

Update on the Conceptual Park & Open Space Proposal

This proposal, drafted in 2007, identifies various natural and cultural resources of significance within Fitchburg. Essentially it is a recommendation by the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department of sensitive areas (outside the urban service area) that should be protected through park and open space. Not only can the Park & Open Space Proposal be used to identify appropriate areas for future parks and natural areas, but it can be used as a tool to better inform all parties involved with the planning of future developments. See the following website for further information and maps:
http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/parks_forestry/ParkOpenSpaceProposal.php.

The Park & Open Space Proposal was first introduced to the public at a Dec. 12th, 2007 open house and then again at a public hearing on March 6th of this year. Although relatively few citizens have weighed in on the proposal, reactions have been mostly favorable. The Proposal has also been presented to various committees and commissions. After an April 1st presentation to the Planning Commission, the Mayor has requested the Proposal's acreages of current public ownership, protected lands (wetlands/streams), and private ownership for both the future urban growth boundaries and the undevelopable areas. The Northeast Neighborhood Committee requested more detailed information about the Proposal, as it relates to the proposed neighborhood. The Parks Commission, most familiar with the Proposal's development, has given their approval of the Conceptual Park & Open Space Proposal at their April 3rd meeting. On May 6th the Planning Department will be holding an open house featuring aspects of the comprehensive plan. Displays of the Park & Open Space Proposal will be available for discussion and questions.

For further public participation opportunities, please read on about the Heritage Oak Inventory. You can direct any questions or comments about the Proposal to Ed Bartell (ed.bartell@city.fitchburg.wi.us) and Dana Dentice (dana.dentice@city.fitchburg.wi.us).

Heritage Oak Inventory

The Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department would like all interested individuals to partake in an ongoing heritage oak inventory that was started in 1976 by Walter Scott to celebrate the American Revolution Bicentennial. He located oaks within an 8-mile radius of the capitol that were estimated to be at least 200 years old. We have identified many of the trees in the original survey. However, the Bicentennial survey does not cover the entire area of Fitchburg and most trees in the survey area are on private property.



Please help us locate these magnificent heritage oak trees. White or bur oaks need a trunk circumference of at least 10 feet (measured at 4.5 feet above ground), and pin, black, and red oaks need a trunk circumference of at least 11 feet. If you see a potential tree that is on private property, please do not trespass. Email the location and we will contact the landowner. Contact Dana Dentice at dana.dentice@city.fitchburg.wi.us or 270-4287 with any questions or tree locations.