

**From:** Charles Litweiler <litweilerc@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2023 7:29 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Reindahl Master Plan Vote

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Again I urge you not to approve the plan without approval of an amendment requiring that no mature trees be cut to make way for the Imagination Center, I won't make the case for saving tree now since I often have-and the benefits should be plain. I want to highlight again the secretive nature of the entire process.

When we inquired about where the Center would be sited -starting not less than 3 years ago- we were told that the site would be chosen at the end of the planning process. Clearly the site was chosen prior to 2022 because former Alder Baldeh recalls being in a meeting when mention was made of cutting down trees for a site and then planting replacements. You may well be told at your meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> that the proposed site has to be approved because of all the work already done to plan the Center. Beyond that the Parks/Library have already- apparently-put in place the underground heating and cooling system for the building. The Madison Public Library Foundation has been collecting donations based on the design and site of the building proposed in late January 2022. So you are faced with some accomplished facts that just require you to approve the proposed site. Too expensive and difficult to change anything big now. Maybe the Parks and the Library Departments will admit to some 'mistakes were made' defense.

Mistakes were not made; these deliberate decisions were made early. The aldermen for District 17 since 2014 have failed to involve residents in the process of choosing a site. As recently as December I heard a former Alder refer in a public meeting to the Center as a 'library.' I don't recall a postcard even going out to residents prior to the public unveiling of the plans and site. I happened to be on an Email list probably intended for proponents of the Center.

If you approve the site as proposed because it is a 'done deal' there is still a price to be paid. That is the price of public confidence in governmental institutions, already low.

Chuck Litweiler  
District 17

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**From:** brickljan <brickljan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 7, 2023 7:54 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Trees at Reindahl Park

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

Please do not cut down trees at Reindahl Park to build Imagination Center. There are open spaces that provide the acreage needed to build without eliminating more trees. Trees are necessary to save the earth, each one counts. It also adds to the beauty of the area. Be a saver not a destructor. Thank you says the Tree and the Neighborhood.

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**From:** Paul Noeldner <paul\_noeldner@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, January 8, 2023 9:33 PM

**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Baumel, Christie <CBaumel@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** We can and must save ALL of the old mature native trees at Reindall

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Madison will send a very bad message about our civic commitment to support sustainability, preserve nature, and fight climate change if some old mature native trees are removed to make room for the new Reindall Park center when adjacent open space could be used instead.

Scientific data indicates it takes several decades before new young tree plantings begin to contribute even a portion of the many urban ecosystem, biodiversity, sustainability and climate benefits that keeping each old large mature native tree already provides FOR FREE every day, year and decade they are left standing. Every single mature native tree supports a critical ecological food pyramid for hundreds of native species from bugs to amphibians to birds and mammals. Every mature tree is important to our fellow creatures and to our well being, especially in urban areas. Vote AGAINST any plan that requires removing old mature native trees.

Imagine Better! Adjust the Reindall Park center location footprint to use adjacent open space. Support a nifty new center for the public and planting more new trees in open areas for climate, but first VOTE TO AMEND THE PLAN KEEP ALL OF THE OLD NATIVE TREES!

Thank you.

Paul Noeldner  
Volunteer Madison FUN Coordinator  
Wisconsin Master Naturalist Instructor  
136 Kensington Maple Bluff

[paul\\_noeldner@hotmail.com](mailto:paul_noeldner@hotmail.com)  
608 698 0104

Public Ethics, Facts and Fairness Trump Personal, Family and Religious Values and Profits in Public Decisions in Democratic Government, Laws and Institutions in a Free Civil Society. Simply put being civil is just like sports. Fair rules mean everybody can play hard and cheer for our team, but not keep some people out of the game, skip paying our fair share, wreck the playing field, or cheat to win.

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**From:** Bryan <outerlimitsbab@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 9:39 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Imagination Center

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Hi, DO NOT REMOVE OLD GROWTH TREES FROM REINDAHL PARK! Put the Imagination Center in a spot where you don't have to remove trees! Thank you

Bryan B, I live near Reindahl

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From: jimknier@tds.net <jimknier@tds.net>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:58 AM  
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Reindahl park master plan

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The Reindahl park master plan should not be amended to remove trees and allow for the addition of an imagination center. The park needs to remain a park and open space for the people of Madison to unwind and pursue recreational activities and picnics. The land was willed to the city of Madison, by Reindahl, with the stipulation that it remain a park and not to be broken apart piecemeal for political pet projects.

Sincerely,  
James Knier  
3821 Ridgeway Ave.  
Madison, Wi 53704  
(608) 214-8946

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From: Michael Kerwin <michael@phonographik.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 12:55 PM  
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Re: Reindahl Park Trees

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Dear Parks Commission,

We are homeowners in the Reindahl Park neighborhood, and are writing to ask that you please amend the construction plan for the new Imagination Center to require NO TREE REMOVAL. We believe the building concept and reason for being will be a great addition to our neighborhood. But, we also feel this project is a luxury and not a need, and that there's already SO MUCH OPEN LAND in the park available, without needing to cut down these trees to realize your vision. So please consider these trees as more than just an impediment to this plan, and keep them alive for generations to come!

Thank you,

Michael & Amy Kerwin  
4118 Dwight Drive  
Madison, WI 53704

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**From:** John Litweiler <buddhaslove@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 2:23 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Master Plan - Imagination Center at Reindahl Park

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Dear esteemed members of the Madison Park's Commission,

I hope this email finds you all well and healthy!

I am a long-time resident of Madison (born and raised) and am writing you regarding the upcoming Master Plan proposal (Plan) for the Imagination Center (Center) at Reindahl (Amund) Park on the Eastside of Madison, which I believe is to be voted upon by the Madison Park's Commission (Commission), tomorrow.

Overall, I think the Center would be a welcome addition to the communities on the Eastside. I believe the Plan outlined by planners back in January of 2022 envisions tearing down the current Park Shelter and replacing it with the Center on the same location-with a larger footprint, which includes removing all the trees around the present Shelter to accommodate the Center. My concern is the removal of those trees for the Center, all of which were there when I was kid playing in that park (I grew up about five blocks away on Lukken Court. I'm over 45 years old, so I'm assuming those trees are 40+ years old.

Madison prides itself in being progressive, doing the right thing, being carbon neutral, being green, etc. It's unclear to me how removing 40+ year old trees meet the aforementioned goals, aspirations, and dreams of the City. Trees provide many benefits as you all well know. Trees also take a long time to grow. I just know that when I ride my bike to work past Milt McPike

Park (fka Central Park), almost daily for over 20 years, that I am reminded how long it takes for trees to mature and provide the beauty and benefits we plant them in the first place. Removing mature trees to make way for a Center when there is so much adjacent space in the park is beyond me. A center can still be visible and accessible in other locations within the park, even in very close proximity to the shelter site. Perhaps the Plan design can be altered to incorporate the beauty of those trees as well as utilize the shade they would provide in the summer, which would reduce the Center's green footprint (cost for air conditioning).

One other thing that comes to mind is what type a temporary facility would be available to the residents of Madison who use the park when the shelter is torn down? The park is always busy starting in Spring with people playing tennis, pickle ball, soccer, picnics, basketball, and splash park (in the summer). If the shelter were to remain standing until the Center is built, there would be no deterrence and major inconvenience to the resident who frequent the park regularly.

I am hopeful that members of the Commission would take this into consideration when voting on the Plan. I think there are a lot of opportunities to have the Plan incorporate the established trees in the park, reduce the green footprint, allow for residents to enjoy the park while the Center is being built, and still have a wonderful Center.

I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Peace, Blessings, and in all Sincerity,  
John Litweiler  
5705 Oxbow Bnd  
Madison, WI 53716

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**From:** Jon Becker <jonbecker@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 3:34 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Comments on BOC Agenda #12 75373-2023-01-11

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

Please find comment attached.

Jon Becker  
Madison resident  
POB 8574 Madison 53708

TO: Parks Board of Commissioners (BOC), City of Madison  
FROM: Jon Becker  
DATE: 1 1 January 2023  
SUBJECT: Amending the Reindahl Park Master Plan, Including the Location of the Imagination Center  
(Agenda Item #12 Legistar #75373)

The BOC should vote against or table this item tonight, for three reasons:

- A) Turnover and vacancies in the park-adjacent aldermanic districts
- B) A deficient master plan process that conflicts with the community's core goal from that process
- C) Misinformation and missing information about the Imagination Center

#### A) ALDERS

Tonight, the BOC seat to which Alder Syed Abbas (D12) was appointed will be vacant. But even while he was in office, he told me that the intensity of his involvement in Oscar Mayer site redevelopment proposals made it difficult for him to advocate for aspects of the Reindahl Park master plan, even after the D17 Alder Gary Halverson resigned. Additionally, Alder Abbas decided to run for state assembly and faced concerns about his residential address, further limiting his effectiveness.

As I wrote in December, the BOC should therefore delay a decision on this matter until elected alders are seated and familiar with the relevant history and with council processes. That won't be possible until September, according to statements made during the Council's December CCEC regarding filling of the D12 seat following Alder Abbas's resignation. The council president and others on the CCEC asserted that it takes months for an alder to become effective. The council president repeated this assertion to me by phone, following the CCEC decision to refrain from appointing applicants to the D12 seat on an interim basis. Only one member of the CCEC expressed concern about the loss of representation for D12. No one mentioned how that loss would affect decisions about Reindahl Park.

Even if the CCEC fills the D12 seat tonight, by appointing a past member of the city council or county board, the history of this issue is complex, and core questions asked of staff by citizens have not yet been answered.

It could reasonably be expected that, during the spring 2023 election season, a mayoral or aldermanic candidate might emerge who oppose spending over \$3 million unnecessary tax dollars on a library/pavilion facility inside Reindahl Park, where mixed use, including housing, is not allowed, eliminating substantial future property tax revenue.

#### B) MASTER PLAN

The process was delayed for nearly three years, after being promised for 2020. During this period, Parks staff did not respond to citizen queries about the delay, nor to a page of proposals from Friends of Reindahl Environs (FORE). Later the Parks superintendent claimed that there were insufficient resources available. Yet hundreds of thousands of city dollars and department human resources were expended during this period (e.g., on a new barn roof a new chain link fence, and- most recently- plumbing for installation of a restroom in the spray facility). Staff has not been held accountable to the public for any of this.

The 2022 master plan process began problematically by scheduling the first of three meetings for late August, when many folks are on vacation. Public notice of two of the three meetings was flawed, the first time with only two days' notice, the second in conflict with a significant religious date.

Eco-cultural resources, which should have been considered first by staff, were either absent or very late in coming. Despite having been farmed, Reindahl Park had three extant ecological resources: a WDNR-defined old-growth woods and two areas that soils maps indicated were characterized by hydric soils. Unidentified Parks planning staff, for still unexplained reasons, mapped a route for a MMSD sewer

reliever pipe through all three of these ecological features. Over forty mature native trees were cut down. A 40-ft wide/deep trench was dug through an area where MMSD had found PFAS in the shallow groundwater. Trenching was done without water or soil testing, despite proximity to residence and a community garden. Then, despite requests from citizens to the contrary, Parks staff enabled installation of a non-necessary paved path over the refilled trench cut through the woods, also contrary to citizens' appeal. None of this was in the 2013 master plan.

Planning staff also seems to have done no research into the Ho-Chunk or French Colonial cultural heritage of Reindahl Park, despite being requested to do so, and despite provision of contact info.

Last summer, Park staff was talking about removing even more trees from the woods, because proximity to the path meant the trees had become hazards. Starting in spring 2019, and again during last year's master plan process, Parks staff has repeatedly been reminded that healthy woods should have 7-10 standing dead/dying trees to provide habitat. Both living and dead trees need native, undisturbed understory. Thus, a paved path through the woods, along with mowed turfgrass borders, would always conflict with accepted BMPs for old-growth woods.

The proposed master plan revision (2022-23) doesn't remove the paved path and its mowed borders, making restoration as unfragmented habitat impossible.

Staff also refused to consider re-orientation or aggregation of soccer fields, to allow a wider corridor for re-wilding or re-naturalization along the east and north sides of the park. Staff deferred to local soccer proponents, who claimed that a north-south field orientation was necessary; this is however merely a tradition, and non-necessary for soccer. Staff was requested to organize a meeting of leaders for groups with existing interest in the park, to discuss such matters, but this face-to-face meeting was never facilitated.

In summary, staff's proposed master plan therefore doesn't respond to the top priority of surveyed citizens: **More Nature and more trees**. Continuing to privilege turfgrass sports in Reindahl Park is contrary to wider community input, especially when no mention is made in the master plan of a ban on application of pesticides on soccer fields, community gardens, or other areas of the park.

Pesticides may be PFAS, may be mingled with PFAS, or may be contaminated by PFAS from container leaching. This exposes the municipality to liability, especially since most of Reindahl Park is within well-head protection zone for Well #15.

The master plan process failed to engage the public in a discussion about repurposing of the park's main cultural feature, the ~100-year-old Reindahl barn. Instead, staff propose yet another outbuilding with a restroom facility for the north soccer fields, despite having made the case that the proposed Imagination Center would provide that amenity to turfgrass sports players, staff, and fans.

[Btw, when staff presented the master plan to the BOC in November, they emphasized public safety as the main community concern. Again, the process revealed that the community placed top priority on More Nature and More Trees.

### C) IMAGINATION CENTER MISINFORMATION OR MISSING INFORMATION

First, it should be noted that at the start of the master plan process, planning staff stated that the siting of the Imagination Center would be part of the discussion. During the process, they reversed that position, stating that the IC site would not be considered. Then staff reverse course again, stating the IC site would be included in the master plan. It was made clear that, as has been the case since 2016y, the only IC site be considered was inside Reindahl Park.

My comments on the November memo to BOC are interpolated in that memo, below, in bold:

**Imagination Center memo from Library and Parks Leadership to BOC (November 2022)**

November 3, 2022

To: Board of Park Commissioners  
From: Eric Knepp, Parks Superintendent  
Greg Mickells, Madison Public Library Director

Background

On March 11, 2020, the Madison Public Library Board and the Board of Park Commissioners jointly accepted the scoping study of the Imagination Center at Reindahl Park, and gave preliminary approval of the project to move forward with planning, design and park master planning.

**At that meeting, Library Director stated that the city had never seriously considered any other site. He also seemed to mislead the Board and Commissioners, by emphasizing that the Reindahl property would be free. He neglected to remind folks that a site in the East Towne study area had been offered to MPLS for free but was rejected. He also neglected to inform folks that the condo-style approach used for Pinney and Sequoya PLs does not necessarily require land purchase, yet allows mixed use that allows housing and generates substantial property tax revenue.**

Since then, City staff has advanced the project. Pre-design on the facilities was completed in early 2022. The City team is currently in the Schematic Design phase of the Imagination Center, while concurrently conducting public outreach and engagement for the Reindahl Park master plan update.

**The Reindahl master plan process was confused about the IC site (see above). But pre-design, as revealed in January 2022, was locked into the Reindahl Park site from the get-go. Again, city staff never considered any other site, according to the Library Director,**

As part of that meeting, Commissioners raised the question as to why the library should be co-located at a park, versus a non-park site. More recently, a member of the public submitted information the Board of Park Commissioners indicating that there could be cost savings if the development of the Imagination Center were to be done in a different manner, such as part of a mixed-use development.

**Notice that those cost savings, over \$3 million, are not denied.**

The recommendation in the scoping study to site the Imagination Center at Reindahl Park was based on the immense benefits that this project would bring to the neighboring community.

**Siting the library outside the park would bring equal community benefits, or better (as documented in Madison Public Library's own "A Strategic Plan for Eastside Growth" report: socio-economic benefits were greater in the East Towne area).**

The 2016 report from the Madison Public Library, "A Strategic Plan for Eastside Growth," notes that the neighboring Sandburg Elementary is the only eastside school in the Madison Metropolitan School District that is outside of a five-minute drive from a library.

**Accessibility for Sandburg ES youth should be based on distance from their homes, not the school. Non-motorized access should be prioritized (walking, bicycling). Generally, schools are sited based on such accessibility. I.e., siting a new library near Sandburg ES, with housing above the facility, would make more sense than Reindahl Park.**

Reindahl Park hosts an array of transit options, and the Imagination Center would bring additional public services to a growing, diverse neighborhood.

**Such transit options are widely available along the East Washington corridor and likely will be even**



**better further to the north after the Route Redesign and BRT services are in place (2024), based on the most recent maps, released last week by Metro.**

Further, the ability to co-locate with a year-round park shelter multiplies the potential uses of the space and benefits brought to the area.

**This is more of a hope than a guarantee. Co-location also brings usage conflicts. Also, co-location should bring reduced construction costs, but the proposed IC actually will cost more than Pinney PL AND the Tenney Park pavilion combined, inflation adjusted.**

When compared to other locations, based on community priorities and site suitability goals, Reindahl Park came out on top.

**Only after the staff's scoring matrix was changed to reduce environmental impacts. See appendices of Madison Public Library's 2016 "A Strategic Plan for Eastside Growth."**

The City staff made their recommendation in the scoping study based on community priorities, including the site's ability to be conducive to a space that is a social forum, a civic innovator, a holistic health advocate, a cultural platform, and an economic engine.

**Again, all these benefits can be had at different sites and without co-location. Again, as documented in Madison Public Library's own "A Strategic Plan for Eastside Growth" report: socio-economic benefits were greater in the East Towne area.**

As the project continues to advance in its scoping and is nearing the next phase of final site approval, the analysis below identifies the benefits of siting at Reindahl compared to a non-park site.

The City of Madison takes seriously its responsibility to spend its resources in the most fiscally responsible manner that will maximize benefit to the community.

**This does not seem to have been the case for Reindahl projects. MMSD promised the community that routing the sewer pipe reliever through Reindahl Park would save public funds. After MMSD upsized the pipe, it instead cost \$49,000 more than if the original concept had been routed along Portage or Stoughton roads (the two alternative routes). The in-park trenching route, enabled by city Parks staff, resulted in the loss of ~409 mature native trees, at least one over 150 years old (Tree #260, a shagbark hickory) with a value conservatively of \$1 million. Due to the fixation of Parks and Library leadership on building a c-located pavilion and library inside Reindahl Park, over \$3 million will be unnecessarily spent, and substantial future property tax revenue lost.**

As stated above, the scoping study identified the benefits to the community by siting the library at Reindahl Park. Moreover, the benefits of placing the Imagination Center at Reindahl Park, a location that is currently owned by the City of Madison, include:

1. Site availability. The site at Reindahl Park is currently available and the City will not have to wait for an appropriate nearby site to become available.

**The in-park site only if the BOC approves the proposed master plan. The City has never seriously considered any other site, according to the Library director, so it is apparent that the only site deemed "appropriate" by Library and Parks leadership is a site is inside Reindahl Park. it is unknown if others outside the Reindahl Park were or are available. It is unknown if a better and perhaps "free" site was or is available, though with the retail vacancies and vast parking lots in the general area, one would think so.**

2. Connection to Nature. Libraries host many community activities and learning opportunities. A library at the park will make nature learning, nature play, and outdoor classrooms more accessible to our residents and our children.

**Location of a library inside a park is certainly not necessary for successful nature education. The fixation on locating this library within Reindahl Park led to severe damage to the park's only old-growth woods. This will take centuries to restore, even if the paved path is removed.**

3. Shared spaces. Having a park shelter next to the library, and a library next to the park shelter, means that if space is not being utilized by one agency it will be available to the other. Maximizing use of the space means a better return on investment for the community.

**This claim requires documentation. However, it is just as likely that conflicts will also occur, reducing revenue or revenue.**

4. Park activation. Building the Imagination Center at Reindahl Park will bring positive activity to the park, which encourages even more positive activity to occur. Both Parks and the Madison Library intend to utilize the space to provide a wide variety of activities.

**None of this "positive" activation requires siting within the park, nor co-location. It is revealing that the adopted operation budget for the IC included funding for four FT security positions. Since then, the men's shelter, capacity ~250, has been sited just west of Reindahl Park. Providing adequate support for these men will likely require additional staffing, both inside and outside the IC. As I commented at the BOC's November meeting, for security reasons, Hawthorne PL has had to hire two staffers, while discontinue certain family-oriented programming.**

5. Acquisition costs. The Imagination Center will have no acquisition costs to consider as the property is already owned by the City.

**Property acquisition costs may not be necessary for the condo-style approach. If the city solicited a land donation, that too might avoid acquisition costs, even for a stand-alone library facility (which however would prevent an opportunity to provide much needed housing). These points have been made for over three years to city, library, and parks leadership, but has not been acted upon.**

6. Property tax implications. Library and Park facilities are exempt from property tax. By being located at Reindahl Park, the Imagination Center will not supplant a market-based development, and therefore will not reduce the amount of property tax revenues that would be collected if a private development were to take place at a non-City-owned location.

7. Economic development. Investment in park improvements can increase the property value in the surrounding areas, creating a general increase in municipal tax revenue.

**This effect would take place no matter where a library was built on the northeast side. The MPLS's 2016 study showed the greatest socio-economic impact would be in the East Towne study area, rather than at Reindahl Park. The net impact would be even greater if the site or condo space was donated of course.**

8. Infrastructure costs. The ease of access to the Madison Unified Fiber Network reduces the additional costs to connect to this network associated with other locations.

**This claim requires documentation. This same claim was made when MPLS rejected a free site in the East Town Study Area that was offered by a donor in 2015-16. At <\$40/foot (insofar as I've been able to learn from the City's fiber network staff), this does not seem to be a compelling argument.**

The existing parking lot means that a new parking lot would not need to be constructed.

**With the condo-style approach at a different site, the parking facility would be included in the condo fee paid by the city, as at Pinney and Sequoia PLs. These annual fees are much smaller than the potential annual property tax revenues.**

9. Park shelter replacement. The Mayor's Executive Budget for 2023 includes \$16 million to support this project, which, if adopted by the Common Council, will occur in 2023-2024. Without this funding,

improvements to the Reindahl Park Shelter would not occur until 2028 or later. The current shelter at Reindahl Park was built in the late 1970's making it over 40 years old. The current design contemplates the shelter as a year-round facility, whereas the current shelter is only available during warmer months. The Parks Division's other year-round park shelter at Highland Manor brought \$18,405 in revenue in 2021.

**Capital funds can be reallocated. \$16 million could build a condo-style library and a new shelter, with considerable funds left over. Also, reallocation of unspent funds happens every fiscal year.**

**If City Parks and Library leadership had actually investigated other sites and had done the comparative fiscal analysis I and other citizens have been requesting since 2019, then this claim could be given due consideration. The existing shelter in Reindahl also generates revenue, yet that figure is missing.**

10. Investment in Civic Spaces. The Imagination Center will serve the broader neighborhood and region of the City in many ways beyond the robust library and park programming. It is likely to be used as a polling location, which deepens the connection between parks and improving access to the ballot box. The space will also likely be used for a myriad of other public and neighborhood meetings to support a healthy community.

**All of these benefits will occur no matter where the library/community facility is located. Improved access to the ballot doesn't require location of a library facility inside a park. Connections between city departments and polling are always welcome, but should not be a deciding factor in siting of a new library facility.**

#### Conclusion

Libraries and parks are natural partners, as both are part of the public commons. They are both spaces where residents can learn, recreate, and connect to each other. Through the robust community engagement and planning process of the Strategic Plan for Eastside Growth, the City has focused efforts on a facility that incorporates the issues and priorities identified by our community members. Foregoing the cost and challenges of siting at a different location provides the opportunity for the City to utilize resources already allocated to the project to be invested in what will be dramatically improved park facilities at Reindahl. Should an alternative site for the Imagination Center be located and acquired, those additional costs would need to be accommodated within a project budget, and would leave Reindahl Park with a substandard park shelter facility and no current corresponding budgetary authorization to replace it. The advantages of the location of the Imagination Center being in Reindahl Park are not singularly financial, though financial benefits do exist. Co-locating the library at the park magnifies the community benefits that the Park Division and the Madison Public Library can bring to the public.

**None of the purported benefits require co-location in Reindahl Park, nor an extra >\$3 million in public funds while eschewing future revenues. Furthermore, any time crunch now is the result of a six-year failure by city parks and library leadership to investigate site option outside the Park and provide the public with comparative fiscal analyses.**

**From:** Mr. MSH <thehersh1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 6:22 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Reindahl Park No Longer a Usable Park

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Mr. MSH <[thehersh1@gmail.com](mailto:thehersh1@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Wed, Jan 11, 2023, 6:15 PM  
**Subject:** Reindahl Park No Longer a Usable Park  
**To:** <[pacommission@cityofmadison.com](mailto:pacommission@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Cc:** <[mayor@cityofmadison.com](mailto:mayor@cityofmadison.com)>, <[district12@cityofmsdison.com](mailto:district12@cityofmsdison.com)>, <[district17@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district17@cityofmadison.com)>, <[lbanks@wisctv.com](mailto:lbanks@wisctv.com)>, <[news@nbc15.com](mailto:news@nbc15.com)>, <[news@wkow.com](mailto:news@wkow.com)>, <[wsjcity@madison.com](mailto:wsjcity@madison.com)>, <[feedback@fox47.com](mailto:feedback@fox47.com)>

This is in regards to the planned construction at Reindahl park.

The current planned construction at Reindahl Park on Madisons east side will completely destroy the park.

What do you call a park with no trees and no grass covered in asphalt? A PARKing Lot !!!!!

Please continue to cut down all the trees in Madison parks and pave over everything because as you know and I know, no one needs oxygen. And asphalt made from oil is super healthy for kids and the environment.

And whatever you do, do not fix the multi-multi million dollar well at Reindahl park that's sitting there dormant. Children do not need clean drinking water or oxygen or a safe green place to play.

Thank you for your ignorance and government greed and stupidity. Looking forward to looking out my front window at more asphalt, cement and brick. I'm sure that will help the kids at their imagination center. You can teach them how to imagine what grass and trees look like and why we need oxygen and what used to be called public parks.

At least the homeless got to enjoy the trees and grass and green space at Reindahl park before you (the government) get your chance to destroy it.

I'm sure there are no vacant lots anywhere in Madison that could accommodate a library or imagination center or all of the other park destroying things dumb politicians think we Must Have. It's not like there's a giant mall at East town that is currently dying and half vacant. Whatever you do do not use that space that is already paved and already has utilities and infrastructure available. Certainly do not use the space where Callahans sports bar and McDonald's used to be behind the park on Hwy 51. I know that's reserved for the new giant

homeless shelter so we can bring more drug addicts and criminals back into our residential neighborhood. Lesson not learned from the giant homeless tent party you allowed in the park. I only found a few needles in my yard and only had a few things stolen out of my driveway and garage. (TRUE FACT)

There's the smart way and the intelligent way and then there's the Madison government way.

Sadly yours,  
Mike H. On Portage Rd.

Attention Alder people and other ignorant politicians. I did also send this out to the local news media so that hopefully one intelligent person will pick up this story and realize we do not need more asphalt and buildings in a park that is soon not to be a park anymore.

Everyone has my permission to Forward or use this email post.

From: Sheila Lenius <sheila64@chorus.net>  
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 1:11 PM  
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Reindahl Park

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

Hello,

Please figure out a way to save those glorious trees that give so much shade and help with climate change. Please don't turn it into another development with a look of a big building and tiny trees. My kids and I would like to enjoy the national and free standing trees that are there.

Thanks,  
Sheila Lenius  
173 Dunning St  
Madison Wi 53704