Dane County Parks
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Parks & Open Space Plan Update 2025-2030

April 3, 2024 – Lussier Family Heritage Center

Dane County Parks
Planning and Development Team

Chris James
Park Planning Manager

Lindsay Koehnke
Landscape Architect

Dan Schmitt
Landscape Architect
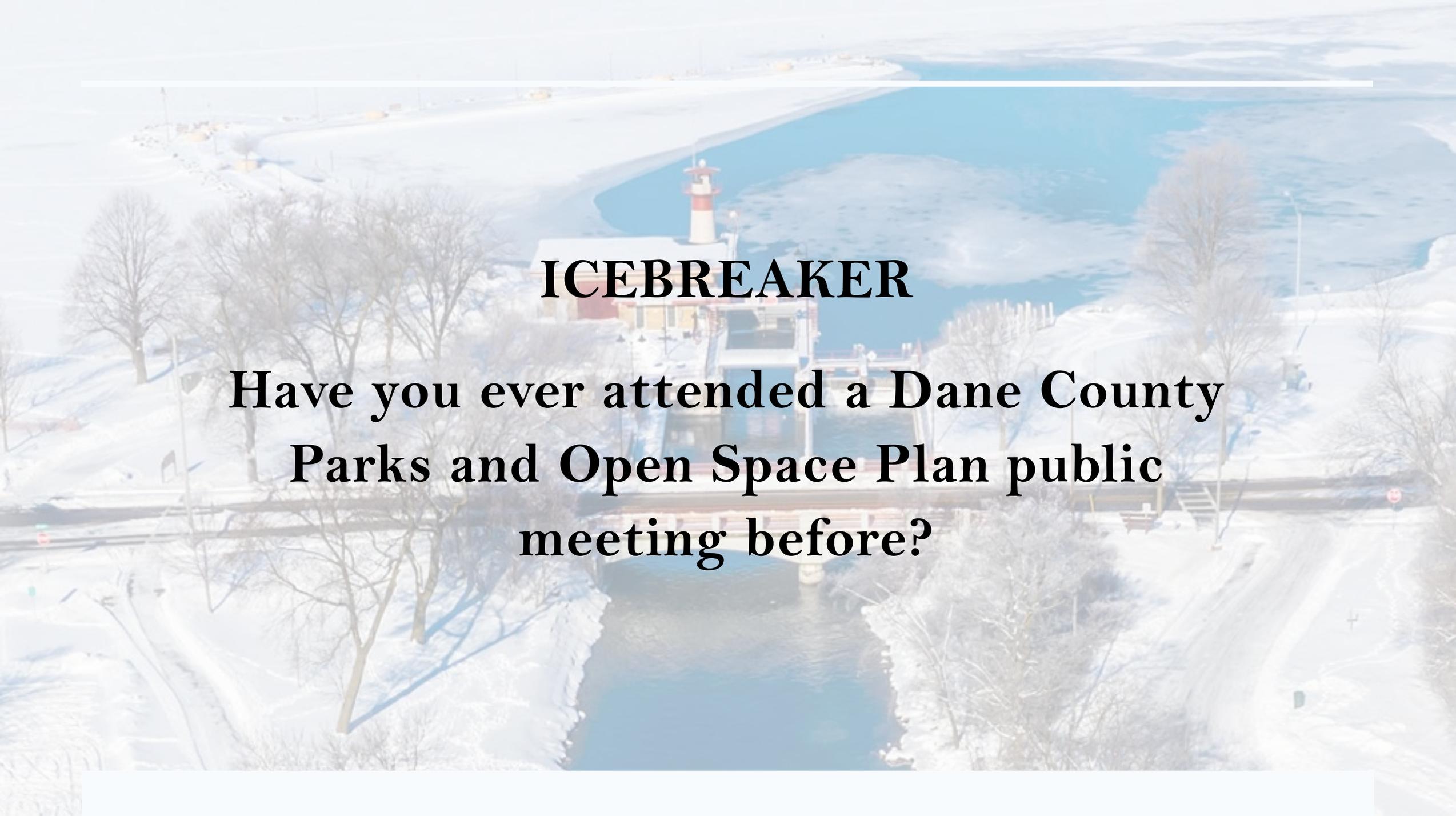

Alex DeSmidt
Senior Landscape Architect

Jeff Prey
LTE Park Planner

Dane County Parks
Welcome

Joleen Stinson
Parks Director

ICEBREAKER

Have you ever attended a Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan public meeting before?

Meeting Notification Summary

- Press release sent out on March 20th
- Dane County Parks Constant Contact e-vite on March 20th
- Posted to Dane County Parks events page on March 20th
- Public information meeting, **_not_** a public hearing
- Not a Park Commission meeting, no action items or official business
- Hybrid meeting, virtual or in-person option
- Opportunity for virtual attendees to provide chat comments/questions at the end of the meeting

POLLING QUESTION
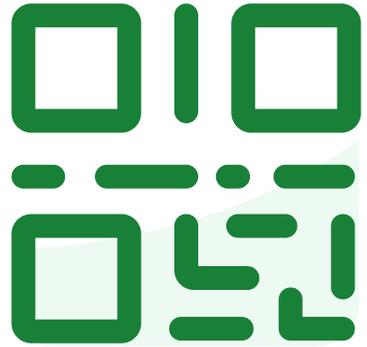
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Join at slido.com
#3197181

ⓘ Start presenting to display the joining instructions on this slide.

slido

What is your preferred way to be notified of an upcoming public information being hosted by Dane County Parks?

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Parks and Open Space Plan Update Meeting Agenda

- Dane County Parks Overview
- Current Central Dane County Projects
- Parks and Open Space Overview
- Planning Process and Schedule
- Demographics/Recreation Trends Overview
- Current POSP Staff Level Topics
- Public Input/Virtual Chat

POLLING QUESTION

Dane County Parks Overview

Dane County Parks welcomes 5 million visitors annually and manages over 18,000 acres of land, largest county park system in Wisconsin!

- 25 Recreation Parks (8 Dog Parks, 2 Disc Golf Courses, 4 Lake Access)
- 20 Wildlife Areas
- 14 Natural Resource Areas
- 4 Historical or Cultural Sites
- 2 Forests
- Over 100 miles of trails (bike, equestrian, & cross-country ski)
- Over 3,000 acres of conservation & streambank easements
- 5 campgrounds & multiple adult & youth group camp sites
- Lussier Family Heritage Center

Current Projects - Central Dane County

Glacial Drumlin to Capital City Connector Trail

- Dane County, the Village of Cottage Grove, City of Madison, WI DOT, & WDNR are continuing to plan for the segment of the Glacial Drumlin State Trail beginning at the I-90 bridge in Madison and extending east to Buckeye Rd. in the Town of Cottage Grove
- Future segments of the trail will generally parallel the existing railroad corridor to Vilas Rd. and are anticipated to be a combination of paved trail, bridges, and boardwalks
- https://lwrd.countyofdane.com/CurrentProjects/Detail/23/4

Glacial Drumlin Trail
Phase One Alignment
03/22/2018
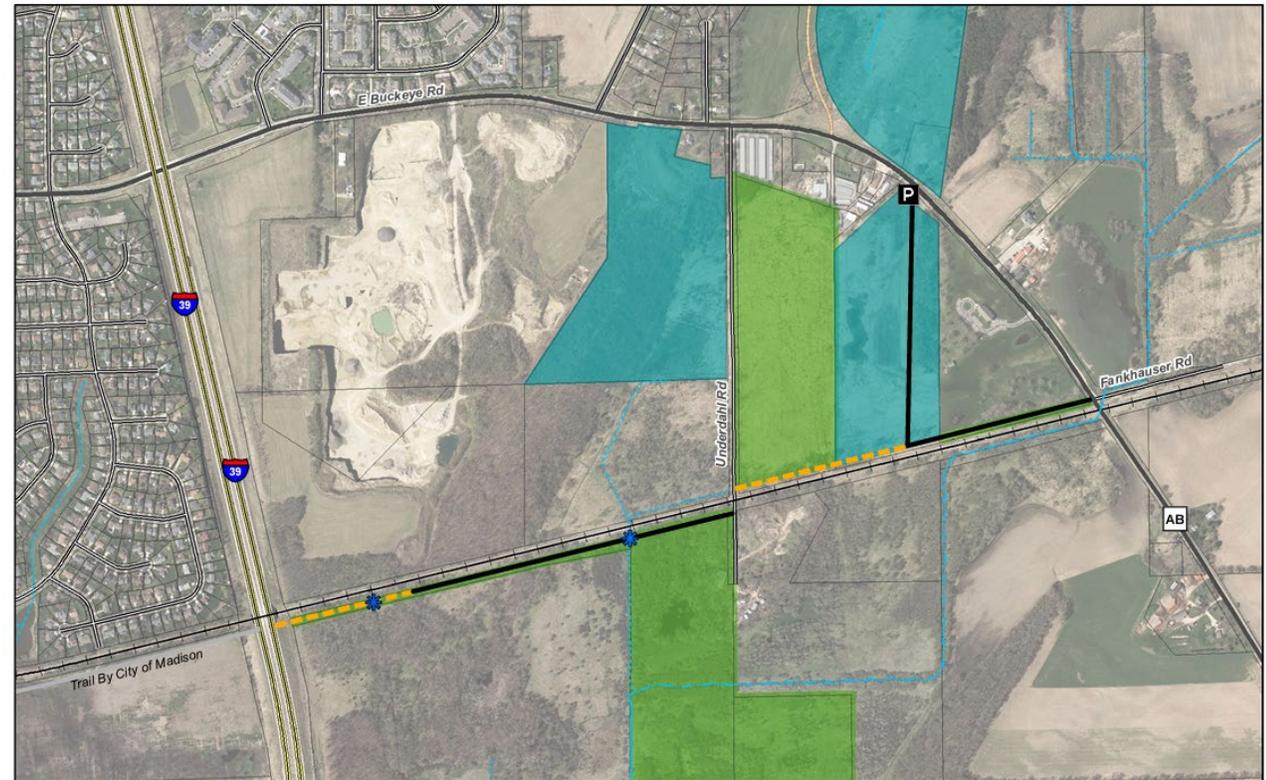
Legend
- - - - Proposed Boardwalk
——— Proposed At-Grade Trail
P Proposed Parking Lot
✳ Water Crossing
+—+ Railroad
Dane Co. Lands
DNR Lands/Easements

NORTH

0 250 500 Feet

Current Projects - Central Dane County

Waucheeta Connector Trail

- Dane County Parks in coordination with WDNR and the Town of Dunn planned a shared use trail through Capital Springs Centennial State Park (WI DNR)
- The trail will provide connections to Goodland County Park, William G. Lunney Lake Farm Park, the Capital City Trail, and the LYRT
- Completion 2024
- https://lwrd.countyofdane.com/CurrentProjects/Detail/14/4

Proposed Waucheeta Connector

Asphalt Trail
Boardwalk Trail
Limestone Trail

0 200 400 Feet

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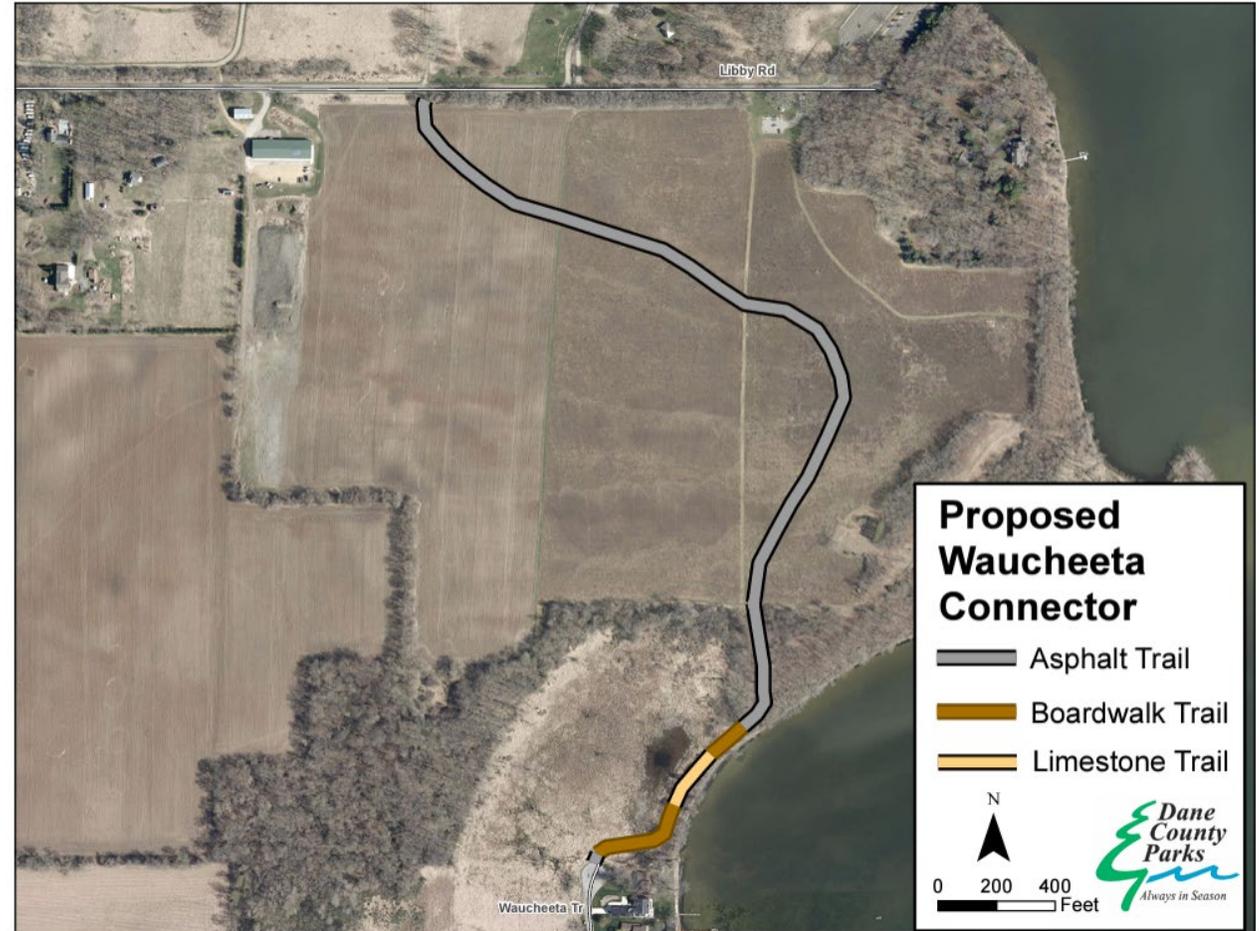
Current Projects - Central Dane County

Cherokee Marsh Wildlife Area –
Agricultural Wetland Mitigation Bank

- Dane County is partnering with the WDNR, NRCS, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, & U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to restore ~31 acres of wetland & prairie adjacent to the Yahara River
- Funded through the NRCS Wetland Mitigation Banking Program to develop an agricultural wetland mitigation bank
- https://lwrd.countyofdane.com/CurrentProjects/Detail/Agricultural-Wetland-Mitigation-Bank
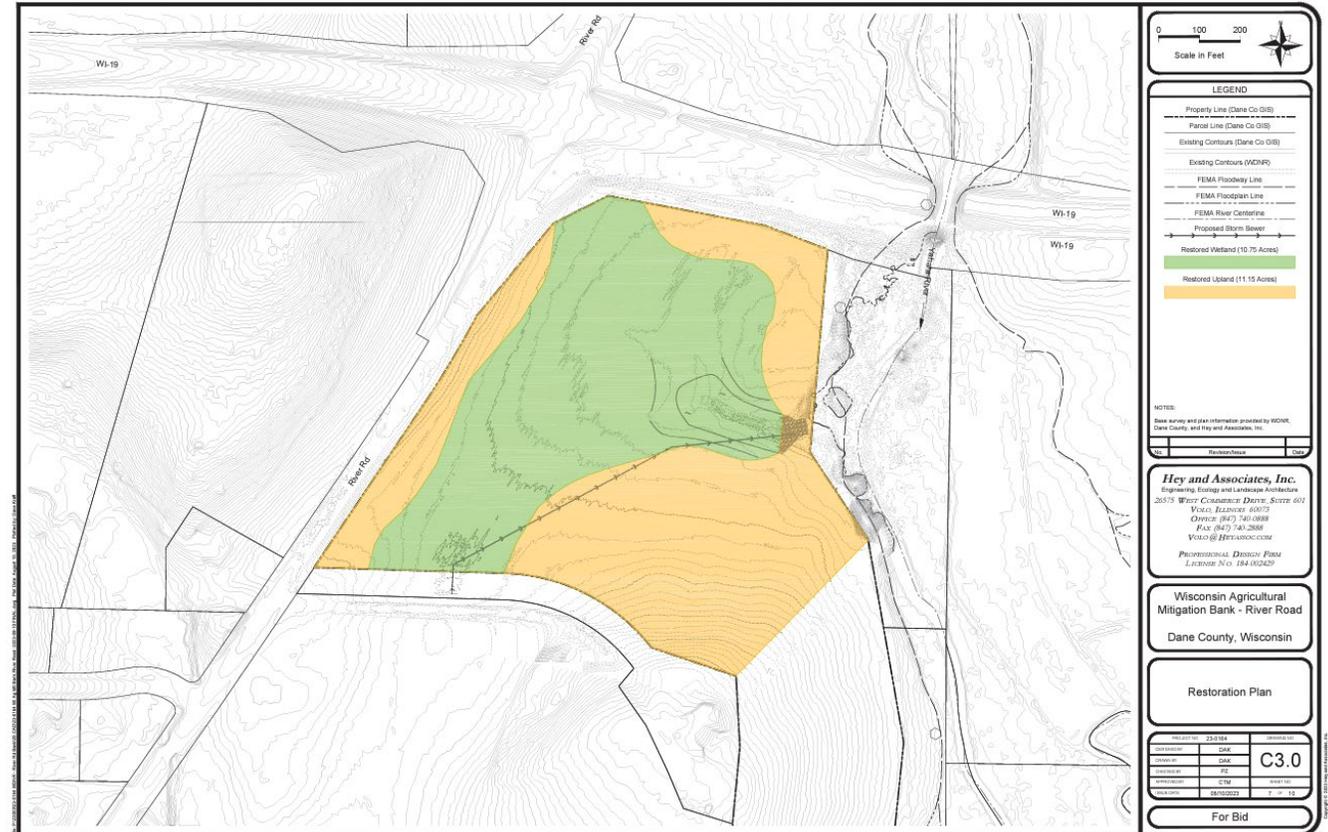
Current Projects - Central Dane County

Jenni and Kyle Park Restoration

- Existing path and pavement restoration
- Landscape replacement/restoration
- New accessible paths, viewing platforms
- Kayak access
- Made possible through generous donation from the Jenni and Kyle Foundation
- Completion 2025
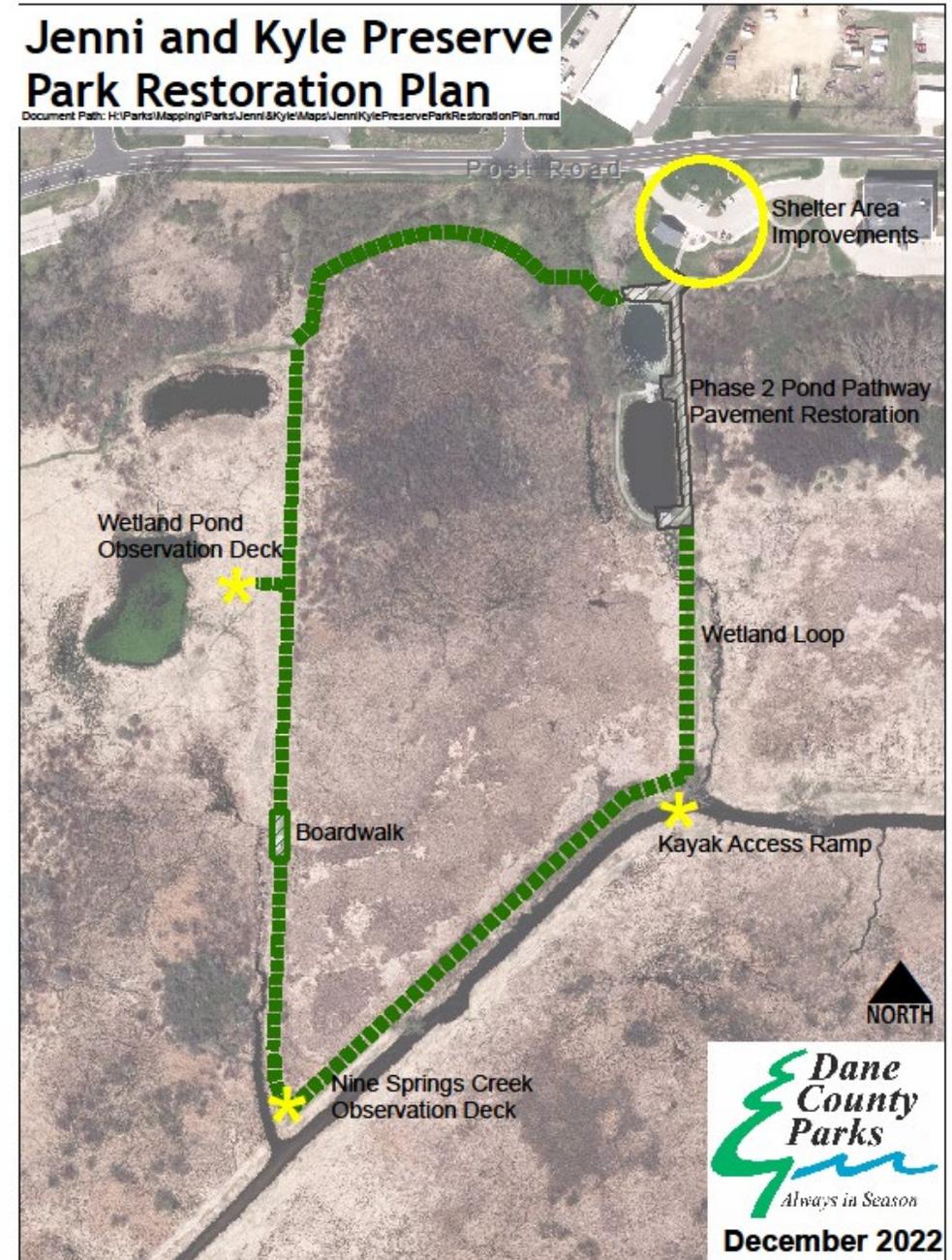
Current Projects - Central Dane County

Babcock Park Boat Landing Accessibility Improvements

- New mooring and fishing piers

- Improved accessible pathways/circulation

- Future kayak landing

- Enhanced storm water treatment

- Made possible through generous donation from the Jenni and Kyle Foundation

- Completion 2025

Current Projects - Central Dane County

Dog Park Vault Restrooms

- Badger Prairie County Park

- Prairie Moraine County Park

- Completion – Spring 2024
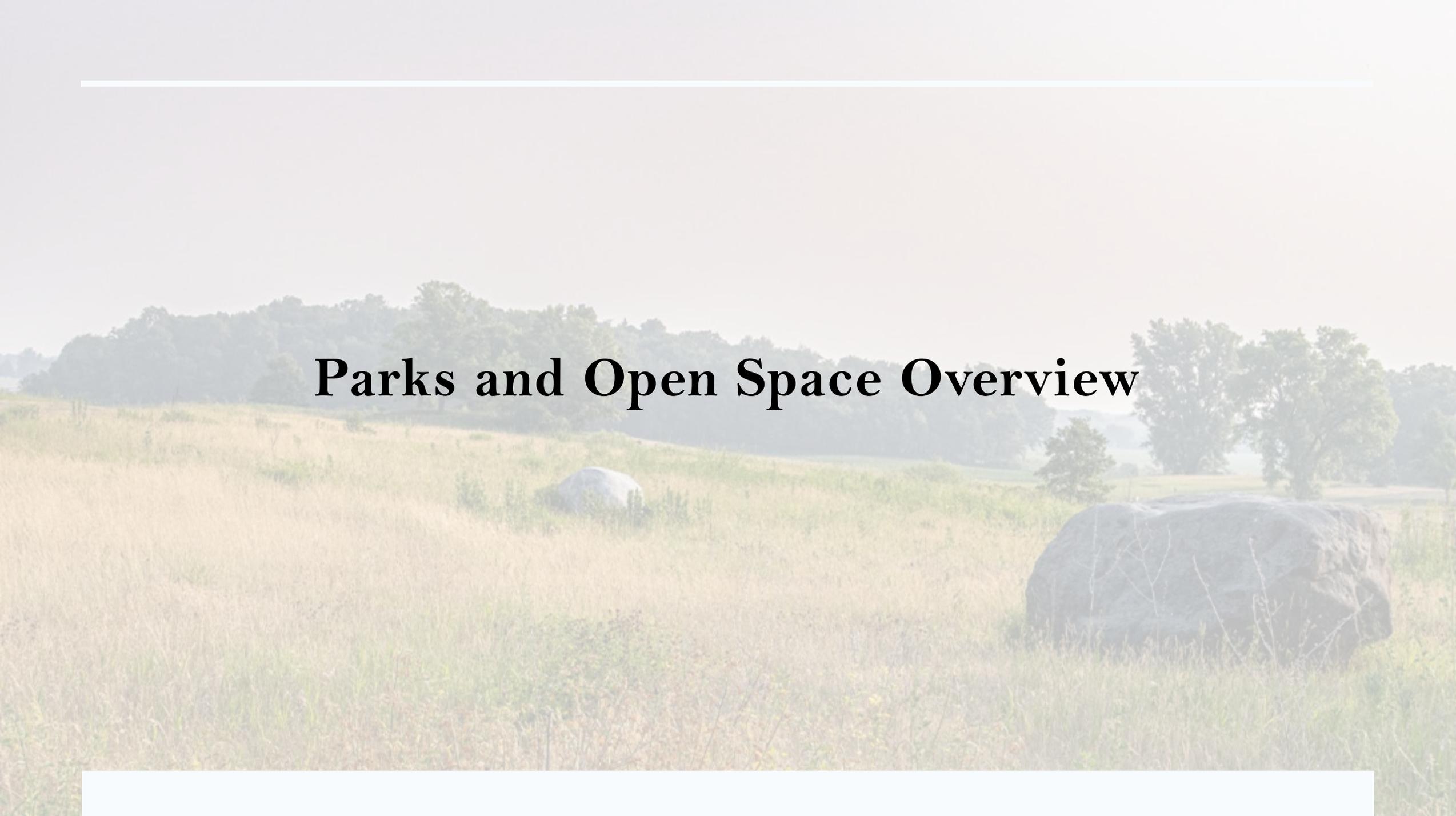
Parks and Open Space Overview

50 Plus Years of Parks and Open Space Plans!

What is the Parks and Open Space Plan?

- First plan was completed in 1970
- Provides a common vision for park, recreation, and resource protection initiatives county-wide
- Provides a 'check-in' opportunity for Dane County Parks to interact with Partners/Public/Stakeholders
- Stewardship grant eligibility
  - Must be updated every 5 years

Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan 2018 - 2023

Dane County Parks System

- Recreation Park
- Natural Resource Area
- Wildlife Area
- Historical or Cultural Site
- Forest
- Trails
- Land & Water Legacy Wetland Sites
- Streambank Easements
- Conservation Easements
- Conservation Fund Grant Properties*

Dane County Natural Resource Area Project Areas

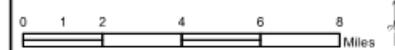- Natural Resource Area Boundary (NRAB)
- Ice Age National Scenic Trail Corridor

Reference Layers

- Existing Regional Shared-Use Trails
- Railroad
- Lake/Pond
- River/Stream
- US Fish and Wildlife Lands
- National Park Service Lands
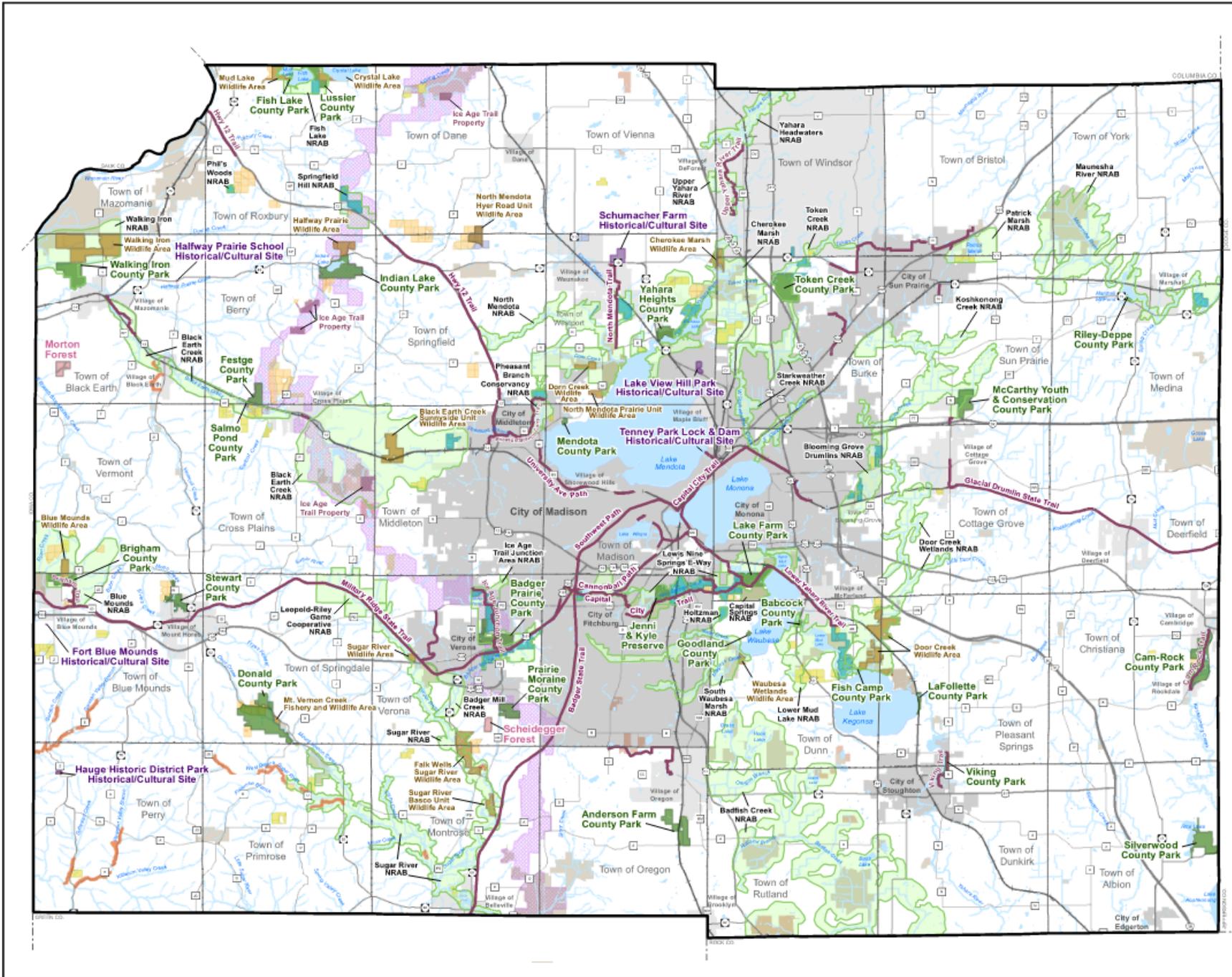- DNR Public Lands
- Municipalities

*Conservation Fund Grant Properties are lands in easement acquired by local units of government or non-profits with assistance from the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program.

Map of Counties Surrounding Dane County

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

Dane County Parks

Dane County Conservation Fund

Map labels

Mud Lake Wildlife Area, Crystal Lake Wildlife Area, Fish Lake County Park, Lussier County Park, Fish Lake NRAB, Ice Age Trail Property, Yahara Headwaters NRAB, Maunesha River NRAB, Phil's Woods NRAB, Springfield Hill NRAB, North Mendota Hyer Road Unit Wildlife Area, Schumacher Farm Historical/Cultural Site, Cherokee Marsh Wildlife Area, Cherokee Marsh NRAB, Token Creek NRAB, Patrick Marsh NRAB, Walking Iron NRAB, Walking Iron Wildlife Area, Walking Iron County Park, Halfway Prairie School Historical/Cultural Site, Halfway Prairie Wildlife Area, North Mendota NRAB, Yahara Heights County Park, Token Creek County Park, Koshkonong Creek NRAB, Indian Lake County Park, Ice Age Trail Property, Upper Yahara River NRAB, Starkweather Creek NRAB, Riley-Deppe County Park, Morton Forest, Black Earth Creek NRAB, Festge County Park, Pheasant Branch Conservancy NRAB, Dorn Creek Wildlife Area, Lake View Hill Park Historical/Cultural Site, McCarthy Youth & Conservation County Park, Salmo Pond County Park, Black Earth Creek Sunnyside Unit Wildlife Area, North Mendota Prairie Unit Wildlife Area, Mendota County Park, Tenney Park Lock & Dam Historical/Cultural Site, Blooming Grove Drumlins NRAB, Black Earth Creek NRAB, Blue Mounds Wildlife Area, Brigham County Park, Blue Mounds NRAB, Stewart County Park, Ice Age Trail Junction Area NRAB, Badger Prairie County Park, Lewis Nine Springs E-Way NRAB, Lake Farm County Park, Door Creek Wetlands NRAB, Fort Blue Mounds Historical/Cultural Site, Leopold-Riley Game Cooperative NRAB, Sugar River Wildlife Area, Capital Springs NRAB, Holtzman NRAB, Babcock County Park, Door Creek Wildlife Area, Cam-Rock County Park, Donald County Park, Jenni & Kyle Preserve, Goodland County Park, Prairie Moraine County Park, Badger Mill Creek NRAB, South Waubesa Marsh NRAB, Waubesa Wetlands Wildlife Area, Fish Camp County Park, LaFollette County Park, Mt. Vernon Creek Fishery and Wildlife Area, Scheidegger Forest, Sugar River NRAB, Lower Mud Lake NRAB, Hauge Historic District Park Historical/Cultural Site, Falk Wells Sugar River Wildlife Area, Sugar River Basco Unit Wildlife Area, Badfish Creek NRAB, Viking County Park, Anderson Farm County Park, Sugar River NRAB, Silverwood County Park

Trails

Ice Age Trail, North Mendota Trail, Capital City Trail, Military Ridge State Trail, Southwest Path, University Ave Path, Cannonball Path, Badger State Trail, Lower Yahara River Trail, Glacial Drumlin State Trail, Capital City State Trail

Map created by Dane County Parks on 9/1/2011, last updated 2/16/2018. Adopted on 4/12/18.

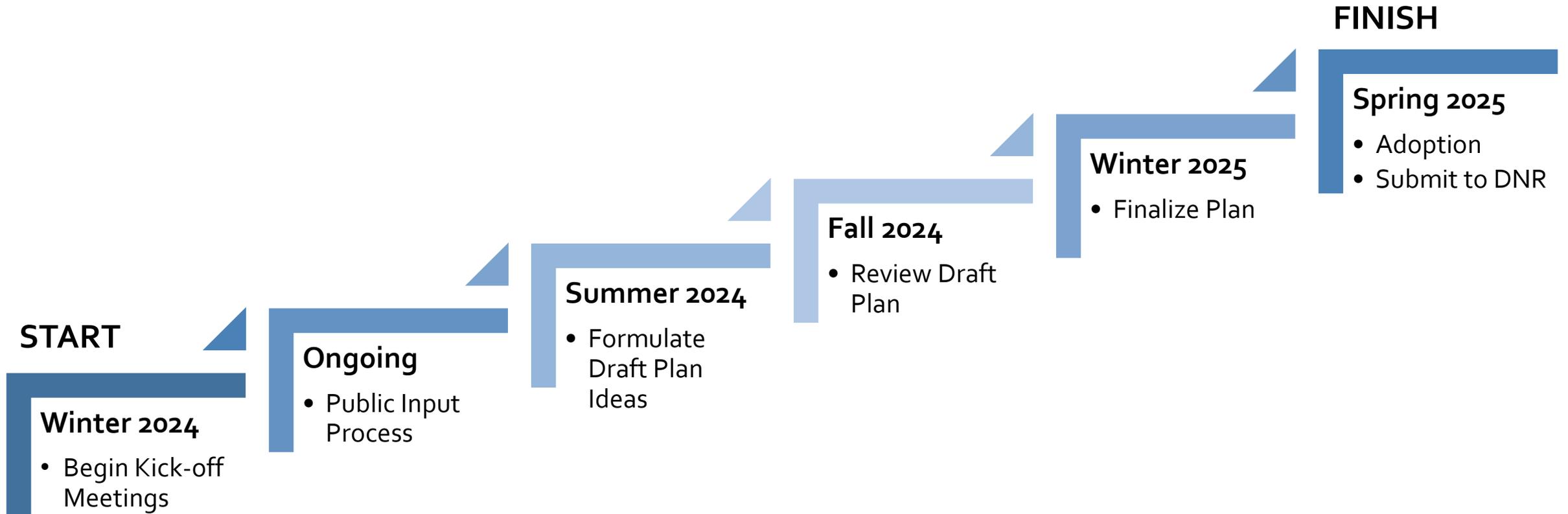# "The Journey is the Destination…"

What the Plan is NOT...

- A Land Use Plan or Zoning tool
  - Unless a local unit of government adopts it
- A trail development plan
- A park development plan

Planning Process

```
START                     Public input          Review existing        Inventory/analysis of
Planning to plan          process               plans                  existing lands &
                                                                        facilities
```

WE ARE HERE

Complete recreation & acquisition needs analysis based on public input process, staff recommendations, state SCORP analysis for Dane County, actual park use, & surveys → Compile & organize draft plan recommendations → Formulate draft plan recommendations for review → Prepare draft plan

FINISH
Adoption of plan

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Planning Process Timeline

START

Winter 2024
- Begin Kick-off Meetings

Ongoing
- Public Input Process

Summer 2024
- Formulate Draft Plan Ideas

Fall 2024
- Review Draft Plan

Winter 2025
- Finalize Plan

FINISH

Spring 2025
- Adoption
- Submit to DNR

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Current Plan Update Status

In Process….
- Public input meetings
- Online survey
- Land & facility inventory
- Population analysis
- Recreation needs analysis

Overall…The 2018-2023 Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan is still actively being implemented and the majority of the plan recommendations will continue to be valid

Demographics

Demographics

Statistics that describe population and their characteristics
- Population size, age, race, etc.

Demographics - Population

Dane County is the fastest growing county in Wisconsin and has the second highest population in the state.

- Dane County makes up 10% of Wisconsin's population
- The population has grown 16.1% from 2010 to 2022

Population Estimates over Time: 1970-2023

Dane County Estimated Population
Dane County Census Population
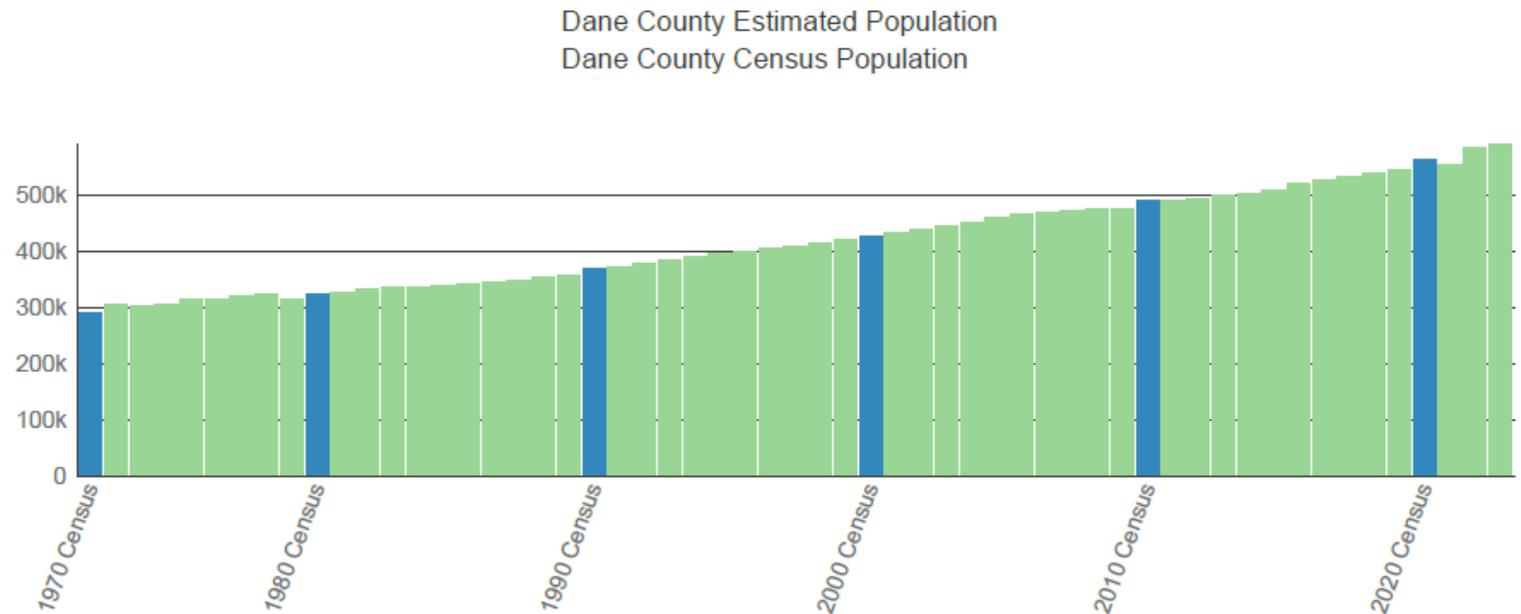
Source: Wisconsin Population and Housing Estimates
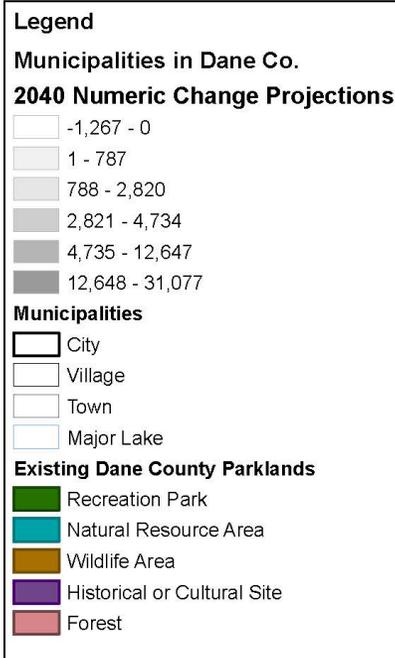
Increasing Population Size and Growth Rate

Planner's Perspective – Why does it matter?

- Consistent increasing trends in both population size and growth suggest continued need for system-wide planned park expansion
- Avoid "loving our parks to death"

Dane County 2040 Numeric Population Projections

Based on the 2017 population growth estimates and the projections for future growth by 2040, the most growth is expected in the center and the north east quadrant of the County.

Legend

Municipalities in Dane Co.

2040 Numeric Change Projections
- -1,267 - 0
- 1 - 787
- 788 - 2,820
- 2,821 - 4,734
- 4,735 - 12,647
- 12,648 - 31,077

Municipalities
- City
- Village
- Town
- Major Lake

Existing Dane County Parklands
- Recreation Park
- Natural Resource Area
- Wildlife Area
- Historical or Cultural Site
- Forest
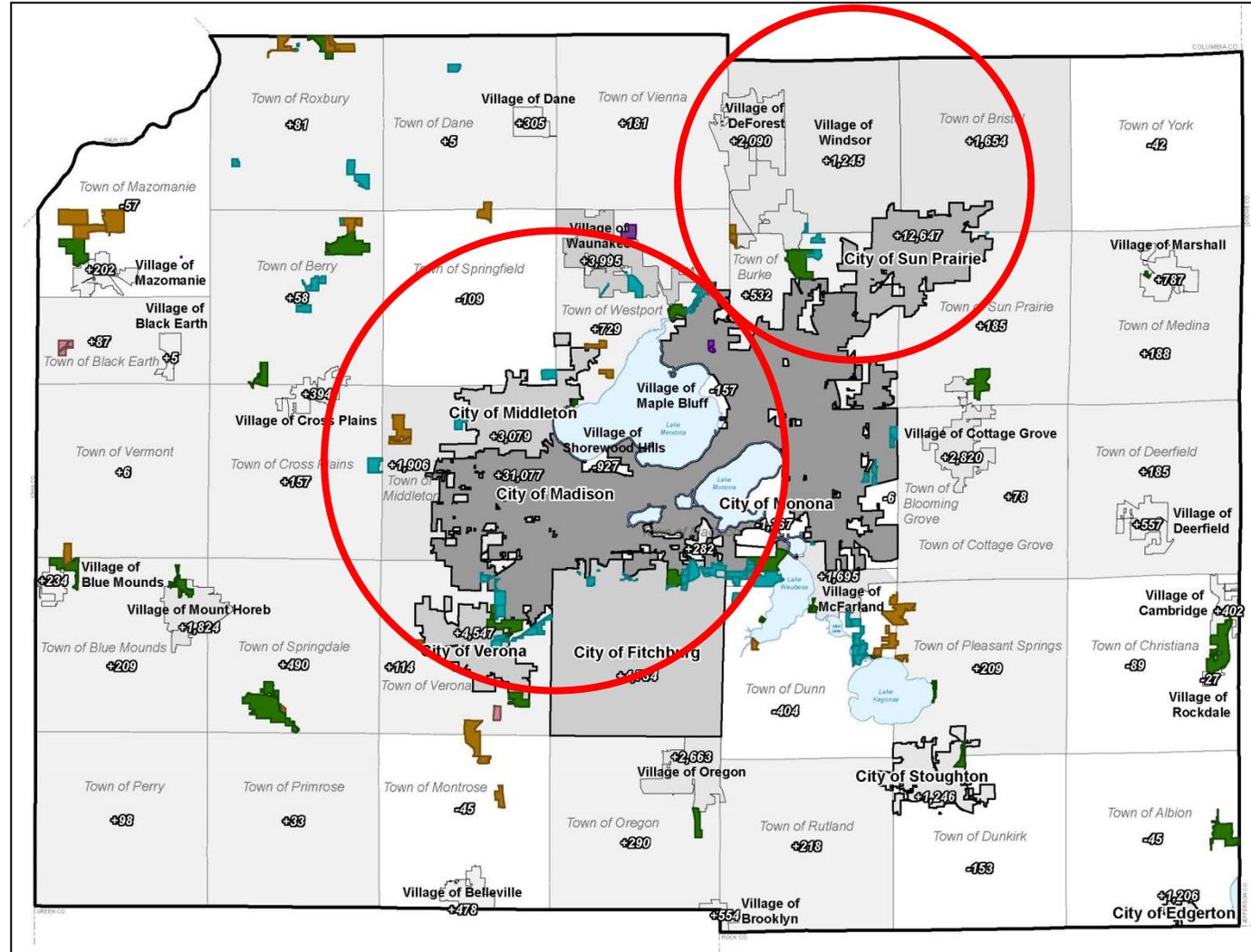
Increasing Population Areas

Planner's Perspective – Why does it matter?
- Plan for locations of future regional parks
- Plan for future regional trail connections
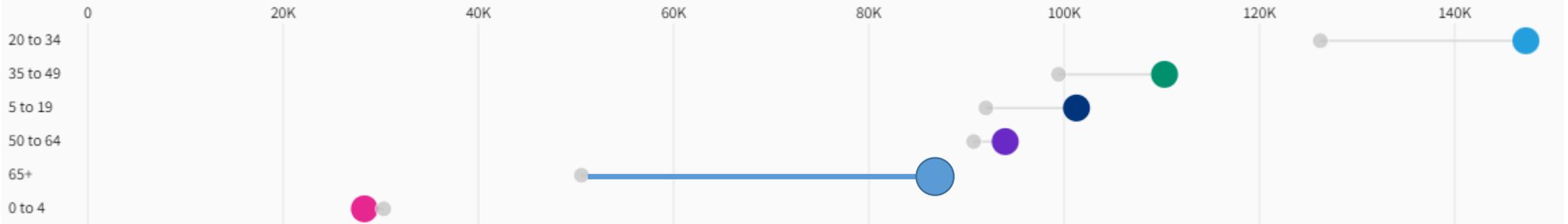- Identify future acquisition priorities

Demographics - Age

Among six age groups — 0 to 4, 5 to 19, 20 to 34, 35 to 49, 50 to 64, and 65 and older
- ***The 65+group was the fastest growing between 2010 and 2022 with its population increasing 72.2% between 2010-2022.***
- The 0 to 4 age group declined the most dropping 6.5% between 2010 and 2022.

Population by age in Dane County

Increasing Age Trend

Planner's Perspective – Why does it matter?
- Provide for multi-generational recreation uses and spaces
- Provide enhanced accessibility at recreation parks and developed access areas
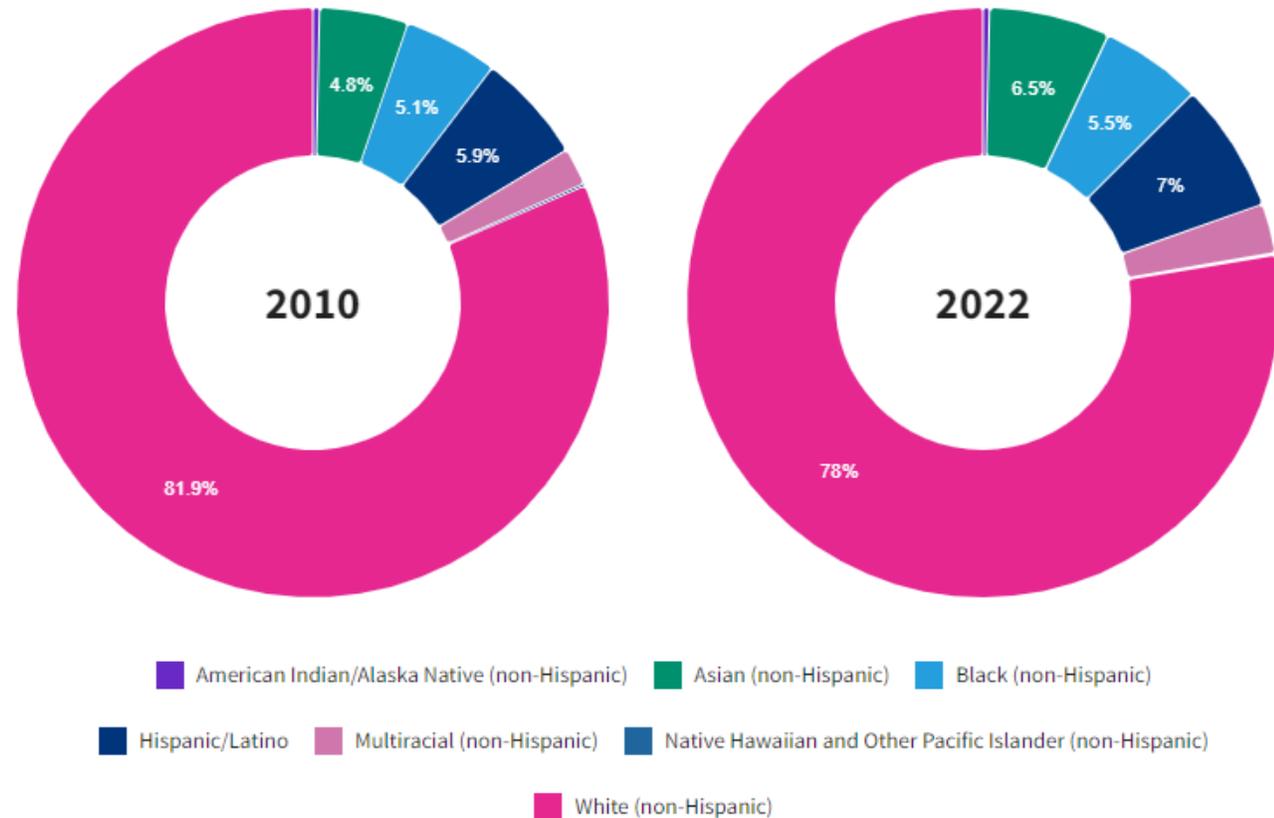
Demographics – Dane County Race/Ethnicity

It is important to understand the race and ethnicity demographics within Dane County to effectively plan parks that are equitable and inclusive to all residents.

- Diversity increased from 2010 to 2022
- Asian population grew the most with a 1.7% increase

Racial makeup of Dane County

Source: USA Facts

Diversity and Recreation in the US

- National recreation trend planners estimate that 72% of people participating in outdoor recreation currently are white
- If outdoor recreation participants do not become more diverse over the next 30 years, total outdoor participation rates in the US could fall from 54% to 40%

Source: Outdoor Foundation – 2022 Outdoor Participation Trends Report

Diversity and Recreation Users

Planner's Perspective – Why does it matter?

- Inclusion of All People in Parks
- Sustain future support for conservation of public lands and parks
- Better understand what types of recreation are needed
- Eliminate barriers in parks

Demographics Summary

- Dane County's population is the second highest in the state and is estimated to continue to be the fastest growing county in the state Dane County's 65 and older population is estimated to continue to be the fastest growing age range
- Dane County has one of the most diverse populations in the state

RECREATION TRENDS

POLLING QUESTION

Current National Recreation Participation Trends

- Pandemic increased new and returning outdoor participants by 26% - 2021 had the highest ever recorded.

OUTDOOR PARTICIPATION GROWTH TRENDS
2007 TO 2021
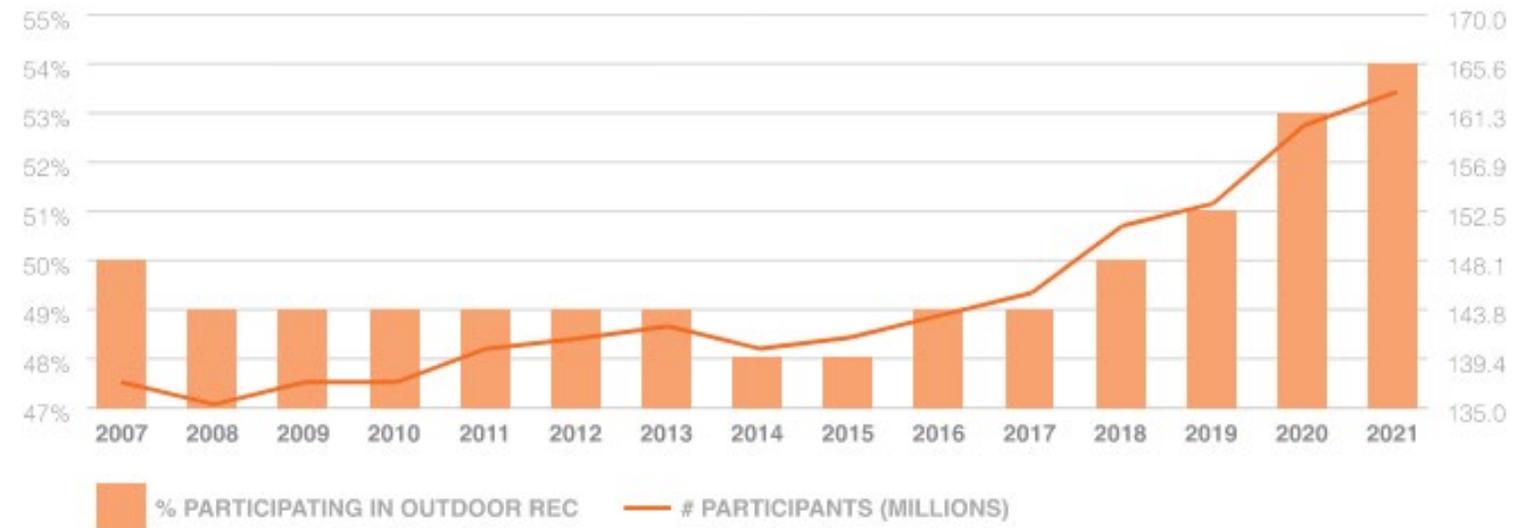
% PARTICIPATING IN OUTDOOR REC — # PARTICIPANTS (MILLIONS)

Source: NRPA – 2022 Outdoor Participation Trends Report

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Current National Recreation Trends

INTEREST LEVEL OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES BY RACE/ETHNICITY

INTEREST LEVEL	ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER PERSONS	AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK PERSONS	HISPANIC/ LATINX PERSONS	WHITE PERSONS
1	23.8%	15.4%	20.8%	22%
2	22.3%	11.8%	17.9%	18.7%
3	16.7%	10.8%	17%	17.7%
4	17.7%	7.2%	15.7%	16.9%
5	9.8%	6.3%	13.8%	15.4%

LEGEND

- CAMPING
- BIKING
- FISHING
- HIKING
- RUNNING

TOP FIVE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES (MILLIONS OF PARTICIPANTS)

2015 TO 2021

- 64.5M RAN
- 58.7M HIKED
- 52.4M FISHED
- 51.4M BIKED
- 45.9M CAMPED
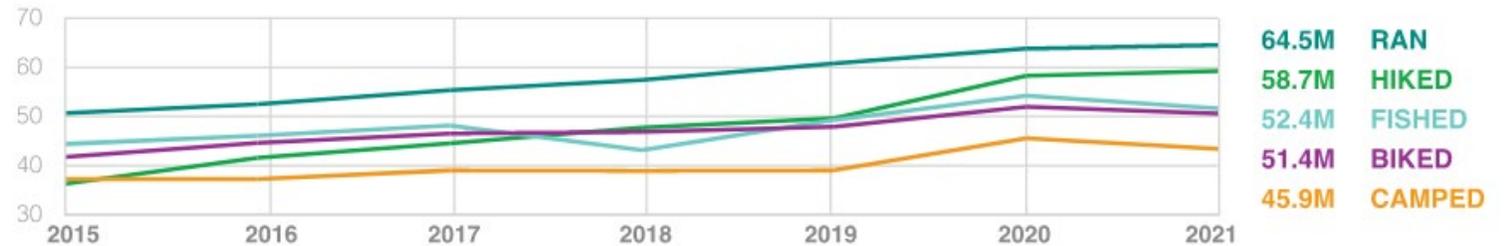
Source: NRPA – 2022 Outdoor Participation Trends Report

National Recreation Trends

Planner's Perspective – Why does it matter?

- Dane County has a strong population of out of state residents, migration trends continue to increase
- In general, national trends are a good barometer of what is happening in local recreation

Current Dane County Recreation Trends

Walking	48.1%
Dog Orientated (Parks)	43.1%
Swimming	40.0%
Running	27.5%
Beach	25.6%
Backpack Hiking	22.6%
Hiking	21.9%
Bicycling	18.0%
Visit Zoo	17.4%
Basketball	16.6%
Fishing	16.5%

Source: MRI-Simmons Survey of the American Consumer

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Current Dane County Recreation Trends

2011-2023 Annual Recreation Permit Sales Trends

Dog Park
Disc Golf
Lake Access
Tenney Lock
Aeromodeling

* Pandemic Years
** Record Drought/Heat

Source: Dane County Parks

Current Dane County Trail Trends

2011-2023 Annual Trail Permit Sales Trends
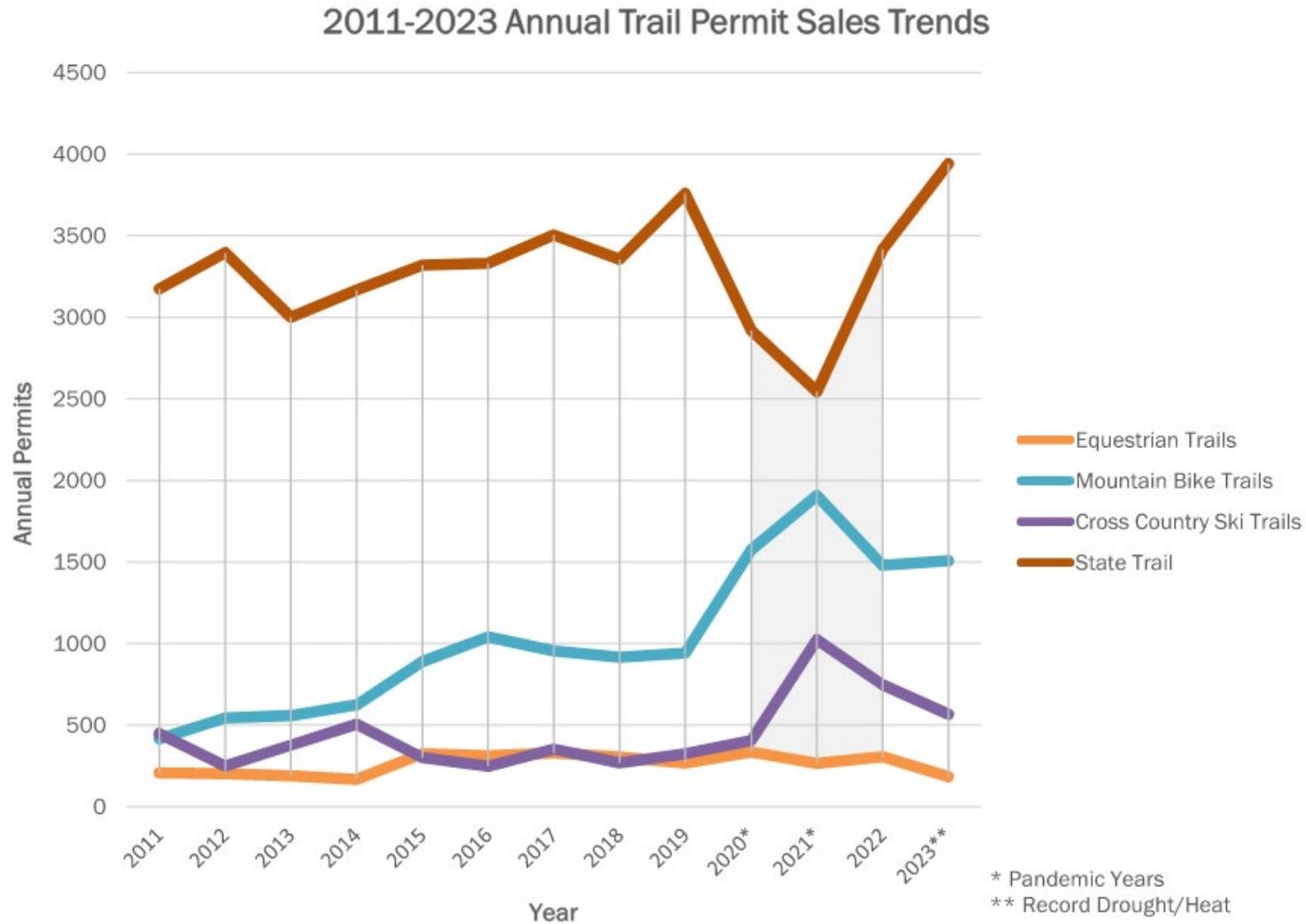
Source: Dane County Parks

Recreation Trend Summary

- Outdoor recreation participation increased dramatically both nationally and locally during the pandemic
- Post pandemic participation rate of increase is moderating but appears to be maintaining higher levels than pre-pandemic
- Running, walking, hiking, biking, and fishing were the top 5 most popular national recreation activities
- Dog exercise areas, biking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, outdoor education, and disc golf continue to be popular activities in Dane County Parks

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Parks/LWRD Planning Considerations

Current Parks/LWRD Staff Level Topics

- Regional trail project priorities
- Improving accessibility and inclusivity
- LWRD/Parks stream and wetland restoration projects
- Measuring carbon sequestration for restoration projects
- Renewable and green energy
- Climate change impacts on parks & recreation
- Cultural resource preservation practices and policies
- Pandemic impacts on parks & recreation
- How do we sustain maintenance for an expanding system
- Expanding outdoor education and strategic engagement
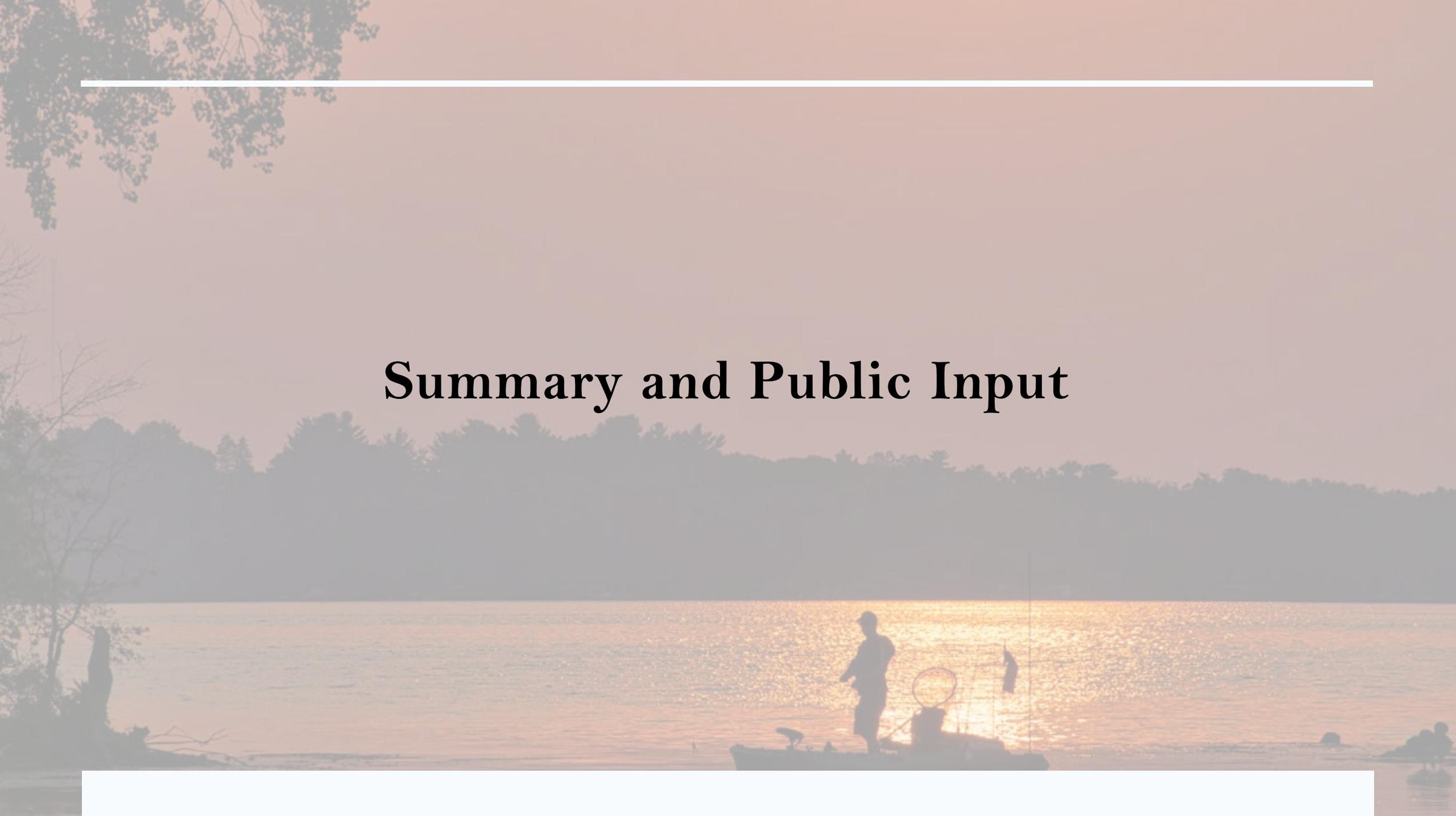
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Summary and Public Input

Meeting Takeaways

- Dane County is the second largest and fastest growing county in Wisconsin
- Dane County Parks is the largest metro county park system in WI
- Fastest growth areas continue to be central and northeast area of the county
- Overall population continues to trend older
- Walking, running, hiking, biking, and fishing continue to be some of the most popular outdoor past times, nationally and locally
- Dog parks, disc golf, multi-use trails, lake access sites, camping, and outdoor education are popular Dane County Parks outdoor activities

What You Need to Know about the POSP

- The Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan provides a county-wide common vision for park, recreation, and resource protection initiatives
- The plan is updated every 5 years
- Dane County Parks will be gathering public comments/ideas through June 2024
- Draft Parks and Open Space Plan available for review Fall of 2024

How You Can Provide Feedback on the 2025-2030 Dane County POSP?

- Written comment forms
- Email comments: james@countyofdane.com
- Mail comments:

    Dane County Parks

    Attn: Chris James

    4212 Robertson Road

    Madison, WI 53714

Take the 2025-2030 POSP Survey

We Want to Hear From You!

Please....

- Respect your allotted time limit – 3 minutes
- Virtual participants enter questions/comments in chat
- Do not interrupt or interject while others are commenting
- Do not laugh at someone else's idea
- Refrain from talking while others are commenting

We'll be here as long as we can afterward to answer additional questions.

THANK YOU

Courtesy Shan Bartus

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Contact Information

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Join us!