

From: Tracy Wrycha <tswrycha48@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 8:36 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello:

Forest Hill Cemetery should remain a “dog friendly” park.

Tracy & Paul Wrycha
2530 Gregory Street
Madison, WI 53711
[Tswrycha48@gmail.com](mailto:tswrycha48@gmail.com)

From: Lindzey Kobiske <lkobiske@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 10:31 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest hill cemetery - dogs

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

Please consider keeping the cemetery a dog friendly park. The outdoors is for all of us to share, and surely the dead don't mind. If anything, they probably like the company. Your normal friends tend to ghost you after you've passed.

Lindzey Kobiske

From: Russell Foskett <russ1002@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 11:01 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest lawn

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please keep the dog rules the same for licensed and Leashed dogs to be allowed. Our dog is a member of our family and was loved by our grandfather.

From: Jamie Domini <jldomini@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 12:19 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: I favor of Dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I would like to register my support for dogs being allowed leashed in Forest Hill Cemetery. This is a beautiful place and there are MANY people buried there that are dog lovers and for whom having dogs in the park feels right. I've been a daily dog walker there for years and have NOT noticed any poorly behaved dogs. People understand the solemnity of this place and the need for the utmost decorum.

Having a dog with me allows me to feel safe walking there alone and in the evening.

This is a beautiful, sacred space that is not diminished by the addition of dogs.

Thank you,

Jamie Domini

From: Steve Paulson <steve.paulson@wpr.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I'm writing to express my strong disapproval of changing Forest Hill Cemetery back into a "dog-free" park. I live two blocks from the cemetery, which is one of my favorite places in all of Madison.

Frankly, I don't understand why the City of Madison is considering this change. I've been taking my corgi there on a leash ever since it became a dog-friendly site for walking, and I've never seen a misbehaving or problem dog in the cemetery since dogs have been allowed there. I don't have time for separate walks with and without my dog, so changing the status to a "dog-free" park would effectively mean I no longer walk in the cemetery. This would be a terrible disservice to the many dog owners who enjoy the beauty, tranquility and history that make Forest Hill Cemetery such a unique treasure in Madison.

I sincerely hope that you maintain the current status of allowing dogs on leashes in the cemetery.

Thank you,

Steve Paulson

2212 Hillington Green

From: Christopher Jaye <madneighbor@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 2:44 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: BPC - Forest Hill Cemetery/Dogs

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it may concern:

I live at 34 Virginia Terrace which is adjacent to Forest Hill Cemetery. I am writing in opposition to the proposed change at Forest Hil from a "dog friendly" park to a "dog free" park.

I have lived at my current address for 21 years, and prior to that lived on Gregory Street for five years. I have walked, run, bicycled, and walked dogs in the cemetery for the last 25 years and don't believe the proposed change is warranted.

Sincerely,

Christopher Jaye

34 Virginia Terrace

From: SHERRY L REAMES <slreames@wisc.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 4:17 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Please don't bar leashed dogs from Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Park Commissioners,

I live very close to Forest Hill Cemetery (in fact, it's right across my back fence) and appreciate the ability to walk through that cemetery frequently with my dog, both to visit my husband's grave and just to enjoy the beauty and stillness of the surroundings.

I can understand why the city would want to prevent dogs from ever running loose and making a mess in the cemetery, but I can't think of any good reason to bar dog owners from walking sedately through Forest Hill with their leashed, well-behaved dogs. I hope very much that you will vote down this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sherry L. Reames

522 Virginia Terrace, Madison 53726

From: David Caes <davecaes@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 4:39 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I don't understand why you want to punish all dog owners over the actions of a couple of irresponsible dog owners. I walk through the cemetery at least once a week with my dog on a 5-foot leash. I have seen only one irresponsible dog owner. Why are you trying to punish me for someone else's actions?

There was recently an alder who was forced to resign because of his previous association with a white nationalist group. I did not hear anyone condemning the entire common council as a white nationalist group--that would be irresponsible. Rather, we address the actions of the individual.

David Caes

From: Patricia Wildgen <patricia.wildgen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 5:31 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: dog free parks

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To the commission: Enough! Stop making so many parks dog free. In the SaukCreek 1 neighborhood we have Walnut Grove park; There is a wide open grass area with sidewalk and a rather small dog park. In the Sauk Creek 2 neighborhood, BOTH parks on High Point Rd are closed to dogs. There is plenty of room for dogs to have an area to play ball and to walk when it is empty. According to your rules, the parent who takes their children and dog for a walk should not be allowed to stop at the playground with the dog on leash as the children play. Obviously, owners need to respect crowded parks and soccer games, etc. in progress but there is no reason why we should be barred from empty, usable areas. Now I hear that you are considering making Forest Hill Cemetery dog free. It is a quiet, lovely place for owners to walk their leashed, licensed dogs. Owners need places to exercise their dogs and interesting places for them to walk and sniff. We pay taxes for these parks and we leash and license our dogs. Open at least one park on High Point Road and leave the cemetery alone. Hoards of dogs are not going to crash burial services!

Patricia Wildgen
Farmington Way
53717

From: Kris <krisj717@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 5:45 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am writing to voice my support for keeping Forest Hill Cemetery a “dog friendly” area. I have several family members who are buried in this cemetery. Since I live fairly close to this area, I frequently walk there with my dog to spend time at my family grave sites. Having my dog with me provides a tremendous amount of calming comfort which I value and need.

What is the reason for proposing this change? If it is because there are people whose dogs are off leash in the cemetery, then punish them not the visitors who come with their dogs leashed.

Kris Jensen

From: Chris McMahon <chris.w.mcmahon@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 6:28 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Dog status request: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi,

I’m not a dog owner, but I’d like to voice my opinion that the “dog friendly” status of Forest Hill Cemetery should not change. The cemetery is a very peaceful place with almost no one there, and no kids running around that might be frightened of (or bitten by) a dog. It’s a perfect place to walk a leashed dog.

If my loved ones (or I!) were buried there, I would think it was great to have people and their pets enjoying the park in this way.

Best,

Chris McMahon

2222 Van Hise Ave

From: August Brereton <augustbrereton@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 6:33 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it may concern,

My name is August Brereton and I live in Westmoreland on Mineral Point rd. I would like to request that Forest Hill Cemetery remain a dog friendly park. There are no sidewalks on the raceway and so this is an important place to be able to walk our dog. Please consider this request and let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

August Brereton

From: Susan Werther <shwerther@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 6:42 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetary

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I just received a postcard with information about the possibility of changing Forest Hill Cemetery from a "dog friendly" to a "dog free" park.

I am in favor of having the cemetery remain "dog friendly," where dogs are still allowed to enter, but must be kept on leashes. If "dog free" means that dogs would be free to run around off leash, I am not in favor of the change. It is likely that owners will not be able to keep track of their dog's excrement, which could be very upsetting for people visiting a loved one's grave. Further, not all dogs are safe off leash, and even if they are friendly, they might jump up on people, or frighten those who are afraid of dogs.

I will not be able to attend the meeting on November 9, but I wanted to share my thoughts on the matter.

Many thanks,

Susan Werther

139 Glenway St.

From: Noah Van Der Weide <noahmattv@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 7:10 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Keep Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Friendly

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

Please keep Forest Hill Cemetery dog friendly.

This would be a restriction on our freedom and there's no substantial reason to revert it's status after it *just* became dog friendly in the past couple years.

It's one of the only safe ways of walking along Speedway that wouldn't require a hefty detour. The sidewalk on the opposite side of the road is too loud and very close to oncoming traffic which scares our dog. The bike path is notorious for fast cyclists and close calls.

Please let us maintain this safe passage,

Noah

From: Sawyer Gebauer <saw.lp.geb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 7:47 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

Please change the status of the cemetery to DOG FREE.

Respectfully,

Sawyer G.

From: andrew szabo <mrdrewszabo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 11:13 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest hilll cemetery dog status request

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

I am writing to oppose the proposed change in the status of Forest Hill Cemetery from "dog friendly" to "dog free". The right to walk dogs in a pleasant setting such as the cemetery is a basic aspect of a healthy community, and a major appeal of this neighborhood presently. Prohibiting this is an unnecessary restriction that accomplishes little.

Thank you,

Drew Szabo

2388 West Lawn Ave

From: Donald Cosgrove <doncosgrove@tds.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 7:59 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: To who it may concern,

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I feel we do not need another dog park. Too many concerns about safety and sanitation. Thank you.
Sincerely, Don Cosgrove

From: Jennie Larson <jb2@slicke.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 9:07 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good Morning:

We're in favor of changing the Forest Hill Cemetery to a "dog free" park. Please add our comments to the list.

Thanks,

Larry & Jennie Lynn Larson

3810 Euclid Ave.

Madison, WI 53711

From: Linda Nelson <olddogwi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 9:51 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest hill cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi!

I am so so sorry to learn that the city is considering changing Forest Hill cemetery to dog free status. Our home backs up to the cemetery & I regularly see dogs off leash along the fence & running amongst the graves. As a dog owner, I appreciate the need 4 dogs 2 run but we have awesome dog parks for that purpose & loose dogs on/around the graves is so disrespectful. However I think they r the exception not the rule for dog walkers in the cemetery. We have a young golden that I leash trained walking him down Gregory, past the golf course & thru the cemetery on the roads. I carried empty poop bags in & full ones out. The walk is beautiful & we really appreciated the lack of traffic.

Please consider a period of ranger enforcement of off leash dogs. There are so many folks who respectfully walk their leashed dogs everyday in the cemetery. It would b a big loss 2 loose that lovely space especially in winter.

Best regards,
Linda Nelson
510 Virginia Terrace

From: KATHRYN C WITTENWYLER <kcwitten@wisc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery dog status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Yes. Please change the Forest Hill Cemetery dog status to "dog free".

There are many places in Madison to walk a dog. The sacred ground of a cemetery need not be one.

Thank you for your work on this endeavor. Kay

From: Marilyn Rhodes <mrhodes1932@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 10:49 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog free park proposal - Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear City Of Madison board of park commission,

I received a yellow postcard informing me that Forest Hill cemetery is considering changing the status of a dog friendly to a dog park. Please do not change the status and keep the cemetery as a dog friendly area. Cemeteries are for the living, not for the dead. They are a place where families and friends, including cherished pets, gather. for many, seeing a dog on a leash lifts up their spirits and gives them joy.

Please keep the Forest Hill Cemetery as a dog friendly park.

Marilyn Rhodes

From: Beth Graue <bgraue@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 11:37 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Madison cemeteries

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I have two dogs that I walk in cemeteries close to my house. These spaces are great history lessons about the city and they are beautiful places to think and move. I ALWAYS keep my dogs on leash on the road and ALWAYS clean up after them. PLEASE don't let a few people who refuse to follow the rules ruin the availability of this space for others. I know that the park rangers are very effective at monitoring and ticketing. Please use that option to punish law breakers rather than take it away for all.

Beth Graue

1852 Summit Ave

From: Mark Treiber <madtreibers@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 2:40 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status Request -- Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it concerns:

I'm in favor of making the Forest Hill Cemetery a "DOG FREE" park. Our backyard is situated near the cemetery fence along Virginia Terrace. We have noticed over the last couple of years that there are more people with unleashed dogs in the cemetery at all times of the day which we had never seen before. They walk/run through the cemetery (near plots and backyards) with their unleashed dog shouting commands to their pet. I think there are plenty of places to walk dogs, other dog-friendly areas, and many new dog parks.

If it does stay as "DOG FRIENDLY", then there needs to be a specific set of rules to stay on the streets of the cemetery regardless if they are leashed.

Mark J. Treiber

(P) 608-576-5972

From: Emily Tarter <emgilbert11@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 8:46 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery dog status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello BPC,

I am writing to passionately request that Forest Hill Cemetery please remain dog friendly. As a resident of the neighborhood, this park is a treasured area in which to enjoy walks with my family and my dog. I am respectful of the rules to stay on leash in the paved streets and pick up any dog waste. This is the

only area nearby in which to walk in a peaceful, quiet area full of large trees, where we can enjoy nature without having to worry about traffic. To lose this would be devastating.

Thank you,

Emily Tarter and family

2237 Rowley Avenue

Madison, WI 53726

From: Dietram A. Scheufele <scheufele@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 8:58 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: scheufele@gmail.com

Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Board Members:

As a neighbor and frequent visitor of the Forest Hill Cemetery (both with and without my dog), I would like to put in a strong plea for keeping this a dog friendly park. I have never visited the cemetery and seen violations of leash policies, dog waste, dogs that were not on the paved roads, or any instances that would warrant a change in policy. If anything, i have often witnessed visitors driving too fast, leaving engines running, or otherwise making it less than pleasant to get around on foot. In other words, I am wondering if this proposal fixes the wrong (non-existent) problem? In addition, with the Arboretum already being off limits for on-leash dogs, this would remove one of the last areas in our neighborhood that allows neighbors to walk their dogs away from traffic.

Thanks so much for considering this, and good luck with your deliberations.

Dietram Scheufele

2300 Rugby Row

Madison

From: Chris Butler <christybut28@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 2:21 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog friendly

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Yes, I wish to comment on this proposed change. Who is complaining about well-behaved, leashed dogs and their owners who are walking quietly through the roads and don't let the dog run on the

gravestones or go to the bathroom on them? How many instances have been viewed of a leashed dog doing these things? I walk through the Forest Hill roads as it is quiet, few cars, few people and I can "visit" my mom who is not buried in this cemetery but in one 500 miles away. It's about as close as I can get to feeling like I can visit her on a regular basis and no, I don't have time to take 2 walks, one just by myself to the cemetery and then another one somewhere else with my dog. My guess is that people are still letting their dogs run unleashed through the woods next to the golf course and the cemetery and there were probably a couple instances of loose dogs running around the cemetery. Crack down on those people. I don't like loose dogs either. But don't punish the rest of us who take care to keep our dogs leashed to accompany us. And while you're at it, crack down on those who visit/party in the cemetery at night leaving broken glass, empty bottles not to mention the occasional drug deal as well. Leashed dogs are not the problem. There is precious little nature close by to neighborhoods to take a walk accompanied by a dog. The bike path at peak hours is a major hazard with no speed limits for e-bikes and racing bikes. So, streets in a cemetery are next?!

Respectfully submitted,

Chris

Westmoreland resident

From: Katrine Rajski <katrajski@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 7:06 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello:

I am writing in response to the consideration for changing Forest Hill Cemetery from a "dog-friendly" status to a "dog-unfriendly" status. I object, not only to the proposition, but to the inaccurate language of a "dog-free" park when really, a name associated with a status change should directly reflect the status change.

There is no safe way to walk up Speedway with dogs as the traffic moves fast, kicks up significant salt and dirt in the Winter, and is obnoxiously loud. The cemetery provides a quiet respite from the noise of Madison and allows citizens, dog or no dog, the pleasure of walking in a place of contemplation.

Many people visit the cemetery with their dogs because the dog had a connection to the deceased and by disallowing dogs, the city is prescribing how grief can or can't be acknowledged. This goes beyond what the scope of the law should prescribe.

The cemetery is also a public park and I pay a substantial amount in property taxes for a very small home in the neighborhood, only to be told that I am not welcome in a park with my dog, that my taxes support. If this is about irresponsible pet owners who don't clean up after their pets, let us target these dog owners and not punish all the other law-abiding, tax paying citizens who enjoy a quiet walk in the cemetery with their dog.

I am opposed to this status change.

Thank you,
Katrine Rajski
3810 Paunack Ave
Madison, WI 53711

From: Barbara STREIBEL <bstreibel1@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 9:33 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery dog status decision

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

My husband Michael and I live on Eton Ridge, Madison, right near the cemetery. We walk there a lot. We see people there with their dogs leashed, which is fine with us, and unfortunately, we also see dogs unleashed, occasionally with their 'person' no-where to be seen because the dog has run quite far from them. These unleashed dogs are the reason we want the cemetery to become a 'dog-free' park.

Dog owners can take their dogs to any of the dog parks throughout the city to run. Running in the cemetery can be disruptive to burials, and can frighten folks who are visiting graves and are startled by a strange dog on the loose. Some of my neighbors also think it is disrespectful for dogs to be running all over the graves. Unleashed dogs are also a threat to the red foxes who live in or near the cemetery each year, and to the cranes who often visit with their young in late summer/early Fall.

Therefore we hope you decide to make Forest Hill cemetery a dog-free site.

Barbara and Michael Streibel

From: Cathy Caro-Bruce <ccarobru@wisc.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 7, 2022 8:13 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Free

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Just want to thank you and support the proposal to make Forest Hill Cemetery a dog free park. I walk there often and even though dogs are supposed to be on leashes, their owners often let them roam free. I really like the idea of not having to worry about dogs that I don't know running up to me.

Thank you,

Cathy Caro-Bruce

From: Josh Napravnik <josh.npravnik@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 7, 2022 8:41 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Board of Park Commissioners,

I would hope that the Forest Hill Cemetery can remain a dog friendly area. As someone who lives in Dudgeon-Monroe, having the ability to walk through the cemetery has added additional directions that I can walk my dog every morning (since Dudgeon-Monroe is walled off by Wingra on one-side and the Cemetery/Golf Course on the other). The quiet, wooded cemetery adds variability to the daily task of walking the dog.

An urban cemetery is also an interesting use of public space. Adding the ability to walk a dog allows for additional use of a very large amount of space and lets people use a space that would otherwise be unused.

It is a shame that people who can't follow the rules and don't pick up after their dogs or don't have their dogs leashed can ruin it for the rest of us. In my experience, people walking their dogs off-leash or not picking up after their dogs have that behavior *everywhere* not just in the cemetery. This change would mostly just punish the responsible dog owners while those who used the cemetery inappropriately before it became dog friendly will continue to just break the rules.

Thanks,

Josh Napravnik

Crandall St.

From: Steven Morgan <smorgan.mus@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 7, 2022 9:23 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Dog policy - Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

We wish to voice our opposition to the proposed dog-walking ban. We think that, like ridiculous voter suppression measures (to guard against supposed "voter fraud"), this feels like a solution in search of a problem that doesn't really exist.

We live in the immediate neighborhood (Virginia Terrace) and walk frequently...almost daily...in the cemetery. Often we walk without our dog, but sometimes we take him along (and we would like to continue to be able to do that).

For the last several years, we have never encountered dogs that were off-leash, menacing, disruptive, threatening...nor have we encountered droppings left behind by irresponsible owners. The current posting of "dogs must be leashed and confined to paved roadways" seems more than adequate.

Steven and Jane Morgan

2405 Rugby Row

From: Rob Hegeman <robhegs@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 7, 2022 11:36 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Forest Hill

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello- I walk or run in the park regularly with my leashed dog and hope this can continue going forward. I always clean up.

Thanks

Rob Hegeman

From: Laura Laurenzi <little.laurenzi@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 7, 2022 11:42 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Vidaver, Regina <district5@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Keep Forest Hill Dog Friendly

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

As a resident of the neighborhood and someone who has purchased a plot in Forest Hill Cemetery, I strongly urge you NOT to change the status from Dog Friendly to Dog Free.

We have trained numerous service dogs and know that they bring great comfort to those experiencing trauma and loss. One of the reasons why we chose Forest Lawn for our interment was so that myself or perhaps my surviving spouse could walk to our plot with our dog.

If there are specific issues (dogs off leash, dog feces, etc) it is my sincere hope you would address those with a "scalpel" not a "cleaver".

Laura Laurenzi
Hammersley Ave

From: Tish Lafferty <tishlafferty@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 8:40 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: dog free zone for forest hill cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please make Forest Hill Cemetery a DOG FREE zone.

It is important to reserve this area for grieving, praying and reflection.

Thank you,

Patricia Lafferty

From: Jeremy Strandberg <jeremy_strandberg@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 10:47 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I'm a resident of the Regent Neighborhood, at 110 Chestnut St. I'm writing to **OPPOSE** changing Forest Hill Cemetery from a "dog friendly" to a "dog free" park.

Forest Hill Cemetery was designed and founded on the rural/romantic cemetery tradition, "designed with specific goals in mind for meditation, recreation, and character development. Young people were encouraged to walk among the graves of illustrious figures and to find moral inspiration in the beautiful scenery and the accomplishments of their ancestors." (<http://foresthill.williamcronon.net/landscaping/>). It's *meant* to be a place where people walk and meander, even if they have no connection to those interred there.

As such, the cemetery grounds should be as welcoming as possible to locals. That includes allowing the presence of leashed, well-behaved dogs who are often the impetus for many urban folks to get out of their houses and go for a walk.

No explanation was given for *why* Forest Hill Cemetery is being considered for a change of status. But as a resident who has frequently walked his dog in the cemetery and found great peace and enjoy in doing so, **I strongly encourage you to reject this change and keep Forest Hill "dog friendly."**

Thank you your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Strandberg

110 Chestnut St
Madison, WI 53726

From: Linda Van Tol <linbob@4email.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 11:04 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hills Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Forest Hills Cemetery has a long tradition of being a park for the people. In a time where green spaces are getting harder and harder to access and maintain, it would be a significant loss to the community to disallow leashed dogs in this neighborhood jewel. I strongly support maintaining the dog friendly status and would glad volunteer time and energy to help retain this status.

See you on the 9th

Linda Van Tol

From: Christine Soder <christinesoder15@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 3:49 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

When I walk up to the cemetery to visit my parents it is a great comfort for me to bring my dog. She is always on a leash, always and because she is very small when I go to the graves I carry her in respect to the rights of other graves. My walks are not merely walks but visits and having Lily with me helps.

Thank you.

Christine Soder

From: KAREN A CARLSON <kcarlson2@wisc.edu>
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 4:48 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

It's surprising that a single request carries so much weight that it earns even a place on your agenda. Unless the person who complained has some evidence of mistreatment of graves, the value of leash walking for many citizens and their dogs should easily convince the commission to continue

the status quo.

Karen Carlson

1137 Erin St #105

Madison 53715

From: Ann Rugowski <annrugowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 4:53 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Should dogs be allowed in the cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I live near the cemetery, on Hollister Ave. and I've not seen any problem with animals on a leash. There are so few green spaces that allow dogs that I think the cemetery is a perfect spot for them. I do not have a dog anymore, it's been quite a few years without a dog, but I liked the peacefulness of walking our dog there, plus there are seldom young children and very little traffic. Please let the dogs stay!

Ann Rugowski

From: Susan Daugherty <susaninaruba@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in cemeteries

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

How ridiculous to think that people can't walk by graves with their dogs on leash. I doubt if those underground mind. Was this decided after one complaint?

I live near the cemetery but don't own a dog. I have walked through the cemetery often and there is rarely anyone in there. If they are there, they are running on the roads (dogless). I have seen someone walk through with a dog occasionally. No harm was being done.

This is a solution in search of a problem. For all we know the wild animals that live there were responsible for the annoyance.

There are few enough places where people can take their dogs in Madison and those few places are overpopulated with dogs and people.

There must be better things for the city to be doing.

Sincerely,

Kristin S. Daugherty

509 Hillington Way

Madison, WI 53726

From: Janet Schuresko <janet.schuresko@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 7:34 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Thank you for banning dogs from the Forest Hill Cemetary

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please keep dogs out of cemeteries. It is so disrespectful to mourners, the dead, and their families and friends. So many dog owners allow their dogs to urinate and defecate wherever the animal wants, and once one has, all the others try to stop there too.

Unfortunately some dog owners ruin it for the rest by not realizing many people object to dog waste. For example, numerous people walking their dogs past our house allow them to stop and urinate in our flower beds on the private side of the sidewalk, even when we are sitting on our front porch ten feet away. These same people are even less likely to control their animals when walking in a cemetery when no one is around to see.

I expect you will receive letters from many dog owners wanting everywhere to be open for walking, so I wanted to express my support for closing cemeteries to dogs (unless they are registered service animals of course.)

Sincerely,

Janet Schuresko

2620 Chamberlain Ave.

Madison

From: Courtney Klaus <courtneyrklaus@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 9, 2022 1:57 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Please keep Forest Hills dog friendly

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am writing in support of maintaining Forest Hills Cemetery "dog friendly". I have lived in the surrounding neighborhood and have enjoyed the tranquility and beautiful landscape uniquely offered in the cemetery for nearly 20 years with my dogs - walking/running the roads 1-3x a week year-round. Forest Hills is truly a gem within our urban setting - a place people can get away from the noise of traffic and enjoy the beautiful hills and trees in peace. I do not feel safe walking my dogs at off-leash dog parks, and Forest Hills has been able to offer me a space where I can enjoy a casual quiet walk with my dogs. While we exclusively stay on the roads, over the years I have identified numerous markers that I visit regularly in lieu of loved ones who are buried in far off places and find some comfort in these moments.

I understand that there are some people who are irresponsible and disrespectful and allow their dogs to run off-leash in the cemetery. I believe this has been limited to certain individuals and over the years have seen this decrease to the point that I rarely see off leash dogs anymore. I believe the community helps discourage off-leash use as well as other inappropriate behavior that could increase in the park by having fewer visitors.

My concern with prohibiting dog walking is that those who disregarded the law before, will continue to do so, and those who respect the rules will be penalized and have yet another beautiful setting off limits to enjoy on their walks/runs with their leashed canine companions.

Please continue to allow leashed dogs on the roads of Forest Hill Cemetery.

Courtney Klaus
2356 Monroe Street

From: CYNTHIA M CZAJKOWSKI <cmczejko@wisc.edu>
Sent: Sunday, October 9, 2022 2:47 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: dog friendly status of Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Board of Parks Commission members,

I am writing to comment on changing the dog friendly status of Forest Hill Cemetery to “no dogs allowed”. **I am strongly against changing the status.** My husband died of a brain tumor 5 years ago and is buried at Forest Hill Cemetery. The ability to walk my dog in the cemetery and visit/pass by his gravesite at least once or twice a week is a blessing for me. But even more important is how important it is for my daughter. My daughter was barely 13 years old when her Dad died. Processing his death has been difficult and was made even harder due to COVID. The ability to go out for a walk with her dog and end up at the cemetery has been instrumental in helping her process his death. It makes going to the cemetery not just associated with her Dad’s death but a walk with her dog and stopping by to ‘talk’ to him. As she is getting older – it is still something that she does at least once a week. I know that these walks/talks would not happen, if she wasn’t taking her dog out for a walk. The idea of just going to the cemetery would for her be associated with only the sadness of his death. Please keep the dog friendly status of Forest Hill Cemetery – it provides a peaceful and beautiful place for her to work through grief with her best friend by her side.

Sincerely,

-Cynthia

Cynthia Czajkowski

2238 Eton Ridge

Madison, WI 53726

cmczejko@wisc.edu

From: Susan Read <susyscool@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 9, 2022 3:21 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest hills dog policy

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello! I live in the regent street neighborhood and I'm emailing to register my opinion in favor of continuing to allow dogs on leash in Forest Hills cemetery. I think the pleasure of walking my dog past my parents grave on a beautiful morning out ways any possible "damage" (I hesitate to call it damage) a dog may do by peeing on a headstone. That said, I don't allow my dog to urinate on the stones out of respect for family members.

Susan Read

2545 Van Hise Ave

Madison

From: Laura Dronzek <ldron@tds.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 9, 2022 3:58 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Ruth Frawley <raf@birdlake.org>
Subject: Dog Status of Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Park Commissioners,

I am writing concerning the proposed change of Forest Hill Cemetery from "dog friendly" to "dog free". I have been a resident in the neighborhood for over thirty years. I have had a dog during the majority of that time. Since the paved roadways of the cemetery became "dog friendly" I have used the roadways both with and without a dog. During that time (and during Covid I used the cemetery almost daily) I have never seen a dog off leash or misbehaving in a way that would be disturbing to anyone. I have not seen feces that has not been picked up. There usually is almost no one in the cemetery other than the occasional walker. The cemetery was originally designed to be a place where people would gather and picnic. It is a beautiful park and it should be used (respectfully) by as many residents as possible. I don't understand why the Park Board of Commissioners is considering changing the status from "dog friendly" to "dog free". There are so many residents in the neighborhood who have dogs and pay taxes, yet there are few places that allow dogs nearby. I hope that you will keep that status as is, since it is a lovely park and the paved roadways are a nice place for neighborhood residents to walk with their dogs.

Sincerely,

Laura Dronzek

From: Mari Gasiorowicz <mgasiorowicz@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 9, 2022 9:03 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog status Forest Hill Cemetary

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I see no need to banish well behaved licensed leashed dogs from Forest Hill cemetery.

Mari

From: Jeffrey Schimpff <schimjg@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2022 10:36 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog status at Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am writing to oppose the change in status of Forest Hill Cemetery from "Dogs allowed on-leash," to "Dogs Prohibited."

My wife and I have walked our dog through the cemetery numerous times each year for the past 15 years. We have always been extremely respectful of burial plots, keeping our dog on the road.

Through all these years, we have noted numerous other people there with their dogs, and have never witnessed any dog being allowed to deposit its bodily waste on or near grave sites.

Public areas for walking dogs are never very plentiful in Madison. We believe it is essential to keep public lands such as Forest Hill open for dog walking. It is a nice place to walk with a leashed dog while reducing our use of sidewalks in our residential area as a dog-walking route.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Schimpff and Theresa Stabo

2721 Kendall Avenue

Madison, WI 53705

From: shep <szlc5256@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2022 4:08 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Free Forest Hill Cemetary

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please don't make the cemetery "dog free".

I walk my dog there virtually every day. She is 12 pounds. Not once has a larger dog come and disturbed me. I have never seen a dog disturb people visiting gravesites.

Thank you for your attention. Richard Zelding, 2811 Regent Street

From: Gail <gail_glasser@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2022 5:27 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I've lived near the cemetery since 1974, since 1977 with dogs. I remember walking with a stroller and our border collie on leash on the cemetery roads in the earlier years—I'm not sure that was actually allowed at the time, but I made a mental calculation that the roads were distinct from the earth portions of cemetery grounds where by Ordinance dogs were not allowed.

In later years with successive golden retrievers I put in time and miles in wintertime with a dog, sometimes off-leash, in the woods bounded by the golf course, the cemetery, and the rail corridor, later the pedestrian-bicycle path (Southwest Path). In that time I sometimes saw a car or cars parked at the far corner of the cemetery using that access to the woods, and sometimes using the cemetery area as an off-leash dog area.

In the time of my most-recent dog we made great use of dog parks, mostly the county ones that allowed the dog lots of running, following scents, and greeting people and other dogs. We also made occasional walks up across the SW path to the area between the path and the cemetery. On one of those walks I saw a sign posted on the chain link fencing of the cemetery indicating that leashed dogs were allowed on paved portions. This was very welcome to me. I resumed leashed dog walking on the paved areas, with the cemetery's reflections of our area's history—oaks, indigenous people's mounds and damage done to them, robust views of how to meaningfully honor buried people, robust or struggling plantings at graves, including peonies that sent me on a search to find the dark red variety that had flourished unattended in the shade for 50-plus years—it is "Kansas"—only to note some years later that someone had captured the plant in a more direct way, stealing 2/3 of it. Well, that's living people for you.

In the later years with dogs allowed on paved roads there have still been people with off-leash dogs in the cemetery.

It seems likely to me that a policy change to "no dogs at all" would be a loss for many without necessarily solving the problems that may have occurred with the leashed-on-paved-areas policy. The dogs come with the above-ground people—people who are mostly respectful, sometimes not, and when not respectful finding many ways of expressing it.

I feel secure walking with a leashed dog, now a borrowed one, in the cemetery, and it is still a happy, quiet experience I would greatly miss.

Gail Glasser

From: Pat Forbes <pef54@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 11:16 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status Request

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

My name is Patricia Forbes, a resident of the city of Madison for 87 years, and a relative of 6 people buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, 2 since 1950 and 1 since 1952, I am against changing the current status of Forest Hill Cemetery from "dog friendly to a "dog Free" Park. Madison and the surrounding area have MANY MANY Parks in which dog owners can run dogs FREE. DDO NOT Change the Forest Hill Cemetery to a Dog Free Park. Thank You for your consideration to my thoughts.

From: Kay Rock <rock_47@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 11:17 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs at Forest Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Having folks walk their dogs at Forest Lawn Cemetery is an advantage to everyone. Dogs enjoy it, and we keep an eye out for unusual activity (drug deals, etc) in the cemetery.

I agree that we need to enforce keeping dogs on a leash.

Jane Rock

110 Elm St, Madison, WI 53726

From: Ruth Frawley <raf@birdlake.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 11:50 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dogs

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Park Commissioners,

I am writing in response to the proposed change at Forest Hill Cemetery - to make it a "dog free" park. I would really like the cemetery to remain a "dog friendly" park. As a life-long neighbor of the cemetery, dog owner and frequent walker, I have enjoyed being able to enjoy that beautiful space with my dog on a leash on the roads there. There are really very few people who walk there. It has been a wonderfully relaxing, peaceful space to use during the pandemic. The very few dog walkers that I see using the space are respectful of the graves and always have their dogs on leashes.

I hope you will continue to allow dogs on leashes to use Forest Hill Cemetery.

Thanks for your consideration,

Ruth Frawley

From: Michael Kepler <mekepler608@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 1:32 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Sir or Madam,

I think the Forest Hill Cemetery rules on dogs should remain as is. Dogs should be allowed to walk in the park while on a leash. The rules regarding dogs should be enforced and tickets given to those who violate the rule.

Dog Friendly should remain in place.

Mike Kepler

2249 Rugby Row, Madison, WI 53726

From: Tofte, Josef N. <Tofte@ortho.wisc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:17 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status - STAY DOG FRIENDLY

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good morning,

I am a concerned resident (and taxpayer) of the Westmorland Neighborhood. We own two Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers who are extremely friendly and active. Glenway Woods and Forest Hill Cemetery are the nearest natural dog-friendly places where our little buddies can roam and run (on leash, of course!). We enjoy utilizing these spaces and feel that their dog-friendly status adds tremendous value to our neighborhood, especially given the dog-unfriendly status of numerous other nearby parks in Madison such as the Arboretum. There is a dearth of local spaces that are not suburban sidewalks or bike paths where dogs can enjoy trails without cars or bikes passing by.

I am unsure as to why this proposal is even being considered. Of course these spaces should remain dog friendly! Dogs, for the most part, are wonderful companions and do not interfere with other forms of recreation when exercised and cared for responsibly, as most owners are wont to do.

Please negate this proposal swiftly so that we may continue to enjoy these resources with our four-legged friends— our chosen mode of recreation in these publicly-accessible spaces.

Sincerely,
Dr. Josef N. Tofte, MD
3910 Birch Ave.
218-349-0563

From: Bridget Shields <bshields4@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:26 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am a highly concerned resident (and taxpayer) of the Westmorland Neighborhood. We own two Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers who are extremely friendly and active. Glenway Woods and Forest Hill Cemetery are the nearest natural dog-friendly places where we can walk our dogs through an interconnected trail network. We feel like many of the public places we enjoy with them are being removed (Glen Park, etc) and we really encourage you to reevaluate the possible decision to make Forest Hill dog free.

Please negate this proposal swiftly so that we may continue to enjoy these resources with our wonderful dogs— our chosen mode of recreation in these publicly-accessible spaces.

Sincerely,
Dr. Bridget E. Shields, MD
3910 Birch Ave.
319 936 5964

From: Diana Grimmer <dgrimmer@manofarm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 10:33 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

As a home owner in the area of the cemetery I would like the cemetery to remain "dog friendly ". Cemeteries are under utilized beautiful spaces that should be enjoyed by the public walking their dogs. Its a healthy way to enjoy the space.

Diana Grimmer
6087722659

From: deborah lawson <dlawson@restainohomes.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 12:18 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Nov 9 meeting to discuss changing Forest Hill Cemetery from "'dog friendly"

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to express my opinion that Forest Hill Cemetery should remain a "dog friendly" park and not be changed to "dog free." We live on Glenway St, and I have often walked my dog (on a leash and picking up after him) on the paths in the Cemetery. And I know many other dog owners who do the same.

I am not sure what the problem is; another way to put it, is to ask what is the problem this change would solve. If there are problems with the use of this park by dog owners, then make the rules more clear, enforce the rules more often. With the new events and activities at the Glenway Golf Park more neighborhood people are using this park and enjoying it, and often dog walkers attend the events by walking through the Cemetery.

I have never seen dog walkers abuse the rules; it is hard for me to believe that I have just missed all the rule breaking for these many years.

Best regards,

Deborah Lawson

310 Glenway St, Madison, 53705

608-212-0306

Deborah Lawson
Restaino & Associates
2945 Monroe St
Madison, WI 53711
(608)212-0306

From: David S. Liebl <david.liebl@wisc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 2:39 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE 11-9-22 Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status Request

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello;
Please confirm that the attached has been included in the public comments for this meeting.
Thank you,
David

--

David Liebl
david.liebl@wisc.edu

October 12, 2022

To: City of Madison – Board of Park Commissioners From: David

S. Liebl, 2809 Sylvan Ave.

Re: November 9, 2022 meeting: Dog Status Request – Forest Hill Cemetery I support

designating Forest Hill Cemetery as a “Dog Free Park”.

I have family interred at Forest Hill, beginning in the mid-1800’s through the present. I walk in Forest Hill several times a week and have (in the past) enjoyed the quiet serenity of that place. As did my forebears.

Since allowing leashed dogs in the cemetery that sense of peace and respect has been lost to the disturbance caused by leashed, unleashed and running dogs, and loud conflict between dogs.

I ask that the Board of Park Commissioners take this opportunity to restore the peace and quiet past generations expected of Forest Hill Cemetery, and so that the present generation can look forward to the same when our time comes.

Please permanently designate Forest Hill Cemetery as a “Dog Free Park”.

From: kathleen marcin <marcins@sbcglobal.net> Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 4:34 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Dog status forest hill cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

We live on Virginia Ter and we have been walking our dog through the cemetery ever since the parks department had opened up the cemetery to on leash dogs. We are grateful to have this quiet and safe place from traffic to walk our dog. The bike path and city sidewalks are quite crowded the times we get home from work and the cemetery offers a nice respite. Please keep this safe option open for leashed dogs and their owners and let the residents of the neighborhoods enjoy the peaceful gem on the near west side of Madison.

Thank you,
Kate and Tony Marcin
402 Virginia Ter

From: Betty MacEwen <betty.macewen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:05 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery - please keep it dog friendly

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I'm voicing my support to keep Forest Hill Cemetery friendly to dogs on leash walking with their people.

Thank you,

Betty MacEwen

1805 Van Hise Ave

From: Tom Andersen <tom.andersen@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:52 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Forest Hill

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I'm a neighbor to the Forest Hill Cemetery (our property backs up to the cemetery). My neighborhood has a very large number of dogs. The number has increased significantly in the last few years. I have only experienced a few problems with dogs in the cemetery, but I strongly prefer to make it dog free. This is mostly because the vast number of dogs makes it harder to enjoy a walk in the neighborhood. Making the cemetery, the golf course and the adjacent woods all dog free would open up an exceptionally large, dog free recreational space in the city. The wooded area has had a problem with uncontrolled dogs for the last ten to fifteen years.

I would also like to mention that it will be necessary to reduce the pet population significantly for the City of Madison to reach its climate goals. I do know that this is a very difficult issue that probably no politician is willing to tackle head on. Making large areas of the city off limits to dog is a gentle way to approach this problem.

Tom Andersen
210 Virginia Ter
Madison, WI 53726

Tom.andersen@sbcglobal.net

From: Amy Shea <clanshea@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: comments on proposed change for Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing today to express my support for continuing to have Forest Hill Cemetery as a “dog friendly” park. The community, both dog owners and non-dog owners, enjoy access to the park. As in any city, there are limits to areas where citizens can walk without dealing with traffic. It would be unfortunate to lose this access for dog owners which represents a significant portion of the population in the area.

I fully support that dogs should all be on leash and licensed. I think anyone not complying should be penalized.

Regards,

Amy C. Shea

From: Becky <rmhoffman@uwalumni.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 8:47 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery- dog status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.
Hello.

As a near west side neighbor, I strongly support allowing leashed dogs in the cemetery. I agree they should be directed away from active burials, tours, and other events. The cemetery is a quiet and peaceful place to walk a dog after work. Since e-bikes have been allowed on the southwest bike path, we have no traffic free, peaceful areas to walk dogs. Many in our neighborhood have adopted rescue dogs who are particularly skittish when around traffic, or startled by bikes traveling at high speeds. “Improvements” to the Glenway Woods being proposed by the Parks department are likely to restrict access to that peaceful area as well.

If you are looking for other meaningful improvements to the cemetery, I’d encourage you to add surveillance cameras. This may help with West kids who are skipping class and smoking whatever in the cemetery.

Becky Hoffman

From: Henny Regnier <hsoregnier@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:10 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Keep Forest Hills Cemetery dog FRIENDLY!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Why why why make Forest Hills Cemetery dog free? Why? Leave it alone and for the neighbors.

I don't have a dog but I want dogs to be able to walk in this park.
Henny Regnier

From: Joan Knoebel <noblejoanie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:23 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Leashed dogs in the cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

We've lived in the Regent neighborhood for 40 years. There are so few places to walk our dogs, on leashes, please don't close down the cemetery. Far more dog walkers are there on a daily basis than mourners. Share this space. Enforce the leash laws to assuage those objecting but continue to allow access.

Joan Knoebel
1712 Summit Ave
Previously 2707 Kendall Ave

From: Donna Lotzer <badgerfan1975@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:42 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Comments on dogs in cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I lived in the Regent neighborhood for 40 years, near Forest Hill and totally support BANNING dogs, on leash or off...it is just horrible that people think it is appropriate to have their animal pee, poop and generally allow desecration of these places...thanks

From: William Costa <wcosta@mailbag.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 6:02 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in the forest hills cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

When we had a dog the cemetery and the trails in back were a key part of the quality of life in the neighborhood.

Taking that away is a very bad idea for probably hundreds of families.

That cemetery/ arboretum has long served as a defacto dog park. One of the compelling features is the large safe and quiet area away from the roads and houses.

William Costa

From: Joan Laurion <joan.laurion@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 7:06 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Keep Forest Hill Cemetery dog friendly

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good morning, I have written to you before on this topic but while walking my dog, I had another thought. Here it is. I hope it might assuage the worries of the person who is fearful of dogs defecating/urinating on headstones and graves near the road.

At least for my female dog and I imagine others, she pees and poops pretty soon after we leave the house on a walk. By the time we get to the cemetery, she has done her business already and has very little or none left for the grass near the road in the cemetery. Male dogs seem to keep peeing no matter what so it wouldn't be so true of them. They would need to be restrained at times.

I think it would be good to simply add this request to the signage about keeping dogs on leash, on the road and scrupulously picking up their poop.

I hope you will keep Forest Hill Cemetery dog friendly,

Joan Laurion

--

Joan Laurion

she/her

From: Marguerite Burns <burnsmarguerite@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 7:08 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: comment re: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Proposal

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I strongly support retaining the dog-friendly policy for Forest Hill. We occasionally walk our dog through the cemetery and have never encountered disrespectful behavior on the part of other dog owners.

This is a neighborhood green space that we support with our taxes and should remain accessible.

Marguerite Burns

2207 Eton Ridge, Madison, WI 53726

From: gordon sussman <brynstane@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 8:14 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Consideration of dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hiya...

I comment as one with a triple interest in the consideration of banning leashed dogs in Forest Hill cemetery.

- 1) Frequent dog walker in the cemetery
- 2) Neighborhood resident (17 Harrison St)
- 3) Son of permanent resident of the cemetery (Myra Mandel, mother, interred 9/92)

The cemetery is first and foremost a final resting place for the dead, and a place of consolation and contemplation for the living. Custom and decency dictate behavior and decorum should be different from other public spaces. In my observation (likely corroborated by city staff), folks visiting Forest Hill recognize this and are proper and respectful of their surroundings. In my many visits (often with leashed dog eventually checking up on Mothers' plot), I've never seen...call it evidence... of irresponsible dog owners preceeding me. Rather, in my walks around the grounds I'm glad to pick up the occasional candy wrapper or other casual litter encountered. I expect fellow dog walkers likewise appreciate the solemnity of the space and likewise contribute to it.

I understand your consideration of a ban is precipitated by an issue raised by an individual's concern over *possible* dog actions. You certainly are charged to consider and adjudicate such concern. In doing so I hope you consider the overwhelming number of responsible dog walkers who enjoy the peace and serenity of the cemetery. I hope you consider those of us who, in seeking consolation and good memory in visiting graves of family members, do so with companion animals who we consider family, of a sort.

Gordy Sussman

608-556-8438

brynstane@gmail.com

From: Patti Sinclair <trishsinclair@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 8:22 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Tom Sinclair <tom_sinclair@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery--dogs

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please continue to allow dogs to walk through the Forest Hill Cemetery with their owners!

We walk through the cemetery once or twice a week with our dog on a leash, pick up any poop and keep him from peeing on graves. Beautiful Forest Hill is a haven for the living as well as a resting place for the dead and we have enjoyed it both with and without our dog for nearly 40 years. It is part of our neighborhood and makes an easy, no street crossing, walk for us as we live on Virginia Terrace.

I haven't seen evidence that dogs are a problem nor have I noticed dog poop. The dogs we see in the cemetery from our backyard are always on leash. Of more concern I think, would be the cars that drive through after dark and stop in the cemetery (drug sales?).

I would be interested in knowing what the objections are for prohibiting dogs with their owners from the cemetery. I'm sure the dead don't mind.

Respectfully,

Patti Sinclair

306 Virginia Terrace

From: Tom Nordberg <tomnordberg@juno.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 8:41 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I do not own a dog. I like to walk along the streets in Forest Hill Cemetery.

I believe dogs should be allowed in the cemetery.

It is one of the few places to walk a dog away from the busy streets and sidewalks in this Madison area. Thanks for your consideration.

From: Brenda K. Chamberlain <brendakchamberlain@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 8:45 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Vidaver, Regina <district5@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog-walkers in Forest Hill Cemetery keep our neighborhood safer

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi,

I am writing in favor of keeping Forest Hill Cemetery dog-friendly for the benefit of our neighborhood safety.

I am not a dog-walker, but I have lived a couple blocks away for 8 years, and I strongly believe that the presence of dog-walkers keeps the cemetery and our neighborhood safer for everyone. I have not found the dogs or dog owners walking there to be a problem. I understand that there may be downsides, but they don't come close to outweighing the crucial benefit of having our dog-walking neighbors using the cemetery.

If you do decide that dogs are no longer permitted in the cemetery, I expect the decision to be paired with thoughtful, substantial action and budget to monitor and occupy the cemetery in ways that would preclude the problems that evolve from large vacant areas in the middle of a city and next to a high school.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this important issue.

Brenda Chamberlain

2250 Hollister Ave, Madison, WI 53726

From: Kathryn Burke <kfburke41@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:35 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Keep Forest Hill Cemetery dog friendly

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

The cemetery is where my dog and I go to find peace, solitude, exercise, and to enjoy the beauties of nature in our neighborhood. When we see other people with their dogs, the dogs are on leash and well behaved. And of course owners pick up after their dogs. There really isn't a good reason to change the leashed dog policy.

Please keep this area free to be enjoyed by all,

Kathryn Burke

From: Dale Kaufman <dkaufman56@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:44 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog walking if Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good morning.

I understand that you are seriously considering changing the dog walking regulations in Forest Hill Cemetery. This makes me quite upset. Let me explain...

I have a dog. I live 1/2 a block away from the Speedway/Regent St. entrance to Forest Hill. I frequently walk my LEASHED dog there to get away from traffic. I enjoy walking through the cemetery, reading the gravestones and visiting my many family members who are buried there. I ALWAYS leash my dog during these walks. We stay on the paved roadway and I ALWAYS pick up my dog's waste. It is a walk that I have enjoyed for many

years in all seasons and all weather. In our busy neighborhood it is a nice change to get away from all the noise and commotion.

I do not understand why this would pose a threat or danger or inconvenience to anyone walking through or visiting gravesites. The other dogs I see are likewise leashed. I can totally understand why you would not want unleashed animals running around. That makes perfect sense to me but why is it a problem to have a leashed dog walking on the roads? I have seen people having sex in the cemetery, drinking and using drugs. THAT is uncomfortable. Not walking a dog on a leash.

I hope you will take my comments into consideration and, if you would, help me understand what the rationale is behind your current thinking.

Sincerely,

Dale Kaufman

2424 Van Hise Ave

From: Jennifer <jennbharrington@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 10:18 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good morning,

I am a 20+ year resident of the area very near Forest Hill cemetery. It is a wonderful refuge to walk through with my dog. We are respectful and never leave any litter. I have actually never seen issues with dogs being unruly or issues with dog waste. I would happily support a sign reminding people and animals to be respectful of the area and any visitors but please allow me to continue to have peaceful walks in Forest Hill cemetery with my dog.

Thank you,
Jennifer Harrington

From: Christina Kendziorski <c.kendziorski@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 11:49 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Please keep Forest Hill Park Dog Friendly!!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi there!

We almost never use Forest Hill Park, but we hope that you will keep it dog friendly!
Our dog friends need/want a nice place to walk too.

Thank you!

Christina Newton

2250 Rugby Row

From: Pat McQuiddy <patmcquiddy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 12:17 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog status in Forest Hill cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I walk often in the cemetery (I don't have any dogs myself) and enjoy meeting people who are walking their dogs on leashes there. I also go off road to look at gravestones and have never seen any dog feces there. I think our neighbors are very good about picking up after their dogs. Please keep allowing dogs on leashes!

Pat McQuiddy

175 Virginia Terrace

From: Ronnie Hess <rlhess@wisc.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 12:21 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill is a social and recreational space

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear PAC Commissioners,

As someone who does not have a dog, who walks often in Forest Hill Cemetery and who has just bought a plot there, here are my two cents.

I have no problem with dogs in the park. I do have a problem with people not keeping their dogs on a leash, and not cleaning up after them. If there were a way to make that message quite clear (and enforced), I think this would be a more preferable solution than an outright ban.

Walking in the park with friends (animal, human) is a delightful and informative experience. Dogs are important companions, especially for people reluctant to walk alone. A good site for history is:

<http://foresthill.williamcronon.net/history/> which describes the cemetery as an increasingly "social and recreational space."

The site explains that once upon a time, farm animals were grazed on part of the cemetery, carriages with horses the preferred transportation of wealthy Madisonians. There have always been problems. But let us get over them to the benefit of all who appreciate the cemetery.

All best wishes,

Ronnie Hess (she/her)

Madison, WI

From: Rick Ezell <njala54@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 12:31 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: changing Forest Hill Cemetery from "dog friendly" to "dog free"

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Commissioners,

I hope you will not take the proposed action. One person's hypothetical case should not deprive the many responsible dog owners and their pets of the actual enjoyment of the safe and pleasing environs of Forest Hill Cemetery.

Were there documented and numerous instances of the hypothetical case, the action proposed might merit more consideration, but I don't see that here.

Respectfully,
Rick Ezell
2313 Kendall Avenue

From: MICHAEL M MCLAIN <michael.mclain@wisc.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 12:36 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Everyone

Our family lives about a block from the cemetery. We do not own a dog. We strongly support that dogs on leases continue to be allowed in the park. Thank you

Mike McLain
2230 Van Hise Ave.
Madison, Wi. 53726

From: Judian Smith <judiansmith22@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 1:19 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Dogs on leash in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I understand that some one is suggesting that they ban dogs on leash again in Forest Hill Cemetery not because people have been allowing dogs off leash there but because they find it troublesome to imagine dogs walking on the grass next to the path or on a gravesite very close to the paved path. As some one who lives just a couple of blocks away and frequents this beautiful place with my dog quietly walking on leash, I ask that you please continue to allow us in this park. I have never seen a dog off leash in this cemetery and people have always been polite and quiet with their dogs. As a tax payer, there are so few places in central Madison where we can walk with our dogs. Please don't take this one away from us when we have abided by all of the rules.

As a senior citizen, I would love to have dogs walking on my gravesite. I would be more concerned by people who might do damage to the gravesites, which the presence of people with dogs actually reduces.

Thank you for your consideration.

Judian

From: SANDRA E STARK <sestark@wisc.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 1:35 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status Request Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Board of Park Commissioners:

As a resident without a dog, but with friends who have them and walk them responsibly along roads in this cemetery, I would like to register a desire to keep this area dog friendly, with increased educational efforts aimed at licensing and leashing in a cemetery. Perhaps small kiosks at various entrances with notices and explanations would help.

As a parks and path plantings volunteer, I would much rather focus on unleashed dog behavior in the unnamed park between the Glen golf course and the cemetery, requiring leashed dogs there and ticketing for offenders. Park Rangers?

Respectfully,

Sandy Stark

2720 Gregory St

Madison WI 53711

608-358-9804

From: drone_lineman.0g@icloud.com <drone_lineman.0g@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:16 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill dogs

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Park Commissioners,

I heard that you are considering a change to the rules about dogs at Forest Hill.

As a lifelong Madison resident who lives in University Heights and has close relatives and friends buried at Forest Hill, I would vote to NOT change the status. Dogs on leash are not an apparent problem. At least there's been no public discussion or documentation of a real problem.... Just a theoretical concern.

Many in the surrounding neighborhoods have canine friends; the nearest official dog park is miles away at the junction of Odana Rd and Segoe Rd. Having a quiet lightly trafficked area to walk with a dog is a definite plus for the citizens nearby.

I would also posit that having dog walkers in the cemetery regularly tends to cut down on the likelihood of vandalism to the headstones. Vandalism was a real issue at Forest Hill when dogs were not allowed. Not enough to claim cause and effect, but a consideration.

Whatever theoretical concern some busybody has raised about dogs (possibly) peeing or pooping in an undesired location should be balanced against the definite damage, costly repairs and emotional harm to families when headstones are toppled or broken in an always-empty cemetery.

Please use common sense and do not ban dogs.

Best,

A taxpayer, regular cemetery visitor, heavy park user and likely future long term resident of Forest Hill

From: Ben Thompson <thompben33@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:53 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery - Dog Friendly Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good afternoon,

I am writing because I saw the dog friendly status at Forest Hill Cemetery is going to be discussed soon. I would like to let you know that the dog friendly status is a huge positive for the cemetery currently. Being able to visit a loved one's grave with their loved pets or just seeing the dogs walking around while visiting is uplifting.

Please keep the dog status at Forest Hill Cemetery the way it is currently.

Thank you,
Ben Thompson

From: Kay Rock <rock_47@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 15, 2022 8:20 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hills Dog Park

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please leave this location as "dog friendly". It would be dead without it.

From: Alex Seidenstricker <alexseidenstricker@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 15, 2022 10:15 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello -

As a dog owner, I would appreciate it if Forest Hill Cemetery would remain a "dog friendly" park. The park offers more walking paths for dogs other than the surrounding neighborhoods and bike path, which can be dangerous for dog walkers when bikers are aggressive and not paying attention to their surroundings.

Thank you,

Alex Seidenstricker

From: Astrid Newenhouse <astridnewen@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 15, 2022 12:28 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Leave Forest Hill Dog Friendly please

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners,

Please leave the Forest Hill Cemetery as "dog friendly", which is the current status. As long as the dogs are leashed they pose no problems and instead add to my experience visiting family gravesites in Forest Hill.

Thank you for sending me a postcard notifying me of this issue.

Best regards,

Astrid Newenhouse

3814 Winnemac Avenue

Madison WI 53711

From: Tom Sinclair <tom_sinclair@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Saturday, October 15, 2022 12:43 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Dog-walking in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Commissioners:

Please add me to the list of Regent Neighborhood residents who urge you to continue to allow dog-walking in Forest Hill Cemetery.

My wife and I have lived on the 300 block of Virginia Terrace, directly adjacent to the cemetery, for 38 years. For much of that time we have walked our dogs *on-leash* through the cemetery perhaps once or twice per week. We have rarely seen anyone abusing the leash policy. (In fact, I don't see many other dog-walkers there at all.) If that were a *common* problem, I could understand why you might want to prohibit dogs. Otherwise, why would you do so?

There is no sidewalk on the south side of Speedway Boulevard. If you ban dogs from Forest Hill, walking our dog to the Westmorland neighborhood, as we frequently do, would require us to cross the often-congested five-way intersection near the cemetery entrance, then cross back at the busy intersection of Glenway and Mineral Point. Traversing the cemetery requires no such crossings and is much more appealing, especially on hot summer days when there is no shade along Speedway.

My wife and I have burial plots at Forest Hill. (We also contribute to the Madison Parks Foundation.) Some day we will be laid to rest there. I have no objections to sharing it with future neighborhood residents and their dogs.

Sincerely,

Tom Sinclair

306 Virginia Terrace

From: Miriam Navin <mnavin@madison.k12.wi.us>
Sent: Sunday, October 16, 2022 9:09 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: keep Forest Hills Cemetery dog friendly

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I appreciate the opportunity to give feedback on the proposed change of dog walking at Forest Hills Cemetery.

My husband and I live near Forest Hills Cemetery. We would go for long walks through the cemetery several times a week. Sometimes we'd walk just the two of us, and sometimes we'd walk our dog. The cemetery is beautiful and peaceful, and we were always careful to keep our dog on the road and off the grass while there.

My husband died 9 months ago and is now buried at Forest Hills Cemetery. One of the things that brings me some peace is to walk our dog and visit his grave. I do this almost every day. By now my dog knows where to go, and she will stop on the road in front of his grave, sometimes even sitting or laying down, waiting for me to give the signal that it's time to start walking again.

I would be so sad to not be able to walk our dog through the cemetery to visit his grave. I hope the Board of Park Commissioners continues to allow Forest Hills Cemetery to be a dog friendly park.

Thank you for considering.

Miriam Navin (and Winnie)

From: Anne Morgan Giroux <annemorgangiroux@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 8:05 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Free Park

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Commission,

I've been walking my dog(s) through the roads of the cemetery for years. My mother and one of my dearest friends is buried there. I've seen my share of other dog walkers, bikers, runners, and scooters that go through as well.

My question is what is the reason for no dogs? Are they being loud during services? Running groups, high school kids, barking dogs, and electric bikes all make noise, as do the cars on Speedway. When I am walking through the cemetery and a service is happening, I've seen nothing but respect for the mourners and efforts to be quiet from passers by with and without dogs.

Is it the poop or unleashed dogs? Fair enough if there are bad dog owners among us. Police them, along with people drinking in the cemetery, or doing anything else they shouldn't be doing. But don't punish the good people who are enjoying the walk with dog(s) on leash and warm poop bags in hand.

Thank you.

-Anne

Anne Morgan Giroux

annemorgangiroux@gmail.com

608.446.6052

From: Nick Fass <ndfass@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 8:40 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest hill dog policy

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please continue to allow dogs in the park.

Thanks,

Nick Fass

2410 Van Hise

From: Jordy Jordahl <jordy@cjest.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 9:29 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Vidaver, Regina <district5@cityofmadison.com>; Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>;

Calliope Jordahl <cal@cjest.com>

Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery proposed changes

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Greetings -

I recently received a postcard about dog walking in the cemetery. Although I am involved in the neighborhood, this postcard with the announcement of a proposed ban was the first I had heard any discussion about management questions, concerns, or proposals for the cemetery.

My background -- I live near the cemetery on Rugby Row and walk my pups on leash on the roads in the cemetery 2-4 times a week throughout the year after work/supper time. I have lived in the neighborhood since 1998 and grew up near Hilldale and graduated from West in the 80s. My parents and sister are buried in the cemetery and I enjoy 'visiting' their graves as we walk past frequently. Someday (hopefully far down the road), my wife and I are planning to be buried in the family plot. So, I am a neighbor, an owner of a family plot, and a user.

We normally take a 2 mile walk - +/-45 minutes. In the summer, my wife and I sometimes walk before work - 7-9ish. I have been doing this for several years. I don't remember seeing people in the cemetery with dogs off leash. Most walks, we see a few other walkers and only occasionally others with dogs. We enjoy walking there because it's beautiful, historic, quiet, and a peaceful place to walk without traffic. Something almost always catches my eye or ear on the walk - some family name, unusual monument or the sound or sight of owls, cranes, or oak trees. It's nice to walk there because the roads are wide and there's lots of space for distancing - covid - and also when we pass other walkers with our very friendly dogs, something that's more awkward on narrow sidewalks.

I don't understand what problem this proposal is trying to solve and think that this outright ban is the wrong initial step for the commission to take. Are there reports of unleashed dogs causing problems? Is this related to the woods in the ravine adjacent to the golf course (which I consider part of the golf course campus)? Is this a problem related to the roads in the cemetery? Is this a specific conflict/dog issue? Is there an education solution that would be more appropriate? Or perhaps an enforcement issue if there are reports of off leash dogs or a problem dog/owner?

I would ask the Commission to evaluate if there is a more focused change to address a specific problem that I am unaware of? I have seen no problems on my visits to Forest Hill. I see no signs posted telling people to change behaviors.(I do see signs telling us to have dogs on leash). I have not seen a Madison Park Ranger vehicle in the cemetery enforcing current regulations.

The proposal is a significant loss of low impact access to that tremendous asset in our neighborhood. It's ironic and really disappointing that after the substantial public and private investment in the adjacent golf course to try to make more user groups welcome on the golf course land to immediately see this proposed action right next door limiting access.

I strongly oppose this change. If there is a concern or an issue, I believe an initial approach should be education followed by enforcement. It is entirely inappropriate to make this very significant change as a first step.

Many thanks for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Harald (Jordy) Jordahl

From: Joseph Dennis <dennis3@wisc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:39 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Comments on Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Park Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Park Board Commissioners,

I am writing to give comments on the Forest Hill Cemetery dog park status. My back fence is on the cemetery (I live on the west side of Virginia Terrace) and am very familiar with the dog situation therein. In my view, the main issue could be resolved by extending the sidewalk on the east side of Speedway to connect where it now ends by the golf course clubhouse/bus stop area, down to where it restarts near the cemetery office. Many people in the neighborhood like to walk dogs in a loop that goes down the bike path, up the sidewalk on Glenway street, then around Forest Hill Cemetery, but the only way to do that without crossing and recrossing Speedway and its dangerous intersection at Highland/Regent/Speedway, is to cut through the cemetery.

Most people who cut through the cemetery with dogs keep to the paved roads, which seems OK. But some people do walk over the grass and grave areas with dogs, which many people consider to be disrespectful. In my view, off-road dog walking should not be allowed, but I have not noticed on-road walking to cause problems or heard complaints from neighbors about that.

An alternative to extending the sidewalk might be to simply limit dog walking to one road through the cemetery. The road you can get on by the used-oil collection station near the golf course runs roughly parallel to Speedway most of the way and then another road goes to the cemetery office where the sidewalk starts up again. Putting up a few "designated dog walking route" signs might be cheaper than adding a section of sidewalk.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Dennis

Joseph Dennis

Professor of History

University of Wisconsin

3211 Humanities Building

455 N. Park St.

Madison, WI USA 53706

From: SCOTT JANE HALL <saintpaulhalls@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 12:33 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status in Forest Hills Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Friends at The City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners,

We are residents of the Dudgeon Monroe neighborhood and support keeping Forest Hills Cemetery “dog friendly.” Since moving back to Madison a couple of years ago, we have enjoyed walking our rescue dogs Flambeau and April through Forest Hills a couple of times each day. We think of the cemetery as a beautiful park with its old growth trees, abundant birds/wildlife and rich history. It has also been a great place to walk and get exercise while social distancing during the Covid pandemic.

We have been impressed that Forest Hills is open to leashed dogs and wonder why you would want to change it. We see many other dog walkers and just about all seem to be following the rules to have their dogs on leash and pick up the waste. Last week, out of curiosity, I looked in each of the grey trash cans during our afternoon walk. In almost all were several “Poop Bags,” so it seems that most people are following that rule. If some folks aren’t following the rules, wouldn’t it make sense to have the Rangers issue citations, like you do at other parks, rather than punishing everyone else?

We certainly appreciate how dog friendly Madison is with many parks that allow dogs. Also it is incredible the number of off leash parks, although these each require a drive from the Dudgeon Monroe neighborhood.

So again, we hope that you will keep Forest Hills dog friendly and are concerned that making it dog free is a solution looking for a problem.

Respectfully,

Scott and Jane Hall

644 Sprague St

Madison, WI. 53711

cc: Tag Evers – Alder

From: Sarah Pabian <sepabian@uwalumni.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 2:47 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery dog status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am writing to comment on the proposed change to the dog status at Forest Hill Cemetery. Please do not change this area to a "dog free" park.

I am a daily user of the cemetery and adjacent forested areas for walking my dog, jogging and exploring with my children. My dog is always on leash and she is properly licensed. My home is sandwiched between two areas with dog restrictions including the arboretum and the golf course. The bike path and Monroe street are often very busy leaving us with few options of where to walk our high energy dog. The cemetery lands provide a lovely and enjoyable place to walk.

I would also like to add that, in the considerable amount of time I have spent on the cemetery property, I have never run into trouble with other dog walkers. In fact, I don't run into very many people at all, making me confused as to why there is a proposal to restrict the use of this property.

I think the forest hill cemetery is a valuable area for anyone wanting a brief escape from the busy streets of Madison. Please do not take this away from people walking with dogs.

Thank you,
Sarah Pabian

From: Laura Brashi <lbrashi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 3:21 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To the BPC,

We are hoping that the Forest Hill Cemetery will remain "dog friendly." We don't really understand why this might be changing. Please keep it open for residents to walk their dogs on leash.

Thank you,
Laura Baggett

From: Marcus Parton <parton.marcus@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 4:26 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog comment

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi,

I live in the Dudgeon-Monroe neighborhood, walk in the cemetery occasionally, but am NOT a dog owner. I'd like to offer my support to continuing to allow dogs (on leash) in the cemetery. You can't please everyone on this issue, but I've never had an issue with someone else's on-leash dog. If the concern is off-leash dogs, then that's already against the rules and can be enforced today.

Madison has a long history of anti-dog policies that I don't entirely understand. Other comparable cities (Austin, Boulder, etc) are much more dog friendly. Chicago even has dog-friendly restaurants! Given the Madison restrictions at restaurants, various parks and the Arboretum, we should be expanding access for on-leash dog walking, not restricting it further.

Plus, dogs are man's best friend and might want to pay their respects, too.

Thanks,

Marcus Parton

651 Knickerbocker St

From: Julia Sheahan <jcsheahan@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 8:48 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Oppose Proposal to Make Forest Hill Cemetery a Dog Free Park

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Board of Parks Commissioners,

I recently heard that the Board of Parks Commissioners is considering making Forest Hill Cemetery a dog free park, and I would like to share my strong opposition to this change.

My husband and I adopted our dog Juno, a rescue, from the Dane County Humane Society over four years ago. Unknown to us at the time she turned out to be a nervous and fearful dog. We've worked hard on her training, but due to her past and chronic health issues she is still very nervous about unfamiliar people and dogs. We take her walking 3+ times a week in Forest Hill Cemetery and it is the only place we've found where she's comfortable and is able to have a low stress walk. We love the cemetery because we can easily see other people and dogs in the distance and plan our route accordingly to avoid them. The Cemetery provides a very important quiet, peaceful place for people and dogs who aren't able to frequent other busy parks. I also enjoy walking in the cemetery with Juno because I'm able to visit our family plot and my brother's grave.

We are always careful to keep Juno on the paths and avoid any gravestones or plots. I heard that the concern raised is that some dogs may pee on the headstones, which I agree is inappropriate. Outlawing dogs in this park all together, however, is punishing everyone for a few people's poor behavior. Instead I suggest that we put up signs that remind dog owners to respect the people who are resting in the cemetery and therefore to keep their dogs away from the plots. The catholic cemetery across the street has this type of sign posted throughout the cemetery.

Thank you for your time, and feel free to reach out to me with any follow-up questions you may have. Please also let me know when the location is determined for the 11/9 meeting where this proposal will be discussed.

Julia Sheahan
jcsheahan@gmail.com
608-358-9598

From: David Murphy <dml60@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2022 8:01 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status Request - Forest Hill Cemetary

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

We moved to the neighborhood a year ago. I enjoy walking our two small dogs on leash in the cemetery. It is very quiet and away from the traffic which makes it a pleasant walk. In my time there I have not seen any dogs misbehaving and, in fact, it is rare that I come across anyone during my walks.

Therefore, I hope that cemetery remains “dog friendly” but certainly want to respect the wishes of those who have loved ones buried there.

Thanks for asking for feedback.

David Murphy
2330 Rowley Avenue

From: ROBERT A ANDREW <robert.andrew@wisc.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 8:06 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: JOY M ANDREW <jmandrew@wisc.edu>
Subject: Keep dogs in the park

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Removing dogs is a lazy way of solving a problem. Very poor judgment here.

Straw vote of family over 72 all 3 want dogs around our graves in whatever way the dogs wish.

Personally, my family, both sides, has been here a long time we have a half dozen different sites in Forest Hill my dog and i can visit

Bob Andrew, Stevens St.

From: Bob Hodgson <hodgsonsteele@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 8:42 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I vote for leaving Forest Hill as a dog friendly space.

I don't own a dog, but I spend a good deal of time walking there, and have never had, seen, or heard about a problem with dogs. The density of users in general is quite low, and those with dogs even lower. Leashes are used consistently.

I can't fathom why this would be an issue for the commission to spend time on. Also can't imagine that you have enforcement resources to back up such a change. Please leave things as they are.

Sent from Bob Hodgson

From: gotzfam5@gmail.com <gotzfam5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 4:45 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery "dog friendly" designation

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear City of Madison BPC,

I would like to register in opposition to the proposed change to designate Forest Hill Cemetery "dog free" rather than "dog friendly." As a neighborhood resident who frequently uses the cemetery to walk and run (with and without dogs), I value the multiuse nature of this city-owned space. It provides a space for solitude and reflection in our high-density neighborhood. If there are complaints of irresponsible dog owners, please recognize that these are the same individuals who will continue to bring their dogs even if the designation changes to "dog free."

The cemetery is filled with animals—birds, squirrels, chipmunks, and of course, the resident fox. Should the cemetery be free of them as well? Dogs on leash, accompanied by their owners who stay on the roadway, cause minimal disruption, certainly no more than a group of people walking and talking, or children on bikes. Should the cemetery be free of these activity too?

Best,

Sherry Gotzler

2321 Keyes Avenue

Madison WI 53711

From: Andy Kosseff <andykosseff238@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 9:16 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Free DOG parks

I am in favor of making the cemetery an off leash dog park but the dog owners **MU**st clean-up after their dogs. My guess is that most of the cemetery residents would like having dogs around.

Andy Kosseff

2306 Eton Ridge

Madison, WI 53726

From: david gebauer <dag2149@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 1:17 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Park Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am writing to encourage the Park Board Commissioners to change the current status as a dog friendly park to a dog free park. I am often in the cemetery to visit grave sites of family and I think the presence of dogs ignores the spiritual intent of a cemetery. I want to visit our gravesites without having to be imposed upon by people and their dogs. I often experience problems because of dogs. Whether the owners are calling for their dogs, barking, dogs running off leashes and owners not picking up dog waste. A number of times I have found dog feces on or near our grave sites.

Please change our cemetery to a dog free park.

Thank you.

--

David Gebauer

From: Erich Schmidtke <erichschmidtke@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 1:34 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Parks

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Keep Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Friendly

From: Jeff Trapp <jefftrapp247@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 4:51 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Responding to potential closing of Forest Hill cemetery to dogs.

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello, I noticed the sign while walking yesterday. "Have received requests" sounds a bit too much like Fox news lead in "some people say". How many requests, by who and what is the issue? I'd like to know. It's hard to respond without knowing what the issue is? My girlfriend lives on Larkin and we walk a couple of times a day, the cemetery is very large and we often cross it on longer walks. It's convenient. It's also a lovely and restful place to walk and enjoy the trees, without having to deal with street crossing and getting bombed by too fast cyclists on the bike path. I have seen no issues with dogs in the area, responsible dog owners pick up after their dogs and have their dogs on a leash. Punishing the majority of people for bad behaviour of a few is really a lazy way to run things. Leave things alone! Let the dogs alone! Jeff Trapp

--

Jeff Trapp
2540 Upham St
Madison WI 53704

From: Jim Dunn <captainjetski@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 6:02 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please - no barking crappers in the cemetery!

From: Vanessa Tortolano <vanessatpants@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 11:40 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest hill cemetery and dogs

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello my name is Vanessa and I am a local dog walker here in Madison Wisconsin. I really feel like we should continue to allow dogs to be on leash on the paved areas inside of Forest Hill cemetery. It is a beautiful peaceful place to walk around without too many distractions or other people. Yes, there is the bike lane nearby, however it is heavily trafficked and not always the best thing for dogs. Forest hill cemetery is peaceful, and quiet. Perhaps there should be more signage for respecting the graves that reside in the cemetery. I always make sure my dogs are on the path and leash at all times

Thank you For your consideration!

Vanessa Tortolano

608-354-5293

From: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 8:17 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: FW: Forest Hill Cemetery

From: joan.laurion@gmail.com <joan.laurion@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 6:04 PM
To: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Contact Information:

=====

Name: joan Laurion

Street Address:

2525 Chamberlain Ave

Madison , WI 53705

Phone: 608556-0717

Email: joan.laurion@gmail.com

Comments / Questions:

=====

Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Comments / Questions:

Good afternoon, I have written to you before with a suggestion for the "development" of Glenway Woods. I would like to add to my comments. I hope you will be willing to read my letter even though it is a bit long.

1- Dog walking is a very inexpensive way for Madison Parks to encourage and provide for many people to get regular exercise. No tennis courts, no golf courses, no expensive maintenance. It is really wonderful that you have opened up many Madison Parks for on leash dog walking. Thank you for that!

2- Besides walking one's dog, responsible dog ownership includes making sure the dog gets to stretch his/her legs and run, get its heart pumping and exercise her/his muscles. Some younger people can run with their dogs but most of us can't! Responsible dog owners try to get their dogs running many times a week if not daily.

3- Currently, people in the Regent and Dudgeon Monroe neighborhoods have to get in their cars to take their dogs to a dog park where dogs can legally be off leash and run. The closest ones are small so the owner can't get a good walk and the larger ones are between 4 and 10 miles away-a substantial time commitment. And all these trips add to the use of fossil fuels and climate change.

4- I suggest running a pilot project that would allow very limited specific times for off leash dog walking at the "new" Glenway Woods. A random example: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 6-8 AM and 6-8 PM ...or any combo! I realize that city ordinance requires dogs to be on a leash but I assume that Madison Parks can approach the Common Council to allow a limited time for them to try out a creative pilot project. Naturally, there would have to be Park Rangers on duty from time to time to give out tickets at the end of the time limit. just as we require already in city parks.

5- I realize that very few Madison dog owners live near an official dog park so I am not suggesting that this is a question of fairness. I am pointing out that this is an OPPORTUNITY to see how very limited off leash dog walking works out in this situation. I understand it is being used in one westside neighborhood park already. We have been walking dogs off leash in Glenway Woods for decades and I do not know if there have been problems. Maybe it would continue to work out really well and we would have a model for other protected parks and other well behaved dogs. Which would encourage more dog walking and less car driving. It could be a win-win.

6- Lastly, by not taking advantage of this unique opportunity to think and act creatively, Madison Parks is requiring dog owners in this neighborhood to make special long trips by car to exercise their dogs.. use more fossil fuels, add to climate change and get less exercise.

Thank you for considering.

Sincerely, Joan Laurion

From: Megan Willig <willigmp@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 9:29 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Keep Forest Hill Cemetery dog friendly

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Board of Parks Commissioners,

I am a resident of the Sunset Village neighborhood, and live only blocks from Forest Hill Cemetery. This is a safe, quiet place to take my dog for a walk. When I walk through the cemetery, I frequently see other dog walkers with their leashed dogs, and have only ever seen people and dogs being very respectful while in the cemetery. Please keep Forest Hill Cemetery dog friendly. It would be a significant loss to change the Cemetery to "dog free."

For folks looking to walk their dogs in a safe, quiet area, Forest Hill Cemetery is one of the main places to walk. At approximately 140 acres, it has a large footprint. With Mineral Point Rd being very busy, it is safer and more enjoyable to walk through the forested paths in the cemetery. It can be a place of quiet reflection. I urge you to allow dog walkers continued access to this 140 acre cemetery.

Thank you,

Megan Willig

From: Margaret Ebeling <msebeling@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 10:40 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Input: Forest Hill Cemetery Park

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Board of Commissioners,

Thank you for collecting neighborhood input on the proposal for dogs within Forest Hill Cemetery. **It is my position to maintain Madison General Ordinance 8.195 passed in 2020 to allow leashed dogs on paved roadways within Forest Hill.**

The paved roadway extending from the Glen Golf Park parking lot to Regent Street is the only safe parallel pedestrian egress down what is arguably one of our most dangerous streets and aptly-named Speedway Road. There is no safe sidewalk that allows safe passage from Glenway Road to Regent Street.

This path on the northside of Forest Hill property is in effect a sidewalk for pedestrian use.

For every morning the last two years, I have walked my licensed dog Izzy on-leash on the paved pathway as part of our daily exercise. At no point is she allowed off-leash or to use the toilet, or to be anywhere other than walking the road with us within the park. As a neighbor adjacent to this pastoral and historic setting, I take this daily walk as my opportunity to reflect on my contributions and honor those who have come before me, making Madison the great community it is today. There is not much in the way of pedestrian traffic through here, but those that I see are other compliant dog walkers and runners. I fail to see where this light use has prompted such significant issues that warrant discussion of change to such a recently adopted ordinance.

With nothing other than suspicion, if this is a veiled effort to address the Glenway Woods - technically part of the cemetery grounds as I understand it - then divide that area and address it independently. I am aware of the controversy of dog use of this section over the last three years, and that issue has never come before this commission even after the failed promises of improvements as part of the Glenway Golf Park renovation.

Thank you for your consideration of my position on this matter.

Margaret Ebeling

2804 Gregory Street, Madison, WI 53711

303-919-3621

msebeling@gmail.com

From: TB <theresalbishop@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 29, 2022 4:31 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Parks - Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it may concern:

I would like to request support for Forest Hill Cemetery to be Dog-Free. I am disabled and unable to find sufficient places to walk without fear of loose dogs anywhere in Madison or surrounding communities. This has included parks with Native American sites like Aztalan State Park and Governor Nelson State Park and in environmental conservation areas. Dog owners have repeatedly been aggressive and rude if anything is mentioned.

In addition, I feel like Forest Hill cemetery is very unique and it is important to preserve the multicultural historical heritage. There are many unique military gravesites, early American settler gravesites (including from the Jefferson family), Jewish gravesites, and effigy mounds here. It is rare to find this anywhere all in one place, and is important to maintain and respect this unique heritage.

Best Regards,

Theresa Bishop

From: Amber Sky <ambersky116@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 1:47 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good afternoon,

I have a question, please? What is the reason for not allowing dogs in Forest Hill in the future?

Some of my family members are buried in that cemetery and I bring my dogs with me when I come visit them. For as long as I can remember, Forest Hill has been dog friendly.

My vote is to continue to allow dogs in Forest Hill under the current rules.

Thank you,

Carey Wegener

From: R CoCle <rebeccacole7@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 8:37 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Regarding change in "dog friendly" designation of Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Parks Commission,

I recently read the notice regarding the proposed change in the "dog friendly" status designation of Forest Hill Cemetery.

I would like to encourage the Parks Commission to keep the dog friendly status in the cemetery.

I am not sure what has precipitated this proposed change. I walk almost daily in the cemetery and take my dogs with me. I have not seen issues with dog waste or dogs off leash. In fact I rarely see dogs in this park. I feel this is one more way that Madison is continuing to partition citizens' daily habits and movements with unnecessary restrictions. I am hoping there is some discussion on this perceived need to place this restriction on Madison citizens. I have two loved ones buried in the cemetery and take great comfort in being able to weekly visit the gravesite while walking and exercising my dogs.

I look forward to the November 9 meeting.

Thank you

Rebecca Cole

2824 Gregory St

From: Nan Youngerman <nyoungerman@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 10:17 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery: remain dog friendly

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am writing to advocate for keeping the Forest Cemetery as a dog friendly park. I have lived in the neighborhood for over 50 years. I do not own a dog, but am unaware of any issues that would suggest we should do otherwise. I believe dog owners have been responsible and thoughtful.

Nan Youngerman

2445 Fox Ave

Madison 53711

608-658-4119

From: Kristin Branch <kjbranch@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 10:15 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery - Do want dogs to be allowed

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

hello

I live in the area just south of the bike path and Forest Hill Cemetery and so walk/hike the trails in the area woods and cemetery often. I enjoy the neighborhood dogs and do NOT want to see them banned from this area. I want it to remain 'dog friendly'. I am not a dog owner myself but do know many families in the area with dogs and know they are respectful and responsible and we can all enjoy the space together.

Thank you

-Kristin Branch

2810 Gregory St, Madison, WI 53711

From: Laura Checovich <checovich.laura@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello, I am writing to voice my strong support for allowing on-leash dog walking to continue in Forest Hill Cemetery.

The cemetery is the largest space on the near west side where neighbors can walk their dogs without fear of cars. Allowing leashed dogs encourages the use of this otherwise underutilized public space. Certainly, increased compliance checks of the on-leash policy would be a better way to manage the space than to ban on-leash walking for all because a few are breaking the rules.

Thank you,

Laura Checovich

2233 Keyes Ave

608.334.1200

From: Shawn Schey <shawnschey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 11:47 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Glenway Woods / Forest Hill Cemetery issue

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Park Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to elect to ban dogs - leashed and unleashed - from Forest Hill Cemetery and Glenway Woods at your discussion on November 9th.

It isn't because I don't like dogs nor want their dog owners to be able to walk with them in those locales. It's simply because I have, on numerous occasions, been bitten by unleashed dogs, heard of dogs attacking and biting others even while leashed, and witnessed seemingly "trained" dogs leaping up and biting people unexpectedly. My brother-in-law recently suffered sepsis and almost died during a week-long hospital stay due to a dog bite he received when visiting a "friend."

While most dog owners are correct in believing that their own pets are gentle and non-aggressive, dogs as a whole can be expected to act unpredictably.

Dealing with this while visiting ancestors in Forest Hill Cemetery or navigating the narrow and serene paths in Glenway Woods is an unnecessary obstacle to the general population.

I hope you vote to ban dogs leashed and unleashed in the above two settings on November 9th.

Shawn Schey

* * * * *

878 Woodrow St

Madison WI 53711

From: Tracy Topalian <tatopalian@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 11:48 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I think it's fine to allow dogs on leashes in the cemetery as long as owners pick up their poop. I walk up there often and don't remember ever seeing people walking dogs. I'm wondering why this has even become an issue?

Tracy

From: Kurt Amann <kurt.amann@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 11:59 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please continue to allow leashed dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery. I know that when I'm dead, I'll very much want dogs to enjoy visiting me. They need the grass more than I will.

From: craig brown <craig@scenic-interiors.com>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 12:03 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Madison is so lacking in public spaces for dogs and dog owners, compared to many comparably sized cities, that it still baffles and aggravates me seventeen years after moving here. Madison's policies are so extreme (compared to many cities that have found much more tolerant, equitable and effective approaches to dog spaces in an urban area), that dogs weren't even allowed in city parks at all until a few years ago, which was laughably regressive for the health and equal access of taxpayers with dogs. To revoke the use of the cemetery now would be equally shortsighted and inequitable.

A few people on the Regent Neighborhood listserv have complained about dogs disrespecting tombstones. To me this is a ludicrous argument. The maintenance crews use machines to mow and drive all around the tombstones, including right over the ground level ones. The rubber tire marks can be seen on the stones. Roundup being sprayed on stones is just as bad as the random dog urine droplets. My point is, the cemetery is a park. To keep the park in great shape requires some invasion of the "sacred" space. Is anyone up in arms about squirrels burying nuts and defecating around the graves? Birds pooping from trees. It's absurd.

Don't let a few scofflaws ruin the access to the cemetery for the vast majority who obey the leash laws. If you must, get the rangers out and enforce the leash laws just like you did in the adjacent Glenway Woods. During that blitzkrieg campaign of enforcement, those rangers were out there pouncing on dogwalkers and writing tickets at 7 am on Sunday mornings, and well after dark in the middle of winter (I am not exaggerating). Surely if they can manage that extreme level of enforcement, they can do it in the cemetery equally effectively. It's not at all how I would like our public resources being spent, but if it means keeping access for a large number of daily users (I would argue the **MAJORITY** of daily users!!!) then so be it.

Sincerely,

Craig Brown

--

Scenic Interiors, LLC

Craig Brown

(608) 698-6083 mobile

craig@scenic-interiors.com

www.scenic-interiors.com

From: j peterson conrad <jjules224@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 12:04 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

We walk our dogs daily at the cemetery / on leash and do not allow them to go into the grass except when they stop.. We clean up after them. I see neighbors walking their dogs often and everyone seems to abide by the decorum of clean dog walkers ! I do think folks let them off leash in the woods but I've never seen an off leash dog running in the cemetery ! Please continue to allow --

Sent From 🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻

From: Tish Lafferty <tishlafferty@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 12:40 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

It is very disrespectful to have DOGS in the cemetery.

Please forbid dogs in the Forest Hill Cemetery.

From: Karen Aamotsbakken <karen.aamotsbakken@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 4:39 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi,

I believe that we should continue to allow leashed dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery. While a burial ground is a solemn space, it is also a space dedicated not just to death, but to life. If we did not honor life, we wouldn't honor our dead as we do, with flowers, headstones and other remembrances. Dogs add joy to life and many people consider them family. I have often taken my dog along to visit my mother's grave, with my young niece beside me. Both of them loved my mother, and she loved them. It's sad to think that this would not be possible at Forest Hill.

As long as rules are in place to encourage dog owners to stick to paths and be respectful of the place, we should allow leashed dogs to walk there.

Thanks,

Karen Aamotsbakken

668 Pickford St

Madison, WI 53711

From: Sara Tupper <tuppersara@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 9:42 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Dog Status - Forest Ridge Cemetery - Public Comment

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it may concern,

We would like to comment on the consideration of changing Forest Hill Cemetery from its current status as a “dog friendly” to a “dog free” park.

We strongly believe in leaving the cemetery “dog friendly.”

We walk the cemetery with our dog almost every day and enjoy the quiet peacefulness of the experience within in the city. We never allow our dog to leave the cement/walk way as this is the policy and we will always be respectful. In the numerous times we are in the cemetery we have seen very few other dogs. We have seen one individual break the rule and leave the sidewalk and were immensely disappointed in that individual. We tried to intervene but were unsuccessful. A change to a “dog free” would not change those individuals who break the policy unfortunately. Almost all of us are respectful to the policy in place and see the cemetery as a peaceful quiet place to walk our dogs. We enjoy the trees, wildlife, and remembering those buried there.

Additionally, Speedway Road is not a safe street to cross during the busy times (when coming from the golf course). The sidewalk ends abruptly and walking through the cemetery roads is the safest route. As pedestrian deaths rise in Wisconsin, it is better to take the safest route through the cemetery. Yes, there is a crosswalk to cross but it is not easily spotted as people drive quickly down Speedway. It is also not easy to cut back over to the bike bath (via Virginia Terrace) due to having to cross back over through the complicated intersection by West High School. By allowing pedestrians with their dogs to walk through the cemetery you’re keeping them safer and limiting the amount of car/pedestrian interactions that could go wrong on Speedway Rd.

Lastly, without the ability to walk through the cemetery with our dog we will not visit it. We hope the City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners (BPC) considers the majority of us who are respectful to the cemetery as we enjoy it with our dogs.

Thank you,
Sara Tupper and Ross Dewitt

From: Cameron Finley <cameronsfinley@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 9:53 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Parks Status Review

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Cameron Finley, and I am a Madison dog owner. In the time since I first moved here in 2019, Madison parks have become progressively more dog friendly, and this has been a great benefit to my life and to that of my dog, Margot. I believe that licensed, leashed, and permitted dogs (and their owners) have every right to enjoy as many of our parks as possible. In fact, my dog is the primary

motivating factor for me to be out enjoying this great public resource. I encourage the Board of Park Commissioners to update the current dog free parks under consideration to dog-friendly. I also strongly urge the Board to retain Forest Hill Cemetery's dog-friendly status. Its proximity to my home has been invaluable to my dog while she has been in recovery from knee surgery, which has limited the distance she can walk in the coming weeks.

Thank You For Your Time,

Cameron

From: laurie <l_gorman@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 6:26 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good Morning,

I have lived in the neighborhood near Forest Hill Cemetery for over 16 years. I have also been a dog owner during that time and have frequently enjoyed taking my dog for walks on leash through Forest Hill Cemetery.

I saw notice of the City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners November 9 meeting to consider changing the status of Forest Hill Cemetery to a dog free park. As a neighborhood resident and responsible dog owner, I am writing to express my opposition to this change. Forest Hill Cemetery provides a peaceful location to walk my dog without fear of vehicles on the road or bikes speeding past on the bike path. I have not personally witnessed other dog owners not obeying the leash rules in the cemetery, but it is unfair to punish all dog owners for the faults of a few.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laurie Gorman

232 Larkin Street

Madison, WI 53705

From: Seth Pollak <seth.pollak@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:10 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Leashed Dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Members of the Parks Commission,

I am writing in support of allowing leashed dogs in the Forest Hill Cemetery. Although I have lived in Madison for 25 years, I had not visited the cemetery until recently. I have been extremely taken with the peacefulness and natural beauty of the area. It has been a gorgeous and quiet place to walk with my dog.

I do appreciate that for many people, cemeteries are a sacred space. It is important to respect tombstones, monuments, and those visiting in remembrance and mourning. But the cemetery is also a public space and should remain free and open to those acting respectfully. For many of us with dogs who need daily walks, time does not permit long walks in the absence of our pets. So the walk through Forest Hill has allowed me to appreciate the beauty of the space while also exercising my pet.

I do not believe it is appropriate for dogs to be off leash in this area, or for pets to walk among the gravesites. But I do not see any harm in leashed dogs and their owners walking on the paved roads through the cemetery (or the small path from the roads to the bike path to access the cemetery). There is nothing disrespectful about walking on those roads and pets are an appropriate distance from any gravesite. I believe that this compromise leaves all members of the community free to use and appreciate the beauty of the Forest Hill space.

I will say that in my regular walks through the cemetery over the past few months, I have never seen a dog that was not leashed, never seen a dog owner leave the road, and only once have seen a person actually visiting a gravesite. So I do believe that there is plenty of space to accommodate all citizens to enjoy that park in different ways.

Sincerely,

Seth Pollak

1912 West Lawn Ave

From: Jenny Saffran <jenny.saffran@wisc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 12:50 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Greetings,

We regularly walk our leashed and licensed dog in the cemetery. Other than the brief walk from the bike path to the main road, we always stay on the pavement. We never allow our dog anywhere near the graves.

The cemetery is one of the few spacious areas on the Near West Side with minimal car traffic where dogs are permitted. Losing it as a location for a relaxing dog walk would limit the walking-distance alternatives for a car-free walk. Wingra and Vilas parks are available to dog-walkers, but they are quite crowded (and not that large, especially Wingra). And the UW Arboretum is off limits to dogs.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jenny

From: Dave Long <madcitydavie@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 2:51 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: opinion on leashed dogs at Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Plan Commission,

I'm writing in support of the continued allowance of leashed dogs at Forest Hill Cemetery. As regular users of this space my dog, Bear, and I are enormously appreciative of having a quiet open place to walk. Access to this wonderful green space goes a long way toward making near-downtown neighborhoods like ours a great place to live.

The sharp [uptick in dog ownership](#) (spurred on by the pandemic) and Madison's efforts to increase residential density make it especially important that existing green spaces be to multiple uses whenever it's feasible. [Madison's dog density map](#) (based on 2016 license data) shows the areas around Forest Hill Cemetery to be among the highest in dog density anywhere in the city.

I regret that some dog owners are not conscientious about leashing and cleaning up after their dogs, but rather than ban all dogs from the park altogether, I would prefer to see the city take additional steps to curb unwanted behaviors through creative or old-fashioned means (i.e., citations).

Ultimately, a vast green space as lovely and precious as Forest Hills deserves to be made accessible to as many low-impact users as the space can reasonably accommodate.

Thank you for your consideration!

Dave Long (and Bear)

From: JOSEPH W KEMNITZ <jkemnitz@wisc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 4:19 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please continue to allow leashed dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery.

From: Barbara Koechley <barbara.koechley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:56 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: dog status request - Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear BPC,

I don't want to see Forest Hill Cemetery changed from a "dog friendly" park to a "dog free" park. I support that Forest Hill Cemetery remains a "dog friendly" park. I live in the neighborhood and have been walking in the cemetery many times each week, for decades. I do not have a dog but I regularly see dog walkers at the cemetery. I have never seen a dog off leash during any of my walks nor have I ever come upon any dog poop in the cemetery. I am a bit afraid of dogs I don't know but I am always relaxed with the responsible, respectful dog walkers in the cemetery.

I think it's excellent that a dog owner in the neighborhood can walk out their door and take a nice walk with their dog and not have to get in the car and drive to a dog park. I'm grateful for all of the dog parks in the county and they have their place but walking in a lovely cemetery, just blocks from your home, has its place too.

Another reason for keeping Forest Hill Cemetery "dog friendly" is for all the people in the neighborhood who wouldn't get any exercise without taking their dog for a walk. Many of the people I see walking their dogs in the cemetery, wouldn't be exercising themselves if they had to get into their car to exercise their dog.

Forest Hill Cemetery is a wonderful part of our neighborhood and I'm asking you not to close it to dogs who are walked there by their responsible owners.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Barbara Koechley

From: Oliver Levine <oliver.levine@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 9:43 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog friendly status at Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Park Commissioners,

I want to voice my strong opposition to the proposal to change the status of Forest Hill Cemetery to dog free (Nov 9 meeting). I live very close to the Cemetery (within a quarter mile), and often walk my dog, on leash, through and around the cemetery. It is a stunning piece of public land, filled with a rich history. Despite this, I rarely see others walking through and appreciating this beautiful cemetery, and the few that I do often have dogs with them. This public space is already under-appreciated, and further restricting access would be a tragedy to Madison residents. We should be encouraging and welcoming respectful visitors, not driving them away with needless restrictions.

I have never experienced any problems with canine visitors. A vast majority of visitors are respectful. Making the park dog free will only serve to restrict those who are respectful (the rule followers), while those who are disrespectful (the rule breakers) will continue to visit with their dogs regardless of the status.

Please keep Forest Hill Cemetery dog friendly. Keep this beautiful public land accessible to the public.

Sincerely,
Oliver Levine
Area resident

From: Saverio Eric Spagnolie <saverioiv@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 7:55 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog access to Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear BPC,

I understand the commission is meeting on November 9 to discuss the dog status at Forest Hill Cemetery. I will not be able to attend the meeting, but want to voice my strong opposition to the

proposal to change the park status to “dog free”. We should keep the Cemetery dog friendly, and welcome all those who wish to visit. I have never had any issues with dogs in the park and feel this is an unnecessary restriction that will keep many respectful visitors away.

Sincerely,
Saverio Spagnolie (local resident)

From: Brian Street <brian.t.street@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 9:17 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery dog friendly status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Board of Parks Commissioners:

I am writing to express my opposition to making Forest Hill Cemetery a dog-free park. This is beautiful and historic public land in a prime location in the city. Unfortunately, it is already under-utilized and under-appreciated, and restricting access will only make the problem worse. It is imperative to make this area as accessible as possible. I do not myself have a dog, but in all my visits to the cemetery, I have never seen or had any issues with canine visitors.

Please maintain dog-friendly status at Forest Hill.

Thank you,
Brian Street
Madison resident

From: Janet Rasmussen <jras451@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 1:13 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Tishler, Bill <district11@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery to remain dog friendly

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please see attached comment. Thank you.

Janet Rasmussen

jras451@gmail.com

November 2, 2022

Board of Park Commissioners Pacommission@cityofmadison.com

Hello:

Please accept my written comment regarding Forest Hill Cemetery use by licensed, leashed dogs.

For years I have been walking in the cemetery with my licensed, leashed dog(s) and /or foster dogs. And for the past 5 years I have been walking on most school days to and from West High through the cemetery with my kids and dog(s). I walk in the morning and sometimes after school as well as random other times.

I have never seen an unleashed dog in the cemetery in all my walks. I have never seen dog poop along the paths of cemetery.

I have seen other parents/people walking with kids/dogs and carrying poop or picking up after their dogs. And I have always picked up after my dog(s).

The trend of opening parks to dogs (including my neighborhood park -Westmorland) has been successful and positive. Why are you now considering taking away one of Madison's early parks from dog walkers? Please keep the cemetery dog friendly.

I am copying my alder on this comment to get more information as I have no idea why a dog free cemetery is even being considered. Thank you.

sincerely yours,



JanWmussen jras451@gmail.com

cc: Bill Tishler at district1@cityofmadison.com

From: Marie Trest <mttrest@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 7:17 PM
To: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Keep Forest Hill Dog Friendly

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Commissioners,

I support keeping Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Friendly. I have enjoyed so much walking among the oak trees with my leashed dog. I have never encountered an unleashed dog.

Further, if there are problems with unleashed dogs, banning those who follow the rules will not solve the problem.

Thank you for your consideration,

Marie Trest

2310 Monroe St

Madison

From: Mitra Sharafi <mitra.sharafi@wisc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 7:11 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery dog access

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

I am writing to voice my opposition to removing dog access to Forest Hill Cemetery (re Nov 9 meeting). This is a beautiful and historic public area in the heart of the city and access should not be restricted. I have had many lovely walks with my dog on-leash through the cemetery (via the bike path), and would be sorry not to be able to do this again in the future. I especially appreciate the historical as well as religiously and culturally diverse aspects of the cemetery. If not permitted to walk my dog through the cemetery, I would stop walking through and enjoying these aspects of the cemetery at all.

Please keep Forest Hill dog-friendly.

Best wishes,

Mitra Sharafi

From: Stephen Powers <sjpowers50@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 9:51 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery - Keep Dog Friendly

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I'm writing in support of keeping Forest Hill Cemetery friendly to dogs.

I have lived in the area for over 35 years, and have frequently walked in the cemetery, both with and without my dog. In that time, I have never seen an issue with dogs. I am unaware of why an initiative to make the area dog free is happening now.

The Forest Hill Cemetery is a beautiful and peaceful place. I believe it can accommodate both dogs and people.

Steve Powers

515 S. Prospect Avenue

From: ulrike dieterle <ulrike.dieterle@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 12:10 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; ulrike dieterle <ulrike.dieterle@gmail.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Free

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Forest Hill Cemetery needs to be dog free. In fact, I thought it always was. To have dogs running around on graves or possibly urinating or defecating on them is absolutely unacceptable.

Ulrike Dieterle, Madison

From: Jean-Luc Thiffeault <jeanlucth@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 12:28 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery dog access

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

I am writing to voice my opposition to remove dog access to Forest Hill Cemetery (re Nov 9 meeting). This is a beautiful and historic public area in the heart of the city and access should not be restricted. Please keep Forest Hill dog friendly.

Sincerely,

Jean-Luc Thiffeault

(Regent St neighborhood)

From: Perri Liebl <ppliebl@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 2:15 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I feel strongly that the status of Forest Hill Cemetery regarding dogs should remain unchanged. Currently, there is signage throughout the cemetery clearly stating that dogs are allowed on leash on paved roadways only. This is as it should be.

I, along with many others, walk with my dog in the cemetery to visit the graves of loved ones. Dogs are part of the family to many people, and people should have the ability to bring their dogs when visiting the cemetery, similar to the Catholic cemetery on the other side of Speedway Road.

Additionally, the roadways in Forest Hill cemetery are public and I frequently use them to walk with my dog to get to other places, including Glenway, Mineral Point Road, the Southwest bike path, and Monroe Street. This makes Madison a more walkable city. My licensed dog is always on a leash and stays on the roadway. I appreciate the deer, foxes, turkey, and cranes in the cemetery that are undisturbed by a leashed dog. I should not be penalized by rule-breakers who are going to continue to let their dogs run free in the cemetery regardless of its dog "friendly" or dog "free" designation. If this is a problem, the solution is increased enforcement, not to disallow dogs. Forest Hill is a beautiful cemetery that all should be able to enjoy and it is reasonable to allow dogs on leashes.

Thank you,
Perri Liebl
2318 Hollister Ave.
Madison, WI. 53726

From: Duncan Carlsmith <duncancarlsmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 5:01 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I think dogs on leashes should be allowed in Glenway Woods and perhaps the Forest Hill Cemetery provided poo-pickup is enforced. And no dogs on graves.

I wish Parks would work with Transportation to look at providing separation of pedestrians and bikes on the multi-use path (formerly known as the bike path and now a motorway for electric motorcycles) from Camp Randall to the Beltline - there is space on the public land for such an improvement and dogs on or off leash plus high-speed bikes are not a great mix.

Duncan Carlsmith

602 Gilmore St, Madison 53711

duncancarlsmith@gmail.com

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/duncancarlsmith>

From: Amy Gebhart <amygebhart@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 7:32 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I oppose the banning of dogs from forest hill cemetery. I live nearby and enjoy walking my dog through the cemetery.

Amy

From: larkinutube <mvmadison105@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 7:39 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest hill cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I live in the neighborhood bordering this cemetery. I really enjoy walking the paths through this cemetery with my dog. I oppose the banning of dogs from this cemetery.

I assume the complaints are probably about owners not picking up after their dog. No one picks up after the coyotes, foxes, rabbits, raccoons, and squirrels. Their scat is loaded with parasites and much more dangerous to humans than domesticated dogs.

Mark

From: Amanda Kemnitz <atkemnitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 8:51 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Amanda Kemnitz <atkemnitz@gmail.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery/ Allowing Dogs

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To Whom It May Concern,

I was quite startled to receive notice from you that you are considering changing Forest Hill Cemetery's "dog friendly" status to "dog free". Why? I cannot understand why such a move is being contemplated. Madison overall is a wonderfully INCLUSIVE and dog friendly city. We have many (!) dogs in the Dudgeon Monroe neighborhood and love it. I have lived here for 31 years and have had a dog most of these years. A particular joy has been being able to walk my dog in "The Woods" (next to the Glenway Golf Course) and the edge of Forest Hill Cemetery. It greatly upsets me that the Parks commission is now contemplating banning dogs from both Forest Hill Cemetery and The Woods. Not all dog owners have a car to be able to go to a dog park. Not everyone has time during the day to get to the dog parks. Dogs have loved going to this area for decades so let them continue to do so. Be inclusive.

I implore you to continue with Forest Hill Cemetery's (as well as "The Woods") "dog friendly" status.

amanda kemnitz

From: sarada - <sarada.econ@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 9:44 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery dog access

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

I am writing to voice my opposition to remove dog access to Forest Hill Cemetery (Nov 9 meeting). This is a true gem in the heart of the city and access should not be restricted. Please keep Forest Hill dog friendly.

Regards,

Sarada

(Madison resident - near east side).

From: Darcy Kind <darcykind@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 10:06 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status - Forest Hill Cemetery

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for feedback regarding proposed changes to the dog friendly status at Forest Hill Cemetery.

I am very opposed to any change in the current status. Forest Hill Cemetery should remain a dog friendly cemetery.

The cemetery is over 80 acres of land that is sacred for those who settled here before us and for those who are still close in our hearts and memories. The cemetery has a long history of post-European settlement use including agriculture and served as a place that people from around town sought to get to either by carriage or later by trolley.

This land is also full of wildlife and important wildlife habitat. This land is in a residential neighborhood and serves as important passage way to kids going to school, for morning runs, for bird watching, acorn harvesting and for all to quietly walk and savor the towering oaks. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS this why the best part of my day is walking through the winding roads with my companion - a dog - to absorb this quiet place and all of the spirit that is here.

Cemeteries across the world are places where people gather to honor and celebrate those who have passed. They are not and should not be places that restrict people.

My quiet walking does not disrespect those buried here, nor does it disturb any of the grounds. As the current rules state and are followed by all those that I see walking with dogs you must stay on the paved roads. This is a very suitable rule and very easy to comply with.

If you don't allow licensed dogs on leash on paved roads, what will you allow? I could sing, skip, run, ride a loud motorcycle, walk a cat or other animal, or picnic in the cemetery. Rules also allow for large school groups to come in annually to walk through the cemetery and even step off the pavement for history lessons.

Please do not change the rules and please keep this a dog friendly property.

Regards,
Darcy Kind

From: Laurel Mark <laurel.mark@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 10:14 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Topic: Dog rules for Forest Hill Cemetery

I hope that you vote to continue to allow dogs on leash to accompany their people in Forest Hill Cemetery. I live nearby and often walk in the cemetery to visit the graves of friends and relatives and I have purchased a burial plot there for myself. I truly value the beauty and peace of this special place in Madison. I also have a dog who occasionally walks with me on these visits, always on leash and always under control.

In the 40 years that I have lived in the area and visited Forest Hill I have never encountered an uncontrolled dog or seen any damage that could clearly be attributable to a family pet. Certainly there are many animals that live in Forest Hill and the woods nearby. I've seen foxes, raccoons, and the occasional coyote.

The neighborhoods that surround Forest Hill do not have a dog park or any legal unleashed area for dogs. There are many dog families in the neighborhood and virtually everyone is trying to keep their dogs safe, leashed and under control. The only area where some folks let their dogs off leash is in the woods next to the Southwest Bike Path, which I know is next to the cemetery. That is a different area than the cemetery and should be handled separately.

My guess is that a very small number of people are not responsible dog owners and may be abusing our trust, but to deny everyone the pleasure of a walk with their dog on leash through an area of great meaning for us is too heavy handed. It punishes people like me who follow all the rules.

Why not target more enforcement for infractions towards the folks who may not understand or are not following the rules? More education, signage and enforcement can solve whatever problems currently exist.

Thanks for considering the views of everyone.

Laurel B Mark

3404 Cross Street

Madison, WI 53711

From: Madison Thompson <mjt645@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 10:14 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Friendly Status

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Park Commissioners,

I am writing to express opposition to the proposal to ban dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery. This is a beautiful public space that is already underutilized by the public. I have never encountered an off-leash dog, a disrespectful dog owner, nor dog waste that has not been picked up during my many walks through the cemetery. Banning dogs would negatively impact neighbors, including myself, who utilize the space as a place to walk their pets, allowing folks to avoid busy roads, sidewalks, and bike paths. Banning dogs would only further reduce the already minimal number of people utilizing this large greenspace in the city. The solution to complaints should not be an outright ban, rather attempting to remedy any problems by installing dog waste stations, public education, and better signage.

The Forest Hill Cemetery is a wonderful and large green space that should remain available for all residents, human and canine, to enjoy.

Thank you for your time,

Madison Thompson

Westmorland Resident
