

From: Shannon Stahl <shannonstahl02@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2022 7:03 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Zook Park - Dog Friendly

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

I saw a sign posted at Zook Park on this topic. We live across the street (943 Pontiac Trl) and I would love to see Zoom Park converted to "dog friendly". There is a large green space, separate from the playground, that is rarely used. Dog owners like us have been really puzzled why dogs cannot be allowed in this space. It would be wonderful have Zook Park designated "dog friendly". I have no doubt that this would be a valuable social gathering place for our neighborhood, as many of us now have dogs. Thank you for pursuing this initiative. -Shannon Stahl

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From: William Ebbott <wjebott@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 5:35 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>; Nancy Paul <napaul@wisc.edu>
Subject: Dogs in Zook Park

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

I strongly support allowing dogs on leashes in Zook Park. It is in my neighborhood where we walk our Westie everyday, and it would be nice if we could take her there.

William Ebbott
32 Heritage Circle, Apt. 5
Madison, Wi 53711-2742
(608) 347-7990

From: Janet Daniel <jm.dn.daniel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: ZOOK PARK

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

ZOOK PARK, a mini park bordering Pontiac Trail is one of two City of Madison parks in the Summit Woods neighborhood.
ZOOK PARK is praised as clean, beautiful, and safe for small children and families. As a dog-free park, users don't have to worry about dog poop on the ground where small children play or having children fearful of free roaming dogs.
Mohican Pass TRIANGLE PARK, a dog friendly park, is only a couple of blocks away from Zook Park. There is no play equipment at Triangle Park so it is less frequently used by young children.
Please DO NOT change the dog-free designation of Zook Park.
Janet Daniel

From: Gina Landucci <glanducci@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 4:18 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Zook Park - Change to dog friendly please!

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

Hello, I am in full support of changing Zook Park from "dog free" to "dog friendly" and feel it is long overdue. Madison unfortunately has a dreadful reputation as being dog-hostile (not just dog-free) due to the long-standing ban on dogs in city parks and I wish this change could be across the board, not just in select parks.

During the pandemic in particular, when so many people were working from home and seeking ways to not just get out but also to connect with neighbors, it was wonderful to see so many more people out with their dogs. I've lived next to Zook Park for over 20 years and I saw neighbors and dogs I had never seen before. I walk my dogs by Zook Park multiple times a day, and it was so dis-heartening to see that city staff were spending time putting up signs and more signs emphasizing "dog free" rather than embracing the fact that being out with your dog is a key way people connect with their community. And what is at the heart of a neighborhood - the city park!

Proponents of “dog free” city parks often cite the numerous off-leash dog parks throughout the city and surrounding communities as a reasonable alternative to city parks. However, this perpetuates a lack of understanding about dog behavior and a misconception about access: a) not all dogs can tolerate the environment in a dog park - just like some people love crowds and others don't, off-leash dog parks can be a huge stressor for many dogs and b) dog parks are not accessible for the most part, unless you happen to live next to one or have transportation. And again, why would I choose to drive across town to a stressful off-leash dog park when I have beautiful Zook Park right here in my neighborhood?

I truly hope the BPC will support the Summit Woods community (people and dogs alike) by making Zook Park dog-friendly, and that this change will be a catalyst for other neighborhoods parks as well.

Thank you,
Gina

From: Adam VandenHeuvel <vonlumber@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 6:03 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Zook Park - Dog Status Request

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

Hello,

I am a resident of the Summit Woods neighborhood and writing in favor of changing the Zook Park status to "dog friendly".

Thank you

Adam VandenHeuvel

1021 Chieftain Lookout, Madison, WI 53711

From: Jennifer Lohr <jennifer.lohr@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 6:12 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Zook Park dog proposal

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

Hello - I am a resident of the Summit Woods neighborhood. I am writing in support of the proposal to make Zook Park a dog-friendly park.

Thank you,

Jennifer Lohr
1021 Chieftain Lookout

From: JAMStielstra <joann.stielstra@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 11:47 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Zook Park Dog Ststus

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

Hello,

I am a Summit Woods resident and I walk past Zook Park regularly, with my dog. It is a lovely park and I would be pleased if my jdog could be leashed and in the park.

Thanks you,

JoAnn Stielstra

From: capraedel@gmail.com <capraedel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 12:47 PM
To: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Parks

Contact Information:

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Name: Carol Praedel
Street Address:
5401 Hammersley Rd , Unit 202
Madison , WI 53711
Phone: 6089772424
Email: capraedel@gmail.com

Comments / Questions:

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Subject: Dog Parks

Comments / Questions:

Just heard they are considering making Zook Park dog friendly. Please note that as a nearby resident I

am in favor of that change.
Thank you, Carol

From: Jan Schuster <jsjanschuster4@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Zook Park dog status

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

I would favor a dog friendly park at Zook Park. I don't even walk through the park to get to a green area away from the playground equipment. My dog and I would love to have some interaction with the kids (preschool thru middle school) who use the park regularly. We know many of them but cannot use the park opportunity to access other spaces or to interact more with our neighbors. Thank you for considering this. Jan Schuster, 4602 Windigo Trail , Madison 53711.

From: Jane Brader <janejmb53@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 3:03 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.

I am in favour of Zook Park being made dog friendly. I would have liked this years ago when I had a dog and two small children!!
To assist peoples wellbeing from being outdoors it is helpful to make this change as many young families are also dog owners.
Jane Brader

From: Tricia Fry <tricia.l.fry@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 6:03 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Changing Zook park to dog friendly

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

I fully support changing Zook park to dog friendly. It's a great idea!

Zook Park User and Neighbor,

Tricia Fry
4430 Yuma Dr
Madison, WI 53711

From: Dean Kahl <dvkahl@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 8:54 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Zook Park dog status

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

I am writing in support of changing the status of Zook Park to 'dog friendly'. I would also support Mohican Triangle Park to have dog friendly status. I believe much of the neighborhood already consider both parks dog friendly, and use them as such.

Thank you,

Dean, Shannon, Ryan, and Vaughn Kahl

1010 Mohican Pass (Summit Woods Neighborhood).

From: Timothy Hughes <twhughes17@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 8:48 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Zook Park - Dog Status Request

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

We would like to comment on the proposed change of Zook Park from a "dog free" park to a "dog friendly" park.

We live right across the street from Zook Park and we are both **in favor** of this change. This will allow full use of the park and dog owners will then be able to use the path behind the baseball diamond screen to access the Southwest Commuter Trail.

Tim & Diane Hughes

4701 Windigo Trail

From: kim sprecker <kjsprecker@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 3:50 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: support for dog friendly Zook Park

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

As a 20+ year resident of Summit Woods, my family supports the dog-friendly designation for Zook Park. We have been waiting for this day to come. Please see to it that it happens. Madison needs more dog friendly parks.

Thank you, Kim Sprecker

From: Anne Niendorf <anne.niendorf@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 1:45 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Zook Park "Dog Free" to "Dog Friendly" status concerns

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

Dear Parks Commission,

I live at 4610 Windigo Trail, Madison, WI 53711, and would like to voice my concerns regarding the request to change Zook Park (which is directly west of my house) from a dog free park to a dog friendly park.

I have lived at my present address since 2004 and have seen people bring dogs on leashes and sometimes even letting their dogs run about unleashed at Zook Park, though I am thankful this has been the exception not the rule. The city parks website says "Dog free parks allow visitors to enjoy a space to recreate or relax without the presence of dogs." I would argue that it will be more difficult for people to recreate or relax with the presents of dogs than the other way around.

I also don't understand how one person can put in a request to change a designation of a park that affects everyone in a neighborhood.

Zook Park is 1.6 acres and I would argue way too small for dog friendly designation. I do not understand why the size of the park was not taken into consideration when changing the ordinance in 2020, and exclude smaller parks. Our neighborhood has a lot of dog owners, so I understand the appeal, but that is a lot of dogs, people, urine, feces, etc in a very small area.

A person who breaks the rules and walks their dog through a dog free park here and there (which I have seen at Zook) is one thing, but changing it to dog friendly and having 5, 10, 15 people walking their dogs through the park a day seems like a recipe to turn a nice park into basically a "leashed" dog park. The number of complaints about people who are not following dog friendly park rules will increase exponentially, and will be nothing compared to a dog free parks occasional violator complaints.

Because I live directly across the street from Zook Park, and work from home four days a week with a home office that faces the park, I know I will see people who are not following the rules on a regular basis. I already have signs outside my house reminding people to pick up after their dog after finding feces and dog bags on two parts of my property. Not to mention the increase of people in general at the park, dogs barking at each other and mixing kids with non-kid friendly dogs. All of this will affect the people and kids who use the park regularly and homes that border the park the most.

If this change comes about, I want to know if there will be appropriate signage about the rules, fine amounts and a marker or boundaries around the playground indicating where 20 feet from

the playground starts? If it turns dog friendly, what has to happen for the park to become dog free again? Enough complaints, or fines?

It seems like a lot of headache and wasted time to have Zook Park go dog friendly just to have it go back to being dog free in a matter of weeks or months because a few bad actors can't follow the rules.

Thank you for your time.

Anne Niendorf
4610 Windigo Trl
Madison, WI 53711

From: Jenny Bright <jj.bright@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 11:45 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Zook Park - Dog Status Request

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

Hello,

My name is Jenny Bright, and i am a dog owner. I live at 4514 Hammersley Rd, #1, Madison Wisconsin 53711. I received a yellow postcard in the mail regarding the Nov 9th meeting for consideration of changing Zook Park from dog-free to dog-friendly.

I strongly support Zook Park turning into a dog-friendly area. I go to that park with neighborhood kids and, as it stands now, i either have to take my dog home first, or leave him in the car. It would be so much easier and safer for me and my dog were he allowed to be there too. I am a responsible dog owner and always clean up after my dog. Dogs are family members and time at the park with all of the family, including the dog(s) is precious.

Thank you,
Jenny

From: Karen Manion <kmmanion@charter.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 4:59 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Zook Park

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

Hello,

I am in favor of changing Zook Park to a dog friendly park. I feel people are generally very careful about taking their dog into the park leashed and obeying rules.

Thank you.

Karen Manion
1114 Starlight Drive

From: Jamie Sullivan <jamiesullivan554@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 6:23 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Comment RE: Zook Park Dog Status Request

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

To The City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners,

This email is a comment regarding the consideration to change Zook Park's status to a "dog friendly" park.

I am asking you please do not make this change.

Unfortunately, not all dog owners follow the rule of allowing licensed, leashed dogs in the park.

For those of us with small children and grandchildren, the change to this park will impact the use of the park for the following reasons:

- Reason #1: Untrained and/or Aggressive Dogs.
- Reason #2: Oblivious or Irresponsible Owners.
- Reason #3: Health Concerns.
- Reason #4: Fights between dogs may turn dangerous
- Reason #5: The soil and ground area of the park could become contaminated if owners are not responsible for picking up after their dog.

If I may add a general comment, there are miles of wooded bike paths friendly for dog walking within easy walking distance of the park.

There are not miles of playground for children.

Please leave Zook Park, a child friendly park.

Thank you for consideration of the above comments,

Jamie Sullivan

From: Paige Craig <paigecraig99@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 11:50 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Zook Park Status - Affirm "Dog Friendly"

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

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments about the proposed status change of Zook Park from "dog free" to "dog friendly." I would like to affirm this change and request the board to allow licensed, leashed dogs in the park.

As a new Madison resident, I was careful when considering my housing options. Not only did I select a residence that would allow pets, but I also sought a walkable neighborhood that would benefit the health of this companion. Altering the status of Zook Park would only enhance the lifestyle of our four-legged friends.

According to the [Human Animal Bond Institute \(HABRI\)](#), 74% of pet owners reported mental health improvements from pet ownership. In addition, 75% of these owners' friends and families' mental health improved. My young niece (9) and nephew (6) enjoy a great playground. What a joy it would be to be able to enjoy Zook Park together with my pet when they visit my home.

Adjusting the status of Zook Park can help improve the entire neighborhood through the benefits of pet ownership. Please consider this status change.

Warm Regards,
Paige Craig
708-829-5065 cell
