

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Throughout the past twelve months, the Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association has been actively engaged in a mid-term planning process to enhance this long standing area on the west side of Madison. The planning process has allowed the neighborhood to identify key issues, recognize possible solutions, and come together to implement solutions that will make their neighborhood more cohesive.

A thirteen member steering committee, consisting of residents and business representatives, were the leaders of the process that included a wide variety of mechanisms to gather public input from varying opinions throughout the neighborhood. This process helped to identify five major issues facing the neighborhood. They are:

- ✓ **The current condition of the University Avenue corridor.** This corridor currently acts to divide the neighborhood rather than provide a backbone to support it. The roadway is not urbanized, meaning that it lacks curb, gutter, and sidewalks for the majority of the span within the neighborhood. The

multi-use trail and sidewalks do not run along the entire street, necessitating pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the corridor to continue traveling along it. In addition to being one of the busiest streets in the City of Madison, it is also a main entrance corridor to the City. Amenities, such as decorative lighting and welcome signage, are also lacking compared to other entrances to neighborhoods in the City.

- ✓ **Pedestrian safety throughout the neighborhood is instrumental to the success of the neighborhood.** Many of the neighborhood residents utilize the narrow tree-lined streets for walking and biking. While many of these streets currently force automobiles to slow down, the neighborhood would like to see additional safety measures added to the streets to make them safer. The neighborhood, however, would like the City to explore pedestrian safety alternatives and policies to sidewalks, as they are concerned sidewalks deter from the current character of the neighborhood.

- ✓ **Redevelopment of Commercial sites within the neighborhood, while retaining existing businesses.** The neighborhood is fortunate to have a strong mix of business uses along the University Avenue Corridor. However, there are sites that are currently underutilized and are not pedestrian friendly. The neighborhood would like to see these sites redevelop in a comprehensive way that allows for their input throughout the redevelopment process.
- ✓ **Retaining residential character throughout the neighborhood.** The neighborhood is currently facing a wave of residential changes. The first being the conversion of apartment units into condominiums. This is occurring at a fast pace and is limiting housing options for residents in the neighborhood. The second residential change currently underway is residential redevelopment that is occurring within the blocks closest to the lake. There have been several instances of small cottages either being torn down or added to

significantly. This results in a changed residential character. While the neighborhood does not want to prohibit such redevelopments, they would like to provide input to the approval process.

- ✓ **Preservation and enhancement of natural resources.** The neighborhood is situated around many unique natural features and would like to see those features further protected and enhanced.

The following plan outlines specific goals, recommendations, and implementation plans to address these five key issues.



Merrill Spring Park located within the neighborhood