

From: Ellen Reyerson <elle4379@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: noise issues at Burrows Park

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Dear Commissioner,

I am a resident of Maple Bluff. I have lived in our village for 7 years, the majority of which was across the street from Burrows Park at 22 Burrows Road; 6 months I moved around the corner to 32 Paget Road. The shelter at Burrows Park has seen a range of use within the time I've lived near the park. I've noted a huge increase in park shelter usage since I moved to the neighborhood in 2014; it went from being seldom used or mostly used as an ad hoc shelter from homeless people, to one that is used almost daily for park rentals. I do support the shelter being used for park rentals and events; it's a beautiful space and I really love seeing people in the park. It fosters a sense of community and belonging, and the feeling of neighbors being "around" which is something we celebrate in Maple Bluff.

My neighbor, Laura Vogel, has previously submitted concerns about noise levels during park rentals such as the one on 9/12/21. I have previously had similar complaints in the last several years, and I have contacted either our village police or the park rangers on numerous occasions. I support the use of the park shelter for smaller scale parties, weddings, reunions, work events, and youth programming. I am also happy to see that the shelter now has lighting all night long, which has reduced the presence of homeless people sleeping there, which previously made it undesirable for use by most park patrons. Earlier this month, there was an event referenced in Laura's comments, which indicates excessive noise at the shelter due to amplified music played by a rock band. This was exceptionally loud. I could hear it two blocks away at my house on Paget. The acoustics of the stone shelter, being open air, and being yards away from the lakeshore and an open lawn mean that sound carries tremendously. Please consider that the residents living near the park (or even across the lake) do not want to hear amplified music emanating from the park shelter. Acoustic music seems reasonable, as this noise carries far shorter distances.

I encourage you to adopt some kind of resolution that restricts the use of amplification at Burrows Park. I am happy to talk further over the phone or over email. As it happens, I am also the Chair of Parks & Recreation for Maple Bluff Board of Trustees, so I have some experience and insight into a situation like this. If there is a way we can work collaboratively, I am happy to facilitate that.

Attached is a recording that the Vogels took of the music on 9/12/21. It is awful.

Ellen Reyerson
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