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To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Warner Park Tennis Courts

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Hello Park Commissioner Members,

I am writing about a safety concern related to the Warner Park Tennis Courts. I am a retired UW Health nurse leader, and at one point in my career was responsible for the adult and pediatric trauma programs within that system. I share this only to add credibility to my comments.

We have lived in the Warner Park neighborhood for more than 20 years and over that time have spent a moderate amount of time in the park. We explored and played with our children in the park and now are doing the same with our grandchildren. In recent history, there had been several years that I stopped walking through the park because the environment no longer felt safe. I have seen some great improvements over the past year that have helped to make the park once again a more "family friendly" environment. This includes such things as: building the all inclusive playground, strategically clearing away shrubs, trees, and bushes that had previously obstructed visibility around the tennis courts and throughout the woods. Although the thinning out and clearing the woods is a work in progress, the areas seem less attractive for individuals who were using the spaces inappropriately and more inviting to those wanting to play and explore nature safely. Kudos for this vision and work!

I was pleased to see the Park Commission has a vision to promote both tennis and pickleball. Especially as pickleball has become increasingly popular for all ages. I believe outdoor game courts positively change the dynamic in a park and promote a safe and family friendly environment. With more adults and children of all ages accessing the courts during daytime hours, the area naturally becomes less desirable for individuals who are not engaged in positive behaviors. Of course having functional play courts that encourage movement also has a positive impact on the physical, social and mental health of our community members.

Last week we took our granddaughter for a walk to the tennis courts at Warner and although it is fabulous that the pickleball lines are present, I have significant concerns about the safety of the overall surface of the courts. There are numerous cracks throughout the courts as well as larger areas where the surface has eroded. This becomes a significant safety issue as it is a trip and fall hazard. At this point the courts are unusable. As an aside, the couple wood benches within the courts are also rotting. I would hate to see the courts closed given the positive impact these courts could have on further enhancing the safety within Warner Park. Instead, I would recommend that you consider

resurfacing the courts to once again make them safe and usable. As a previous nurse leader responsible for budgets, I understand money is always an issue. In this case, given the risk/benefit, I think it would be a worthwhile investment and further support the vision of making Warner a safe, family friendly, environment for all ages and members of our community to enjoy.

I have included pictures of the courts. The weeds growing through the cracks in part hide the width of the cracks and varied other damage to the surface but it gives you an idea of the safety concerns I am sharing.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope the courts can be revitalized and enjoyed. If you have further questions please feel free to contact me.

Barb Byrne









TENNIS COURT RULES.
COURT AREAS FOR TENNIS ONLY.
COURT COURTESY AT ALL TIMES.
REGULAR GAME PLAY PERIOD
LIMITED TO 1 HOUR INTERVALS.
VACATE COURTS ON THE HOUR
WHEN OTHERS ARE WAITING.
INSIDE PRACTICE BOARDS AVAILABLE ONLY WHEN
COURT IS NOT IN DEMAND
FOR REGULAR GAME PLAY.
COURTS MUST BE VACATED
FOR GROUPS HAVING VALID PERMIT
FROM SCHOOL - COMMUNITY
RECREATION DEPARTMENT.
PLEASE COOPERATE
AND KEEP COURT CLEAN.
Madison Park Comm.

