

**From:** Alexander Einsman <a[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 11:29 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Letter of Opposition to James Madison Park Master Plan

Good Morning,

I am a resident of the James Madison Park neighborhood and live at 513 E Gorham St. I was also a member of the stakeholder group while the James Madison Park Master Plan was being developed.

While I see many positive benefits to the current master plan, including the beach/swimming area and shelter, I join my neighbors in opposing the extensive surface parking proposed in the park. I believe this changes the nature of the park and the original view of promoting connection and accessibility to nature.

During the process of developing the master plan, many of the stakeholders continued to voice concern about the expansion of parking all along the park. This was continuously represented as a non-negotiable aspect.

I realize that part of the rationale for changing the parking lot location is due to police calls. However, I believe this must be looked at more systemically. I'm not sure how many of those calls were rooted in actual safety concerns or how many of them could have been racially biased reports. It seems that an increase in police presence in this area could address any of these concerns.

I realize that my preference to reject and further modify the plan could be related to me living across the street from the park. While I do identify some grief in my personal views changing, it is not the root of my opposition. Even though I don't like the idea of the basketball courts moving to the center of the park and obstructing my view, I realize this represents a larger benefit to the neighborhood and community. I don't feel the same way about the expanded parking and voice my concern from a neighborhood perspective and a resident of the Downtown area.

I will be attending the Board of Parks meeting tomorrow with several of the other community members who have concern about the expanded surface parking in the new plan.

Thank you,

Alexander

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**From:** Dawn O'Kroley <[REDACTED]@dorschnerassociates.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 12:25 PM  
**To:** Lerner, Sarah <SLerner@cityofmadison.com>; [REDACTED]@urbanassetsconsulting.com;  
Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park Master Plan

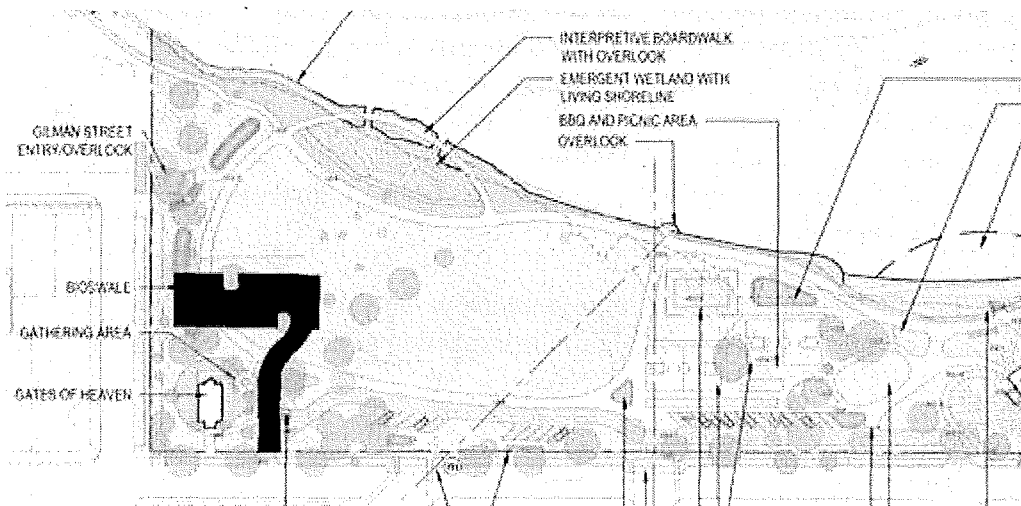
James Madison Park Master Plan Team,

At tomorrow evening's meeting please present your calculations regarding paved surfaces as previously requested by stakeholders on September 12, 2018. Specifically, provide data, and a simple graphic to identify the location of the calculation, that qualifies the statement in the draft report: *"The park master plan expands the large open space on the western half of the park by relocating the double-loaded surface parking lot to the periphery of the park along E. Gorham Street."*

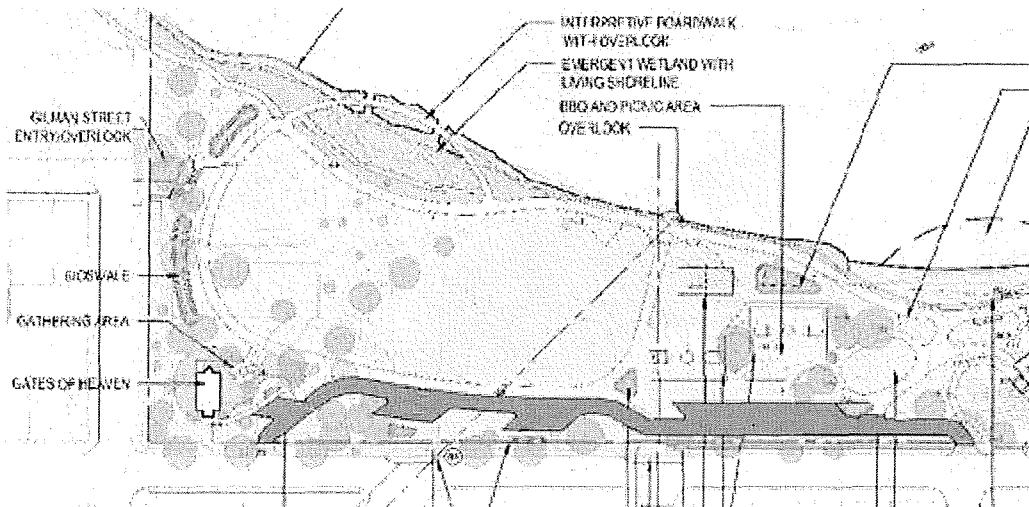
The relocation of the parking further from the lake is also solely credited that it *'increases the amount of uninterrupted open space by a few hundred square feet'*.

I completed a conservative calculation based on the September 24, 2018 draft master plan areas graphically identified below. **The parking lot design results in a REDUCTION of uninterrupted green space. The proposed uninterrupted green space is REDUCED TO LESS THAN 70% of the current uninterrupted green space.**

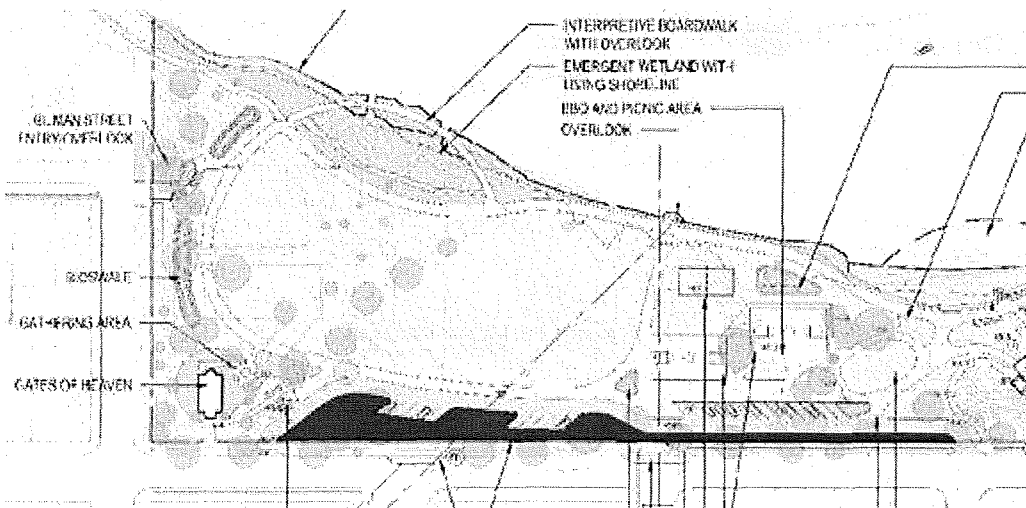
I completed the below parking calculations for surfaces dedicated to vehicles, not including any existing or proposed sidewalks.



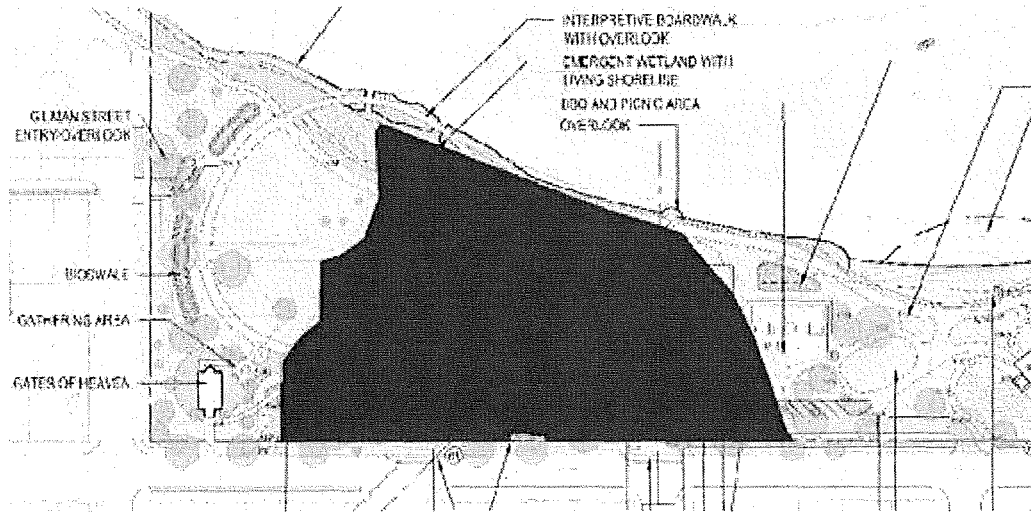
1. Provide the area of the existing parking lot surface lot. Please also clarify the description of capacity of the existing lot. It has varied from providing 26 stalls in the current draft report to the September UDC design team submittal as a 31-stall lot with a reduction in the quantity of stalls proposed.



2. Provide the area of the proposed parking lot surface. 26 parking stalls were indicated in September, the draft report reflects a count of 27 stalls.



3. Provide the area of greenspace along Gorham being severed from uninterrupted greenspace by the new parking lot.



4. Please also confirm the area of the existing large open space on the western half of the park, and the proposed expansion of this space. Again, please provide calculations and a graphic representation.

Thank you, Dawn O’Kroley ■■■ E Gorham Street

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**From:** Barret <■■■■@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 1:12 PM  
**To:** Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park Plan

Dear Parks Commission and Alder Zellers,

Thank you for all of your effort so far on the redesign of James Madison Park. I'm a resident in Tenney-Lapham and I appreciate the work.

One thing that I've noticed is that increasing the amount of parking didn't even make the top 10 priority areas when citizens were surveyed. I'm surprised to learn that the new, more central parking location made it into every proposed design.

I'm writing to express my opposition to such parking. It seems that having parking directly on E Gorham will congest traffic there, make pedestrian crossing more difficult, bisect a busy bike lane (twice!), and reduce green space in the park. I agree that there could be better parking for unloading/event setup, but that could be handled by designated loading zones on E Gorham where only temporary parking is allowed.

Studies have shown that people will use the modes of transportation that are catered to. If we build more parking spaces, more people will drive. Is that what we want? I know


that I would prefer preserving as much green space as possible and not adding additional parking.

I will be unable to attend tomorrow's meeting but I hope you will consider my comments. Thank you for your time!

Regards,  
Barret Elward

@gmail.com


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**From:** Margaret Bergamini <@tds.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 1:15 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose the revised layout for James Madison Park, in particular the relocation of the parking lot from its current location. To, the layout is fine as is. This redesign has seemed to be driven by the police department desire to change the way it conducts surveillance of the (black) men who hang out near the basketball court. We could talk for days about everything that is problematic about letting the redesign of public spaces be most responsive to security forces., and I believe some of the park users have come up with a detail critique which covers some of this discussion. I will just add that this debate reminds me of a discussion many years ago regarding the courts at Orton Park, where the police and some neighbors sought to remove the courts there due to similar "problems" with "loitering".

Park design should be driven by the needs of park users and environmental concerns. I cannot be at the meeting on December 12, as I have to attend the city Transportation Committee and the BRT kickoff meeting, but I want to make sure the Parks Commission hears my concerns and strong suggestion that this design be shelved.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Bergamini  
 N Few St  
Madison, WI 53703

PS. If I could change one thing about James Madison and Tenney Parks, it would be the placement of large dumpsters right on the shore every spring through fall. Nothing says beautiful shoreline like a huge dumpster ☺

Pardon typos please--typing on a small screen.

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**From:** Robert Thomas <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 1:36 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: parking in the James Madison Master Plan

Board of Parks Commissioners:

Please reject the James Madison Park Master Plan.

The proposed destruction of green space in order to include parking is unacceptable.

Thanks

Bob Thomas  
[REDACTED] East Johnson  
Madison, WI

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**From:** Phoebe Schlough <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 2:35 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park Renovation

Hello,

I am writing to you to express my concern over the proposed renovations to James Madison Park. I feel that the proposed plan blatantly ignores the community, increasing parking in an area with abundant parking is a poor and shortsighted move. As a cyclist and walker in the city, having more cars going through the park would only make me feel more unsafe around a street that is already dangerous to people who do not drive downtown. The calls to reduce loitering around the park show a dangerous lack of awareness of the purpose of a park - a park exists to be "loitered" in.

Please reconsider this ridiculous plan and consult with members of the community to form a better solution.

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Phoebe Schlough  
They/Them/Their

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**From:** Patrick Johnson <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 4:40 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Changes to James Madison Park

To the Parks commission and District 2 Alder Ledell Zellers,

I'm writing to encourage you to think more critically about the proposal changes to the James Madison Park Master Plan in ensuring that those changes retain original green space and trees native to the park.

I'm also wondering if you can clarify for me what Isthmus writer Abigail Barnes meant when she argues that the new lot design seems to be a result of a need for "public safety" by asking for "greater visibility" and "reduced loitering around the basketball courts." It seems to me that the point of a park is to loiter, and these changes shouldn't be made simply for greater surveillance of the people around the basketball courts.

Thanks for understanding my concerns.

Best, Patrick

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**From:** David Waugh <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 5:23 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Moira Harrington <moira@aqua.wisc.edu>; Ragland, Nancy <ntragland@gmail.com>; Baldeh, Samba <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Cheeks, Maurice <district10@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dec. 12 meeting, Agenda item 16, James Madison Park

Dear Board of Parks Commissioners:

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend your meeting December 12, 2019 where you will take up Agenda Item 16, Approving the James Madison Park Master Plan. Please consider my concerns below.

I own two historic properties in and adjacent to James Madison Park. One of those properties I am developing into an 8-room boutique hotel in Mansion Hill, just 500 feet from the park. While I support most aspects of the plan before you, I have grave concerns over the proposed changes in parking. These concerns cover to major points:

1. I am concerned over the long term viability of the historic Gates of Heaven Synagogue if you remove the parking lot behind the building. It is very likely future patrons will no longer perceive there to be adequate parking dedicated to the events held in this historic structure.
2. I am concerned that the new proposed parking will convert much coveted greenspace into pavement, bringing down numerous mature shade trees in its path.

Please consider an amendment to remove the new parking configuration and to maintain the parking in its current location until a better solution can address these issues.

Final point: The lower end of the park has the potential to be a catastrophic breach point for Lake Mendota should that sea wall ever collapse in a high water event, such as what we experienced this past summer. The Isthmus could be underwater in a matter of hours as Lake Mendota empties through the park. We should be raising this land, not excavating in order to install a new sunken parking lot.

Thank you for considering these points in your deliberation

David Waugh

Owner and residing at the Historic Mendota Lake House B&B  
[REDACTED] E. Gorham St

Owner of the Historic Governor's Mansion Inn  
[REDACTED] E. Gilman Street

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

From: Melanie Foxcroft <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 8:32 PM  
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Proposed New Parking in James Madison Park

I strenuously object to converting green space to a new parking lot in James Madison Park.

Most of the public, the neighborhood, park users - none of these except a few (apparently powerful) city staffers and ? want a parking lot to replace green space. That anyone should contemplate such a conversion amazes me.

I urge you to stop this conversion of green space to parking lot immediately! It is unacceptable, wrong-headed, short-sighted. Parking lot indeed. Sheesh!

Melanie Foxcroft  
[REDACTED] Hammersley Rd  
Madison Wi 53711  
[REDACTED]

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

From: Casey Garhart <[REDACTED]@tds.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 8:47 PM  
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
Cc: Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: James Madison Park

I am not able to attend tomorrow's meeting, and I want to register my disappointment in the plans for renovation. James Madison Park does not need additional parking spaces. And if there must be increased parking, it should be in the vicinity of Gates of Heaven, not spread out to divide the park from the sidewalk. This is a downtown park. If people from other parts of town want to use it, they can park in one of the nearby parking ramps or along the streets. How many people will end up parking there and then going off to do other things downtown? None of the other downtown parks seem to need parking lots and they are well used. Most of us who live in downtown Madison are able to get around without driving everywhere. If you have to drive to a park on the lake, go on out to Warner Park. They already have tons of parking.

If you really think it is important to have parking in order to let everyone use the park, please ensure that every other park in the city is on a bus route and a bike path. People who don't drive should have equal access to all the other parks in the city.

I also object to the notion that we need to "reduce loitering" around the basketball courts. Loitering is exactly the purpose of a park. People should be able to go there and just hang out. Since many of the people "loitering" around the basketball courts are black, we need to examine what the issues really are. Do you also want to make it more difficult for people of color to have picnics in the park? If there are issues with drinking in the park, we already have laws on the books to deal with that.

I confess that I have not paid enough attention to the renovation planning. I thought it was going to be more about where to put the shelter. It never occurred to me that someone (much less three plans) would suggest taking away park space for parking. And the current location of the parking makes me concerned about riding my bike down Gorham. People are going to be pulling in and out without noticing cyclists, who can get up a pretty good head of steam coming down the hill.

I also don't see Gates of Heaven in Plan C. I think it would be a terrible mistake to lose that space. It is a very popular venue and there is nothing else like it -- certainly not in this neighborhood. I am honestly not sure who this park is being designed for. It doesn't seem like it is going to be for the people in the neighborhood.

Please, please, please do NOT go forward with any of these plans.

Casey Garhart  
[REDACTED] Sherman Avenue.

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**From:** Tim Blindauer <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 8:59 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park proposal

Sorry I cannot make the meeting, but I am opposed to more parking for James Madison Park. If you take up half the park with parking, where is there to enjoy the park?

And removing so many trees when we have lost so many to the emerald ash borer.

The really nice thing about having a park that you can walk to in your neighborhood, is you can walk to it and you don't need a lot of parking.

I would rather support safe access as stated in the article to get to and from the park, then to reduce the park.

Thank you for listening.

Tim Blindauer  
[REDACTED] N. Paterson st.  
Madison

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**From:** Abra Vigna <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 11:20 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** In opposition to adding paved areas to James Madison Park

Good evening,

In brief, as a 20 year Madison resident I strongly oppose the addition of paved parking to James Madison Park. After this year's floods further limiting of green space to absorb water is unethical and unsustainable. Additionally, as a resident of the SASY neighborhood I can testify that additional parking is unnecessary to enjoy the park. There is ample street parking available.

Please oppose proposals to remove trees and increase paved areas.

Thank you for your time

Abra Vigna

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**From:** Pat & David <[REDACTED]@tds.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 7:40 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Comments on James Madison Park Master Plan

Good Morning,

We are a family residing in district 2, between James Madison and Tenney Parks. We treasure our Parks and open space.

We would like to take this opportunity to weigh in on some aspects of the city's proposed design of James Madison Park presented in the Master Plan. Specifically, any net increase in paved or car-accessible areas should not happen. New net increase in impervious surfaces should be avoided at all parks, but specifically at James Madison which sits ON the lake. The proposed design does not meet the goals of the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Plan, particularly with respect to the new parking area adjacent to Gorham Street which we think is the most concerning of the design. Parking has always been an issue, but this is a neighborhood park easily accessible by foot and bicycle (and boat!). Encouraging more sustainable forms of transportation to the Park should be the focus for James Madison Park. Minimize parking to only those requiring special access - handicap parking and the bare minimum parking needed for the Gates of Heaven.

Thank you all,

Pat Smith & David Panofsky

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**From:** Wendy Jensen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 8:12 AM  
**To:** Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park - oppose parking lot

Hi,

I oppose the proposed parking lot expansion at James Madison Park.

Please protect parks and green space from encroachment by public infrastructure such as parking lots and paved areas.

Thank you,  
Wendy

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**From:** David Hammond <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 9:30 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Proposed James Madison parking lot

Like many around the city, I am just now finding out about the proposed 20,000 ft.<sup>2</sup> parking lot in James Madison Park and I am as incensed as everybody else.

This is an absolutely terrible idea and the notion that it will bring greater accessibility to the park is absurd. I have been a regular park-goer for almost 30 years, and almost never have I seen the

parking lot become inaccessible. And when it has, there's always parking on the streets only a few blocks away. It's never been a problem.

And then there's the 'safety issue,' as reported. I've been playing basketball there for almost the same amount of time, and really? A bunch of African-American dudes hanging out drinking beer and smoking weed is a safety issue? And if so, let's take some of that \$10-\$20 million and just add a few extra police visits during peak times. It would be a far wiser approach that would not destroy the beautiful green landscape that we have all come to love.

Nobody wants green space paved over, period. It would be a massive eyesore that would ruin this pristine view as people drive into the city, not to mention the destruction of multiple 50+year old trees.

Furthermore, East Gorham at that point is a major thoroughfare through the isthmus, with cars naturally accelerating downhill as they approach the park. Placing multiple entry/exits along that stretch is only going to cause more congestion, not to mention add actual safety issues, when all of it is completely unnecessary.

Last time I checked the plans for James Madison Park, this was not in there, and everything looked great. This was probably about a year ago. And now, due to extreme overthinking and a clearly out of touch bureaucratic mindset, plans have been significantly altered for the worst.

Please make the right choice here tonight and vote against this unnecessary eyesore that would destroy beautiful trees, degrade the landscape, and decrease the incredibly beautiful space that we currently have.

Thank you,

A lifelong neighbor of James Madison park

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**From:** Brian Vigue <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 9:49 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Palm, Lawrence <district12@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison park

I'd like to express my opposition to the proposed parking lot changes to James Madison park. I spend a lot of time there in the spring, summer and fall working, my office is only a block away. There's always street parking along Gorham and within a couple blocks of the park. Slowing down the traffic along Gorham and installing flashers to allow people to cross Gorham from North Hamilton would be a big improvement to park access.

Also, getting rid of any trees is a bad idea. If you go there anytime the temps get over 75 degrees you'll see people using the shade from the trees on blankets and picnic tables while their kids play in the water or on the playground.

If you're worried about public safety and the parking lot, get rid of all parking, or just have a few spots and make most of them handicap accessible. Or better yet, just get rid of the parking lot entirely. Again, I work a block away and there's always street parking available. Everyone who works in my office building (except those of us who don't ride our bikes to work, and would appreciate better bike lanes along Gorham) park on the street.

This proposal is terrible.

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Brian Vigue  
[REDACTED] East Mifflin Street  
Madison

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**From:** Cannon <[REDACTED]@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 9:49 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park Master Plan

Dear Park Commissioners and Ald. Zellers,

We are very concerned about the parking area proposed in the James Madison Park Master Plan.

It appears to take over the park. Before the plan is implemented, we need to know: Will we see a parking lot? Or will we see a park?

Marsha went to the first public meeting about re-doing the James Madison Park master plan. There was ample concern and consensus about preserving the open view of Lake Mendota and she left it to others to work out details.

As James Madison Park is currently configured, passersby get an "oh-wow" view that begins at the sidewalk and continues to the lake shore. It says "you're at a special place." That is why we care so much about it. The plan to repurpose a 51-foot wide strip of open parkland along nearly two blocks of Gorham seems like a drastic change. Visually, it appears to widen the street area and diminish the open park area.

The new master plan has lots of neat things going for it, but aside from the parking section diagram on p. 45, we couldn't find any visuals that help resolve the "view" issue as it relates to relocated parking along the sidewalk and within the park. We're not convinced that cars won't be seen if they're a few feet lower than Gorham. We think the first impression people get will be parking lot – not park.

Perhaps a rendering that compares the current and proposed views of the park as seen (a)

walking on the sidewalk and (b) driving by on Gorham would diminish or confirm our concerns.

We understand the need for parking but we value the current view and don't want to see it compromised. We are gradually destroying every open view of the lakes. Monona Terrace has destroyed blocks of open area along the lake. Open greenspace in Olbrich Park is slowly being eaten up by parking lots, a beer garden, and whatever might be proposed next. Bureaucracy abhors a vacuum!

What we are doing at James Madison Park will exist for decades. Yes, right now we cannot avoid parking places. But within the life of this redesign will we always need them? We hope not. We see the city spending quite a bit of money to move parking and then spending more money down the road (pun intended!) to take it out because it's no longer needed.

Maybe better lighting and good security cameras on the existing lot would be more affordable and we'd still have a view.

Sincerely,

Marsha & Pete Cannon

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Pete & Marsha Cannon  
[REDACTED] Sidney St.  
Madison WI 53703  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Carrie Trojanczyk <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 10:47 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Vote on James Madison Park today.

To whom this concerns,

I am not able to attend the vote today due to childcare conflicts but I am writing instead in **opposition of turning portions of James Madison Park into a parking lot.** I understand that a concern is lack of parking. However, there are several on street parking options near the park and I have never once had a problem with this in my time living here. If a concern is traffic, then perhaps some more lights at the crosswalks for safety.

I think that it is abhorrent that the parks commission is considering paving over some of the limited green space that Madison has and cutting down the beautiful old trees that live there. To me, this goes exactly against the values of what a Park department should stand for.

I am extremely disappointed that this is even being considered and I hope that different options can be explored. My friends and family love this park and would hate to see this happen.

Thank you,

A concerned citizen of the City of Madison  
Carrie Trojanczyk  
Madison, WI 53703

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**From:** Dan Boyer <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 11:01 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park Proposal

Dear Parks Commission and Alder Zelder,

I hope that this email finds you well. In advance of tonight's meeting, I would like to register my opposition to the proposed development of a parking lot at James Madison Park.

My family and I very much enjoy all of the green space that this park has to offer, and frequently see others making use of the entire space for picnicking, games, etc... The development of a parking lot would significantly cut down on this space and would not alleviate parking issues, nor do I see it improving public safety with the basketball court area. What a shame it would be to eliminate green space, for the benefit of a few cars.

I strongly encourage you to reconsider this element of the proposal.

Warmly,  
Dan

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**From:** Maggie Nelson <[REDACTED]@me.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 11:08 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park

I am strongly opposed to adding a parking lot to James Madison Park. As a 3 year resident of the Tenney Lappan area, I frequent the park regularly. There is already parking by the basketball courts and we should be encouraging walking/biking to the park, not driving and taking away green land to do so.

If this moves forward it is a true shame and wrong step for all parks in the Madison area which we pride ourselves on.

Thank you  
Maggie

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**From:** Matt Sidwell <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 11:27 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Today's Vote on the JMP Master Plan

Hello,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the plans for James Madison Park on the basis of the proposed parking arrangement.

Increasing overall lot area goes directly against the public comment priorities ranked 4 (open space), 5 (lake health), 6 (space utilization), 9 (native landscaping), 11 (sustainability), and 14 (shaded area) while only serving the comment priority ranked 17 (parking). Source: [JMP Comment Summary Page 7](#)

I understand the desire for increased visibility into the lot for the purpose of decreased loitering, and the new arrangement definitely allows for that. However, **it should be possible to have the new skinny design while maintaining the current lot surface area or less.**

While the increased area is proposed under the auspice of increased access, increasing total parking area only serves to remove precious area from a park that is already severely size constrained as it is.

I look forward to making my comments known at the vote scheduled for later this evening.

Thank you,  
Matt Sidwell

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**From:** Leslie Schroeder <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 11:30 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Oppose proposed parking lot in James Madison

Dear Board of Parks Commissioners,

I urge you to oppose the proposed parking lot relocation in James Madison Park. Making a large and prominent space for cars in the center of the park and lake viewshed is hardly the best and highest use of scarce urban public green space. I believe access for people in cars could instead be accommodated by something like a pull-through drop-off area and otherwise cars be stowed outside of the park land in the number of available on street and parking garage spaces.

sincerely,  
Leslie Schroeder  
[REDACTED] Jenifer



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**From:** Mirza Basic <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 11:37 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** New James Madison Park Proposal

I'm writing regarding the vote today on the James Madison Park Proposal.

As a frequent visitor to the park, I am firmly against the proposed change. Doubling the amount of pavement for parking is a big mistake. Parking is not a problem at the park, and chopping down several 50-year-old trees to make space for a lot should NOT be done. Focus on renovating the shelter, and protecting green space from encroachment by public infrastructure such as parking lots and paved areas.

Thank you,

Mirza Basic, a concerned Madison resident.

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**From:** Kerri Grier <[REDACTED]@epic.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 11:43 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park Master Plan Proposal

Dear Parks Commission,

I recently learned that you plan on voting to build a new parking lot (among other changes) to the James Madison Park. This news was greatly disheartening to me. A new parking lot seems largely unnecessary and would sacrifice trees that have served as a source of shade and enjoyment for the park. I don't think this move is justified and see it as a waste of space and time for something that already exists in the park.

Please reconsider this proposal. The James Madison Park is one of the parks that I love in Madison and I would hate to see it overhauled with an parking lot. Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,  
Kerri Grier

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**From:** Mara Beebe <[REDACTED]@me.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 11:52 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison

Hello,

I am emailing to voice my disagreement in turning part of James Madison park into a parking lot. There is a large lot very close to the park and a ton of street parking. I live near the park and there are always street spots available (except late Friday and Saturday night but people are not using the park then anyways). I thought that the city of Madison was trending towards environmental safety and green actions. Turning part of the lot into a parking lot would be so hypocritical. People love this park, the WHOLE park. Don't screw it up.

Best,  
A very concerned resident,  
Mara

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**From:** Kelda Helen Roys <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 12:00 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Cheeks, Maurice <district10@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** NO to more parking at James Madison park

I read with dismay the city's proposed changes to the master plan for James Madison park. My family and I use this park frequently, often traveling by car. We have never, ever had a problem finding parking within a block of the park, even during peak use of the park and Gates of Heaven. There are so many reasons that this is a backwards-looking proposal that should be rejected outright.

We don't need more parking. There is ample parking in and around the park, in the current lot, on the surrounding streets, and in public parking ramps very close to the park. Over the long term, with increasing demand for public transit, autonomous vehicles, and ride-sharing, private automobile use should actually go down and be discouraged. Cities are moving away from cars as younger people don't want to rely on them - both because of climate change and because of the expense/lifestyle limitations that come with car ownership. This isn't a remote suburban park that people drive to - it's 3 blocks from the capitol square in the heart of the city, where we desperately need MORE green space and public recreational space. The park is filled during the summer with people picnicking, playing catch, hanging out with friends - there isn't unused space; whatever is paved over will be missed and make the park less useable, less attractive, more crowded, and less functional. .

Second, the impact on our watershed must be considered. Given the recent flooding, paving more land right next to the lake seems foolish. If anything, we should consider ways to reduce the amount of pavement and non-permeable surfaces.

Third, this park is frequented by many bikers and pedestrians. My children's daycare often walks to James Madison. The last thing I want is for our preschoolers to have to cross a huge parking lot and deal with increased traffic dangers and exhaust to access the city's most important downtown park.

Please look towards the future, not the past, when updating James Madison's master plan. I urge the commission and our city staff and elected leaders to revise this plan to eliminate the parking lot, and preserve and enhance the park - one of Madison's gems.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kelda Roys  
[REDACTED] Seneca Pl  
Madison WI 53711  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Emily Baer <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 12:05 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** No Expanded Parking Lot in James Madison Park

Hello,

I'm writing to express my disagreement with the proposed changes to James Madison park, specifically the addition of a massive parking lot along Gorham Street. One of the nicest things about the park is the access to green space right off the sidewalk, less turn offs from Gorham street into the bike lane, and large amount of uninterrupted green space. A parking lot will serve as an extension of busy Gorham Street and make the park smaller, more crowded, and less valuable for the City of Madison.

Also, expanding the parking lot due to "loitering" sounds like you just want the park to be more easily policed, which is a poor excuse to ruin the wide open space that's so rare in downtown Madison. The last thing the recently waterlogged park needs is more rainwater runoff from a parking lot. This is a bad plan.

Thank you,  
Emily Baer

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**From:** Cameron Field <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 12:42 PM  
**To:** Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** JMP Master Plan Comments

I live two blocks from James Madison Park, and the frequency with which I attend the park has decreased over the years, mostly due to how hard and dangerous it is to cross Johnson and Gorham. Drivers don't yield to pedestrians, the police don't enforce the yield laws, and the city has failed to install flashing beacons that other neighborhoods enjoy, instead leaving the Tenney-Lapham neighbors to take action into their own hands and install buckets with red flags to warn cars a pedestrian is trying to cross the street.

Occasionally, I drive to the park to pick up my canoe that I store there. I have never had a problem parking along Gorham.

The park doesn't need a parking lot, period. I hope it is entirely removed from the master plan and this park can continue to be an urban gem of Madison.

Sincerely,

Cameron Field

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**From:** Itzel Etzna Anaid De Haro Lopez <[REDACTED]@exalumnos.cide.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 12:45 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park

I'm against your plans for the parking lot. That parks needs to stay as it is. We need more green areas in Madison, no less.

Sincerely,

Itzel

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**From:** M. Amelia Gibbons <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 12:50 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Agains the parking lot at James Madison Park

Hello,

I write to complain about the plans the city has for James Madison Park. Don't ruin one of the best parks we have. It is a pleasure to ride the bus and see the lake and so much nature. Please reconsider.

Thank you very much!

Best,

Amelia Gibbons

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**From:** Chiara Packard <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 1:02 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** I <3 James Madison Park, please don't take it away from us

Dear Madison Parks Commission,

PLEASE do not move forward with the plan to transform a good portion of our beloved James Madison Park into a parking lot. I live one block from the park. I take walks through it. I have picnics there with my friends. I LOVE this park. It is a sacred part of this community and we cannot butcher it. Please...

Thank you for your time,  
Chiara

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**From:** Sam Govier <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 1:03 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** From Park to Parking Lot

Hello-

I'm emailing in regards to the James Madison park redesign, as outlined in this article: [https://isthmus.com/opinion/opinion/neighbor-questions-proposed-plans-for-james-madison-park/?fbclid=IwAR1oAuvEMo66pF61h1bCH9XmbmJRj4uOhp8cOoU563\\_nLzR6zo5pR48iYNc](https://isthmus.com/opinion/opinion/neighbor-questions-proposed-plans-for-james-madison-park/?fbclid=IwAR1oAuvEMo66pF61h1bCH9XmbmJRj4uOhp8cOoU563_nLzR6zo5pR48iYNc)

I'm urging this construction not to be completed in the way that it's outlined, specifically removing trees and creating more concrete for parking. I've lived in Madison all my life, and I have to say that James Madison Park, as it is today, is by far my favorite green space in the entire city. It's large and open, making it not only a great place for fun activities but a respite from the concrete jungle that defines downtown. I'm proud that Madison tends to buck that concrete trend: but it appears that we are headed in the wrong direction. By building a parking lot at the park, you'll destroy a large portion of the green space there, effectively destroying the reason people love to go there in the first place. Additionally, Madison's flooding problems will certainly not be assuaged by less ground for the water to sink into. You're endangering the beauty of James Madison: please do not build the parking lot there.

Thank you.  
-Sam Govier

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**From:** Elena Hight <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 1:08 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park

Hello!

I am a resident of Madison. I live at the intersection of Johnson and Patterson, very close to James Madison Park. I want to state my strong opposition into making a parking lot out of the front part of the park. That park is beautiful, but it is relatively small. Taking away part of it would deprive residents of the full space that is available to them during the summer, most of which is used. Furthermore, there's plenty of street parking options a few blocks away. Yes, you have to search for it a little bit and you may have to walk a few blocks to the park, but it is there. There's simply no need for excising more of the park's space.

Elena

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**From:** Rachel Keith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 1:13 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to James Madison Park

Hello,

My name is Rachel Keith, and I am a resident of Madison, WI. I wanted to take the time to express my opposition to plans to create additional parking in a new plan design for James Madison Park. I don't believe any added value of additional parking is worth more than the costs, the closure of the park & likely Gorham for construction purposes, nor the loss of green space.

Please let me know if you need anything further from me for your records.

Thank you,  
Rachel Keith

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**From:** Cameron Field <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 12:42 PM  
**To:** Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** JMP Master Plan Comments

I live two blocks from James Madison Park, and the frequency with which I attend the park has decreased over the years, mostly due to how hard and dangerous it is to cross Johnson and Gorham. Drivers don't yield to pedestrians, the police don't enforce the yield laws, and the city has failed to install flashing beacons that other neighborhoods enjoy, instead leaving the Tenney-Lapham neighbors to take action into their own hands and install buckets with red flags to warn cars a pedestrian is trying to cross the street. Occasionally, I drive to the park to pick up my canoe that I store there. I have never had a problem parking along Gorham.

The park doesn't need a parking lot, period. I hope it is entirely removed from the master plan and this park can continue to be an urban gem of Madison.

Sincerely,

Cameron Field

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**From:** Mikko Utevsky <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 1:39 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison

Dear commission members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed James Madison Park Master Plan. I am a lifelong resident of the near-East side with many fond memories of the time I've spent at the park, and I am deeply disturbed by the proposed changes - especially the removal of trees, loss of depth to the park (one of the reasons it's so popular as a gathering space), and overall loss of green space. I am also worried that multiple parking lot entrances will make Gorham less bike-friendly, with cars cutting through the bike lane. This seems a classic case of throwing the proverbial baby out with the bath water, ruining a beloved park by trying to fix a minor parking issue (without actually fixing the issue, since the plan includes 1 fewer parking spot than currently available). Please save our park, and reject the Master Plan's intrusive parking lot.

Best,  
Mikko Rankin Utevsky  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Pedro Guinsburg <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 1:53 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Parking Lot for what? NO, please!

Dear friends of urban design,

Madison is, still, a pedestrian city. If the pace of construction of buildings and parking lots continue in the downtown area, I am afraid this city will turn into a smaller Boston, being a conjugate of . separate areas.

Enough of cars. This is the past. We need to reinforce bikes, we need to create greener spaces. How can one live in a hell of concrete in any way? This is not Wisconsin! This is speculation and corruption. I am sorry to say that, but I feel very disappointed with how the urban development evolved in the last years. And, really, I am not a hippie. I like comfort and that is the reason I write to you.

DEVELOPMENT is not the same as construction or hysterical use of cars in prejudice of pedestrians and bikes.

Look at Europe, for the sake of us!!I beg that you look at the example of Amsterdam and Holland in general. Does not Madison have a potential to be similar to this wonderful nation, filled with sand banks and grey weather?

We can make new buildings and new parking lots, but out of the downtown area. Preserve, please. Claude Levy Strauss, one of the founders of modern anthropology, once said:

"What unites all nations of the new world is their lack of affection for the past. They build things in the same pace that they destroy them. "

Let us, new worlders, then listen at least to this scream written to the posterity. Let us think about this when designing the future of our most dearest and historical town of Madison.

I come to you to kindly ask that you think about these in your future decisions. Ugly, cheap, dischargeable, sad and uniform buildings will not generate our prosperity, nor our happiness, but only the wealth of few.

Yours truly,

Pedro Vaissman Guinsburg

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Abs,  
Pedro

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**From:** Liam Sunde <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 2:04 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park

Hello,

I'm writing to express my concerns regarding the redesign and overhaul plan for James Madison Park. Though I'm sure all of these points have been brought up many times through the research and development of this project, I would like to share the following thoughts:

- Any design for the park should increase accessibility and inclusivity for all people. I'm concerned about what I've heard regarding deficiencies in handicap accessibility as well coded language aimed at people experiencing homelessness and at people of color via complaints regarding loitering (though I must admit I can only cite hearsay to these points; I think it is still worth bringing up). Any improvement means bringing people in rather than pushing them out. This park should be inclusive in every sense of the word.
- I am concerned about the potential loss of green space and encroachment of public infrastructure. It is my opinion that any parking lot renovations or additions should not reduce the total green space of the park (ideally they would increase that green space) and should not uproot existing trees.
- There should be an emphasis on and investment in pedestrian and biker transportation and safety.



Thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts and concerns,  
Liam Sunde

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**From:** Dale Erlandson <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 2:08 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Plans for James Madison Park

I was horrified to learn today that the Parks Commission is considering a plan that would plop a large parking lot into the green space of James Madison Park. The best thing about the isthmus is its green space; the worst thing about the isthmus is how much space is wasted on parking. There is already too much traffic and too much congestion across the isthmus. I am in favor of new parking lots and improved public transportation options that would keep the isthmus, and its parks and attractions, accessible to all. I am vehemently opposed to creating new parking space downtown, especially when it requires cutting down trees and eliminating park space.

Today's article in the Isthmus (<https://isthmus.com/opinion/opinion/neighbor-questions-proposed-plans-for-james-madison-park/>) makes clear that park planners ignored residents priorities and failed to consider alternatives to the current proposal. Bike and pedestrian safety should be top priority along the Gorham-James Madison border, and adding parking there will only make a currently dangerous situation worse.

The City of Madison has many issues to address, many current and potential projects in need of thoughtful infrastructure and landscape design and significant city investment. James Madison Park is one of this city's treasures, but it is not a place in need of an overhaul. I urge you to scrap this project entirely, do what is actually necessary to maintain the green spaces on the isthmus, and redirect city funding and park commission energy toward the real challenges our city faces.

-Dale Erlandson  
[REDACTED] Hempstead Road  
Madison, WI 53711  
former neighbor of James Madison Park

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**From:** Perry Sandstrom <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 2:11 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Please do not destroy James Madison Park greenspace and view with a new parking lot.

Dear Parks Commission,

I appreciate the thoughtful work that has gone into the James Madison Park Master Plan (which I just learned about).

I am greatly concerned about the proposal to move the parking to the more prominent location along Gorham Street. I live on the near west side and have never found parking near the park to be a problem. Having lived near this park for many years in the past, I appreciate the unique aesthetic aspects of this park and am familiar with its varied users and uses at different times of day and at different times of the year.

My concerns can be summarized as follows:

1) For many visitors from out of town, and the tens of thousands of people who interact each day with the park by driving by it, this design trades a view of the lake through a greenspace (and the amazing sunsets) for a view through a parking lot. A grassy berm view is also now enjoyed by people in the park looking back towards Gorham Street. Although it has been suggested otherwise, this fundamental visual insult will not be effectively mitigated by the parking lot surface being somewhat lower than the sidewalk. Please don't turn James Madison Park into the same unsightly "parking lot next to the lake" that Law Park used to be.

2) Parking lots mean permanent lighting fixtures and glare, along with headlights shining into residences and into traffic. The impacts to habitat and quality of life are significant, but almost always overlooked in Madison (a lake-based city with no lighting ordinance).

3) Because salt will inevitably be applied to the parking lot surface and cars will also bring it in, this plan will lead to the permanent poisoning of the soil underneath and surrounding the parking lot. Parking lot salt was responsible for a number of large trees dying near Vilas Park Tennis courts a few years ago.

4) I am concerned that crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) rationale seems to be in play on this parking lot issue. I would caution decision makers that application of CPTED principles is highly subjective, and it is regularly employed as an opaque and therefore inarguable justification for all kinds of projects, often at the expense of greenspace, and often appealing to racist biases and fear of crime. In any event, the answer to the question of whether a legitimate, formal CPTED analysis was actually done and actually supports the proposal that is being pushed is almost always "no".

5) I love Madison for its greenspaces and parks. In general, I feel that Madison Parks Department does a great job of aesthetic design, maximizing use, and habitat protection. I am concerned that the Parks Department will lose a lot of credibility and effectiveness into the future if such a high-profile mis-step is executed.

6) It is likely that a parking lot more visible to traffic on Gorham will rarely be available to those wanting to visit JMP by car, as it will be constantly filled by drivers shopping downtown, visiting nearby restaurants, or visiting friends in adjacent apartment buildings.

7) Let's design for the future. Cars are on the way out.

Thanks,  
Perry Sandstrom

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**From:** Jenny Green <[REDACTED]@shushudesign.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 2:16 PM  
**To:** Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** STRONGLY opposed to the proposed parking lot at James Madison

It sounds like many residents are upset about the proposed plan and no other options were presented that didn't involve a row of cars blocking the view of the lake from passers by.

Why destroy a place that's contributed to the unique beauty of the Isthmus for so long?

Please consider going back to the architect and requesting an option that doesn't expand or move the parking lot. As the city continues to grow, there will never be enough parking for all the cars of people who want to enjoy popular Madison destinations. Trying to fight that losing battle is a waste of resources that would be much better spent addressing convenient, affordable public transit.

Not to mention that we've already seen the devastating results of too much new development and pavement over the summer with the flooding. Exacerbating that issue seems like a terrible mistake.

Thank you for considering,

Jennifer Green  
[REDACTED] Hermina St  
Madison, WI 53714

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**From:** Daniel Carlson <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 2:31 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park

Please vote against adding a large parking lot on top of James Madison Park. It is one of our city's best parks and should be preserved as is.

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**From:** Mitchell T. Pilon <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 2:35 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park

I envision James Madison Park staying a park and not turned into a parking lot. I know there's some type of vote tonight but I cannot attend.

Thanks,

Mitch Pilon

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**From:** Erica Mueller <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 2:36 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park

Good Afternoon,

Please take this email as a vote against any efforts to add a parking lot to the James Madison Park. We need need to preserve our city's green space and encourage public transportation and cycling. I vote NO on this proposed parking lot and major changes to the park.

Sincerely,

Erica Mueller  
[REDACTED] Welch Ave, Madison, WI 53704

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**From:** TARAN CORDONHILL <[REDACTED]@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 2:43 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to James Madison Park

Hello,

I'm just reaching out to voice my concern and opposition to the changes that have been proposed to James Madison Park, especially the parking lot relocation and expansion. I've lived in Madison my entire life, and am very concerned about the destruction of so much green space, as well as the disruption to the bike lane. Overall, it just does not seem to be a good use of money, and seems like this is being pushed through as quietly as possible and without consideration of what the citizens of Madison want. We had a historic flood mere months ago, and you think increasing the amount of pavement on the isthmus is a good plan?!? Please listen to what residents are saying and don't go through with the current proposal.

Thank you,

Taran CordonHill

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**From:** Zellers, Ledell

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 2:47 PM

**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

**Cc:** Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Lerner, Sarah <SLerner@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** James Madison Park (JMP) Master Plan agenda item 16

Dear Park Commissioners,

We have received a considerable number of emails regarding the proposed James Madison Park Master Plan. As you know, they are primarily related to proposed parking in the park.

I respectfully recommend that you consider delaying the vote on the proposed Master Plan unless you are able to adequately confirm information related to contiguous, usable green space (as exists currently and as proposed); the number of trees which must be removed associated with each aspect of the plan (e.g. the relocated parking, paths, shelter, etc) as well as tree condition; and the total pavement related to proposed parking/access drives as compared to current pavement dedicated to parking/access drives.

You may also wish to consider whether the potential of supplementing JMP parking with 10 spots on N Butler as mentioned on page 44 of the report could address some of the deleterious impacts of parking within the park. To better assess the potential of this option I have requested an opinion of our city attorney on whether added parking on N Butler might be able to be specifically designated for park users. I have also requested that we add a designated loading space in front of Gates of Heaven to help with use of the popular Gates of Heaven.

Thank you for your work and thoughtfulness on this important central city park. I also wish to acknowledge the work of the Parks staff and consultant and the many engaged neighbors who care so much about making this park the best it can be.

Best,

Ledell

Alder Ledell Zellers  
608 417 9521

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**From:** Jack Kear <[REDACTED]@willystreet.coop>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 2:55 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison parking plan

Hello Folks,

Sometimes the best intentions cannot surpass public distaste for a project. The parking extension proposed for James Madison is dreadful. Outside the circle of decision makers pushing for this, other people hate it. Myself included. Please...work to keep it more green with LESS parking.

Thank You,  
Jack Kear

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**From:** Laurie Merrell <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:00 PM  
**To:** Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Concerns about James Madison Park Proposal

Hello,

I have lived at 410 N Butler St (immediately across from James Madison Park) for over 3 years and walk my dog in the park when weather permits.

I share the concerns outlined in this article: <https://isthmus.com/opinion/opinion/neighbor-questions-proposed-plans-for-james-madison-park/> regarding the amount of parking space in the proposed redesign of the park. Please reopen discussion of design proposals that include more different parking options.

I am concerned that "public safety concerns" about the current parking lot are motivated at least in part by racism against Black people who are simply using the public space. Other design options should be considered.

Thank you,  
Laurie Merrell  
[REDACTED] N Butler St, Apt [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@gmail.com

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**From:** Yuliya Nemykina <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:01 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** comment on proposed parking lot plan for James Madison Park

Hello,

My name is Yuliya Nemykina, and I am a resident of the Tenney-Lapham neighborhood, living near James Madison Park. I heard about about the plan to build a parking lot in the middle of James Madison Park, and ask you to reconsider. There are already so few green community spaces in the middle of the city. I have fond memories of picnics, Frisbee games, and jogs in the park, and I know many of my neighbors also spend time there on warmer days. The proposed plan would not only close the park for however long it takes to rebuild the playground and volleyball court, but permanently reduce the amount of greenery and damage the environment of the neighborhood. There is plenty of street parking around the park. In fact, I rarely see all the spaces filled up. I am uncertain how much the proposed parking lot will increase access at all. I urge you to vote against the proposed parking lot plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Yuliya Nemykina

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**From:** Karen Bassler <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:03 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park

Parks Commissioners:

I urge you in no uncertain terms to reject the proposed parking lot expansion/move included in the proposed James Madison park master plan you will be reviewing tonight.

I lived 2 blocks from the park when my first child was born, and we walked over there nearly every day, crossing both Johnson and Gorham to get there. Access was never a problem. I don't know who the planning team talked to in drafting their proposal, but the vast majority of park users come directly from the neighborhood around, with no need to drive. The parking lot currently there is NEVER full. I drive by it every day and have not once seen a full lot.

Separating the neighborhood from the park by an expanse of asphalt is a terrible idea, visually, functionally and psychically. As it is now, the park is a breath of green space offering a vista onto Lake Mendota. Inserting a parking lot and infrastructure will destroy this sane place in a downtown area desperate for open areas.

Listen to the people who love and use James Madison. They have expressed no need for such a drastic alteration.

Please do the right thing and send the draft plan back to the drawing board.

Thanks,  
Karen Bassler  
Madisonian since 1990  
Tenney-Lapham Hood resident 1991 - 1997

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**From:** Christina McNamara <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:17 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park Parking

Hello,

I am a resident of the Tenney-Lapham neighborhood, and I frequently walk past or through James Madison Park. I am opposed to the current parking layout of the James Madison Park Master Plan. The current views of green space and of the lake while walking along Gorham Street make this my favorite stretch of my walks. I am disappointed in the current proposal to replace this entire stretch with a view of a parking lot. With several parking ramps within walking distance and street parking, I am in favor of more green space and less parking in the park. Please consider alternative parking proposals.

Thank you,  
Christina McNamara

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**From:** Jerry Gapinski <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:06 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** No on parking lot at James Madison

Please reconsider the parking lot at James Madison and don't build a new one.

[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A\\_isthmus.com\\_opinion\\_opinion\\_neighbor-2Dquestions-2Dproposed-2Dplans-2Dfor-2Djames-2Dmadison-2Dpark\\_&d=DwIFaQ&c=byefhD2ZumMFFQYPZBagUCDuBiM9Q9twmxaBM0hCgII&r=ThS8gCA3B30jIBVIG\\_HfMW5K6GhFn6CBwbE53omUlqU&m=B7Kuda7PYkAiVQT0HwtRV8E4fs9G5xG776EdBbM-yUQ&s=iUAvqMg5STosElqyPIVhFJQW\\_4Bzt2xX-tXKXce43ko&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_isthmus.com_opinion_opinion_neighbor-2Dquestions-2Dproposed-2Dplans-2Dfor-2Djames-2Dmadison-2Dpark_&d=DwIFaQ&c=byefhD2ZumMFFQYPZBagUCDuBiM9Q9twmxaBM0hCgII&r=ThS8gCA3B30jIBVIG_HfMW5K6GhFn6CBwbE53omUlqU&m=B7Kuda7PYkAiVQT0HwtRV8E4fs9G5xG776EdBbM-yUQ&s=iUAvqMg5STosElqyPIVhFJQW_4Bzt2xX-tXKXce43ko&e=)

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**From:** Florence Chan <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:10 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park Proposal

Dear Parks Commission,

My name is Florence Chan and I am a resident of the Tenney Lapham neighborhood and a constituent of ZIP code 53705.

I'm writing in after hearing news of the new proposals for James Madison Park, and after reviewing the proposal presentation, I have to strongly disagree with the proposed extension of the parking lot. I often drive on E Gorham and visit the park, and it seems to me that ample parking is already available on the street and in the *very* nearby public parking lots. The idea is backwards.

The city should be working harder instead to decrease reliance on personal vehicles and parking, and instead more on efficient public transportation and safer bike/pedestrian access. This is what Madison is all about.

The drive down E Gorham St along the park is beautiful, and frankly my opinion of the city would be greatly diminished if that view became a line of cars.

I also want to add that the numbers in the Public Engagement section of your mast plan are abysmally low and don't fill me with confidence that the proper feedback was received.

I hope you'll take these thoughts into consideration.

Florence Chan

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**From:** [REDACTED]@sbcglobal.net <[REDACTED]@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:09 PM  
**To:** Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Parks Contact Submission: Special Events in a Madison Park  
**Contact Information:**

=====  
**Name:** Leola Wettstein  
**Street Address:**  
[REDACTED] Droster Rd  
Madison, WI 53716  
**Phone:** [REDACTED]  
**Email:** [REDACTED]@sbcglobal.net

**Comments / Questions:**

=====  
**Subject:** Special Events in a Madison Park

**Comments / Questions:**

I am opposed to the change of the parking lot in James Madison Park.

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**From:** Gregory Gelembiuk <[REDACTED]@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:19 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park Master Plan

Dear Parks Commission Members,

I am writing in opposition to the James Madison Park Master Plan. I'm a resident of the near east side, and I use James Madison Park regularly.

In particular, I'm strongly opposed to the installation of the proposed parking lot. I've virtually never seen a shortage of parking along Gorham St, and there are public parking ramps not far away. I think my own views on this reflect the general sentiments of most people in the area. Please listen to what people are saying! Moreover, as someone else noted "*this really just sounds like an excuse to get rid of 'those people' playing basketball.*"

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**From:** Stephanie Ricketts <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:28 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park Comment

Hello Parks Commission,

Please reconsider converting more of James Madison Park into a parking lot. I understand the rationale behind such a change, but find it to be a tragic use of public green space, especially in the heart of our city.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Stephanie Ricketts

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**From:** Violet Richardson <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:28 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Proposed Change To James Madison Park

As a former resident of the neighborhood surrounding James Madison Park, I would like to provide my input on the proposed change to the park.

I do not believe grassy space and trees should be destroyed to add a parking lot. The park belongs to the people of the neighborhood who have no need to drive to it. Additional guests can easily access the park by bus (it is on or near several bus lines) or by using existing street parking. There are other parks and beaches in Madison that have parking lots, this does not need to be one of them. There is no need to reduce the beauty or utility of the park in its current state for an unpopular project.

I have seen zero support from the Madison community for this proposal. Please respect our will.

Thank you,

Violet Richardson

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From: Sheila Lenius <[REDACTED]@chorus.net>  
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:29 PM  
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: James Madison Park

Hello,  
Please find an alternative to adding parking within the park. We love the park and amount of green space so close to the lake. I haven't had a problem parking whenever we've used the park.

Thanks,  
Sheila Lenius, mom of three kids  
[REDACTED] Dunning St  
Madison, WI 53704

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From: Gary Tipler <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 10:26 AM  
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: James Madison Park Plan comment

Please see attachment for comment.  
Thank you.

To: Madison Parks Commission, [pacommission@cityofmadison.com](mailto:pacommission@cityofmadison.com)

Re: James Madison Park parking lot plan

Date: December 12, 2018

Dear members of the Parks Commission,

There are many issues and concerns sparked by the present parking plan for James Madison Park before you. At risk is the damage to the physical character and community resource that this iconic park serves as a place for recreational use, as a breathing space with unparalleled views and to the aesthetics of this unique public open space on Lake Mendota in downtown Madison.

If parking is to be created there, it must be a much smaller area and should minimize encroachment on the lake view from the public right-of-way or from neighboring properties.

The proposed plan has a far greater ratio of driveway area to stalls in this layout than is necessary.

Should parking be developed along Gorham, an alternative might be to place a much shorter and narrower west-bound, one-lane drive next to the public sidewalk and behind a low stone wall to serve the angled parking stalls. It would be a more efficient use of land than the proposed lot. Place it toward the west end, not in the best view shed for sunsets -- one of the main reasons people view, visit and appreciate this park.

One problem would be blinding glare of late afternoon and evening sun reflected from vehicles onto neighboring houses and apartments, pedestrians, cyclists and drivers of vehicles. This vision-disabling item alone could become a safety issue leading to more pedestrian-vehicle accidents.

What of the issue of night-time usage being extended to a much larger area of the park? Changing the layout and location does little to reduce the use of the undesired activities and may well increase them. Night-time activities will introduce the sweeping effects of car lights across the park, exhaust from idling engines and noise closer to residences nearby.

Is more parking really necessary? Like many other parks, this one is to serve people who are largely driving from afar, including city employees and contractors for city construction, similar to the use of most near-downtown parking lots in city parks. I don't think that use should outweigh the use of the land for a broader public use as green space park land.

Lastly, a look at the ratio of park land green spaces to parking lots in the country's most beloved parks in high-density cities -- Boston Commons, Central Park, and Golden Gate State Park will suggest an outcome of this plan process -- extremely limited parking, low or no visibility and only enough so to meet accessibility needs for those with limited mobility.

Please consider alternatives and reject the parking proposal currently before you.

Respectfully,

Gary Tipler, A long-time isthmus resident

**From:** Erin Quinn <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 1:07 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** James Madison Park Proposal

Good day Board of Park Commissioners,  
Please see my attached letter in regards to the proposed James Madison Park changes. I am hoping this finds you in time to be considered part of the public comment as I am not certain I will be able to attend tonight's meeting.

Thank you,

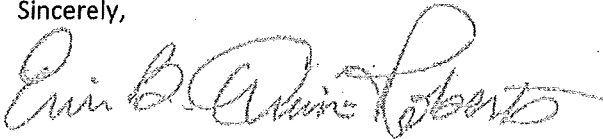
Erin B. Quinn-Roberts  
"We must be the change we wish to see in the world" - Mahatma K. Gandhi

December 12, 2018

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

I hope this letter reaches you in time to be record of my public comment against the James Madison Park parking lot expansion as it currently is being proposed. As a Madisonian for nearly four decades I have seen a plethora of change to this city. Change is inevitable, I know, but as a frequent park user and community member I do not feel the extensive proposed parking lot at James Madison Park is not needed. Actually, how I heard about this proposal was through local residents while enjoying James Madison Park one beautiful afternoon. I have rarely had an issue parking. On the rare occasion I've had to park on the street this wasn't an issue. To remove as much greenery, vegetation and trees does not seem environmental (let us not forget the historic flooding that recently happened) and sure doesn't add to the appeal of the ample green space currently present, an iconic park in Madison. Open green space serves as a valuable contribution to flood risk management associated with the inevitable climate change. This can be critical in protecting built up areas. I am one of many voices seeking a different option. What is the root cause of the lack of parking? Is it all the development of which developers I would assume should be required to provide sufficient parking when building multi-units. If it is safety build a slightly bigger parking lot (perhaps angled parking along the street) without eliminating much needed greenspace and do some safety restructuring that doesn't take away 20,600 square feet of greenery and half century old trees. Having multiple entrance/exits cutting through the bike lane on Gorham is dangerous and not very biker friendly, and as you know we are a community of active individuals, with biking at the top of the list. What has become harder for me as resident and taxpayer is how fast plans seem to move with little public knowledge or proposals that take into consideration public opinion. I surely was hoping alternatives to the expansive parking lot would have been suggested in the final concept proposals. In a community that prides itself on environmental protection and takes pride in our green space and parks lets hold true to this. Please look at alternatives to addressing safety concerns and creating some additional parking without disrupting the integrity of James Madison Park. This is a park that has been enjoyed by generations in my family. A park I have watched sunrises and sunsets. My children have roamed the beautiful greenspace at the park, greenspace which is becoming harder to find in the downtown area. I believe together we can paint a better picture for James Madison Park one that is safe while protecting the environmental and the needs of bicyclists.

Sincerely,



Erin B. Quinn-Roberts

██████████ing James Way

Fitchburg, WI 53719

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**From:** Issis Macias <[REDACTED]@cleanlakesalliance.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 2:53 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Lerner, Sarah <SLerner@cityofmadison.com>; James Tye <j[REDACTED]@cleanlakesalliance.org>; Paul Dearlove <[REDACTED]@cleanlakesalliance.org>  
**Subject:** James Madison Park Master Plan

Dear Madison Board of Park Commissioners,

Clean Lakes Alliance has participated in all four public-input forums and served on the stakeholder group involved in the master planning process of James Madison Park. Attached is a letter of support for the adoption of a master plan that addresses the key elements identified.

Thank you for your efforts to make Madison's lakeside parks more user friendly and sustainable!

In Partnership,

The Clean Lakes Alliance Team

# Clean Lakes Alliance

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December 12, 2018

Dear Madison Board of Park Commissioners,

Clean Lakes Alliance has participated in all four public-input forums and served on the stakeholder group involved in the master planning process of James Madison Park. Throughout the public input process, we have voiced our views and recommended the implementation of enhancements that support improved water quality, lakeshore health, and sustainability at James Madison Park.

We specifically support the adoption or inclusion of:

- **Continuous green space.** Reducing the footprint of water impermeable surfaces, hardscape areas and structures, as well as moving them away from the lakeshore, is essential to minimizing runoff and preserving natural lakeshore habitat.
- **Stormwater bio-filtration.** The proposed system of integrated rain gardens, bioswales and other infiltration features are examples of stormwater practices that should be adopted at all of our lakeside parks.
- **Emergent wetland with living shoreline.** We championed this enhancement and are excited to see it being implemented. Naturalizing the shoreline will help improve water quality and provide vital aquatic habitat.
- **Fishing access/habitat improvements.** Providing designated fishing areas will increase angler access and use. Habitat improvements, such as nearshore submerged tree installations and restored oak savannas, will also offer an enhanced natural area that will make the park more appealing. These improvements will support wildlife and their appreciation by park users.

On behalf of all the Clean Lakes Alliance team, **thank you** for your efforts to make Madison's lakeside parks more sustainable!

In Partnership,

  
James Tye  
Executive Director



**From:** Matthew Braunginn <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:43 PM

**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** James Madison Park

I cannot make the meeting tonight but I am writing to oppose the proposed work to be done at JMP, the removal of trees to build parking is an absolutely terrible idea. Just on the practical level, building more parking or really parking at all won't solve the parking problem. As this brief by SSTI shows, <https://www.ssti.us/Events/modern-traffic-mitigation-for-development-in-cities-moving-beyond-los/>, building for cars, parking, etc doesn't solve the problem.

Some proposed solutions I would agree with, such as limiting parking for people with difficulties in accessibility, or loading and drop off areas. But none of this should be done with the destruction of the trees. Not to mention, getting rid of more green space, no matter the systems you build for the park, will hurt stormwater and probably hurt flooding in the area. This plan goes against every leading idea on stormwater planning, municipal green space, urban forests & tree, etc.

Not to mention, what is deeply concerning is the coded racist language within the plan. The talk of problems of loiterers around the basketball court is troublesome. First I didn't know loitering in a park was a problem because it's a park. Second many of the basketball players and those who hang out around the courts, because it's a park, tend to be people of color. Yes you're moving the courts, for "safety?" really? Who knew basketball players were a danger.

This is and has been a safe park, could things be done to make it more accessible, yes. I mean first off it is a danger to cross the street, start there. Second, the idea of making the shelter more accessible is a good idea. And lastly, for parking, focus on not making parking easier for everyone but for those that we need to ensure have accessibility to the park. Others can park on the street or nearby ramps- which I have done many times.

There were other issues when y'all worked with the public far ahead of parking, ones that won't disrupt the green space at the park. Focus on that and focus on accessibility without disrupting green space, especially because changing the parking won't actually help with people parking.

Thanks,

Matthew Braunginn

**From:** Matthew Carl Cambria <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:43 PM

**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** James Madison park parking lot

Hi there,

I live a few blocks from James Madison park, and I want to voice my concern regarding the proposed changes to the park. I'm particularly struck by the proposal to turn part of the park's green space into a parking lot. James Madison is surely one of Madison's most beloved parks. I'd even say James Madison is a representation of what the city as a whole should aspire to be - green, open, active, and so on... The most valuable aspect of the park is its green space, and neither I nor my friends in the neighborhood want that to be taken away. Especially down the already clogged Gorham St, we should be encouraging green modes of transportation rather than cars. Overall, my community in the neighborhood is happy with the park the way it is. I think it's admirable to be investing in public parks, but we need to be sure that we're investing in them in the right way. We want the park to be more green, open, active, and so on, not less.

Thanks,

Matt Cambria

**From:** Sandy Jensen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:44 PM  
**To:** Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** No parking along James Madison Park

I can't believe that the proposed re-design of this iconic park includes a parking lot along much of the length of it! This is a terrible idea, particularly given the following:

1. The view from this park appears in many promotional photos that show the Madison isthmus as a shining jewel along the water. A parking lot would permanently destroy this view.
2. The parking lot would add treacherous new entry and exit points for vehicular traffic along an existing bike path.
3. The loss of green space should be avoided as much as possible; there is no significant demand for parking in this area that isn't already provided within a block or two.

Reject any proposal to add a giant parking lot along the waterfront!! Madison doesn't need it.

Regards,  
Sandy Jensen  
Madison resident

