

From: Teresa Pratt <tappratt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 12:45 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Merrill Springs Park

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I'm a resident of Spring Harbor. I am in favor of Merrill Springs Park allowing dogs to be on leash in this park.

Teresa Pratt 1845 Baker Ave, Madison, WI

From: Bill Keenan <billkeenan2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 3:17 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Merrill Springs park dog status

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I'm writing as a resident of Spring Harbor neighborhood to urge you to change the status of the Merrill Springs park to allow leashed dogs. I have volunteered at the park for a number of years and have contributed many hours cleaning up, landscaping, and clearing the springs' cistern of weeds.

The park is very lightly used for 9 months out of the year, and even in the summer months usage is light. Many dog owners live in the area and just want to legally visit the park with their dogs for short periods. The large majority of dog owners are responsible, respectful people.

The park is so lightly used that it makes little sense to bar a significant population from visiting. I believe that two homeowners who live near the park have registered complaints about dog owners, not because they don't like dogs in the park, but they simply don't like dogs, period. I know that one of the residents has, in my opinion, voiced an unfounded fear of dogs running wild and soiling their yard. So a couple of complaints became the squeaky wheel that forced the city to ban dogs, which is simply unfair to hundreds of responsible people.

I urge you to re-open the park to leashed dogs. Thank you.

Bill Keenan
5501 Greening Lane
