

**From:** Linda Szewczyk <[linda.szewczyk@yahoo.com](mailto:linda.szewczyk@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, April 19, 2026 10:38 PM

**To:** Madison Parks <[parks@cityofmadison.com](mailto:parks@cityofmadison.com)>; Matthews, Julia <[district12@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district12@cityofmadison.com)>; Field, Derek <[district3@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district3@cityofmadison.com)>

**Cc:** [juliaep78@gmail.com](mailto:juliaep78@gmail.com); Kaniewski, Adam B <[AKaniewski@cityofmadison.com](mailto:AKaniewski@cityofmadison.com)>; Mayor <[Mayor@cityofmadison.com](mailto:Mayor@cityofmadison.com)>

**Subject:** Lack of proper planning for parks for Excessive apartment developments in Commercial, Packers, Sherman, Aaberg blocks!

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I need to express my disappointment in Madison's massive development in the area above with gross lack of proper planning for the vast number of children that will be living there. Every bit of available land it looks thus far is being given to development with not enough regard for the kids in the area. Your priority should first be for the families not the developers. The massive Hartmeier complex was supposed to have its own play area - oh it does - but in no way is it going to satisfy the needs of the kids! The current one is grossly insufficient. This was supposed to be part of their agreement but they really skimmed on this. How was that allowed to happen?! They should be required to fulfill their agreement to have a play area for kids.

The Hartmeier Wetland cannot be used for this purpose. This has been well delineated in the Hartmeier Wetland plans input. We were told we would be involved with the city for any planning and thus far we have grossly not been acknowledged in any planning. It is vital that the upland portion not be abused for the sake of amphibians in the area. The sanctity of burial mounds must be honored. This all will be used as teaching tools and a place of solace, but will be marred if abused. This site is important to our future generations.

Maybe each new apartment complex, if for families, should be required to have a play area. I am sure parents would love to have something right there for their kids,

Demetrol is largely not utilized but could be a nice family gathering/play area. Problems needing to be addressed - traffic on Packers is far too fast. With the magnitude of the new population in the area the speed limit needs to be addressed anyway. Plus a new bus stop is planned on opposite side. There is the refusal for consideration of a pedestrian overpass - why?!! Especially now with a new bus stop this is an obvious need.

I realize there is talk of even more development in the area, but Madison you need to have the mindset for what matters and be able to change your course of action now! For God's sake - you certainly have enough development thus far. You should instead save an area not for development, but instead for an area for recreation I have asked Madison to slow down and think carefully, This area is just the opposite with not enough care in the planning and choices made.

Madison - you need to wake up! Quit being a disappointment. Your reputation is much better than this.

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Linda Szewczyk

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**From:** Carol Buelow <crbuelow@wisc.edu>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2026 8:21 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Wilde, Izzy <IWilde@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** plans for Hartmeyer-Roth Park

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [crbuelow@wisc.edu](mailto:crbuelow@wisc.edu). [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am writing to say that I whole-heartedly support the planning goals for this new Hartmeyer-Roth Park that are outlined by the dedicated and hard-working group, Friends of Hartmeyer Natural Area. I especially favor:

1. Make this a Conservation Park. The small wetland area is rich in wildlife, and is ecologically sensitive, being surrounded by dense residential neighborhoods. That aspect should be protected.
2. Preserve, respect, and document native peoples' use of the land, especially the burial mound site.
3. Preserve the upland prairies and wooded areas, which are vital habitat for the wildlife that also use the wetland.
4. Avoid paved paths except along the very borders. Provide mowed and mulched walking paths that don't intrude into the wetland.
5. Engage the public, especially kids, in nature-based educational and fun activities, as well as involvement in helping maintain the health of the park, such as removing invasives.
6. Avoid developed sports activities, playgrounds, etc. Maintain as much of the area as possible as natural habitat for wildlife, bumblebees, Monarch butterflies.

This Park area is small, and it is a gem of a natural area. Let's keep it that way!

Sincerely, Carol Buelow

Madison resident

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**From:** HildyB <hildybee@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, May 8, 2026 10:53 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Wilde, Izzy <IWilde@cityofmadison.com>;  
Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Plans for new Hartmeyer Roth Park

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Please Make Madison's new Hartmeyer Roth Park a Conservation Park It is zoned Conservation District Preserve. Please restore the entire remaining 15-acre half of the 30-acre historical wetland natural area as a Conservation Park, similar to the small ecologically and historically important 8 acre Kettle Pond Conservation Park on Madison's near west side. The nearest existing Conservation Park is 3 miles away adjacent to wealthier suburban neighborhoods. Give lower income near east and north side neighborhood residents, schools and kids their own nearby small Conservation Park with beautiful nature, birds and wildlife to enjoy within easy safe walking and biking distance..

Please present Park Planning Option #3 with a Conservation Park map vision for public and alder review and committee consideration.

There is a confirmed burial mound site that demands appropriate quiet respect, signage and usage of the park. The entire 15-acres for the park should be investigated to ensure we fully understand the historic use of this parcel of land pre-settlement. We want the site protected with due diligence to respecting, preserving and documenting Native American occupancy and the cultural history. Please collaborate with the Ho-Chunk Nation and area residents to help rename the park with an Indigenous focused name.

Sustainable Biodiversity Wetland wildlife spend major parts of their lives in adjacent upland prairies and woodland areas. They cannot survive in just a wetland boundary. All upland and woodland areas need to be preserved and restored to support healthy biodiverse wildlife including Sandhill Cranes, Red-tailed Hawks, Wood Ducks, Bluebirds, Fox, Snakes, Frogs, Turtles, Butterflies, Bees, and Dragonflies.

Please provide accessible paths along the north and west park street borders in addition to the city bike path along the east border, and small mowed areas and observation decks along the border paths with benches and interpretive signage for enjoyment of nature and quiet relaxation for mental and physical health and stress reduction. No paths should intrude into the wetland and upland natural areas.

Madison Parks and partner organization should collaborate to help engage area residents and kids in passive nature recreation, natural health, and nature education including school outings, bird watching, nature bathing, yoga, bluebird monitoring, bat counts and other citizen science, and volunteer activities including invasives removal, litter removal and native plantings that help build community connections and a sense of public ownership to help create a positive and welcoming Hartmeyer Roth Park neighborhood identity.

Pair Hartmeyer Roth with Demetral Like other Madison parks that pair a passive recreation park with a nearby active recreation park, pair Hartmeyer Roth for passive recreation with nearby Demetral Park for active recreation sports. Demetral is only a couple of blocks from Hartmeyer Roth and current crossing safety is the same as at Warner Park. Further improve pedestrian and bicycle safety at all crossings to accommodate new development. The apartments nearby have a playground, a pool and several dog release areas.

A playground and a pool are already provided in the large adjacent development. Taking park space for a public playground within less than a block would be redundant and lose precious upland needed to sustain a healthy wetland ecosystem. A new neighborhood playground should be planned and located in another neighborhood development nearby, not by reducing the restorable natural area.

This park should be designated as a No Dogs park. The frequent presence of dogs even on leash and on paths, negatively impacts nesting birds and wildlife in adjacent natural areas many feet away. Three dog relief areas are already provided in the development away from the park. An off-leash dog park is already provided at Demetral Park only a couple blocks away. There are sidewalks for walking dogs on leash.

The long abandoned ball fields created when Oscar Mayer high capacity groundwater wells artificially lowered water levels, and most of the park open space, flood often in spring and rain events. They will flood more frequently due to climate change. All of the small remaining open areas in the 15-acre park should be preserved and restored to help replace large stands of high quality milkweed species for Monarch Butterflies and native wildflowers for bees including native orchids that the development destroyed.

Keeping the upland prairie and wooded border along the west railroad wildlife corridor is critical to preserve this quiet nature refugia and wildlife corridor connections with other Madison parks and natural areas. Putting basketball hoops or other active sports with noise and high human activity would disrupt and degrade this quiet natural area refugia and important wildlife corridor connection.

Lighting should be downcast and outdoor sound limited to avoid affecting birds and wildlife. We recommend preserving all mature trees and adding more native Wisconsin trees and native under story plants with wildlife value for ecological benefits to also provide sound and light barriers along the park borders and especially on the east and south sides

of the park. This will serve both to help protect ecosystem biodiversity and to preserve the quiet nature park sanctuary feel and value for community members looking to get away from noisy and hectic urban areas and activities.

Thank you in advance for helping make Hartmeyer Roth Park a wildlife and ecological gem.  
- Hildy Feen, Madison

From: randomness@aol.com <randomness@aol.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 11:39 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Ritchie Brown <chokabrown53@gmail.com>; sluybs@aol.com

Subject: How can you improve on perfection?

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I was registered to speak at the April 14th meeting but I never got a chance. Due to computer problems I was only able to participate by phone. I didn't have the luxury of raising my hand and my efforts to cut in were not heard. However, I want my thoughts to be considered so I submit this written version of what I wanted to say. Could someone please see to it that this becomes part of the record.

How can you improve on perfection?

The proposed park area south of Roth Street is already the perfect blend of liveliness and tranquility. It is home to a rich diversity of animal and plant life and it contains the final resting place of untold generations of Native Americans. While I appreciate the need for parks, parking lots and development I also appreciate the need to preserve what makes Madison so special.

The wetland area is already protected by the DNR and that is a good thing. But the rest of the site is vulnerable. Long before there were houses, streets, railroad tracks and parking lots, Madison was a paradise. It is no wonder that the Native Americans lived and died here for centuries and centuries before European immigrants ever set foot on this land.

The days were filled with hunting and gathering the abundant resources and there was still time for visiting playing, and music. The nights, under dark skies, were illuminated by campfires around which everything from daily events to ancient stories were told. The movement of the moon and the stars was followed and understood. There was a reverence for nature and nature, in turn, provided everything the people needed.

With so many people, special considerations had to be made for dealing with dying. Areas needed to be set aside for burial. And these areas grew with time. The land south of Roth

Street was such an area. The burial grounds have been there for at least 800 years. Burials ceased about 250 years ago but that still leaves over 5 centuries of interments.

Although ancient burial practices differed from ours they were similarly sacred to the Native Americans. One can only consider these grounds to be a cemetery. There are several other modern cemeteries in the immediate vicinity, some are as large as 90 acres. They are all nestled within neighborhoods in need of parks. Would we even consider scraping away the gravestones and installing basketball courts, parking lots and other "improvements"? Of course not. That would be an abomination.

In the same sense, grading over Native American burial sites would be an abomination. How many thousands of humans are interred in this site. In the large mound we studied with Ground Penetrating Radar we found evidence of hundreds of burials in an area of about a quarter acre. A 300 year old marker tree on the mound has already been destroyed. It is vital that this mound be immediately preserved.

Concerning the other land between the mound and the wetlands, Ritchie Brown and I would gladly organize another GPR study though it would be a somewhat expensive project. When you consider that untold thousands of indigenous people lived and died in this area over the lifetime of the cemetery, it would be surprising if there weren't thousands of burials in the area.

The rule of thumb for developing a park on this land is that we do nothing here that we wouldn't do in a modern cemetery. Certainly places to rest, converse and meditate would be acceptable. Perhaps even areas for music (say a drum circle) would be appropriate. Pickleball courts and swing sets - not so much.

We have already lost so much of our history and prehistory. Sites like this are what makes Madison unique. What we have here is already sacred and immensely valuable. Our efforts should be aimed at preserving it and honoring it.

Steve Solberg

**From:** Charlene Wilke <cdwilke120@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2026 7:35 AM

**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>; Matthews, Julia <district12@cityofmadison.com>; Wilde, Izzy <IWilde@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Agenda Item 13 (93065) Hartmeyer Roth Park

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This is regarding the Board of Park Commissioners - May 13, 2026 6:30pm meeting. Agenda item 13 (93065) Hartmeyer-Roth Park

To the City of Madison Parks,

I would like to express my concerns over the area in District 12 known as Hartmeyer-Roth Park. From what I understand, this was designated a Conservation District Preserve as requested by the residents of the neighborhood. As someone who looks over this space from my apartment window and walks my dog in the area, I do not see how turning it into a 'Traditional' park will benefit the neighborhood. This area is subject to frequent flooding. Our garages get backed up from heavy rainfalls. Even with the accommodations the developers originally built to account for stormwater, they have had to make additional remediations. The wetlands and trees are necessary to absorb stormwater runoff. With more apartments intended to go into the neighborhood, the area will need it.

Aside from the impact on wildlife and fauna, the walking paths that run through the natural space, as the parks planning has proposed, may not be ideal due to the increased tick and mosquito borne illness. I have found it concerning just walking on the sidewalks, because the owners of other undeveloped land neglect the space, unshoveled sidewalks that become iced over in the winter and heavy overgrowth of grass and weeds that cover the sidewalks in the summer.

Please consider Park Planning option #3. The current bike path with the addition of a viewing platform and informative park sign would serve the space. There are other 'Traditional' parks in the neighborhood and northside. This space is a unique natural area with ties to native American practices. It has been an educational tool for

schoolchildren. It would be a shame to lose it to a park that may not be usable as intended in Planning options #1 and #2 due to the land's natural tendency to flooding.

Thank you for your considerations,  
Charlene Wilke