

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

From: Nancy or Jeffrey Lyons <jandn@chorus.net>  
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:01 AM  
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
Cc: Bobbie Dombrowski <bobbiedombrowski@gmail.com>  
Subject: Concerns about change to ordinance allowing dogs all over parks

Good morning Board of Park Commissioners,

My name is Nancy Lyons. As a dog owner and lover, I am very concerned with a proposed change to the ordinance regulating where leashed dogs can be in Madison parks. I think that it is important for dogs to be exercised and approve of dogs being allowed unleashed in fenced in dog parks if the dogs can be controlled and not become a threat to other people or dogs if unleashed. I am fine with leashed dogs being walked on public sidewalks.

However, this proposed change to the ordinance that would allow dogs leashed all over parks goes too far. Parks need to be welcoming for everyone.

My niece, Bobbie Dombrowski and I very strongly do not want dogs allowed all over parks. Parks need to be regulated so all people can enjoy them, including families who want to be able to go and walk and play in them without stepping in dog poop and worrying over if a dog is going to knock over their small child. There are people who are allergic to dogs or who have been traumatized by dogs and allowing dogs everywhere leashed would end up with more uncleaned up poop than there already is.

My niece Bobbie Dombrowski's home backs up to the Demetral Park property and she regularly finds bags of dog poop laying on the grass or uncleaned up dog poop from dog owners walking their dogs on the walking path. Her family does not like using the park anymore because of people not taking proper care of their dogs now. It will just be worse if walking leashed dogs is endorsed all over the park.

We need to make parks accessible for everyone. People can walk their dogs along sidewalks as they have done for years or take them to designated dog play areas. That is fine. But making all of a park welcome for dogs that are not service animals is not fair to others who cannot be around dogs due to allergies or trauma. Keep things as they are, please and make Madison parks truly accessible for EVERYONE.

We cannot stress how strongly how much we are against changing the current ordinance and beg of you to not change it.

Thank you,  
Nancy Lyons and Bobbie Dombrowski

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**From:** Tracy Doreen <myrealibrary@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:42 AM  
**To:** Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs in city parks

Dear Marsha and Parks Department,

Below I have included the email I sent to the Parks department in Oct. 2019 for the feedback meeting about Dogs in city parks. I am glad to see that some of the points I brought up were taken into consideration in the proposal.

I still have questions that I do not see addressed in the proposal. I strongly suggest the city address these questions before adopting this major ordinance change.

1. How will the parks department educate the public about which parks dogs are, and are not allowed? ( some people were not aware of the pilot program in 26 parks and wonder why dogs are now in these parks. They will also wonder how more parks will now have dogs.
2. How will requirements/ restrictions be regulated and enforced? Will contact information for enforcement be posted? Who will decide there is a repeat offender and how many times of ignoring the ordinance will it take before a citation is issued? How will park use permit be enforced
3. Who will make sure dog poop is picked up?
4. Will dog poop left in the parks be tested by the city for worms or diseases and issue public warnings? This is not simply an annoyance but a real public health consideration.
5. From what I see in the current proposal, the city does not propose to take on the expense of providing doggie poop bags and receptacles in parks. ( I have observed that many people do not carry any or enough bags for this purpose and often dump the bags in private residential garbage bins.) Other cities allowing dogs in parks provide bags and dedicated receptacles.
6. Can neighborhoods suggest other parks to this list to be considered for dog free status? There are some very tiny parks or very active kid parks or parks that are sacred land that were not included on the dog free park list such as Kerr McGee Triangle Park (tiny park) or Orton Park (very active with playground and basketball, picnics, etc.) or Bear Mound Park (sacred effigy mound land.) There are also neighborhoods that do not have a dog free park within a mile such as on the west side.

Please consider more public comment time to fully consider all park users who may still not be aware these changes are even proposed. Perhaps flyers posted at every city park that is under consideration for this change would better inform the public and elicit more democratic participation in this process. I appreciate the time and effort taken so far; though anticipating negative public response from many uninformed park users, perhaps more time to consider this is warranted before sending this to common council.

Madison is already in the top 10 nationally for dog-friendliness, according to the Trust for Public Lands based on the number of dog parks per capita. Please take time in this process to keep this a friendly place for dogs and for people.

Sincerely,

Tracy Dietzel

**Original letter below:**

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Tracy Doreen <[myrealibrary@icloud.com](mailto:myrealibrary@icloud.com)>

**Date:** October 2, 2019 at 2:58:54 PM CDT

**To:** [PACommission@cityofmadison.com](mailto:PACommission@cityofmadison.com)

**Subject:** Comment for tonight's meeting - Dogs in city parks

Dear City of Madison Park Commissioners,

No. Please do not open so many parks to dogs.

Parks are paid for by people. Dogs are NOT people too. People need a lot more education about how to handle their dogs in public before access is so opened.