 regarding shelter improvements identified that a larger conversation needed to occur regarding the surrounding park spaces and their intended function. This led to a request from the Alder for development of a Park Master Plan as part of the capital budgeting process.