

From: rosebrowncst@sbcglobal.net <rosebrowncst@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 3, 2024 12:39 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Mallards and fireworks

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Dear Parks Commission,

I am writing to request that you discontinue or severely limit fireworks displays at the Mallards, not add more. They are bad for the environment and Warner Park in particular where the fish are already poisoning people who eat them with heavy metals. They are bad for the birds that nest there and that eat the fish. They are bad for veterans and other service people who have PTSD and autistic kids most of whom are sound sensitive. They are bad for my dog who has to be medicated to tolerate them which is bad for my mental health because I have to worry about him every fireworks weekend especially if I choose to go out.

Can they not in this day and age find a less harmful and disruptive alternative? Cannot the health of the land and the people matter more than entertaining and making money for a few folk?

Come on! Make a healthy choice for the animals in the park, the land, and the people rather than the same old same old outdated values.

Much Appreciated!

Rose

G. Rose Brown

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608 206 2432

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From: Deborah Berry <deborah.berry10@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 1:26 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Fireworks in Madison.

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I am writing to request you please stop the fireworks in Madison. Please do not allow anymore fireworks. They create terror for my family and pets. And it is terrible for the local wildlife and environment.

Please consider drone shows if people want to look at lights on the sky.

Thanks

Deborah Berry

From: Cindy Carlson <carlcin1@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 1:34 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; bstenzel@festfoods.com

Subject: Fireworks

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Hello—

I am writing in response to the agenda item about fireworks at Warner Park.

Though fireworks can be visually pleasing, this comes with a lot of negative impacts which include air pollution (fireworks release a mixture of chemicals, heavy metals and particulate matter into the air leading to worsened air quality for people and animals); chemical residue and soil contamination which can leach into groundwater harming plants and disrupting local ecosystems; water pollution from debris falling into bodies of water and posing a risk to aquatic life; wildlife disturbance from loud explosions and bright flashes (animals and birds may flee their habitats or suffer stress leading to issues with feeding, nesting and other vital activities); waste and litter; and leading to a large carbon footprint as fireworks are typically manufactured overseas and require transport over long distances. Additionally, the production and transportation of fireworks contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, further impacting climate change.

One thing that should be taken into account is the larger picture of what actually occurs here and in other cities—that is the fact that celebrations do not occur solely on one evening. Increasingly, fireworks have made their presence in the weeks leading up to, during and even after the Fourth of July holiday. So, the thought of adding even more displays is not a positive. It's unfortunate that though there are rules (laws?) against home displays, there does not appear to be a deterrent to these.

In terms of alternatives, I would support an option that didn't involve aerial displays for similar concern of wildlife disruption. Perhaps there are laser displays or other eco-friendly possibilities.

Thank you.

From: Tyler Schafer <tylerdschafer@live.com>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 5:00 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: More fireworks please

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I'm sure you get a ton of emails regarding this topic and all the complainers out there. I on the other hand would like to thank you for Having and continuing to host fourth of July fireworks displays. They are something fun and affordable for everyone in the community to enjoy at a time when everything in the world today is so expensive. I hope that they can continue and are not discontinued due to .01% of the population having nothing better to do but complain about everything and anything. Thanks again

From: Fred Fass <frdfass@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 10:43 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; bstenzel@festfoods.com
Subject: Fireworks at Warner Park

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Hello,

I am sending this to you to let you know of our concerns with the fireworks at Warner Park.

The mission of our group, Wild Warner, is to celebrate, preserve, protect and expand the natural world (including protection of habitat and wildlife) in Warner Park and its surrounding ecosystem for future generations. Wild Warner carries out its purpose through education, research and advocacy, including but not limited to fostering volunteer efforts, monitoring the status of the park, restoring and helping manage natural areas, and generating and sustaining a spirit of park stewardship among area residents through all appropriate means.

The main Madison Fireworks first came to Warner Park in 1968. Prior they had been held in Vilas Park. They were moved because the noises of the fireworks and the actions of the crowd frightened the zoo animals. The animals in the zoo were "spooked" by the noise and flashes. Precautions had

to be taken with many of the animals prior to the fireworks. Even the Humane Society called for the fireworks to be moved.

Rhythm and Booms has come and gone, but fireworks continue in Warner Park up to seven times a year.

It is not zoo animals now. It is the animals and birds of Warner Park. The Warner lagoon, Warner wetlands and island residents are impacted by fireworks. Nearby veterans, children, and pets are also impacted. Please consider this when renewing the Mallard's lease and their obligations of being a good neighbor.

Marie Jacobson / Wild Warner/ Chair

From: gordian@nym.hush.com <gordian@nym.hush.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 10:48 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: bstenzel@festfoods.com
Subject: Fireworks at Warner Park: Item 11, Legistar 85775

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Tue. Nov. 5, 2024

Board of Park Commissioners,

Re: Oct. 23, 2024 public meeting to discuss the fireworks shows held at Warner Park in the summer of 2024.

I attended the meeting held at Warner Park to discuss the 2024 fireworks shows. The organizers did a good job of seeing that all views were expressed.

At the meeting, we learned that fireworks contain heavy metal salts, which give them the colors you see. 5% to 15% of fireworks, by weight, are toxic heavy metals, which inevitably fall to the ground. Perchlorates in fireworks are also toxic. The Mallards organization picks up the visible trash, but the invisible toxic metals and chemicals remain. Particulate pollutants from fireworks were also mentioned at the meeting. One meeting participant asked for protection of the Yahara River watershed from pollution caused by fireworks. Fish and other wildlife are exposed to contaminants that travel down the Yahara River watershed. Fireworks shows at Warner Park started in 1968. In 56 years, the City of Madison has not tried to track toxic contamination at Warner Park.

Many people complained that noise from the fireworks upset the park's neighbors, the

neighborhood pets, and wildlife near the park. People with mental health issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are especially vulnerable. We learned that Purple Martin chicks, too young to fly, leapt from their bird nests to their deaths during the July 4th fireworks show. Birds were seen leaving their nests and flying away during that show.

We heard that a balance is needed between the natural environment and the human environment. Warner Park is geographically divided between a natural area and a recreation area. The recreation area provides opportunities for exercise, employment, and enjoyment of sports. Unfortunately, the sound of fireworks passes freely across the boundary between the natural areas and the recreational areas. Toxic chemicals in the fireworks fall to the ground on both sides of that boundary. Several people at the meeting questioned the connection between fireworks and exercise, employment, and enjoyment of sports.

At the meeting, several people said that they and many other people enjoy the fireworks displays. They would surely object if someone went to their houses at night, set off explosives for 10 minutes, and left toxic chemicals on their lawns. Somehow, they cannot empathize with people who object to the same behavior at Warner Park.

Many people at the meeting asked for consideration of low noise, low toxicity alternatives to fireworks displays. A drone light show was suggested. The Mallards tried a drone light show once; the audience reaction was not discussed at the meeting. People from the Mallards organization said that they want to work with the community to find an acceptable compromise. I do not doubt their sincerity. I hope that any compromise leads to alternatives to fireworks shows.

Don Lindsay
