

**From:** [Schmitt, Joshua](#)  
**To:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Orchard Ridge & Elvehjem  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 4:50:22 PM

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Lots of graffiti at Elvehjem from the placement of the Shelter and generally a bad shelter tactically to approach. If it could spin 90 degrees so the neighbors could see into the shelter it would make matters easier for us. Otherwise both parks are in pretty quiet residential areas.

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**From:** Close, Sarah <SClose@cityofmadison.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 11:20 AM  
**To:** Schmitt, Joshua <JSchmitt3@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Orchard Ridge & Elvehjem

Morning Josh,

We're starting up master planning processes for Orchard Ridge (not Orchard Valley Ridge) and Elvehjem parks. Wondering if you or your staff had any insight to share, from a ranger-ing point of view?

Thanks,  
Close

**From:** [Henak, Zachary](#)  
**To:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Orchard Ridge Park- Master Plan  
**Date:** Monday, May 20, 2019 2:51:53 PM

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Great Sarah! And yep invites are nice.

Sincerely,

Zachary

On May 20, 2019, at 2:02 PM, Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

Hi Zachary,

No problem at all, I'm sure your schedule is much busier nowadays. I have the rescheduled the first meeting date for 6/13 (same time and place). No worries, the master plan process is always at least two meetings, so we will have another come mid-July.

I've let Mike know and he is on board. I'll have all of the meeting advertisements updated today and then we will be back on track- just a small blip to keep us on our toes this Monday!

I don't recall if I've asked you, but do you like meeting invitations sent to your Outlook calendar? Some of the previous alders would ask us to do this.

Have a good one,  
Sarah C.

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**From:** Henak, Zachary <[district10@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district10@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2019 12:22 PM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Orchard Ridge Park- Master Plan

Hello Sarah,

Sorry I couldn't take your call. June 11th is actually a common council meeting night. Thus I would not be able to attend. However that Thursday June 13th would work. It is not crucial I am in attendance.

I am also having another neighborhood meeting tonight and could publicize any date. Is there any chance you would keep this weeks meeting and have another one next month? Wherever you end up please get in contact with Mike Thompson at Orchard Ridge Neighborhood Association as I know he has been publicizing it.

Sincerely,

Zachary Henak

On May 1, 2019, at 1:25 PM, Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

Hi Zachary,

Orchard Ridge PIM is all set to go for 5/22. Postcards ordered, I will be out in the park next week to post the signs, and the project webpage is up here:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/orchard-ridge-park-master-plan>

I've contacted the Orchard Ridge NA reps as well. Let's do this, show this park some love! Let me know if any questions come up or if there's anything I can help with.

Thanks,  
Sarah C.

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**From:** Henak, Zachary <[district10@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district10@cityofmadison.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 7:43 AM

**To:** Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Orchard Ridge Park- Master Plan

Sara,

Thank you very much for the information, It is on my calendar and I will be there! That is also the same night as the Neighborhood association meeting so you may want to reach out to them and see if they can attend and work around your meeting. I think it is reasonable to not go all the way south but Hammersley isn't that busy and people do talk a lot about Orchard Ridge Park so maybe splitting the difference between the bottom of the zone and Hammersley would be good.

Let me know if there are other ways I can help or gather input!

Zachary Henak  
608.471.2900

On Apr 26, 2019, at 12:15 PM, Close, Sarah  
<[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

Dear Alder Henak,

The City of Madison Parks Division is beginning the master

planning process for a park located within your aldermanic district. Orchard Ridge Park, which is located at [REDACTED] Whitcomb Dr, is considered a mini park and currently offers a half basketball court and play equipment. The overall master planning process will include completing an inventory and analysis of the existing conditions on the parcel, engaging residents through public information meetings, gathering public input through several strategies, and completing a conceptual plan for facilities that will be offered in the park.

We are looking to hold the first public information meeting the week of May 20<sup>th</sup> at Toki Middle School. Would you be available any evenings that week, if you would like to attend? We always extend an invitation to alders for these meetings, but please don't consider it mandatory. It is up to your discretion whether to attend or not. We will always post the presentation and meeting results on the Parks' Project Portal website and send a meeting summary to the alder.

I have attached the proposed postcard mailing boundary to this email; typically for public information meetings for a mini park, like Orchard Ridge, we base the boundary on a ¼ mile radius from the park. You'll see the ¼ mile radius marked with a teal circle, and our proposed postcard mailing boundary outlined in red. We excluded residents south of Hammersley Rd due to the high traffic volume- we felt it is more likely that these residents utilize other parks to the south, rather than trying to walk across Hammersley. What are your thoughts?

On a more personal note, congrats on becoming the new alder for district 10. Looking forward to continuing to work with you on parks projects!

Thanks,  
Close

Sarah Close  
Landscape Architect  
City of Madison Parks Division  
City-County Building, Rm 104  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703

**From:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**To:** ["Wanda Rodriguez"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Orchard Ridge Park  
**Date:** Thursday, June 06, 2019 1:05:56 PM

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Good afternoon Wanda,

Thank you for reaching out! I am always so happy to hear from engaged park patrons and I hope to meet you at the upcoming meeting. If something comes up and you are unable to attend, please let me know. I will be sure to get you a summary of the presentation and we can discuss one-on-one. I will also be sending out a short survey after the first meeting and we will hold a second meeting later in the summer.

If you don't mind me asking, what does your grandchild like best about this park? Are there any particular activities that are a favorite?

The Parks Division does not have any immediate plans for Orchard Valley Ridge Park behind your home, other than removal of the old ice skating rink lights. They are beyond repair and no longer used (and I personally think a bit of an eyesore) so we would like to have them taken out. However, I have heard that the Engineering Department is investigating this park and the drainage issues as part of a city-wide stormwater management plan. (Technically Engineering owns the small portion back by the ponds.) Your best contact would be Phil Gaebler at [pgaebler@cityofmadison.com](mailto:pgaebler@cityofmadison.com).

Thank you,  
Sarah C.

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**From:** Wanda Rodriguez <[REDACTED]@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2019 3:34 PM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Orchard Ridge Park

Hi Ms. Close,

I'm aware that there will be a meeting next week regarding planning for amenities at Orchard Ridge Park. I hope to be in attendance at this meeting as I have a grandchild that I am raising who enjoys playing in this park very much.

I wonder though if there are also plans for the Orchard Ridge Park on the other side of Loruth Terrace. This park is simply an open field. I have lived at [REDACTED] Loruth Terrace for 20 years now and my home backs up to this park. It is one of the main reasons we bought our home. While most years we've enjoyed our home immensely the last two years have been a huge issue. With the heavy rain that we had last August the ground in the park continues to be saturated and there are small ponds in places where ponds didn't exist. Three of the trees that were planted in the park last year have died due to soaking in mud. The grass hasn't been mowed yet this year and I have to assume that it's because of the saturation. While I've enjoyed watching the cranes and other wildlife I do miss walking out back with my dog and

getting the exercise I used to get 3 times a day. I also worry significantly about mosquitoes and ticks. At this point it's become unsightly, unusable and a health concern. I would appreciate any information you can give me. Thank you!

Wanda Rodriguez  
[REDACTED] Loruth Terrace  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-[REDACTED]

**From:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**To:** "Karen Rayshel"  
**Subject:** RE: Orchard Ridge Park Master Plan Suggestions  
**Date:** Friday, June 07, 2019 4:35:33 PM

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Hello Karen,

My apologies about the difficulties connecting, we seem to keep missing each other by a few minutes. I will plan on giving you a call at 1:30PM this upcoming Monday so we can chat. If you haven't seen the Orchard Ridge Park website, here is the address. I will be keeping this page updated with all meeting materials and notices for upcoming meetings.

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/orchard-ridge-park-master-plan>

Additional opportunities to provide input include:

- An informal pop-up session at the Orchard Ridge Neighborhood Association's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration
- A community survey which will be mailed and available online
- The second public information meeting (not scheduled yet, expected to occur around mid-July)
- And of course, emails, letters, and phone calls

Speak with you soon,

Sarah C.

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**From:** Karen Rayshel <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 07, 2019 4:20 PM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <SClose@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Orchard Ridge Park Master Plan Suggestions

Hello Sarah Close,

My name is Karen Rayshel and my residence backs up to Orchard Ridge Park ([REDACTED] Courtland Circle). I would like to provide feedback to the planning committee, however I will be out of town next week Thursday 6/13/19. I have listed my comments below and would be available to speak with you on Monday 6/10 anytime between 1:30-3pm. My telephone number is 608-[REDACTED]. Thank you for your consideration, Karen Rayshel

#### **Orchard Ridge Park Master Plan Suggestions**

- Add mid -size soccer goals and paint soccer lines in the main grassy area during the spring and fall.
  - Currently, 2-3 days per week soccer teams use the field for practice.
- Take out basketball court and baseball backstop. These are old and non functional.
- Replace the climber and slide with a modern play structure.
- Keep the swings, tire swing and baby swings. These are used often.
- Add a drinking fountain.
- Maintain a large field and keep the play structures to the edge of the park.

- Currently, the large field is used often for picnics, soccer practice and other activities.

**From:** [Mike Thomsen](#)  
**To:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Orchard Ridge Park- Public Information Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 4:56:56 PM

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Hi, Sarah,

Come early on the 4th. We'll be grilling but there will be people coming to find a good place under a tree. It's usually hot.

People are interested in the park improvements but I don't know how many to expect. Five people have asked to be on the ORNA parks committee and there will probably be several board members plus and interested residents who haven't messaged me because they don't want to be on the committee.

Thanks and I'm looking forward to meeting you!  
Mike

On Tue, Jun 11, 2019, 4:09 PM Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

Hi Mike,

Finishing up the presentation materials for Thursday evening and wondering how many people you feel will be in attendance? Part of the meeting includes a hands-on small group activity and I don't want people to feel too crowded, so I'll print more materials if you feel like we'll see more than the typical 15-20 people.

Also, is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade set to start at 11:30AM this year? If so, do you feel like 11:30 would work well for me to set up in the park so that I'm ready to go by the time the parade is finished? Or should I aim for a bit earlier to beat the rush?

Thanks,

Sarah C.

**From:** Mike Thomsen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2019 9:26 AM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Orchard Ridge Park- Public Information Meeting

Good morning, Sarah,

The 4th of July Picnic and Parade would be a great time to be there. The event had been held for a lot of years and we usually get about 500, on average. It's free and a lot of fun.

I'll change the meeting date and send a new email. I'm getting a number of people who want to join the parks committee so that's encouraging.

Thanks for staying in touch! D funny hesitate to call or write. My number is 608-

Mike

On Thu, May 30, 2019, 8:59 AM Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

Morning Mike,

Quick question- I see on the neighborhood association's website that in years past there have been 4<sup>th</sup> of July parties in the park. Is that planned again for 2019? I'm wondering if it would be helpful to come for an hour or two and set up a small display related to the master planning process. I feel as if this could be an outreach event that would allow some great feedback from the neighbors. What are your thoughts?

Also, I see on the website event calendar that the first Orchard Ridge Park meeting is mistakenly listed as 6/11. Just wanted to send a quick reminder that we are officially on for 6/13!

Have a good one,

Sarah C.

**From:** Mike Thomsen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2019 1:46 PM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Orchard Ridge Park- Public Information Meeting

Thanks, Sarah! You're doing the right thing. We want lots of people to get involved.

On Mon, May 20, 2019, 1:44 PM Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

Ok Mike, we are on for same time, same place on 6/13/2019! I'll be out to post new signs tonight and am working to get all of the meeting notification materials updated now. Sorry again about the inconvenience, but I'd feel terrible if interested neighbors missed the first meeting because of a mess-up on Park's side.

Thanks,

Sarah C.

**From:** Mike Thomsen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2019 11:30 AM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Orchard Ridge Park- Public Information Meeting

Alrighty, thanks for letting me know.

On Mon, May 20, 2019, 11:26 AM Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

I'm reaching out to Alder Henak and the MMSD rental office right now. I'm hoping 6/11, or at least that week. I'll let you know as soon as I do!

Thanks,

Sarah C.

**From:** Mike Thomsen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2019 11:20 AM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Orchard Ridge Park- Public Information Meeting

Postpone until when? Do you have a date?

On Mon, May 20, 2019, 11:18 AM Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

Morning Mike,

Hoping to reach you before your neighborhood association meeting this evening- I was just informed that postcards for the Orchard Ridge meeting this Wednesday night were never sent from the printing department. While just one of the strategies Parks uses to for public outreach, postcards are definitely an important tool. With this in mind, we have decided to postpone the meeting to allow us time to reach out to the neighbors again. Sorry for the inconvenience, I'll be back in touch with a new meeting date shortly.

Thanks,

Sarah C.

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**From:** Close, Sarah  
**Sent:** Monday, May 06, 2019 1:58 PM  
**To:** 'Mike Thomsen' <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Orchard Ridge Park- Public Information Meeting

Great, thanks Mike. I plan to be out in the park tomorrow morning surveying the trees, in case you get any calls!

Sarah C.

**From:** Mike Thomsen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 02, 2019 3:32 PM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Orchard Ridge Park- Public Information Meeting

Sure, will have something by then. And please call me Mike.

Mike

On Thu, May 2, 2019, 3:18 PM Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Thomsen,

That sounds like a fantastic plan and I look forward to the recommendations from the NA board. The second public information meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of July 15<sup>th</sup> and it would be ideal to incorporate these recommendations into the presentation at this meeting. Will that work with your schedule? Please let me know if I can provide any information that may help your efforts.

I'm pleased to hear that neighbors are so enthusiastic and proactive about their local parks!

Thank you,

Sarah C.

**From:** Mike Thomsen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 01, 2019 1:40 PM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] [msn.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@msn.com)  
**Subject:** Re: Orchard Ridge Park- Public Information Meeting

Dear Ms. Close,

Thank you for informing us of the meeting about Orchard Ridge Park. I have had a number of people write to me regarding improvements for this park. So, I imagine there will be good attendance at the meeting. I will be forming a committee to examine and discuss the situation with the park and what we hear from residents both at the meeting and "on the streets." We will then put together a set of recommendations by the Orchard Ridge NA board.

We are very much looking forward to working with you!

Best wishes,

Mike Thomsen, President

Orchard Ridge Neighborhood Association

On Wed, May 1, 2019 at 12:03 PM Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Thomsen and Mr. Avery,

The City of Madison Parks Division is beginning the master planning process for a park located within your neighborhood association boundaries. Orchard Ridge Park, which is located at [REDACTED] Whitcomb Dr, is considered a mini park and currently offers a half basketball court, softball backstop, and play equipment. The overall master planning process will include completing an inventory and analysis of the existing conditions on the parcel, engaging residents through public information meetings, gathering public input through several strategies, and completing a conceptual plan for facilities that will be offered in the park.

We are holding the first public information meeting (PIM) on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30PM-8:30PM at the Toki Middle School library. I see there a neighborhood

association meeting the evening of May 20<sup>th</sup>- would you be willing to make a short announcement to attendees about the Orchard Ridge Park PIM? Parks will be mailing postcards and posting signs in the park as well.

There is a webpage on the Parks Project Portal that is an excellent reference for more information, upcoming meetings, meeting agendas, contact info etc. Please view it here: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/orchard-ridge-park-master-plan>

Thank you,

Sarah C.

Sarah Close

Landscape Architect

City of Madison Parks Division

City-County Building, Rm 104

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Madison, WI 53703

[sclose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:sclose@cityofmadison.com)

(608) 263-6850

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Mike Thomsen, President

Orchard Ridge Neighborhood Association

**From:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**To:** "Wanda"  
**Subject:** RE: Orchard Ridge Park  
**Date:** Friday, June 14, 2019 2:05:28 PM

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Hello Wanda,

No worries, I've posted all of the materials from last night on the Park's webpage, here:  
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/orchard-ridge-park-master-plan>

We heard from many of your neighbors that they love the sandbox and would like it to stay (or something similar be installed). I've been hearing a from a lot of children that they like the obstacle course-type layouts as well, those are a big hit! Thank you for all of the information.

I'll be at the Orchard Ridge 4<sup>th</sup> of July Party with information regarding the master planning process. I will be taking comments and answering any questions. Please stop by if you see me!

Thank you,  
Sarah C.

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**From:** Wanda <[REDACTED]@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2019 8:43 AM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Orchard Ridge Park

Hi,

I didn't make it to last night's meeting after all. My granddaughter loves, loves, loves swings. She also loves to play in the sandbox. We would love a water fountain though if at all possible as it would help with making the sand moist for building castles. I tell her that when I was a little girl I'd find a paper cup or something I could fill and go back and forth from the water fountain to the sandbox.

She also says that she'd love a high swirly slide. She adores monkey bars too. She pretty much goes from one thing to another her favorites being the swing, sand and slide. She's not too crazy about the tire swing I've noticed.

At school she seems to like the bridges and obstacle courses on the playground as well as balance beams. Thank you and hopefully I'll be able to make the next meeting.

Wanda

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 6, 2019, at 1:05 PM, Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

Good afternoon Wanda,

Thank you for reaching out! I am always so happy to hear from engaged park patrons and I hope to meet you at the upcoming meeting. If something comes up and you are unable to attend, please let me know. I will be sure to get you a summary of the presentation and we can discuss one-on-one. I will also be sending out a short survey after the first meeting and we will hold a second meeting later in the summer.

If you don't mind me asking, what does your grandchild like best about this park? Are there any particular activities that are a favorite?

The Parks Division does not have any immediate plans for Orchard Valley Ridge Park behind your home, other than removal of the old ice skating rink lights. They are beyond repair and no longer used (and I personally think a bit of an eyesore) so we would like to have them taken out. However, I have heard that the Engineering Department is investigating this park and the drainage issues as part of a city-wide stormwater management plan. (Technically Engineering owns the small portion back by the ponds.) Your best contact would be Phil Gaebler at [pgaebler@cityofmadison.com](mailto:pgaebler@cityofmadison.com).

Thank you,  
Sarah C.

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**From:** Wanda Rodriguez <[REDACTED]@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2019 3:34 PM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Orchard Ridge Park

Hi Ms. Close,

I'm aware that there will be a meeting next week regarding planning for amenities at Orchard Ridge Park. I hope to be in attendance at this meeting as I have a grandchild that I am raising who enjoys playing in this park very much.

I wonder though if there are also plans for the Orchard Ridge Park on the other side of Loruth Terrace. This park is simply an open field. I have lived at [REDACTED] Loruth Terrace for 20 years now and my home backs up to this park. It is one of the main reasons we bought our home. While most years we've enjoyed our home immensely the last two years have been a huge issue. With the heavy rain that we had last August the ground in the park continues to be saturated and there are small ponds in places where ponds didn't exist. Three of the trees that were planted in the park last year have died due to soaking in mud. The grass hasn't been mowed yet this year and I have to assume that it's because of the saturation. While I've enjoyed watching the cranes and other wildlife I do miss walking out back with my dog and getting the exercise I used to get 3 times a day. I also worry significantly about mosquitoes and ticks. At this point it's become unsightly, unusable and a health concern. I would appreciate any information you can give me. Thank you!

Wanda Rodriguez  
[REDACTED] Loruth Terrace  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-[REDACTED]

**From:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**To:** ["Mike Thomsen"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Thank you!  
**Date:** Friday, June 14, 2019 1:18:49 PM

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Afternoon Mike,

That was a great meeting last night, turn-out was terrific! It's always so nice to work with an engaged neighborhood.

Yes, the slideshow is up on the project website now. I'm drafting up an email to all of last night's attendees and will send shortly. Paper copies of the survey went out in the mail today and the online version is live. We are moving right along!

Thanks,  
Sarah C.

**From:** Mike Thomsen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2019 7:38 AM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <SClose@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Thank you!

Good morning, and thank you, Sarah, for putting on a terrific meeting last night. I think we're off to a great start. When I got home I was browsing through the news and, you probably know this already, but

**"Two hours a week is key dose of nature for health and wellbeing"**

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/06/190613095227.htm>

I think having nice park space with attractive landscaping as well as some toys is a great investment.

BTW, would you be able to make the slide show available on the project website?

Best wishes,  
Mike

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Mike Thomsen, President  
Orchard Ridge Neighborhood Association

**From:** [Phil Ingwell](#)  
**To:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Orchard Ridge Park- Master Plan Meeting #1  
**Date:** Saturday, June 15, 2019 12:19:00 PM

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Could you please tell me who the contact person is for Orchard Valley Park and their phone number please thank you

On Fri, Jun 14, 2019 at 1:28 PM Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

Hello everyone,

Thank you again for attending last night's public information meeting about Orchard Ridge Park. We had a fantastic turn-out and a plethora of great ideas!

The next step in the master planning process is the Community Survey, which helps gather more public input and informs the design of the park. Please fill out the survey at your convenience, it is available online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OrchardRidgePark>

Please note that we have also mailed paper copies of the survey to residents living within approximately ¼ mile of Orchard Ridge Park. Please submit the survey only once (either paper or online). **Surveys must be completed and received by July 12, 2019 to be considered with this planning effort.**

For more information regarding the Orchard Ridge Park Master Plan, please visit:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/orchard-ridge-park-master-plan>

Residents receiving this message provided their email at the first public information meeting. If you no longer wish to receive emails regarding Orchard Ridge Park, please respond and I will remove you from the contact list.

Thank you,

Sarah C.

Sarah Close

Landscape Architect

City of Madison Parks Division

City-County Building, Rm 104

[210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.](#)

[Madison, WI 53703](#)

[sclose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:sclose@cityofmadison.com)

(608) 263-6850



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Phil Ingwell

608-

 [gmail.com](#)

**From:** [Genin, Greg](#)  
**To:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**Subject:** ORNA  
**Date:** Monday, June 17, 2019 8:06:03 AM

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Hi Sarah,

I received an email update from my neighborhood association noting what a terrific meeting they had with you with regard to the Orchard Ridge Park. I had wanted to attend, but spaced it out. It sounded like the meeting was well attended.

Has there been any thought to a nature nook area for play?

Anyway, this note was to let you know the association thought you did a great job.

Greg

From: Close, Sarah  
To: "Diane Harrington"  
Subject: RE: Orchard Ridge Park- Master Plan Meeting #1  
Date: Monday, June 17, 2019 11:07:16 AM  
Oh I forgot, I was going to mention that Parks does not install lighting for courts/fields in mini parks.  
So no worries there!

**From:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**To:** ["Diane Harrington"](#)

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**Subject:** RE: Orchard Ridge Park- Master Plan Meeting #1  
**Date:** Monday, June 17, 2019 8:46:26 AM

Good morning Diane,

Thank you, I'm glad the meeting was engaging. It's much easier with such a great crowd! I'm loving the comments you've passed on, a lot of creativity. I actually watched a webinar on senior playgrounds a few weeks ago and I do have a note down to get crews out to take care of the buckthorn.

Hope you have a nice drive next week and thanks again for letting me park in your driveway!

Talk again soon,  
Sarah C.

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**From:** Diane Harrington <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2019 4:24 PM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <SClose@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Orchard Ridge Park- Master Plan Meeting #1

Sarah,

Thanks for hosting a fun meeting last night in Orchard Ridge. You're a great, fun speaker/facilitator. :)

As a reminder, Scott and I live at [REDACTED] Whitcomb, on the east side of the driveway going into the park. You're welcome to use our driveway to park when you come to the picnic; sorry we won't be in town that weekend! (We're meeting my 79-year-old mother in Minneapolis, who's coming up for Florida to see my sons, who both live there.)

I wanted to pass along comments my neighbors emailed me:

*Hi Diane, I'm not able to come to the park meeting, but one idea I hope will be in the mix is a senior play park, which all ages could use:*

<https://www.aaastateofplay.com/playgrounds-for-senior-citizens/>

*Please mention this? Thank you.*

Susan Tiffany [\[REDACTED\]@charter.net](#)

=====

*Agree on the basketball court, move to Loruth if you must but if it is moved, please, no lights!*

*Diane, the other way to go is to just naturalize half the park, probably the the lower (eastern) end of the park (without buffalo). Winding paths of crushed limestone through an arboretum of flowering crabs, redbuds, and hardy Japanese-Korean maples, with various perennial tall grasses and some stands of echanacia, rudbeckia and monarda would be nice. Some low evergreen bushes. Maybe a small pond, but it would have to be aerated. Maybe even a gazebo with a plaque dedicated to Orchard Ridge's most famous and leading citizen. (Cough, cough.) City would never do this, though, without \$\$\$ help from ORNA. But would be a great multi-year fund drive. Diane, I'll put you down for the first \$1,000 pledge. The club would also have to dedicate to upkeep, which would be a good project for it. I'd even volunteer ... my wife.*

*At the very least the city should eradicate the buckthorn that is just over our fence line. An invasive species.*

*David Blaska [REDACTED] [icloud.com](mailto:blaska@icloud.com)*

=====

*Thank you for this email and your advocacy for the park. I have volunteered to serve on the committee and Ben and I are very excited about the project. Unfortunately with the rescheduling of the meeting, I am not able to make the meeting tomorrow night, returning home late in the evening from a work trip. Please do share our commitment to this project's success and our desire that it serves the needs of our neighbors. If it were not for my conflict (and child care) one or both of us would attend, so please encourage them to count us in the number of involved neighbors!*

*Thank you for the opportunity to share feedback with you to carry to the meeting. Her are some initial thoughts:*

*Given the number of young families in our immediate vicinity, we also feel it's important that the play structures be revamped and accommodate all ages. While I know that there are great play structures in the other Orchard Ridge parks, I feel our needs are a little unique since we are bordered on all sides by busy roads with no sidewalks. This is a barrier to us having easier and safer access (by bike or by foot, with little ones) to the other neighborhood parks, making Orchard Ridge park all the more important for the neighbors on Whitcomb, Courtland, and Loruth.*

*The park is very important for community building in our area of the neighborhood. With new neighbors moving in (I think I counted about 7 houses that have recently or are soon changing hands), a well-developed park will encourage us to make it a destination, and connect with our neighbors. Our kids will meet other neighborhood kids, and this sense of community will encourage families to stay in the neighborhood.*

*We have really, really enjoyed the great use the park is getting from soccer teams and others. We also would like to see soccer goals (perhaps mobile?) in the park to encourage teams to use the park for practices. The park can get a little buggy given it's proximity to the marsh, so prompt mowing is appreciated to allow teams and neighbors to use the park comfortably.*

*I'm not that familiar with features in other parks or all the options we should consider in terms of amenities. I look forward to learning more and being involved in the process.*

*Thanks, Diane!*

Claire (and Ben) Mezick

=====

*Thanks for reaching out. As you know we have also lived behind the park for 16 years. I personally contacted Sarah Close through email and phone to talk about my ideas because we are out of town tonight.*

*FYI, I also suggested a drinking fountain. I completely agree and mentioned many of the same things; the basketball hoop needs to be removed, add soccer goals and lines, upgrade the playground, keep the sandbox and add diggers.*

*I did mention that an important part of the park is the large green space that should remain. I see people flying kites, playing frisbee, throwing baseball, playing catch with dogs and of course our 4th of July picnic. I really feel the large green space fits the overall neighborhood plan.*

*I didn't think about a walking path, picnic tables and more seating. I agree these would be a nice addition. I personally spoke with Sarah Close and she will be at our 4th of July picnic to talk to neighbors.*

*I just wanted to share. We'll talk soon.*

Karen Rayshel [REDACTED] [yahoo.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@yahoo.com)

=====

They were responding to this email I sent out:

Hi, nearby neighbors and friends!

PLEASE try to come to the city parks meeting (Thursday at 6:30 at Toki Middle School's library) on the master plan for the Orchard Ridge Park on Whitcomb/Loruth. An email from the ORNA president suggests that the city is more likely to take us seriously if we have at least 25 people there. ***(If you can't come and have strong feelings about anything, feel free to email them to us, and we can share them for you at the meeting.)***

Scott and I have lived with the park in our back yard for 15 years. Our kids have played and practiced soccer there, our dogs have run there, and we've of course picnicked there on the 4th of July.

Scott and I do have a lot of ideas for the park -- ideally finding a way to distinguish it from OR's Flad Park and from what's available for neighbors at Orchard Ridge Elementary. We'd like to see something different here that would appeal to the wider range of ages we have living around this pocket park.

\* Obviously, we'd like to see a totally upgraded playground (while making sure to keep things for babies as well as youngsters -- I'd hate to see the sandbox go, because I think every kid has loved that, and I've been replenishing the sand toys there for years).

\* No one has used the half-basketball court in all the years we've lived here (in part because of it's crappy condition), but Flad and Orchard Ridge already have basketball, most houses on this side of the neighborhood have expansive enough driveways for hoops of their own. As we understand it, this park planning process started with the city wanting to move the court to the edge of the street at Loruth. Rather than duplicate unneeded facilities, we'd like to advocate for redirecting that money toward things that would get much more use from the immediate neighbors.

\* The baseball backstop isn't used that often, but I've seen some teams practice there over the years. It would be a neat idea to try to get together a softball game with parents and kids during the picnic every year. Or even to create a regular pick-up softball game for families, kids or adults every week or month there.

\* It might be nice to have junior-size soccer goal nets, but the pee-wee teams that practice here manage without them.

\* Every time we drive by the volleyball net at the park on Segoe, we get jealous. Having one in this park would be fantastic and also a great addition to the picnic on the 4th.

\* Looking to the adult residents, we've been thinking about such things as parcours stations (<http://goelan.com/en/exercice-outdoor-fitness-trail/>) with a walking path around the perimeter, a pickle-ball court, a bocce area, horseshoes and things like that.

\* We'd also love to see a few more trees or other shade structures with seating underneath (or movable to those areas, like our current picnic tables).

These are just our ideas. We can't wait to hear more of yours!

**Diane Harrington**

[REDACTED] [gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)

608 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Whitcomb Dr., Madison, WI 53711

On Jun 14, 2019, at 1:28 PM, Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

Hello everyone,

Thank you again for attending last night's public information meeting about Orchard Ridge Park. We had a fantastic turn-out and a plethora of great ideas!

The next step in the master planning process is the Community Survey, which helps gather more public input and informs the design of the park. Please fill out the survey at your convenience, it is available online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OrchardRidgePark>

Please note that we have also mailed paper copies of the survey to residents living within approximately ¼ mile of Orchard Ridge Park. Please submit the survey only once (either paper or online). **Surveys must be completed and received by July 12, 2019 to be considered with this planning effort.**

For more information regarding the Orchard Ridge Park Master Plan, please visit:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/orchard-ridge-park-master-plan>

Residents receiving this message provided their email at the first public information meeting. If you no longer wish to receive emails regarding Orchard Ridge Park, please respond and I will remove you from the contact list.

Thank you,  
Sarah C.

Sarah Close  
Landscape Architect  
City of Madison Parks Division  
City-County Building, Rm 104  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703  
[sclose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:sclose@cityofmadison.com)  
(608) 263-6850  
<image001.jpg>

**From:** [Diane Harrington](#)  
**To:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**Subject:** Orchard Ridge Park question  
**Date:** Sunday, June 16, 2019 8:26:47 PM

---

Sarah,

This probably isn't your department, but what are the chances of getting the city to sealcoat the driveway going into the park? I don't have my old calloused Florida feet (I grew up there and went barefoot constantly), and when I go barefoot on this driveway, it is SO painful. The driveway is in great shape except for all the little pebbly parts that make it hurt.

I'd be tempted to pay to have the bulk of it done myself, but I don't know if that's even allowed, given that the city owns it. (If the city does it, I'd pay extra to have the little spur leading into my house done too.)

I know: First-world problem. :)

**Diane Harrington**

[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](#)

608-[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Whitcomb Dr., Madison, WI 53711

**From:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**To:** "[Diane Harrington](#)"  
**Subject:** RE: new park name, haha  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 4:34:11 PM

---

Diane, this is amazing and I love it. Might be too long of a name to fit on a sign, we might have to ask the guys to create a special one.

Sarah C.

---

**From:** Diane Harrington <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 4:13 PM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <SClose@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** new park name, haha

Following this trend, we could rename Orchard Ridge VALLEY Park "Sludgey McDitchFace Park":

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-48673523>

**Diane Harrington**

[REDACTED]@[gmail.com](#)

608-[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Whitcomb Dr., Madison, WI 53711

**From:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**To:** [Kahl, Dean](#); [Klinke, Craig](#); [Bauer, Laura](#)  
**Cc:** [Freiwald, Ann](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Black walnut tree  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 8:40:39 AM

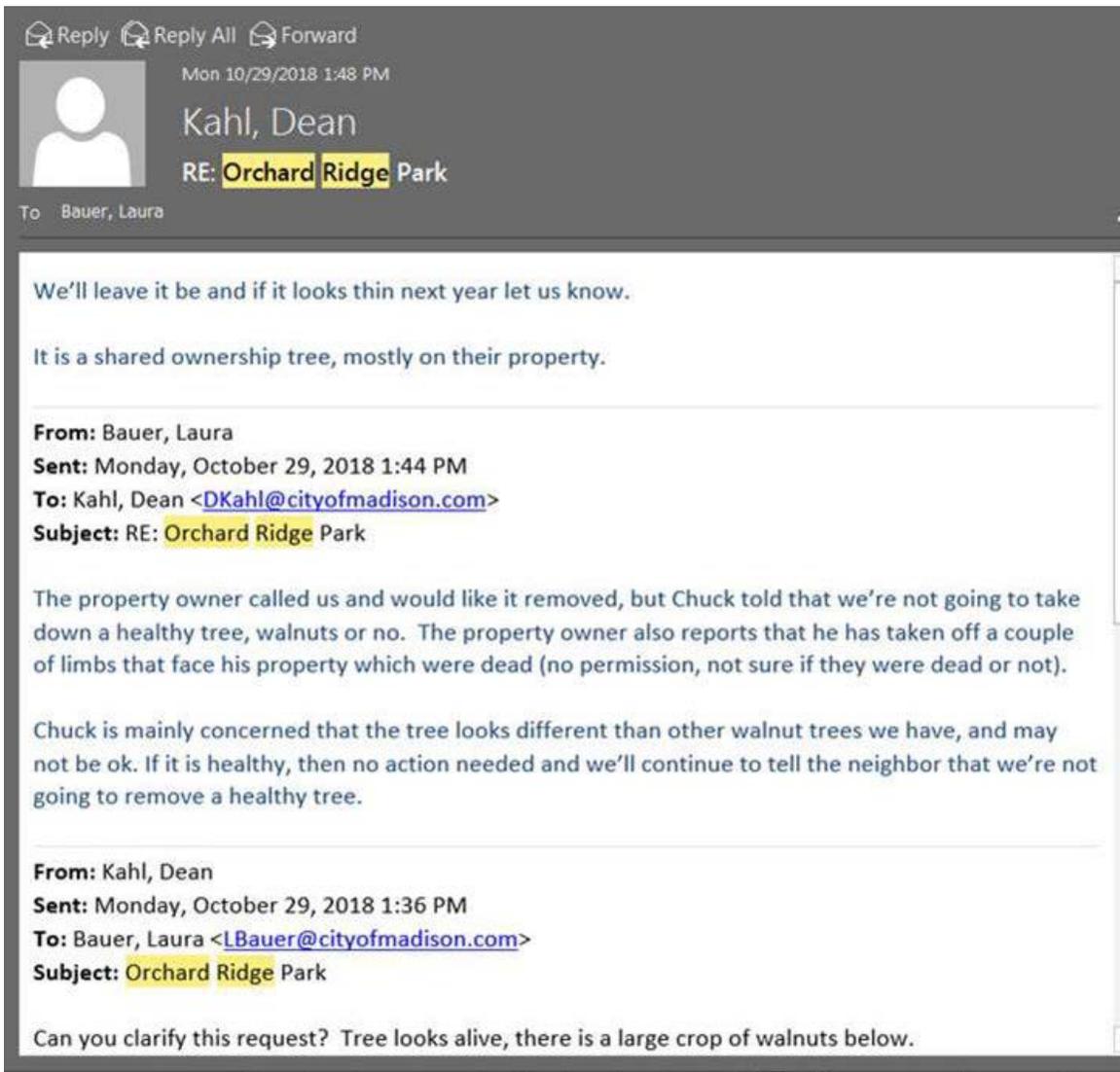
---

Got it, thanks all. I'll take a closer look at it when I'm out there next.

---

**From:** Kahl, Dean <DKahl@cityofmadison.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 8:31 AM  
**To:** Klinke, Craig <CKlinke@cityofmadison.com>; Close, Sarah <SClose@cityofmadison.com>; Bauer, Laura <LBauer@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Freiwald, Ann <AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Black walnut tree

I'm sure we have looked at it a few times, but no one has ever told them it needed to be removed.



The screenshot shows an email interface with a dark header. At the top, there are icons for 'Reply', 'Reply All', and 'Forward'. Below these is a profile card for 'Kahl, Dean' with a placeholder icon, the date 'Mon 10/29/2018 1:48 PM', and the subject 'RE: Orchard Ridge Park'. The recipient is listed as 'To: Bauer, Laura'. The main body of the email contains three paragraphs of text, each followed by a quoted email header. The first paragraph states: 'We'll leave it be and if it looks thin next year let us know. It is a shared ownership tree, mostly on their property.' The second paragraph is a quote from Bauer, Laura, dated Monday, October 29, 2018 1:44 PM, with subject 'RE: Orchard Ridge Park'. The text of the quote discusses property owner concerns about a tree. The third paragraph is a quote from Kahl, Dean, dated Monday, October 29, 2018 1:36 PM, with subject 'Orchard Ridge Park'. The text of the quote asks for clarification on a request regarding a tree.

Reply Reply All Forward

Mon 10/29/2018 1:48 PM

Kahl, Dean

RE: Orchard Ridge Park

To: Bauer, Laura

We'll leave it be and if it looks thin next year let us know.

It is a shared ownership tree, mostly on their property.

**From:** Bauer, Laura  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2018 1:44 PM  
**To:** Kahl, Dean <DKahl@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Orchard Ridge Park

The property owner called us and would like it removed, but Chuck told that we're not going to take down a healthy tree, walnuts or no. The property owner also reports that he has taken off a couple of limbs that face his property which were dead (no permission, not sure if they were dead or not).

Chuck is mainly concerned that the tree looks different than other walnut trees we have, and may not be ok. If it is healthy, then no action needed and we'll continue to tell the neighbor that we're not going to remove a healthy tree.

**From:** Kahl, Dean  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2018 1:36 PM  
**To:** Bauer, Laura <LBauer@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Orchard Ridge Park

Can you clarify this request? Tree looks alive, there is a large crop of walnuts below.

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

From: Klinke, Craig

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 8:22 AM

To: Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>; Bauer, Laura <[LBauer@cityofmadison.com](mailto:LBauer@cityofmadison.com)>; Kahl, Dean <[DKahl@cityofmadison.com](mailto:DKahl@cityofmadison.com)>

Cc: Freiwald, Ann <[AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com](mailto:AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com)>

Subject: RE: Black walnut tree

Nothing comes to mind off the top of my head. Dean/Laura, have you heard anything regarding this?

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

From: Close, Sarah

Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 8:52 AM

To: Klinke, Craig <[CKlinke@cityofmadison.com](mailto:CKlinke@cityofmadison.com)>

Cc: Freiwald, Ann <[AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com](mailto:AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com)>

Subject: FW: Black walnut tree

Morning Craig,

Do you happen to know anything about this black walnut in Orchard Ridge Park? The neighbors claim we had a City forester look at it a few years ago and that we recommended it's removal.

Thanks,  
Close

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

From: Deena Brazy <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 3:23 PM

To: Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>

Subject: Black walnut tree

Hi Sarah,

I was at the meeting for the Orchard Ridge Park changes. I mentioned the black walnut tree on the property line between our house at [REDACTED] Loruth Terrace and the park. Apparently, the property line goes right through the tree. As I said, we have had arborists here a few times since we moved in 6 years ago. When it is a heavy walnut production year, the branches get very heavy and come crashing down. We were afraid that someone in the park might get hurt. We would be glad to see the tree taken down and have contacted the city about it, but have heard nothing back.

Would you please look into that? It would be most appreciated.

Thanks,  
Deena Brazy



Madison, WI 53703

[sclose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:sclose@cityofmadison.com)

(608) 263-6850



**From:** [Marianne Blaschka](#)  
**To:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Orchard Ridge Park Master Plan- Public Input Meeting #2  
**Date:** Monday, July 22, 2019 1:52:09 PM

---

Hi Sarah,

I attended the last meeting on July 18. I was impressed with both proposals but chose the first. I have a grandson who loves basketball! Any idea what would be included in the playground layout? I like the idea of various slides and climbing areas as well as exercise for grandparents!

I also wanted to reiterate the important of drainage in our area. I have lived in our home on and off my whole life. My father bought the home in 1963 and built a moat around it to prevent water coming into our basement. We have added new gutters and built up the foundation, but nothing works. We live 3rd house down on Loruth Terrace.

I know this is just in the early process but I wanted to let you know if our concerns.

Thank you

Marianne Blaschka

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2019, at 11:23 AM, Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

Greetings,

You are receiving this email because you either attended a meeting to discuss, or expressed interest in, the master planning process at Orchard Ridge Park.

The second meeting to review and provide input on specific park amenities is scheduled for **Thursday, July 18th at 6:30pm at Toki Middle School (cafeteria)**. We will begin the session with a brief recap of the information presented at the first meeting and review the results of the community survey and other public comments. Finally, we will review the proposed draft master plan for the park. Please plan to attend and provide your input!

All attendees from the first meeting or survey respondents who provided an email and have been included on this message. Notice will be made to Parks' social media and Parks Projects website – which for Orchard Ridge Park is located at:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/orchard-ridge-park-master-plan>

Please feel free to share this information with all your neighbors – it would be great to have another large turn-out for the second session!

Stay cool and safe,  
Sarah C.

Sarah Close

Landscape Architect  
City of Madison Parks Division  
City-County Building, Rm 104  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703  
[sclose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:sclose@cityofmadison.com)  
(608) 263-6850  
<image001.jpg>

**From:** [Deena Brazy](#)  
**To:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Black walnut tree  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 13, 2019 10:23:17 PM

---

Sarah,

Thanks for getting back to me on this. Maybe it can be revisited down the road.

Deena

> On Aug 12, 2019, at 9:03 AM, Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

>

> Morning Deena,

>

> Thank you for your patience while I looked into the jointly-owned black walnut tree. According to the Parks arborists, the tree appears healthy and thriving and so is not a candidate for removal at this time. We can definitely keep an eye on it though and take another look if we suspect the tree is starting to decline.

>

> Hope you're having a great summer!

>

> Thanks,

> Sarah C.

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Close, Sarah

> Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 3:35 PM

> To: 'Deena Brazy' <[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)>

> Subject: RE: Black walnut tree

>

> Good afternoon Deena,

>

> Thank you again for attending the meeting last night! I feel like we had a great turnout and a lot of enthusiastic ideas.

>

> I'm going to forward this email to my supervisors and look into the issue. I'll be in touch!

>

> Thanks,

> Sarah C.

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Deena Brazy <[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)>

> Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 3:23 PM

> To: Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>

> Subject: Black walnut tree

>

> Hi Sarah,

> I was at the meeting for the Orchard Ridge Park changes. I mentioned the black walnut tree on the property line between our house at [\[REDACTED\]](#) Loruth Terrace and the park. Apparently, the property line goes right through the tree. As I said, we have had arborists here a few times since we moved in 6 years ago. When it is a heavy walnut production year, the branches get very heavy and come crashing down. We were afraid that someone in the park might get hurt. We would be glad to see the tree taken down and have contacted the city about it, but have heard nothing back.

> Would you please look into that? It would be most appreciated.

> Thanks,

> Deena Brazy

**From:** [Close, Sarah](#)  
**To:** "[joyce.johnston](#)"  
**Subject:** RE: Orchard ridge park  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 22, 2019 3:16:13 PM

---

Hi Joyce,

Great to hear from you, thanks for reaching out! Right now, Parks staff is finishing up the Orchard Ridge Park master plan report. We plan to present it to the Board of Park Commissioners at their next meeting in early November. Once the report is formally approved, we can start submitting requests for funding. So we are still rolling along behind the scenes!

Recall that the master plan is our 10-15 year road map for park development. We will most likely not be able to install everything at once, instead phasing in the different elements over the years. Replacing the play equipment is still on the Parks division priority list. It is on the short list to be tackled within the next couple years. When we do so, we'll send out postcards and post signs in the park much like we did for the master plan. The playground meetings are always great fun, I hope you get the chance to attend when we get to that point!

Thanks Joyce, as always please feel free to reach out with any questions, comments, ideas, etc.  
Sarah C.

Sarah Close  
Landscape Architect  
City of Madison Parks Division  
City-County Building, Rm 104  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703  
[sclose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:sclose@cityofmadison.com)  
(608) 263-6850



**From:** joyce.johnston [REDACTED]@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 20, 2019 7:56 PM  
**To:** Close, Sarah <[SClose@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SClose@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Orchard ridge park

Hello!

We haven't heard anything about park plans in a while. It's the project still underway?

Thanks,

Joyce Johnston