

From: Michael D. Barrett <mikeb@urbanthoreau.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 12:53 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Benford, Brian <district6@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; sasyna-discussion@googlegroups.com
Subject: Today's Parks Commission Ag 10, 67067: Olbrich Path

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Dear Commissioners,
Please select Option 3 which widely skirts the sledding hill. Option 2 perpetuates the current conflict. Option 1 conflicts with lakeshore habitat.

At this moment, the lakeshore habitat is limited by bad over-mowing practices. Eventually we would like the natural/deep-rooted perennial riparian plant zone to be expanded, much as it has been in Brittingham Park.

Furthermore, the lighting that inevitably will be installed with the bike path is intrusive to habitat—especially for migratory birds. Thus, Option 3 reduces all conflicts to the greatest degree.

In any case, lighting should be minimized to the greatest degree possible. It took years of neighborhoods fighting city engineering/traffic engineering over on the SW Commuter Path to get the engineers to shield the lights and throttle the lumens in a way that kept lighting on the path instead of into adjacent habitat and neighbors' windows (or Mars). Please insist on downward-directed, *minimal* lighting so as to promote safety and habitat. To be clear: Blinding lights are not safe, because, well, it blinds. Only people who are habituated to prison yard lighting know how to game the shadows & blindspots inevitably created by the glary prison lighting schemes. You know, the over-powered lighting favored by the Engineering Dept as well as the Parks Dept itself. Regarding habitat: our overlighting of the night sky confuses, imperils and kills migrating birds.

Please update your understanding of safe lighting by doing a deep dive into “dark sky lighting” and “good neighbor lighting” and “migratory bird-friendly lighting.” Then hold your department—as well as City Engineering/Traffic Engineering—to higher standards.

Sincerely,
Mike Barrett
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Madison WI
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