

From: susan McMurray <susanmcm17@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 12:17 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Good morning,

I write, as a northsider, to express my opposition to continuing fireworks at Warner Park.

My concerns relate to the stress on humans and animals in the park and the neighborhood. Stress caused by excessive noise, air contamination, contaminants that fall to the ground and pollute the area.

We can do better.

No more fireworks. We went through this years ago when the massive fireworks events were discontinued, due to pretty much the same issues.

Thank you for considering my views.

Susan McMurray
1605 S. Golf Glen Unit C
Madison, WI 53704

Susanmcm17@gmail.com

From: Becky Leidner <rwl1951@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 12:43 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: 1/8 meeting agenda items 14 & 15

Dear Parks Commissioners,

Once again you are being asked to allow the Madison Mallards to include fireworks displays in their post-game entertainment for 2025 and (with no further review!) 2026, as a sort of quid pro quo for the “benefits” their organization provides to the Northside. By now Big Top Entertainment’s self-serving reasons for requesting these displays, and the many reasons they are harmful, should be clear. A quick Google search will provide ample evidence of fireworks’ harmful effects. NO decibel level is safe for wildlife, especially juveniles in their nests. NO level of pollution is safe for air, soil, and groundwater. Neighbors, especially refugees and those who suffer from PTSD, should not be asked to tolerate ANY displays of light and noise for the entertainment of a small number of fans and the enrichment of a private corporation. It’s especially ironic that these take place in a public park, nominally a space where visitors can relax in the quiet enjoyment of nature and a vital refuge where residents can live and raise their families in safety. *Fifty-seven years ago* the Parks Commission removed fireworks from Vilas Park because of their harmful effects on the zoo

animals. Approving the Mallards' requests for this year and next can hardly be considered progress. It's past time to question the assumptions that fireworks are an obligatory conclusion to sporting events, that the entertainment and profits they provide justify the harm they cause, and that no other options are available. It's past time for the Parks Commission and the Common Council to think very hard about whose interests they should be safeguarding. Please require them to drastically reduce dB levels of all future displays, phase them out over the next two years, and replace them with post-game entertainment that can peacefully coexist with their human and animal neighbors and the natural environment of which they are privileged to be a part.

Thank you,

Rebecca Leidner

1915 Spohn Ave.

Madison WI 53704

-----Original Message-----

From: Jen Drabsch <Jdrabs85@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 2:25 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Agenda item 15-86530 1/8/2025

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Afternoon,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposal to increase the number of fireworks shows at the Madison Mallards ballpark in Warner Park. While I understand that these events are popular and generate revenue for the community, I believe it's important to also consider the significant distress they can cause for nearby residents and their pets.

As someone who lives close to the park, I witness firsthand the impact these events have on my golden retriever. Normally a happy and lovable companion, he becomes a quivering mess during fireworks, trembling and hiding until the noise stops. This is not just anecdotal; studies have documented the acute stress that loud and sudden noises cause in domestic animals. For example, Carrieri-Rocha et al. (2020) found that dogs living near noisy environments, such as football stadiums, exhibited severe anxiety behaviors, including trembling, appetite loss, and attempts to flee. The proximity and unpredictability of fireworks only amplify these effects.

Beyond pets, fireworks also adversely impact individuals with PTSD. Research has shown that sudden loud noises can trigger a startle response, hypervigilance, and even flashbacks in those affected. For example, Shalev et al. (2000) demonstrated that trauma survivors with PTSD experience heightened physiological responses to loud tones. Similarly, Glad et al. (2016) reported that auditory reminders, like sudden and sharp noises, are frequently distressing for PTSD sufferers. These findings highlight how fireworks can unintentionally harm some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

While I recognize that for many people fireworks are a highlight of summer, I feel compelled to ask:

- What is the acceptable ratio of people enjoying themselves to one distressed individual, whether it's a pet owner, someone with PTSD, or a child with sensory sensitivities?
- How do we weigh the economic benefits of these events against the emotional and physical toll they take on vulnerable members of our community?

These questions are not meant to diminish the value of fireworks but to encourage thoughtful consideration of their broader impact. Many cities have begun exploring alternatives, such as silent fireworks or drone light shows, which preserve the celebratory spirit while minimizing harm. A study by Bateman et al. (2023) advocates for these alternatives, highlighting their effectiveness in reducing stress on pets and local wildlife.

I respectfully urge you to oppose increasing the number of fireworks shows at Warner Park and to advocate for more inclusive and sustainable solutions. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss my concerns further.

Sincerely,

Jen and Paul Drabsch

Jdrabs85@hotmail.com

From: Dorothy <dborchardt1@charter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 5:35 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Agenda Item # 15

DATE: 1/8/25
TO: Madison Board of Park Commissioners
FROM: Dorothy Borchardt
RE: Agenda item #15

I do NOT support the Mallards two year proposal. Starting the shows no later than 10:00pm doesn't make a difference, it isn't the time the show starts, it is the harm the loud noise that is the problem. The Mallards came to Madison to play baseball, not to host fireworks shows.

I could support-

- Two low decibel shows the first couple of weeks in July.
- One large scale show close to Independence Day.

Long before the Mallards come to Warner Park, Independence Day was celebrated with a one day fireworks display on the Saturday before Independence Day. The Northside loved hosting a one day event, those with pets, small children, and PTSD had to make other arrangements for the one day, they shouldn't be expected to tolerate that all summer.

The past actions of former park commissioners have allowed the Mallards to take advantage of Warner Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Enough is enough!

From: gordian@nym.hush.com <gordian@nym.hush.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 8:10 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Link Legistar records 86530 and 86531 to Legistar 85775

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Tue. Jan. 7, 2024

Madison Board of Park Commissioners,
PACommission@cityofmadison.com

Because Legistar No. 85775 and Legistar No.'s 86530 and 86531 all address the issues raised by fireworks shows at Warner Park, the web pages for Legistar 86530 and 86531 should have provided a link to the web page for Legistar 85775. The public comments and other information on the web page for Legistar 85775 are still relevant to discussions of Items 14 and 15 on the Agenda for the Board of Park Commissioner's meeting on Wed. Jan. 8, 2024.

City staff failed to provide a link to Legistar 85775's web page, so I have provided it here. Links to the information sent when Legistar 85775 was considered can be found at:

<https://madison.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6901556&GUID=4A2097A1-2387-4C93-A7EB-813923D235AD&Options=&Search=>

A reading of the public comments available on the web page for Legistar 85775 will show that the measures in Legistar 86530 are inadequate to address the many problems caused by holding fireworks shows at Warner Park.

Thank you.

Don Lindsay

From: Catherine Stephens <cstephenshome@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 9:00 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Fireworks - January 8th Parks commission meeting

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January 8, 2025

TO: City of Madison Parks Commissioners

FROM: Catherine Stephens

Subject: Fireworks - January 8th Parks commission meeting

Hello Park Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the continued and ongoing presence of fireworks in Madison.

I request that fireworks in Madison be greatly reduced or eliminated in order to reduce the toxic levels of noise and the toxic environmental impacts.

I stand with the Warner Park community opposed to the fireworks happening with Mallard Games and other events at Warner Park.

On the East Side we also bear way-too-much high decibel toxic noise and pollution when you consider the F35 jet impact.

In closing, fireworks are a brief spectacle with long lasting impacts. Other communities have enjoyed drone light shows. This could be a great option for our community.

Thank you,

Catherine Stephens
Near East Side of Madison

From: Fred Fass <frdfass@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 10:54 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Bats and their babies/ Mallards Fireworks proposal

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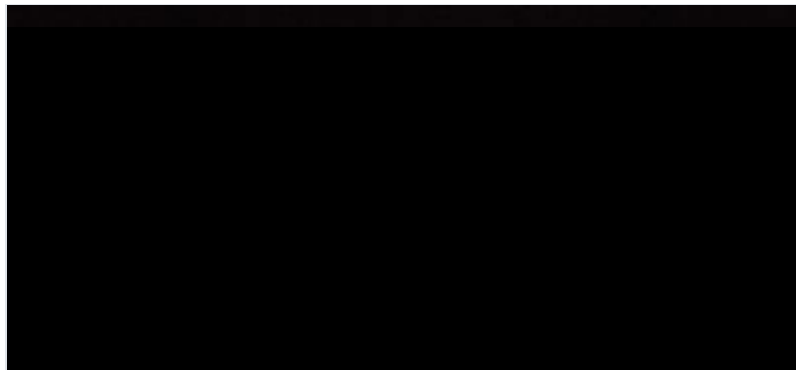
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-Dear Board members,

This is another reason to reconsider the fireworks' and it's implications on the health and well being of the creatures that live in Warner Park.

Marie Jacobson / Wild Warner/ Chair

Fireworks are also very bad for bats. When we lived in Madison, Warner Park had four bat species. Bat species are crashing in the US, with most bats losing 90% of their populations to White Nose Syndrome. Wisconsin wildlife experts who studied Warner's bats told Wild Warner we had a healthy bat population in 2013, with pregnant bats and a probable roost in the park, which is unusual. But they also told us that fireworks were terrible because bats have extremely sensitive ears. Some bats can live 25 to 35 years. Like birds, they are loyal to their breeding grounds. Warner Park is or was their home. I'd like to know what has happened to Warner's bats with the increase in Mallard fireworks. Bats eat trillions of mosquitoes and other pests. And according to a study published in the prestigious journal Science just one month ago, when bat populations decline, farmers increase pesticide use by as much as 31%. Scientists discovered that when farmers increase pesticide use--infant mortality rates go up--by as much as 8%. Because babies are very sensitive to traces of pesticides. The researchers concluded that bats save human babies (see Bats: [Surprising New Research Links Infant Mortality to Crashing Bat Populations](#)).



Surprising New Research Links Infant Mortality to Crashing Bat Populations

Without bats to eat insects, farmers turned to more pesticides, a study found. That appears to have increased in...

Has this has been studied in Madison? What has happened to the Warner bat population since that DNR survey in 2013? How will an increase in the Mallards' fireworks affect them? And how does infant mortality in the Warner Park area compare to other Madison neighborhoods? Has it increased? Decreased?

Fireworks and loud noise can also cause distress in some humans, provoking a flight-or-flight panic response which floods our bodies with stress hormones. In a 2016 study of 17 airports in England, researchers concluded that “living under flight paths has a negative effect on people’s overall wellbeing equivalent to around half of the effect of being a smoker for some indicators.” In public health, noise pollution is becoming the new smoking. But you must also consider that this Madison neighborhood has a higher noise pollution load than anywhere in the city, not just because of the fireworks, but because it is adjacent to the airport and the F-35s. The three noise pollution factors combined represent an unacceptable environmental burden for this neighborhood.

From: DOLORES KESTER <dakester1818@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 11:26 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Michael Rewey <hiwayman@chorus.net>; Latimer Burriss, Amani <district12@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: FIREWORKS IN WARNER PARK AGENDA ITEM #14 and 15

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Greetings Park Commissioners:

I am a member of the Wild Warner Board and fully support their position on these agenda items related to fireworks at Warner Park. This will be presented at the meeting by a member of the Wild Warner Board.

As an individual, I have a few other thoughts and background which will be communicated in a separate email.

I request that you vote to accept the Wild Warner position on Warner Park fireworks.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this matter.

Dolores Kester

From: DOLORES KESTER <dakester1818@outlook.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 11:55 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Michael Rewey <hiwayman@chorus.net>; Latimer Burris, Amani <district12@cityofmadison.com>; Latimer Burris, Amani <district12@cityofmadison.com>; Beth Sluys <sluysb@aol.com>

Subject: FW: FIREWORKS IN WARNER PARK AGENDA ITEM #14 and 15

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

Greetings Park Commissioners:

I am a member of the Wild Warner Board and fully support their position on these agenda items related to fireworks at Warner Park. This will be presented at the meeting by a member of the Wild Warner Board.

As an individual, I have a few other thoughts and background which I am communicating here.

I have seen Mallards' proposal seeking approval of City Parks for their fireworks schedule for the next two years, 2025 and 2026. I offer the following comments as an individual resident and not on behalf of any group..

BALL GAMES AT WARNER PARK DO NOT REQUIRE FIREWORKS

The Northside community had ball games in Warner Park for twenty years commencing around 1980 with the newly formed team called Madison Muskies. The community was glad to have this addition. There was zero conflict because Muskies just played ball, proving ball games could be held without fireworks. Muskies did not feel they had to generate a lot of noise-banging and thumping noises, contaminating chemicals, killing birds and other wildlife, disturbing families and individuals sensitive to excessive noise, and keeping people awake all hours.

Then came Mallards around 2000. Remember the "8 (12?) gun salute" (8 --or was it 12— CANNON SHOTS?) that Mr. Stenman felt all the neighbors would like to have? Interrupting TV and conversation in their living rooms every time Mallards had a ball game? (In my home it felt like we lived in a war zone.)

Remember Rhythm and Booms with as many as 400,000 people coming from as far away as Milwaukee, parking up every street, blocking driveways, and tromping and urinating on people's flowerbeds as they walked back to their cars after the game? Remember people leaving dirty diapers all over the ground in the park, ten feet away from a trash barrel?

Northsiders suffered through this for about twenty years! Then it turned out the Downtown didn't want this disruption either! So now, Mallards is back—again wanting to shoot off fireworks in Warner Park in connexion with its ball games. They inflict these atrocities on all their neighbors for half of every summer, apparently believing that the Northside can never have enough discomfort and killing of birds and wildlife if only Mallards can rake in money from admissions and lots of beer sales.

GROUP FIREWORKS EVENTS DO NOT PREVENT INDIVIDUALS FROM HAVING FIREWORKS AT THEIR HOMES

Some argue that group fireworks save people from the stress and hassle of individual fireworks around the 4th. This argument doesn't hold water. On the Northside we get individuals shooting off fireworks starting several weeks before the 4th, and ending up to a month afterwards.

IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO CHANGE PARKS' PRACTICE OF CONSIDERING FIREWORKS ONE YEAR AT A TIME

Parks has let Mallards hold these fireworks every summer for 24 years! And now, for the first time ever, Mallards have sent emails to the neighborhood associations on the Northside announcing their proposal to seek approval for their fireworks two years at a time. Mr. Stenman says they now want Parks to approve this continuing travesty for TWO MORE YEARS.

Is contacting neighbors by email every year too big a burden, given the millions of dollars Mallards makes yearly from this enterprise? Burden or not, I question whether it is even legal for the Parks Department not to provide city residents with timely public hearings each year, as has been done the last 24 years. How many baby birds will these proposed fireworks kill? How much more contamination will those fireworks leave in the grass where children play sports, and move from there into the lagoon and the lake to poison the wider community? How many neighbors will experience more pain from the noise of these fireworks? These consequences of the fireworks pose major concerns in the Northside community. The least the Parks Commission should do is hold yearly hearings on this topic.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON THE MALLARDS' FIREWORKS "PLAN" FOR 2025 AND 2026

Please cancel these proposed Mallards plans for more fireworks and require Mallards to substitute drone shows as is happening around the globe. The Northside can have ball games without fireworks. As the Muskies said, Go Fish!

Thank you for your time and attention.

Dolores Kester

District 12, 1818 Winchester Street, Madison

-----Original Message-----

From: irene piersma <ipiersma1@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 1:18 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Fireworks Warner park

I am writing to voice my opposition to allowing fireworks to continue at Warner Park. The negative impacts on humans, pets, and wildlife are well documented. It's time this city pays attention that research and stops issuing permits that allow the negative impacts of the fireworks to continue to cause harm. There are lots of alternative types of light shows or drone shows that the Mallards owners could be using that will still cause a thrill for the audience but will not cause harm (indeed death to some creatures) from the extremely high decibel levels.

Irene Piersma, District 12 resident

2314 Hoard Street

Madison, Wi.

From: Marian Celesnik <mariancelesnik@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 11:30 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Mallards Fireworks item 86530 ---- on agenda of January 8 , 2025 Board of Parks Commissioners

To Board of Parks Commissioners,

I see that for this year the Mallards are proposing three lower volume displays of 85 decibels. It would be an improvement to have the July 4th display as one of the lower volume ones. Last year the July 3 display was painfully loud from my vantage point on the Forster Dr sidewalk--- and that was quite a distance from the stadium. It was not only painfully loud, but it went on for so long. I wanted to find out what it might be like for the nesting eagles , so I chose a location on Forster Dr about the same distance from the stadium as the eagles' nest. We need to have some consideration for the nesting birds and other wildlife---and people's ears as well.

I am pleased that the number of shows went back to six for this year. But it's time to reconsider whether we need so many fireworks shows. Now that drones are available, let's use more of those, and to defray costs reduce the number of shows. The Mallards' plan proposed a certain number of shows for 2026 as well. Please do not approve any more than the 2025 shows for Mallards at this time.

Thank you,

Marian Celesnik

1734 Sheridan Dr.

From: Brenna Marsicek <bmarsicek@swibirds.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 1:28 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Matthew Reetz <mreetz@swibirds.org>
Subject: Jan. 8 agenda item #14 and 15

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Dear City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners,

We are writing in regards to the January 8, 2025 BPC agenda item #14 and #15 relating to the Madison Mallards' request for fireworks shows launched from Warner Park in 2025 and 2026. We represent the Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance (formerly Madison Audubon), an organization that celebrates and supports birds, wildlife, and the people who care for them. We work with over 3,000 members in southern Wisconsin, many of whom reside in the Madison area.

We appreciate the Madison Mallards' proposed reduction of fireworks shows from 7 to 6 in 2025, and from 6 to 5 in 2026, and that three of each year's shows will be low-decibel shows. We are also glad that they acknowledge the nesting of Bald Eagles in close proximity to the launch site and are committed to not hosting fireworks shows until the eaglets have fledged.

However, under the proposal there remain many noise and air quality issues that result from the Mallards' numerous fireworks displays, all of which are likely to have significant impacts on wildlife and communities in and around the park. Six fireworks shows, including one longer 23-minute display, will produce excessive amounts of environmentally harmful air and soil pollutants, as well as extreme noise levels during a critical time of year when wildlife are nesting and raising young.

We urge the Board of Park Commissioners to consider these important issues in limiting the number of fireworks shows in 2025 and 2026, and require that all approved fireworks shows are low-decibel displays.

Thank you for your consideration,

Matt Reetz, executive director (mreetz@swibirds.org)

Brenna Marsicek, director of outreach (bmarsicek@swibirds.org)

Brenna Marsicek (she/her)

Director of Outreach | Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance (formerly Madison Audubon)

e: bmarsicek@swibirds.org*

p: 608-255-2473

w: swibirds.org

From: Susan Ballard <susaninwis@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 2:57 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Tonight's meeting Item 15 Mallards Fireworks

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I am a Northside District 18 resident of many years. I literally consider myself a Survivor of the many years of Rhythm and Booms. And there was some much appreciated peace when that ended until the Mallards started their fireworks events.

I feel that concerns of those of us whose lives are negatively affected by the numerous, loud, disruptive fireworks at the Mallards stadium are being ignored and that community input sessions are merely performative.

I have written previously to ask that the fireworks displays be reduced in number or eliminated, that our local eagle's nest in Warner Park and other wildlife be protected from the trauma caused by those explosives. I am asking again.

I oppose approval of any Mallards fireworks in the month of June to protect eagle fledglings. I support reducing the number of fireworks events there from previous years. I would prefer to have none but at least consider reducing them to 2 or 3.

I absolutely oppose allowing 2026 Mallards events to be allowed without public input. And I ask that those of us who live here and love the area be given the consideration we deserve.

Thank you,

Susan Ballard

1101 Northport Drive

Madison, WI

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Gmail <chriswillman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 1:20 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Opposed to fireworks in Warner Park

I am writing to voice my opposition to allowing fireworks to continue at Warner Park. The negative impacts on humans, pets, and wildlife are well documented. It's time this city pays attention the

that research and stops issuing permits that allow the negative impacts of the fireworks to continue to cause harm. There are lots of alternative types of light shows or drone shows that the Mallards owners could be using that will still cause a thrill for the audience but will not cause harm (indeed death to some creatures) from the extremely high decibel levels.

Chris Willman, District 12

2314 Hoard Street

Madison, Wi.