



Madison Police Department

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During the Olin Park Project, after months of study of how the park was currently used and analysis of what design features make this particular park conducive to illicit activity, we concluded that one factor was the heavy use of the park by users who parked there and left (boaters and commuters). A basic tenet of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design is that legitimate users serve as observers and caretakers. Olin due to its location and boat launch is unique in that it has absentee users. Part of the solution to 20 years of problems was to reduce this type of use.

While the idea of making the lake accessible to more users is desirable. And, the fact that the pontoon boats have a lower speed than most watercraft is appealing. The party activity with amplified sound and the increased traffic does not seem like a good fit for this site. The proximity to the 65 acre nature conservancy, the last refuge of citizens to undisturbed Lake Monona shoreline, is probably the most compelling reason that a party boat business should not be based in Olin Park.

From an environmental design perspective the proposed use of Olin as a base for this business would increase the use of Olin as a parking lot and contribute nothing to enhancing the safety and well being of the park. More unattended parked vehicles would provide cover for illicit activity as it has in the past. At this critical point in the transformation of Olin Park, I would recommend that this appealing business be located somewhere other than this park.

Sgt Jim Dexheimer
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