



Madison Parks Division

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Date: October 4, 2022
To: All Alders
From: Eric Knepp, Parks Superintendent
Subject: Dog Status Change Request Process

In 2020, the Board of Park Commissioners (BPC), along with Madison Common Council approved the revised City ordinances allowing dogs, on leash in most Madison parks. With advisement from Parks staff and public comments, the BPC set the dog status designation for all neighborhood, community and mini parks within the system. All eligible parks were designated either, “dog free” and dogs are not allowed or “dog friendly” and dogs with current licenses and permit are welcome on a leash. Areas where dogs are not allowed include near playgrounds and in shelter buildings or any conservation park. See [Dog Free](#) for more information and other prohibited locations.

At the implementation of the new ordinance, Parks staff recognized the need to create a method for the public to submit comments and request a change in the current designation. Members of the public interested in requesting a change in status may use the online [Dogs in Parks Status Designation Request](#) to submit a request. Madison Parks documents the requests and submits the requests to the BPC at their November meeting each year. As we work to keep the public informed, in 2022 Madison Parks plans to provide the following notifications.

- Postcards mailed to residents within ¼ mile of any park that has a requested change by mid-October requesting comments. Comments due by the first week of November.
- Signage explaining the potential change in status in any park that has a requested change, approximately 10 days before the BPC meeting.
- Members of the public who have requested a change in dog designation status informed by email of the date, time, and location of the BPC meeting where their request will be heard.
- Alders with a “potential change of dog status parks” in their districts informed by via email in mid-October.

After the BPC determines any changes to the dog free/dog friendly list of parks, the [Parks website](#) will be updated. See [Dog Free](#) for more information and other locations where dogs are prohibited.

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact Ann Freiwald, Manager of Planning and Development, at 243-2848 or afreiwald@cityofmadison.com