

From: Jamie Peterson <peterson.jamielynn@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 6:35 PM  
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Comment on Dog Status Esther Beach Park

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Hello,

> We would like to submit a comment on the dog status request being considered for Esther Beach Park. Our household is strongly in favor of Esther Beach being a dog friendly park. We have lived in the neighborhood for 9 years and are also dog owners. We have observed many dogs/dog owners use the park without issue. Dog owners in this area tend to be very responsible and are committed to cleaning up after their pet and preserving the integrity of the park. Furthermore, if dog waste is the concern, there is an abundance of geese droppings at almost all times that the city hasn't quite figured out how to address. Not to mention the waste that washes ashore on the beach, often rendering it unsafe to use. These park issues are more bothersome to most in the neighborhood (to my knowledge) than the presence of dogs.

> It is our opinion that the park should be available for both people and their dogs. Please reconsider making Esther Beach dog friendly again.

> Sincerely,

> The Colvin Family

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**From:** Gregory Walker <gewalker87@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 7, 2022 6:07 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Eater Beach Park

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Hello -

We live about a block away from Esther Beach (Quinn Cir) and feel very strong about the proposed change in status to a "dog friendly park". It has been disappointing to see that folks are unable to enjoy the park today if they have a dog with them - it has a beautiful view, a great lawn for a picnic, updated restrooms and other amenities.

Because of this, we strongly support a change in status to allow licensed, leashed dogs to be in the park with their owners.

We have a lot of local families that have dogs and walk their dogs along Waunona - it would be great if they were all able to stop in and enjoy such a wonderful park in this neighborhood.

Thank you

Greg

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**From:** Emigh Cannaday <emighcannaday@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 7, 2022 10:28 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** input for Esther Beach Park meeting

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Hi there,

We're out of town the day of the meeting, so here are our comments.

We've lived in the Waunona neighborhood since 2009 and we're just one street over from Esther Beach Road. We've always had dogs. Like many Madisonians, they're our family members. So when we saw a sign informing us that our family was no longer welcome at our neighborhood park, it felt like a slap in the face. Part of the reason we bought a house here is the incredible view of the lake at the end of our street...and now we're not allowed to enjoy it as a family? Esther Beach Park is a hidden treasure, tucked along the most popular dog-walking route in our neighborhood. Most of our neighbors have dogs. There are 17 that live on our one block alone. For comparison, there are only 2 children. Completely banning dogs from parks doesn't fall in line with our community's demographics.

Madison is famous for being a very dog-friendly city. That being said, we understand not everyone enjoys them. We have small dogs and take them to the small dog parks to avoid interactions with big dogs. It's a great compromise--separate areas where everyone can enjoy the same space. I suggest that the City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners consider a similar approach. Instead of blanket bans on entire parks, designate certain sections as "Dog Free Zones", such as areas with playground equipment for children. Small kids and strange dogs aren't a good mix, and most responsible dog owners would be happy with that compromise. If the issue is dog messes, then make sure there are adequate trash cans or dog waste stations [like this](#) available for dog walkers to curb their pets. Here are some fun dispensers where community members can donate plastic bags: <https://gdna.weebly.com/mess-mitt-boxes.html>.

In the 13 years we've lived in the Waunona neighborhood, we've never seen off-leash or problematic dogs at Esther Beach Park. Dog messes haven't been a problem, either. We HAVE seen such an abundance of goose feces that makes it miserable to walk through the grass. The only problems we've encountered at Esther Beach Park are the dirty needles and used condoms occasionally found around the parking lot. It's revolting. There is an element of crime that happens at our park, and honestly, we feel safer having our dogs with us.

Emigh & Scott Cannaday

5438 Woodley Lane

Madison, WI 53713

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