

From: Meg Hamel <meghamel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 1:33 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Parks // I support dogs in Hawthorne Park.

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

Please add my support to keep Hawthorne Park open to dogs.

Meg Hamel
118 Ohio Ave.
Madison WI 53704

From: Jesse Kaye <jtkaye@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 3:47 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Parks Status Review: Hawthorne Park

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Hello Board of Parks Commissioners,

I live on Dunning St around the corner from Hawthorne Park. I am a dog owner and a parent of young children who frequent the park. I would like to express my strong support to keep Hawthorne Park as dog-friendly and NOT change to dog-free. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,
Jesse Kaye
Dunning St, Madison, WI 53704

From: Mike Maynard <xmaynardx@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 4:29 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs at Hawthorne Park

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

Hey. What's this nonsense?

Let Fido, Rover, Spot, Marmaduke, Snoopy, Rin Tin Tin, etc. BE DOGS!

I don't appreciate this control freak request. Deny it. Not only deny it, but further elevate the park's status to "dog park" and install fences all around to protect the dogs from crossing Division or Rusk Streets.

From: LaVerne <russomannol@charter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Hawthorne park and dogs

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

I would like to see Hawthorne Park remain dog friendly to any dog on a lease. If dog owners are cleaning up after their dogs, I would like the policy that's in place now to remain in place. I live across from the park and sometime walk my dog through the park to the next street over. I personally enjoy watching my neighbors walk their dogs through the park also.

I will be out of town the night of the meeting otherwise I would attend.

Thanks,

A Hawthorne park neighbor

From: Amanda Crim <agcrim@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 5:54 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Parks

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

Hi, I wanted to register myself firmly in support of keeping Hawthorne park as a dog friendly park. I have lived within a few blocks of Hawthorne park for the last 10 years. As a parent of young kids I frequented the park and would also bring my dog with me on leash. It is super helpful to be able to spend time outdoors with all of my dependents. We (me, my kids, my dogs) never experienced any difficulties with other dogs or people at the park. Leashed dogs are not a threat to others.

As you consider removing Hawthorne as a dog friendly park, I urge you to deeply consider the reasons this is being requested. Are off-leash dogs a problem? This is already illegal. Making the park dog-free will not affect it. Is dog poop not being picked up? That is also already illegal. But including a poop bag dispenser could help.

Please keep Hawthorne dog-friendly!

Amanda
(She/hers)

From: Alex Aulisi <aaulisi1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 6:06 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Changing Dog Status @ Hawthorne Park

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

I've lived in my house which sits unobstructed directly across from Hawthorne Park for 17 years and, for all those years, neighbors have RESPECTFULLY brought their dogs to the park. They keep the park clean and, if their dog happens to be off leash, they will gladly leash the dog upon request from other park users. Neighbors with dogs use the park to meet and chat during their morning walks. Some bring their dogs for a quick ball or frisbee throw. I haven't once heard of anyone being injured or attacked by a dog in the park nor have I ever heard of a dog owner being disagreeable about removing their dog from the park if asked. New neighbors, especially ones with children, are invited to get to know everyone - including the dogs they'll be seeing every day. I believe that this consideration of status change is being brought about by a vocal minority who haven't acted in good faith by respectfully speaking with neighbors and expressing their concerns. Again, I've never heard of a single incident in Hawthorne park involving a dog. If I'm wrong about this and there's been a pattern of attacks, injuries, or a breakdown in communication between neighbors then I will stand corrected, but WHY you're considering this change was not provided. Needless to say, I vehemently disagree with changing the dog-friendly status of Hawthorne Park to dog-free and would encourage the BPC encourage the folks who are discontent with the current situation to talk to their neighbors and express how the current situation is impacting their lives. I'm convinced that a detant can be reached.

Alexandra Aulisi
2134 Rusk St

From: Susan Freiss <freissususan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 7:54 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: We support a dog friendly Hawthorne

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

Dear Park Commissioners,

I live on Winnebago Street just a block from Hawthorne. My four grandchildren, (ages 2 through 9) and I are frequent visitors to the park. I'm writing this email with the oldest of my grandchildren. He says, "Dogs should be in the park so we can see the dogs playing with their owners." I agree!

We support the park remaining dog friendly.

Susan Freiss & Leo Minnick
2079 Winnebago St, Madison, WI 53704

From: Ben Nerad <bmnerad@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 8:49 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Hawthorne Park Dog Status Request

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

Hello,

I am writing to oppose changing Hawthorne Park from "dog friendly" to "dog free." Allowing dogs at Hawthorne Park has provided an additional use of the park on mornings, with people bringing their dogs to socialize, while in the past the park went unused at those times. It appears that people without dogs and people with dogs coexist well in the park.

Thanks,
Ben Nerad
209 Division St, Madison, WI 53704

From: Eric Saltes <esaltes@madison.k12.wi.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 10:21 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Hawthorne Park - Dog Status Request

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

Hi,

I am writing in support of changing Hawthorne Park to a "dog free" park. I am a resident of Division Street and often play basketball and use the space at Hawthorne Park.

Having stepped in dog waste at the park before and noticed on several occasions dog waste not being picked up as well as dogs off leash and dogs barking at kids playing/on the merry go round I fully support the change to a "Dog Free Park".

I just question how this will be enforced.

Thank you.

Eric Saltes

From: Peter Joyce <peterjoyce04@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 12:58 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog status request Hawthorne Park November 9

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

Dear Commissioners,
Comment:

I live in the neighborhood of Hawthorne Park and use the park infrequently. I do not have a dog, and I am not a fan of dogs, as they generally scare people and leave a mess. However, I am in favor of keeping the park's status of "dog friendly". It's good to have areas in the neighborhood where dogs can run around on the grass a little bit. Dogs are part of the neighborhood and they need their exercise close to home. I don't want to force dog owners to drive their dogs to the suburbs or worse move from the neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Peter Joyce
170 Jackson St

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Cell: 608-556-3586
Skype: peterjoycewisconsin
Eat more potatoes!

From: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 12:58 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: FW: General Park Inquiry

From: sales@doorpottery.com <sales@doorpottery.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 4:44 PM
To: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: General Park Inquiry

Contact Information:

Name: Scott Draves
Street Address:
162 Jackson st
Madison, 53704
Phone: 6085169132
Email: sales@doorpottery.com

Comments / Questions:

Subject: General Park Inquiry

Comments / Questions:

I am not a dog owner. But I think it's a very bad idea to change Hawthorne Park from dog friendly to dog free. The one thing Covid did Was increase the population Of dogs in the neighborhood. People need some open space in this neighborhood for their dogs. I hope this wasn't just because of one grumpy neighbor complaining.

From: Yalda Zare <yalda.zare@uwalumni.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 2:26 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Hawthorne Park- please make it dog free

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

Hello,

I have received your notice on changing the dog status of Hawthorne park.

We live in the neighborhood (Division St) and have had several incidences with people bringing their dogs there and unleashing them to freely run around and play. I have even seen 5-6 large unleashed dogs at a time since multiple people bring their dogs there as if this small neighborhood park is a dog park.

I am personally frightened by dogs of any kind and size due to negative past experiences so I stopped going to the park to avoid any unpleasant moments or confrontation with the owners that violate the rule and unleash their dogs despite the sign that dogs must be leashed. Also I mostly see small children playing there and have been worried for their safety.

So I definitely vote for changing the park to a dog free park and can't thank you enough for that. Finally, it is important that if the change goes through, hopefully people are clearly made aware of it and are enforced to respect and obey the new dog free status in case they choose to ignore it.

Regards,

Yalda Zare
280 Division ST, APT 301
Madison, WI 53704

From: Eric Baillies <ebaillies@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 6:21 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Hawthorne park

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

I support having Hawthorne park be a dog friendly park.
I have a feeling people have been complaining because people let their dogs run free there.
Maybe a small fenced in area for dogs would be good?

Eric

From: Erica Becker <ericambecker@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 6:27 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Hawthorne Park - Dog Friendly Vote

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

Dear park commissioners,

My name is Marvin Becker. I am nine years old and I live near Hawthorne park.

I think Hawthorne park should be dog friendly because a lot of people have dogs and take their dogs to Hawthorne park including myself. I walk a dog on Mondays and I see a bunch of people walk their dogs up to Hawthorne to have fun with them and to get dogs energy out and to see other people while their dogs are playing with each other. And I really love dogs even though I don't have a dog. I know that other people really, really love dogs and that for the people who have dogs most of them like to take their dog up to Hawthorne park.

Another reason is dog owners keep their dogs away from children and adults plus the dog owners are nice about people petting the dogs at Hawthorne park. And I know a lot of dogs such as Lena, Cody, Elliot, and Harper. And all the owners and dogs are very, very nice and responsible in a lot of ways such as keeping them on the leash and not letting them run wild, bothering children and adults. Another way owners and dogs are nice and responsible is the dogs are trained very, very well. And when I was little I used to be afraid of dogs but every time I went up to Hawthorne I got more and more used to dogs and now dogs are my favorite pet.

Also if we have had Hawthorne park dog friendly and with no complaints for so long then I think Hawthorne park is a GREAT place for dogs and people. Another way Hawthorne park should be dog friendly is a lot of people love Hawthorne park for its

dog friendly area including myself, my mom Erica, my brother Calvin, and my dad Matt. From what I and my family have experienced, the dogs do not bite, jump, and scratch.

The dogs of Hawthorne park do not go on the playground. In fact I have never seen a dog at Hawthorne park playground area because the owners and the dogs are so responsible. And if Hawthorne park was dog free then people would have to drive like fifteen minutes when they could just walk and take up to five minutes just to walk there.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Marvin Becker
246 Division St

From: Tatum Updike <tatumupdike@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 7:37 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs

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

Dear Commissioners,

Dog owners, non dog owners, dogs, neighbors and children all happily coexist at Hawthorne park every day. I have lived on Division St. for two years and visit the park often. Never have I had a negative interaction with a dog there, nor have I ever seen dog poop in the park. Dog owners in our neighborhood are very conscientious.

Hawthorne park is the only safe haven for many in our neighborhood. Lots of us live in apartments with no yards and rely on the green space to keep us sane. I love walking down the street and seeing the park alive with dogs and people. To me, saying no dogs in the park is like saying no squirrels in the park; they just belong there... even if a couple of the neighbors hate them.

Dogs are a part of our community, and people here are more than capable of addressing dog related problems individually with one another as they may arise. Prohibiting dogs from using the park is an overcorrection that might serve a few, but neglect the majority of people in our community.

Let's not make dogs the next controversy of the neighborhood, because we have plenty of those.

Tatum Updike
154 Division St.

From: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 8:00 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: FW: Dog Parks

From: connolly.ellie@gmail.com <connolly.ellie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 7:03 AM
To: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Parks

Contact Information:

Name: Ellen Connolly
Street Address:
173 Division
Madison, WI 53704
Phone:
Email: connolly.ellie@gmail.com

Comments / Questions:

Subject: Dog Parks

Comments / Questions:

Hawthorne Park

I am not a dog owner nor am i particularly fond of dogs, BUT I have had no trouble with dogs at Hawthorne Park. They are well supervised. I have not stepped in or even seen dog scat. Many of the dog owners in area do not have cars to take their dogs to dog parks. Partly from financial reasons partly from climate concerns. Please keep it dog friendly.

From: Marla Waugh <marlalfish@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 12:53 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Hawthorn Park, Dog Free Comments

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

Hello and good afternoon,

I noticed a sign at Hawthorn Park stating there had been requests from the community to change the park from a Dog Friendly to a Dog Free status. I'd like to respectfully offer my comments on this.

I do not have any dogs of my own, but I live close by and frequently walk around and visit the park. Any and all dogs that are using the park with their owners have always been friendly, respectful and playful. I have never even seen dog waste left in the park by owners either! I love seeing all the happy dogs in this park and I know my neighbors that have dogs respect the privlidge of having a Dog Friendly park in the neighborhood.

Therefore, I do not support this change.

Thank you for your time,
Marla

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Marla L Waugh
Cell: (847) 650-6109
MarlaLFish@gmail.com

From: Mable Kinzie <mable.kinzie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 2:26 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Parks — Please keep Hawthorne Park as a dog-friendly park!

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

Dear Madison City Park Commissioners—

I am writing to request that you please keep Hawthorne Park designated as a dog-friendly park. I live in a condo and Hawthorne is the only park in my neighborhood. I walk there often with my pup, Ruby. (Here she is at Hawthorne Park during an adjacent neighborhood gathering.) I have met only respectful and well-behaved dogs at this park. it would truly be a sad thing if we couldn't walk there and sit under the trees enjoying this beautiful park.

From: Kerry Motoviloff <kmotoviloff@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 6:02 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Hawthorne Park Stays Dog Friendly

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

I have lived in the neighborhood for 30 years. We are dog owners . We infrequently bring our dog to Hawthorne, however, we are frequent users of the park. We have through the years used the park with our daughter at every stage and gathered with neighbors.

I have never witnessed, nor have I heard of a serious problem between dogs or between humans and dogs at the park. It is a neighborhood park at the heart of a neighborhood that actively enjoys the outdoors.

The only issues I have seen or heard of is one neighbor who allows his extremely gentle and well trained dogs off leash, some people don't like that. Or that some people do not clean up dog poop. Lastly, some children are uncomfortable with dogs.

All of these can be rectified with a neighborhood campaign, neighborhood to neighbor in partnership with flyers and signage.

Creating a dog free park is an overreaction and once again, encourages people to surveille, police or regulate each other and shared spaces in place of interacting and requesting neighborly respect.

Leave our neighborhood park as it is...dog friendly .

Kerry Motoviloff

From: Mark Scoptur <markscoptur@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 9:02 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Keep Hawthorne Park Dog Friendly

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

Hi,

I recently got news about the proposal to ban dogs from Hawthorne Park. I am a resident of the surrounding neighborhood and passionate about keeping our city's parks dog friendly. I believe that dogs and dog owners are a vital part of our neighborhood. I look forward to working with the BPC to keep Hawthorne Park a welcoming place for both humans and their four-legged friends!

Dogs are a vital part of any community, and our neighborhood surrounding Hawthorne Park is no exception. Residents can connect with their neighbors daily and build strong relationships by allowing dogs in the park. This interaction helps to create a sense of community and strengthens the bonds between residents.

The benefits of allowing dogs in Hawthorne Park outweigh the disadvantages by far. Not only do dogs help to create an environment that is friendly and welcoming for all, but they also provide

an opportunity for people to get out, exercise, and have some fun together while spending time outside all year round.

Our two-year-old daughter gets great joy from playing with the dogs at the park, often asking us if we can go for a walk to see if there are any doggies around. We worry that if the park becomes less friendly to dogs, we won't be able to continue using it as part of our daily routine.

We hope that the Board of Park Commissioners will consider the needs of families like ours when deciding whether or not to allow dogs in Hawthorne Park - after all, this daily ritual keeps us connected as well!

Keeping Hawthorne Park dog friendly is essential to the community's long-term health and well-being. Dog owners and non-dog owners alike have benefitted from spending time in the park physically and mentally. Research has shown that spending time with dogs can have numerous physical and mental health benefits, including reducing stress levels, improving heart health, and increasing overall happiness and life satisfaction. Without a dog-friendly environment, these positive effects may be lost for everyone in the community.

The importance of keeping Hawthorne Park dog friendly cannot be overstated. Not only does it benefit residents of the area, but it also contributes to a healthy community spirit that benefits all who live within its boundaries. A dog-friendly policy will help maintain this positive atmosphere for years to come!

Cheers,
Mark Scoptur
257 Division St. Madison, WI 53704

From: Freiwald, Ann <AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 9:45 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: FW: Keep Hawthorne Park Dog Friendly

From: Foster, Grant <district15@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 9:39 AM
To: Mark Scoptur <markscoptur@gmail.com>
Cc: Freiwald, Ann <AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Keep Hawthorne Park Dog Friendly

Thanks for the email, Mark. I'm copying Ann Freiwald from Parks so that she has copy of your feedback and can help get to the Board of Park Commissioners. Thanks for taking the time to write in on this!

Grant Foster
District 15 Alder
Madison Common Council

608-285-2519

Subscribe for my weekly updates at: www.cityofmadison.com/council/district15/blog/

From: Mark Scoptur <markscoptur@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 9:07

To: Foster, Grant

Subject: Keep Hawthorne Park Dog Friendly

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

Hi Grant,

I recently got news about the proposal to ban dogs from Hawthorne Park. I am a resident of the surrounding neighborhood and passionate about keeping our city's parks dog friendly. I believe that dogs and dog owners are a vital part of our neighborhood. As my alderman, I look forward to working with you to keep Hawthorne Park a welcoming place for both humans and their four-legged friends!

Dogs are a vital part of any community, and our neighborhood surrounding Hawthorne Park is no exception. Residents can connect with their neighbors daily and build strong relationships by allowing dogs in the park. This interaction helps to create a sense of community and strengthens the bonds between residents.

The benefits of allowing dogs in Hawthorne Park outweigh the disadvantages by far. Not only do dogs help to create an environment that is friendly and welcoming for all, but they also provide an opportunity for people to get out, exercise, and have some fun together while spending time outside all year round.

Our two-year-old daughter gets great joy from playing with the dogs at the park, often asking us if we can go for a walk to see if there are any doggies around. We worry that if the park becomes less friendly to dogs, we won't be able to continue using it as part of our daily routine.

We hope that the Board of Park Commissioners will consider the needs of families like ours when deciding whether or not to allow dogs in Hawthorne Park - after all, this daily ritual keeps us connected as well!

Keeping Hawthorne Park dog friendly is essential to the community's long-term health and well-being. Dog owners and non-dog owners alike have benefitted from spending time in the park physically and mentally. Research has shown that spending time with dogs can have numerous physical and mental health benefits, including reducing stress levels, improving heart health, and increasing overall happiness and life satisfaction. Without a dog-friendly environment, these positive effects may be lost for everyone in the community.

The importance of keeping Hawthorne Park dog friendly cannot be overstated. Not only does it benefit residents of the area, but it also contributes to a healthy community spirit that benefits all who live within its boundaries. A dog-friendly policy will help maintain this positive atmosphere for years to come!

Cheers,
Mark Scoptur
257 Division St. Madison, WI 53704

From: Joan Raducha <tallyho3547@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 12:53 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Please keep Hawthorne Park dog friendly

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

Hello,

I live about 3 blocks from Hawthorne park. I walk with my dogs, always on leash, and sometimes stop and sit on one of the benches overlooking the park. I have met neighbors who stop to say hello to my dogs this way, listened to musicians playing, watched children playing, had a quiet peaceful moment, and caught a cool breeze on hot summer days.

There is so little park space in this area of Madison, please don't make it off limits to dogs and their people. In my experience, other dogs/people using the park are friendly and respectful. And people pick up after their dogs.

Please keep this a park where dogs are permitted on leash.

Sincerely, Joan Raducha, 107 Sutherland Court

From: John Smallwood <johnsmallwood3@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 29, 2022 11:25 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Hawthorne park - keep it dog friendly

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

Re: Park Commission discussion about changing park status from dog friendly to dog free @ Nov 9 meeting.

DO NOT DO IT!

Don't punish neighborhood dog owners (and dogs) who follow the rules: licensed, leashed, and responsible because others are not following the rules.

John Smallwood
Eight year resident next door to the park.
2146 Linden Ave, Madison, WI 53704

From: Catherine Stephens <cstephenshome@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 29, 2022 4:08 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Parks - Hawthorne Park

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

RE: Parks meeting Nov 9 - review of dog parks

As a lead person for the "Friends of Hawthorne Park", and someone who walks by or through the park each day with our dog -- I support keeping Hawthorne Park a *dog friendly park*.

We have a super dog friendly neighborhood, and neighbors with dogs in the park have done a great job to keep the park family friendly, respectful, accessible, and safe for all.

I believe this recent notice can also remind anyone who needs a reminder about the "dog friendly" park rules.

I support dogs in Hawthorne park on the leash, and I ask for City support to allow this to continue.

Thank you,
Catherine Stephens

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Catherine Stephens
204 Division Street
Madison, Wisconsin USA

From: Eva Lewandowski <elewandowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 12:21 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: proposed dog designation change for Hawthorne Park

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

Dear Board of Parks Commissioners,

I am writing about the proposal to switch Hawthorne Park to a dog free park. We absolutely need a place on the isthmus, especially in the near east neighborhoods, that is dog free and safe from the dangers of being chased, harassed, knocked over, and attacked by dogs. Hawthorne Park is incredibly small, which is certainly in keeping with your decision to designate only the smallest possible isthmus parks as dog free.

Its small size, much of which is used by the playground and basketball court, makes it very hard for there to be a safe space to play and relax if dogs are there. On top of that, the steep slope on the Rusk St side makes it very hard not to fall down when dogs chase or jump on innocent parkgoers.

However, the designation as a dog free park is a completely empty gesture unless there is actual enforcement of the no dogs allowed rule. Why would an on-paper "dog free" Hawthorne Park be any different from Morrison, BB Clarke, and Elmside Circle- all supposedly dog free parks that are routinely overrun by dogs on and off leash? I have tried over and over to go to these parks to try to relax safely outdoors, but I have never once been able to stay more than 15 minutes without being harassed by an off leash dog. I can pretend to ignore the leashed dogs most of the time, but as a disabled person with mobility and balance issues, the huge number of off leash dogs that chase, jump on me, and knock me down presents a serious danger and makes going to the park stressful and scary. Asking people to leash their dog or remove it altogether is usually just ignored, although I am also often cursed out or interrogated about where I live and if I actually "belong" in the neighborhood.

What would you do to make Hawthorne Park any safer? Will there be park rangers there actually enforcing the rules? Even a weekly visit or a special enforcement efforts a few times a year (like speeding enforcement campaigns) could make a difference. For six years I have been visiting isthmus parks several times a week, and I have never once seen a park ranger at a park. Calling and emailing doesn't help, since they almost never respond. If not enforcement, what will you do? Will you create an outreach campaign with animal shelters and veterinarians to reach dog owners who don't understand why we need the dog rules? Will you create a media campaign to share stories and statistics about the dangers of having dogs, especially off leash dogs, running wild in parks- dangers to the dogs and to other visitors?

Right now, many dog owners simply don't care about the rules because they know there is absolutely no enforcement of dog free or leash rules, and because there is no societal pressure or encouragement in Madison helping them understand other people's very real concerns. Unless

the Parks Department does something to address these issues, designating Hawthorne Park or any other park as dog free is just a pointless action that in no way provides a safe place for people to recreate without dogs.

So sure, it would be amazing to have a dog free park in the neighborhood, but please understand that will take real action, not just a checkmark on a website.

Thank you,
Eva Lewandowski

From: Ed Niles <eniles@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 12:24 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Feedback on Hawthorne Park Dogs in Parks Status - No Change

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

Dear Members of the BPC & Parks Staff,
I would like to register a comment in support of "No Change" to the Dogs in Parks Status for Hawthorne Park, to be discussed at the Board of Park Commissioners meeting, 6:30pm on Wed., Nov. 9 at 1402 Wingra Creek Parkway. Hawthorne Park should absolutely retain its dog-friendly status, and I wish to add my voice to the many neighborhood residents and park users who feel the same.

On a related note, it's unclear what came of the discussion about this process at your October meeting (<https://madison.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5863788&GUID=0BA39590-962A-4A86-A79C-8ED7C49901DF>) since the minutes have not yet posted, but I would echo Alder Paulsen's comments from that meeting about the Dogs in Parks Designation Process. Amending this process to "preserve the ability of residents to request a change, while also not creating too much work for the BPC or Parks staff, and while also making sure we get information out to residents about possible changes **while also not needlessly alarming residents** ... [in the event of a request to change a park that is almost certainly not going to change]" would be a welcome change, given the heartburn and frantic fact-finding our neighborhood had to engage in recently when notified about a request to change Hawthorne Park's status.

Thanks,
-Ed Niles
2129 Linden Ave, near Hawthorne Park

From: Jim Young <jimyong0691@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 5:13 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Hawthorne Park - Support for Dog Free Park

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

Hello C. of Madison Board of Park Commissioners,

We received your postcard soliciting our comments regarding your consideration of changing Hawthorne Park's status from "dog friendly" to "dog free" at the November 9 meeting. I support this proposed change to a "dog free" status for many reasons, especially regarding dog owner's frequent disregard of the "on a leash" requirement. As a result, I have felt uncomfortable going to the park with my family or even just crossing the park.

Thank you for considering this change. I'd appreciate it if you enacted it as well.

Best regards,

Jim Young

201 Division St.

From: daniela <danielamoreiracarrillo@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 1:08 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Hawthorne Park

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Hello!

I live right behind Hawthorne park, and purposely moved right behind the park as it is dog friendly. To see this park turn into a dog free park would be quite saddening and would be very disheartening to the entirety of the neighborhood. All of the neighborhood pups go to this park during the days and meet up with one another. It is apart of our everyday routine and many of the neighborhood dogs, families, and occupants routines as well. Some dogs we've met here have been coming to this park for years. To see that taken away would be a tragedy! I do hope we keep this as a dog friendly park as Madison already has it so difficult to find dog friendly places. Through this I have met other dog owners that make this neighborhood feel like a sense of community and gives my dog something to look forward to.

Daniela Carrillo

2148 linden Ave Madison wi 53704

From: Mario Galindez <mfgalindez5@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 2:05 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Hawthorne Park: Dog status

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

Dear BPC,

I see no reason to change the status of this park. It is a vital space for the dogs of this neighborhood to have fun and exercise. This is also great for the residents of the neighborhood who can enjoy seeing dogs frolicking in the park.

Additionally, I don't really see why dogs are being singled out here. The dogs are so well behaved in this neighborhood that I've brought my cats (leashed and in a stroller) into the park at the same time that several dogs were nearby and felt safe. Also, how are you going to enforce such a regulation? Is it really worth having the cops drive by and ticket anyone with a dog in the park? Was there some incident in the park that I didn't hear about that has prompted this?

Very Respectfully Confused,

Mario Galindez
280 Division St, Madison, WI 53704
Unit 303

From: Maureen Cassidy <mcassidyphotography@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 7:50 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: hawthorne park

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

I am a resident of Hawthorne park and want it to remain DOG FRIENDLY!
We have a dog and the smallest yard with no grass. We love walking to Hawthorne and spending time there.

It would be a huge loss if dogs could not go to Hawthorne park.

Maureen Cassidy

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608.358.2871

From: Mary Coleman <coleman.mary.k@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 7:06 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Keep Hawthorne Park Dog Friendly

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

Hello,

My family and I moved into our home, one block from Hawthorne Park, in 2020. We are so happy to be a part of this awesome neighborhood and so glad to live s just across the street from the park. Our 2 yo daughter loves playing on the playground at Hawthorne and we love taking our dog to the park along with us. Having a space where both of them can play and socialize is so valuable as a part of our weekly routine. During the Pandemic, a difficult time to be new to the area, we have been able to meet our new neighbors and their kids and their dogs while hanging out at the park.

I would be so disappointed to lose this experience if the City of Madison decided to not allow dogs at Hawthorne Park. I have noticed the push in many other areas of Madison to not allow dogs in public spaces over the past few years and I think it is a mistake to push residents and their animals away.

Please keep Hawthorne Park dog friendly!

Sincerely,
Mary Coleman

From: Liana Nash <lianacnash@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 7:53 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Hawthorne Park

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

Hello,

I am writing to state my support of keeping Hawthorne Park on Madison's east side dog friendly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Liana Nash

From: Susan Bostian Young <bostianyoung@uwalumni.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 6:31 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Hawthorne Park dog status

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

Hello BPC,

I support a change to make the status of Hawthorne Park "dog free". It would be great to have that space for humans of all ages and abilities, and urban wildlife, especially without dog pee and poop everywhere. It'd be great to lay on the grass, feel safe, invite friends and family there. However, I will listen carefully to the meeting on the 9th to hear how these status' are enforced. Since there is currently a posted status which a group of neighbors ignore and is not being enforced, why would we imagine these neighbors wouldn't continue to ignore a changed status? That seems a bit paternalistic - as if the BPC is saying "if you are not following the rules, we'll just make the rules harsher." Is that how this proposed change came about? And, unfortunately, I don't think it will help these neighbors be more considerate. But don't expect me to call the police if my neighbor brings their dog to the park - that's no way to build community or neighbor relations! There needs to be some other way to enforce these rules.

So, to reiterate, I would always prefer a park free of dogs, any park, and especially the one across the street from my house, Hawthorne.

But I have questions about how this change might work and who ultimately would be responsible to see that it does work for my neighborhood.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I'll hope to attend the meeting and learn more.

Susan Young
201 Division

From: Robert Nix <robert.nix@wisc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog status request - Hawthorne Park

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

Dear Board of Park Commissioners:

I received a notice that the Board is considering making Hawthorne Park dog free. I strongly disagree with this proposal. I have lived in the neighborhood for several years. Aside from early in the morning, there are very few dogs that are ever in the park. And, in the early morning, there is nobody else in the park, except the dogs and their owners. I am struck with how responsible dog owners are in this neighborhood. I have never seen any interaction between a dog and a person -- or between dogs -- that has given me cause for concern. Parks are intended to be used by as many members of the community as possible. It makes no sense to restrict a significant portion of our neighbors from using the park, just because they have their dogs with them.

In fact, rather than restricting dogs from Hawthorne Park altogether, I would urge you to make it more dog friendly. In other cities, dogs can be off-leash in parks during certain early morning hours, like 6-8.30 am. I would urge the Board to consider this allowance for Hawthorne Park. The yards in this neighborhood tend to be quite small and restrict dogs' ability to run around. Although there are dog parks a few miles away, they are not within walking distance. Some residents do not own cars, and it is not feasible for other residents to load their dogs in the car

and drive to a dog park before work. Besides, at dog parks, there are many overly aggressive dogs, and the dogs do not know each other. Many dogs only feel comfortable interacting with other dogs they see on a regular basis. This system has worked well in other cities. There is no reason it could not work at Hawthorne Park.

People in the neighborhood seem most likely to interact around the dogs. If I am walking by myself, it is extremely rare that anybody says anything to me. However, if I am walking my dog, several people, from young children, to young adults, to older residents, regularly approach me, asking to say hello to the dog. The presence of dogs helps create a sense of community in our neighborhood, and we should do everything possible to support responsible dog owners, including letting them use Hawthorne Park with their dogs.

Sincerely,

Robert Nix
142 Jackson Street

From: Rachel Niles <rniles@uwalumni.com>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 11:43 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Feedback on Hawthorne Park Dogs in Parks Status - No Change

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

Hello,

I would like to register a comment in support of "No Change" to the Dogs in Parks Status for Hawthorne Park, to be discussed at the Board of Park Commissioners meeting, 6:30pm on Wed., Nov. 9.

Myself and my dog enjoy visiting Hawthorne Park. I frequently see other people and dogs enjoying the park who are respectful to the park and to others using the park.

This a community gathering place that I don't want to see dogs excluded from. I would like this park to remain "dog friendly."

Thank you for your consideration,

Rachel Niles
2129 Linden Ave
