

**From:** Kristin Cooper <gallagk@gmail.com>

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**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Comment on Agenda Item 22 for Board of Park Commissioners

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Hi,

I was registered to speak at the meeting, but I am no longer able to stay on the meeting and wanted to share my comment via email so it can be shared with the board. This is regarding Agenda Item 22 for the Board of Park Commissioners.

I'd like to encourage the Park Commission to support winter recreation at Odana Hills and to include improvements to the Nordic ski trails in the park's potential redevelopment plan. Given the accelerated timeline, I want to offer a few specific requests for consideration as the plan takes shape.

My main request is that the plan explicitly include winter-recreation enhancements such as improved ski trails, lighting, and infrastructure that would allow for future snowmaking. These upgrades would significantly enhance the quality and reliability of winter use at Odana Hills. They would also complement the strong spring, summer, and fall programming, especially golf, helping the park function as a true year-round recreational asset. Snowmaking, in particular, would finally provide consistent winter activity in a city-owned park, something we currently lack in Madison.

Other communities have already shown how successful this model can be.

3 examples:

- **Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis** has a golf course in summer and in winter the Loppet Foundation operates recreation including groomed ski trails with snowmaking, fat biking, snowshoeing, a chalet, and more.
- **The Weston Ski Track in Boston**, located on the Leo J. Martin golf course, offers night skiing with lights, rentals, instruction, and 15 kilometers of snowmaking. It's also where U.S. Olympian Julia Kern learned to ski.

- **Peterborough Nordic Club, Ontario:** The club operates approximately 7 km of groomed ski trails at the Liftlock Golf Club.

We already have basic ski trails and grooming at Odana Hills. With this re-imagining of the park, we have a opportunity to build on that foundation—improving the trails, expanding winter recreation, and creating year-round use and revenue.

Thank you for your work and consideration.

Kristin