

From: Wendy von Below <wendyvonn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 1:16 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status Forest Hill Cemetary

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am writing to voice my overwhelming support to change the Forest Hill Cemetary from its current status as a "dog friendly" to a "dog free" park.

Currently there are too many dog owners who do not follow the dog friendly ordinance, making it uncomfortable for those who are visiting the Cemetary.

Thank you for considering this change.
Sincerely,
Kathryn W von Below

From: Ann Niedermeier <meredumonstre@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 4:01 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

i like dogs, but they are EVERYWHERE!

Unfortunately, a few dog owners allow their pets to roam free (and often are unable to call them back to leash) and some owners don't clean up after their dogs. Others walk their dogs on expandable leashes while they cruise their cell phones - a disaster waiting to happen for any bicyclist going by.

I frequent Vilas Park, not Forest Hill Cemetery, but please keep some places dog free, maybe especially those places where young children play in the grass. I repeat, I like dogs, but they really don't need to go everywhere.

Thank you,
Ann Niedermeier

From: John Linck <john@woodentoy.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:54 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Commissioners,

Great to hear you are going to remove dogs from Forest Hill. What a boon to wildlife in our city. Hundreds of canine predators leaving their scent thru Forest Hill must keep wildlife far away. I love seeing cranes, turkeys and other wild animals in Madison and Forest Hill would make great habitat with little bother to adjacent citizens.

Thanks, John Linck

John Michael Linck

2618 Van Hise Avenue

Madison, Wi. 53705

telephone 608-231-2808

[email john@woodentoy.com](mailto:john@woodentoy.com)

From: R L <ryogainfo@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:55 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Cemetery Dog Status Request

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the dog issue at the Forest Hill Cemetery. Please have the cemetery be an enforced **DOG FREE** area.

Dog owners take advantage, have animals off lease or wandering on the grass on too long leases, chasing squirrels, ruining trees, scaring cemetery visitors.

From: Rebekka Lafferty-Gebauer <laffert7@uwm.edu>

Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 7:12 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Commissioners,

In regard to the Forest Hill Cemetery, please change the current status to keep this area a sanctuary. The "park" needs to be dog free--this coming from someone who likes dogs but observes too much misbehavior and disrespect of the space.

Thank you,

Rebekka

From: Jay Poster <jayposter@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 8:12 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: dogs in Forest Hill cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I'm agin' it.

Even one little pile of dog poop is an insult to hallowed ground.

I know coyotes and pigeons and probably geese have their way but I'm agin' that, too.

Jay Poster

2221 Hollister Ave.

53726

From: Lorraine Meyer <ronlor.meyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 11:19 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Brentwood Park dog friendly or dog free status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Park Commissioners,

We have lived in the Brentwood Neighborhood for 30 years and our dues for our neighborhood association have been used to make improvements in our neighborhood park. We prefer to keep the park dog free. We are not against dogs but unfortunately many owners do not pick up after their dogs or keep them under control even if they are on a leash. Unruly dogs jump on strangers and cause them to fall and worse can bite. We bring our grandchildren to this park and prefer to keep it dog free for our safety and theirs and to keep it clean.

Thank you,

Lorraine and Ron Meyer

From: beverly pizzingrilli <bevpingrilli@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 1:12 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I support changing Forest Hill Cemetery Status to "dog free". Thank You

From: Steve Paulson <steve.paulson@wpr.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I'm writing to express my strong disapproval of changing Forest Hill Cemetery back into a "dog-free" park. I live two blocks from the cemetery, which is one of my favorite places in all of Madison.

Frankly, I don't understand why the City of Madison is considering this change. I've been taking my corgi there on a leash ever since it became a dog-friendly site for walking, and I've never seen a misbehaving or problem dog in the cemetery since dogs have been allowed there. I don't have time for separate walks with and without my dog, so changing the status to a "dog-free" park would effectively mean I no longer walk in the cemetery. This would be a terrible disservice to the many dog owners who enjoy the beauty, tranquility and history that make Forest Hill Cemetery such a unique treasure in Madison.

I sincerely hope that you maintain the current status of allowing dogs on leashes in the cemetery.

Thank you,

Steve Paulson
2212 Hillington Green

From: Christopher Jaye <madneighbor@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 2:44 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: BPC - Forest Hill Cemetery/Dogs

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it may concern:

I live at 34 Virginia Terrace which is adjacent to Forest Hill Cemetery. I am writing in opposition to the proposed change at Forest Hil from a "dog friendly" park to a "dog free" park.

I have lived at my current address for 21 years, and prior to that lived on Gregory Street for five years. I have walked, run, bicycled, and walked dogs in the cemetery for the last 25 years and don't believe the proposed change is warranted.

Sincerely,

Christopher Jaye

34 Virginia Terrace

From: SHERRY L REAMES <slreames@wisc.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 4:17 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Please don't bar leashed dogs from Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Park Commissioners,

I live very close to Forest Hill Cemetery (in fact, it's right across my back fence) and appreciate the ability to walk through that cemetery frequently with my dog, both to visit my husband's grave and just to enjoy the beauty and stillness of the surroundings.

I can understand why the city would want to prevent dogs from ever running loose and making a mess in the cemetery, but I can't think of any good reason to bar dog owners from walking sedately through Forest Hill with their leashed, well-behaved dogs. I hope very much that you will vote down this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sherry L. Reames

522 Virginia Terrace, Madison 53726

rom: Sawyer Gebauer <saw.lp.geb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 7:47 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

Please change the status of the cemetery to DOG FREE.

Respectfully,

Sawyer G

From: Jennie Larson <jb2@slicke.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 9:07 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good Morning:

We're in favor of changing the Forest Hill Cemetery to a "dog free" park. Please add our comments to the list.

Thanks,

Larry & Jennie Lynn Larson

3810 Euclid Ave.

Madison, WI 53711

From: KATHRYN C WITTENWYLER <kcwitten@wisc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery dog status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Yes. Please change the Forest Hill Cemetery dog status to "dog free".

There are many places in Madison to walk a dog. The sacred ground of a cemetery need not be one.

Thank you for your work on this endeavor. Kay

From: Mark Treiber <madtreibers@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 2:40 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status Request -- Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it concerns:

I'm in favor of making the Forest Hill Cemetery a "DOG FREE" park. Our backyard is situated near the cemetery fence along Virginia Terrace. We have noticed over the last couple of years that there are more people with unleashed dogs in the cemetery at all times of the day which we had never seen before. They walk/run through the cemetery (near plots and backyards) with their unleashed dog shouting commands to their pet. I think there are plenty of places to walk dogs, other dog-friendly areas, and many new dog parks.

If it does stay as "DOG FRIENDLY", then there needs to be a specific set of rules to stay on the streets of the cemetery regardless if they are leashed.

Mark J. Treiber

(P) 608-576-5972

From: Barbara STREIBEL <bstreibel1@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 9:33 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery dog status decision

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

My husband Michael and I live on Eton Ridge, Madison, right near the cemetery. We walk there a lot. We see people there with their dogs leashed, which is fine with us, and unfortunately, we also see dogs unleashed, occasionally with their 'person' no-where to be seen because the dog has run quite far from them. These unleashed dogs are the reason we want the cemetery to become a 'dog-free' park.

Dog owners can take their dogs to any of the dog parks throughout the city to run. Running in the cemetery can be disruptive to burials, and can frighten folks who are visiting graves and are startled by a strange dog on the loose. Some of my neighbors also think it is disrespectful for dogs to be running all over the graves. Unleashed dogs are also a threat to the red foxes who live in or near the cemetery each year, and to the cranes who often visit with their young in late summer/early Fall.

Therefore we hope you decide to make Forest Hill cemetery a dog-free site.

Barbara and Michael Streibel

From: Cathy Caro-Bruce <ccarobru@wisc.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 7, 2022 8:13 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Free

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Just want to thank you and support the proposal to make Forest Hill Cemetery a dog free park. I walk there often and even though dogs are supposed to be on leashes, their owners often let them roam free. I really like the idea of not having to worry about dogs that I don't know running up to me.

Thank you,

Cathy Caro-Bruce

From: Tish Lafferty <tishlafferty@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 8:40 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: dog free zone for forest hill cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please make Forest Hill Cemetery a DOG FREE zone.

It is important to reserve this area for grieving, praying and reflection.

Thank you,

Patricia Lafferty

From: Janet Schuresko <janet.schuresko@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 7:34 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Thank you for banning dogs from the Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please keep dogs out of cemeteries. It is so disrespectful to mourners, the dead, and their families and friends. So many dog owners allow their dogs to urinate and defecate wherever the animal wants, and once one has, all the others try to stop there too.

Unfortunately some dog owners ruin it for the rest by not realizing many people object to dog waste. For example, numerous people walking their dogs past our house allow them to stop and urinate in our flower beds on the private side of the sidewalk, even when we are sitting on our front porch ten feet away. These same people are even less likely to control their animals when walking in a cemetery when no one is around to see.

I expect you will receive letters from many dog owners wanting everywhere to be open for walking, so I wanted to express my support for closing cemeteries to dogs (unless they are registered service animals of course.)

Sincerely,

Janet Schuresko

2620 Chamberlain Ave.

Madison

From: David S. Liebl <david.liebl@wisc.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 2:39 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: RE 11-9-22 Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status Request

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello;

Please confirm that the attached has been included in the public comments for this meeting.

Thank you,

David

--

David Liebl

david.liebl@wisc.edu

From: Tom Andersen <tom.andersen@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:52 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Dogs in Forest Hill

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I'm a neighbor to the Forest Hill Cemetery (our property backs up to the cemetery). My neighborhood has a very large number of dogs. The number has increased significantly in the last few years. I have only experienced a few problems with dogs in the cemetery, but I strongly prefer to make it dog free. This is mostly because the vast number of dogs makes it harder to enjoy a walk in the neighborhood. Making the cemetery, the golf course and the adjacent woods all dog free would open up an exceptionally large, dog free recreational space in the city. The wooded area has had a problem with uncontrolled dogs for the last ten to fifteen years.

I would also like to mention that it will be necessary to reduce the pet population significantly for the City of Madison to reach its climate goals. I do know that this is a very difficult issue that probably no politician is willing to tackle head on. Making large areas of the city off limits to dog is a gentle way to approach this problem.

Tom Andersen
210 Virginia Ter
Madison, WI 53726

From: Donna Lotzer <badgerfan1975@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:42 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Comments on dogs in cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I lived in the Regent neighborhood for 40 years, near Forest Hill and totally support BANNING dogs, on leash or off...it is just horrible that people think it is appropriate to have their animal pee, poop and generally allow desecration of these places...thanks

From: Lisa Grueneberg <lisagrue@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2022 7:37 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill dog status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposal to make Forest Hill Cemetery "dog free". I do not have a dog, but walk in the cemetery often (at least once a week). I have not observed any problematic behavior from dogs since it became dog friendly a couple of years ago. I enjoy seeing the dogs and their owners in the park and feel it should continue to be allowed.

Thank you for considering my input.

Lisa Grueneberg

2440 Fox Ave, Madison, WI 53711

From: KAREN A CARLSON <kcarlson2@wisc.edu>
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 4:48 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

It's surprising that a single request carries so much weight that it earns even a place on your agenda. Unless the person who complained has some evidence of mistreatment of graves, the value of leash walking for many citizens and their dogs should easily convince the commission to continue the status quo.

Karen Carlson

1137 Erin St #105

Madison 53715

From: Lisa Grueneberg <lisagrue@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2022 7:37 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill dog status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposal to make Forest Hill Cemetery "dog free". I do not have a dog, but walk in the cemetery often (at least once a week). I have not observed any problematic behavior from dogs since it became dog friendly a couple of years ago. I enjoy seeing the dogs and their owners in the park and feel it should continue to be allowed.

Thank you for considering my input.

Lisa Grueneberg

2440 Fox Ave, Madison, WI 53711

From: Lynne Bethke <bethke@interworksmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 10:28 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery-please keep as dog friendly

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear BPC,

I see that you are considering changing Forest Hill Cemetery from its current dog friendly status to "dog free". Please don't do that. The cemetery is such a lovely place to walk with my dog. It's nice to not have to worry about too much traffic or too many other people around. I keep my dog on her leash and we stay on the roads. It is such a peaceful and enjoyable walk, and it especially helped us get through covid. Please, please don't change the status to dog free.

Sincerely,

Lynne Bethke

3918 Fern Ct.

Madison, WI 53711

From: Jessie Lerner <jtlerner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 1:38 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest hill cemetery dog status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello, I think allowing dogs, on leash, at forest hill cemetery is a positive thing for the neighborhood. Thankyou.

Jessie Lerner

722 chapman street

Walker and park enjoyer

Do not currently have a dog, and want my neighbors with dogs to be able to walk in the parks.

Sent from my tiny computer... thanks for excusing errors!

From: Joan Laurion <joan.laurion@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 3:32 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog friendly Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good afternoon, I am writing in hopes that Forest Hill Cemetery will remain dog friendly. I live about 4 blocks away and it is such a welcome addition to frequent walks with my little rat terrier. I usually walk there during the day or in the early morning so maybe I do not see problems that occur in the afternoon? About 6-12 months ago I saw one person who was allowing her dog to be off leash but since then I have not seen anyone abusing the expectation to have dogs on leash and walking in the road.

I do hope that as planning for the Glenway Woods moves along you will consider limited hours during the week when we can walk through the woods with dogs off leash. I will go to the listening sessions at Sequoia Library to explain my request more in detail.

Another way to think about this problem is that maybe us dog owners are expressing a recreational need that Madison Parks are not meeting. Maybe we need a place for people to **run/walk** with their dogs off leash that is not 10 miles away (the two large dog parks in Verona.) I go there when my errands

take me in that direction because I don't want to stand around in the Madison dog parks while my dog gets some exercise. I want to walk and get my heart beating, too.

I am sorry if some people are not being respectful of the cemetery rules. Maybe some of us dog owners could hang around in the cemetery during the hours when abuse of the rules is happening to remind offenders?

It is awesome that we can now walk our dogs on leash in Madison parks. Thanks for that change!

Sincerely, Joan Laurion

--

Joan Laurion

she/her

From: tracy lewis <tracylewis55@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 3:40 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs and Forest Hill

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am writing as a near neighbor of Forest Hill Cemetery. I believe allowing leashed dogs to continue to be walked in Forest Hill is imperative. Not just for the dogs but owners who like the peace and quiet there for dog walks. Responsible dog owners who leash their dogs should not be penalized for the bad behavior of other owners. There are few green spaces to walk and this is a lovely place to stroll with or without a dog Respectfully Submitted by Tracy Lewis
706 Leonard Street

From: Ann Shaffer <ann@annshaffer.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 4:12 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Continue allowing dogs on vation Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Parks Commission,

I'm writing to ask you to please continue to allow dogs in Forest Hill cemetery. I started walking there every day with my dog on a leash as soon as it became legal, and it has been one of the great pleasures of my life. It's one of the only places in Madison where I can walk peacefully, without having to worry about traffic.

In my two years of walking there at all times of the day, I've only seen two dogs off leash. In case that's one of the reasons you are considering not allowing dogs anymore.

The number of dogs in the neighborhood around the cemetery has vastly increased since the pandemic, and there is no dog park within walking distance. So it seems fair and useful to let people walk in the cemetery with their dogs on leash. To get to a dog park I need to drive at least 15 minutes to another part of town.

We pay a fortune in property taxes to have the pleasure of living in this neighborhood. It would be nice if one thing I got from all that money is a nice place to walk my dog. Especially since the city doesn't have to do anything to continue to make that possible.

For what it's worth, I would be in favor of a very high fee for people who do let their dogs run off leash.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Ann Shaffer

2245 Eton Ridge

From: Margaret Berg <margaret@margaretbergtherapy.com>

Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 4:36 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

There are no other green spaces to walk my dog near West HS. Since you've opened it up to leashed dogs it's been very meditative to walk with my dogs through the beautiful and peaceful cemetery grounds. I believe the spirits of the people who are buried there also appreciate the extra dog energy and my dogs can sense them as well. Please continue to allow leashed dogs. Thank you!

Warmly,

Margaret Berg

Margaret Berg, LCSW, ACST

she/her/hers

AASECT Certified Sex Therapist

Certified Imago Relationship Therapist, Advanced Clinician

Getting the Love You Want Imago Couple's Weekend Workshop Presenter in training

margaretbergtherapy.com

From: Libby Caes <libbycaes@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 4:42 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetary

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I strongly feel that dogs should be allowed on leash on the roads. We walk there often and I understand the sacredness of cemeteries. But don't penalize the rest of us because a few people are disrespectful.
Libby Caes

From: David Wilcher <dbwilcher@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 5:14 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Register Formal Opposition to Dog Walking Ban in Forrest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I received a mailing today from the City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners (BPC) indicating that they were proposing a ban on dog walking in Forest Hill Cemetery on 11/09/2022. I would like to write to formally state my strong opposition to this - the Forest Hill Cemetery should remain dog friendly. I believe an outright ban on dog walking in Forest Hill Cemetery will put citizens at risk. If there are problems with irresponsible dog owners those should be dealt with through enforcement, signage, and education.

As a dog owner who has lived in the area and walks my dogs in Forest Hill and the surrounding areas several times per week, I do not believe there should be a ban on dog walking for the following reasons:

First, and most importantly, it is the only way to traverse along Speedway that does not put dog owners, pedestrians, or bicyclists at great risk from automobile traffic. As anyone who lives in the neighborhood knows, there is only a sidewalk on the North side of Speedway Road as the Forest Hill Cemetery side of the street does not have a sidewalk. This forces all pedestrian traffic heading both directions on Speedway onto a single sidewalk, which is bordered by the fence of the Resurrection Catholic Cemetery on one side, and often by parked cars for West Highschool in the lane nearest the sidewalk on the other. This often means bicyclists are often using the sidewalk as well as there is 1) no designated bike lane on Speedway Rd and 2) often cars traveling far in excess of the posted speed limit and 3) parked cars taking up both outside lanes making Speedway a two-lane road much of the day. I have tried walking two dogs along this sidewalk and it is extremely difficult with oncoming traffic and no way to "step off" to give way to larger groups, bicyclists, strollers, etc.

To force dogs onto this single sidewalk that is already congested, where the fence and parked cars prevent a dog walker from stepping off the path to allow bicyclists or other pedestrians (including the West HS athletes who run down it) past, is simply irresponsible and a poor use of public space when there is 140 acre (!) cemetery directly across the street where dogs can be walked safely on wide paths

away from all this traffic – leaving the sidewalk on Speedway for commuting pedestrian traffic.

If we are banned from Forest Hill Cemetery, the only other alternative a dog walker has available to traverse from Westmorland/Sunset Village to Regent neighborhoods along Speedway Rd. would be to walk along S Franklin Ave to Regent St. – which has NO sidewalk for pedestrians, no bike lane, and a blind hill with poor nighttime lighting. I would also like to remind the city that this road is a hill with a steep grade, no sidewalk, and routinely quite icy in the winter - cars regularly get stuck here going uphill! Again – I believe it is a terrible use of public space to force dog walkers into these kinds of unsafe conditions when there is a 140 acre cemetery they could be using instead.

Second, I would like to point out that the City of Madison has Park Rangers who could be used to curb poor behavior by dog owners who are not following rules. I have routinely picked up litter in the street in Forest Hill Cemetery – including “shot blok energy chew” wrappers – does this mean we will ban all runners and bikers for the poor actions of a few litterers? I would strongly prefer to see Park Rangers used to address bad behavior through targeted enforcement and education of the community before an outright ban is put into place. Maybe the city could also send a mailing to the neighborhood reminding everyone of the rules? Perhaps there could also be updated signage placed at all entrances to the cemetery to inform everyone of the expected behaviors – given that we live in a diverse society with many different views and emotional responses to death and the resting place of the deceased.

As a dog walker who licenses my dogs and respects the on leash rules of Madison Parks, I would like to formally object to a ban on dog walking in Forest Hill Cemetery. It is an enormous amount of green space that should be able to be enjoyed by all – including the living residents of this city who are funding its upkeep. It is also the only safe route to traverse Speedway road given the lack of investment in other public infrastructure (sidewalks, lighting, bike lanes) along Speedway or N Franklin Ave. To force dog walkers into situations that risk public safety because some individuals can't follow rules seems to be a response out of proportion to the problem. I would strongly encourage the city to consider the safety of dog walkers and how we might be able to use Madison Park Rangers, MPD, mailings, our city alders, signage, and other options to educate the public and enforce the laws we already have.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Wilcher
3901 Euclid Ave
Madison, WI 53711

From: Stacie Govier <smgovier@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:12 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status for Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I live down the street from the cemetery and frequent it with my pup, Agatha. Forest Hill is the largest wooded park that I can quickly access from my home and it would be a shame to lose it. If you go to the cemetery on any given day, you will find that many of the pedestrian visitors are there with their dogs. Given that the cemetery generally has few visitors at any given time, this would further reduce utilization and remove one of the few remaining green spaces that people in my neighborhood can walk to.

As an aside, I've been talking to a lot of folks in my area about how difficult it is to not have a dog park on this side of town; I think that if the city wants to consider removing dog access to the cemetery that they should replace it with a different space that the community and our four-legged friends can use.

Thank you for your consideration,
Stacie Govier
2509 Chamberlain Ave

From: greg meyer <meyergreg8@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 7:08 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status Request

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I wish to provide comments and input on the proposed dog status request at Forest Hill cemetery. I received a postcard in the mail which indicates the City of Madison board of park commissioners will consider changing Forest Hill cemetery from its current status as dog friendly to a dog free park at an upcoming meeting. The postcard goes on to define dog friendly, but it does not define dog free.

If it means that dogs are free to roam the property at no charge, then I fully support that. If on the other hand, it means that the commissioners are considering a draconian rule to exclude a specific group of taxpayers and residents from utilizing this park with their family pet, then I wish to be registered as fully opposed to this change.

In addition to the confusing language in the postcard, I would also like to point out that the postcard provides no context or reasons why this change would even need to be considered.

I am a lifelong Madison resident who peacefully frequents the park area, and have never observed any real concern regarding a family pet in the park. I will say I have witnessed a few hotheaded bad-apple residents who try to make mountains out of mole hills at this park. City parks staff have witnessed this poor behavior as well.

I want you to ask yourselves, is this a solution looking for a problem?

I am happy to share more information at 608-444-9617.

- Greg

From: Laura Berger <laura.jane.berger@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 7:13 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery

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I don't understand why there would be an objection to my licensed and leashed dog on the roadway in Forest Hill cemetery.

My parents, grandparents and two sets of aunts and uncles are buried in section 10. My family have always been dog people and I enjoy bringing my dog, Oscar, with me to visit my mother. What can possibly be wrong about that?

Laura Berger

From: Kari Hegeman <karihegeman11@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 8:36 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog friendly v dog free Forest Hill Cemetery

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All-

I would like to petition the board to keep Forest Hill Cemetery "dog friendly". I run my golden retriever through the cemetery daily- Always on a leash and always with poo pick up. I see other dog owners doing the same and the wide road makes this so much easier than the busy sidewalks. Thank you for your consideration.

Kari Hegeman (Eton Ridge)

From: Pam Schwarzbach <pam@theascentials.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 9:32 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery::Dog Walking

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To Whom It May Concern:

I recently heard from a neighbor who lives on Hillington Way that there was a postcard sent regarding dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery.

I understand that there is an open discussion on the presence of dogs in the cemetery. Regrettably our neighborhood did not receive this card, but am hopeful I can share my thoughts.

I have been a resident and dog person in the neighborhood for nearly 35 years. I consider myself, and my family, to be very socially aware dog owners. We are leash walkers, who give others their space, and always pick up any dog waste.

We have been very fortunate the Resurrection Cemetery has always had a very dog and family friendly policy. I have fond memories of playing frisbee with my daughter while walking my dog. And on many occasions, both the staff and the visitors in the cemetery have commented how refreshing it is to see the neighbors finding pleasure in a place that often seen as sad. For over 30 years, I have walked Resurrection at least once a day with my dog and my family.

One of the things that we love most about this part of town, and why we chose to remodel and not move, was the abundant access to green space in our neighborhood. Between Hoyt, Quarry, Reservoir, Sunset, Westmorland, Resurrection, and the “gulley” (area between the golf course and Forest Hill Cemetery) we have been so fortunate to have endless spaces for our family to walk our pets.

The recent change in Madison to open all parks to leashed pets has been a truly wonderful transition. Most all dog owners are very conscientious and respectful. I would hate to see the few ruin the experience for the majority who are very respectful.

Since the opening of Resurrection to leashed dog walking on the paved surfaces, we have walked our dog there daily. I have had many very positive interactions with the staff at the cemetery. And in talking with them, I have heard very few negative comments about the presence of dogs in the cemetery.

Prior to Forest Hill being open to leashed dogs, I have walked through the cemetery to and from work every day. I have never encountered (prior to the opening to leashed dogs or since) a dog walker that was anything less than appropriate or respectful.

I would hate to have those who don't visit or use these beautiful green spaces try to over-regulate a space that is actually perfectly well balanced all on its own.

Is it possible to keep track of those who voice their opinions and how often they actually visit Forest Hill Cemetery.

I am hopeful that our community can come to a open-minded and respectful solution.

All the best,

Pam

Pam Schwarzbach

3741 Hillcrest Drive

Madison, WI 53705

608.772.2888 c

pschwarzbach@gmail.com
