

Good afternoon, my name is Kerry McAllen, and I am the president of the Burke Heights Neighborhood Association (BHNA). I am here tonight to speak in opposition to the adoption of the Northeast Area Plan. Specifically, the residents of BHNA have conveyed to me their opposition to the recommendation of extending Nakoosa Trail to Jana Lane via Sycamore Park.

Previous community feedback sessions yielded support in the majority for bicycle and pedestrian paths. There is zero feedback from the community suggesting a road through Sycamore Park is desired, nor is a road through the right-of-way existing from Pulley Dr. to Bewick Dr. Further, such road is not a recommendation in any of the text of the December 2023 Draft Recommendations by the City of Madison. For Burke Heights residents who participated in the public engagement process, this road extension recommendation is a surprise to which we've been unable to provide any feedback, and the idea is unwelcome.

The City of Madison has a wide vision of alternative transportation such as bicycling and walking. This is codified by two major capital investments in the Burke Heights Neighborhood this year: The Autumn Ridge Bike Bridge over Hwy 30, and singletrack/pump bike trail in Sycamore Park.

Common themes for all aspects of the northeast plan from residents is that we want safer neighborhoods, and more park (green) space. After investing millions of dollars of taxpayer money in the two major capital projects, a road connecting Nakoosa Trl. and Jana Ln. would create a barrier to use these two infrastructure investments, diminishing the impact of both projects to the cycling community and pedestrian traffic, reducing the value of the capital investment and it further fragments the bike path system. Second, a road here would create additional and unnecessary safety issues for those using the new bicycle bridge and those who presently use the park and dog park.

The City's recommendation to extend Nakoosa Trl. is redundant. The Sycamore Dog park is highly utilized by surrounding neighbors and patrons who drive a vehicle. The park equipment, shelter and soccer fields are, and have been, highly utilized throughout the warm months with the present access and visibility. Sycamore Park is very well accessed via Sycamore Ave. with a parking lot and street parking which borders the north limit of the dog park owned by City Engineering and parkland owned by the Madison Parks Department. Jana Ln. provides superior park visibility, street parking, and access along the east limits of Sycamore Park. Another road would nearly encircle the entire park, limiting safe and easy bicycle and pedestrian traffic to the park. It seems appropriate to allow the new Autumn Ridge Bike Bridge to bring cyclists and pedestrians to increase the access to Sycamore Park rather than building another road for cars.

I understand that Alder Fields had weighed in on the connectivity issues to the planning commission by pointing out, "The Burke Heights neighborhood just south of Sycamore is very poorly connected to the portion to the east on Thompson Drive, relying on a single, difficult intersection linking the two areas (Pulley, Commercial, Hwy 30 on ramp)." I would like to point out that Thompson Dr. is connected to other neighborhoods not only by Commercial Ave., but also by Sycamore Ave. and Lien Rd. That is, I'm certain, accidentally left out by Alder Fields.

To address any traffic issues at the corner of Pulley Dr., Commercial Ave., and the on-ramp to HWY 30, let's trim the trees that obscure existing signs (right lane turn only), and the addition of a 25 MPH traffic sign will be helpful. The one that was there was not replaced when the traffic circles went in. Second, better paint to indicate the turn lane to commercial and the forward lane to HWY 30. Post a speed indication sign to inform drivers of their speed and re-enforce "new" speed limit for some time. Schedule police speed checks to further re-enforce traffic rules. Most users of this route are local and likely do not know the on-ramp does not begin until after Pulley Dr.

I am happy to answer any questions now or in the future. Thank you for your time.

Kerry McAllen  
President  
Burke Heights Neighborhood Association

**From:** [Clinton Richardson](#)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Sycamore Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 4:26:59 PM

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The dog park is a vital part of our neighborhood, we're already relegated to walking in a landfill, a road is neither necessary or desired

**From:** [Merikay Payne](#)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#); [cstellies@cityofmadison.com](mailto:cstellies@cityofmadison.com); [Kaniewski, Adam B](#); [Freiwald, Ann](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Sycamore Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 1:20:27 PM

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Merikay 608-244-3779 See my art at: <http://www.artsallusions.com>

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Merikay Payne <[merikay\\_merikay@yahoo.com](mailto:merikay_merikay@yahoo.com)>  
**To:** [district3@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district3@cityofmadison.com) <[district3@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district3@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 10:11:35 PM CDT  
**Subject:** Sycamore Park

Dear Mr. Field,

Thank you for being our alderperson. There were signs in Sycamore Park indicating you will be voting on adding a road through the park. I'd like to give you our input on the situation. My husband tried to call you, but only got a message.

There have been many improvements to Sycamore Park: new playground equipment, trees planted, a bicycle path, soccer fields, dog park, walking path, shelter, prairie creation, and basketball courts.

Much has been done to make the park user friendly, We walk on the path almost every day. There are kids on the playground, teams playing soccer, people taking their dogs for a walk, and bicyclists trying the new path.

It is a well-used park and adding a road would make it more difficult to access as well as increase the possibility of car/pedestrian accidents. It seems incongruous to encourage people to use a park and add a road to increase car/pedestrian accidents as well as speeding complaints from neighborhood residents.

We live on Redland Dr. There were never stop signs in our neighborhood until a few years ago, when stop signs were put at every corner because of speeding cars.

Please reconsider your decision to add a road to Sycamore Park and keep our neighborhood safe.

Feel free to share this email with everyone on the Common Council.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Henry and Merikay Payne  
810 Redland Dr.  
Madison, WI

**From:** [Park Commission](#)  
**To:** [Josh Ledger](#); [Urban Design Comments](#); [Park Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Field, Derek](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Northeast Area Plan, Agenda Items 6 and 7  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 12:24:58 PM

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Dear Josh,

The Northeast Plan items for the Board of Park Commissioners meeting tonight are 10 & 11. (6 & 7 are reports.) I will add your email to our items tonight.

Nicole Miller  
Pronouns: *she/her/hers*  
City of Madison Parks Administration  
330 E. Lakeside Street – Madison, WI 53715  
(608) 266-4711

After hours Park Ranger  
(608) 235-0448

[MADISON PARKS](#)

**MADISON  
PARKS**

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**From:** Josh Ledger <jrledge@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 9:01 PM  
**To:** Urban Design Comments <urbandesigncomments@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Field, Derek <district3@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Northeast Area Plan, Agenda Items 6 and 7

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Hello,

I am writing to voice concern about the proposed plan to add a street through Sycamore Park as apart of the larger northeast area plan that is to be discussed on 8/14/2024 . My wife and I live on Redland Dr. **We adamantly oppose this proposed plan based on the following concerns.**

- Out of concern for the safety of park users and nearby residents of the park. With another road with few intersections there is a high possibility of excess speed on such a road in a high pedestrian area. This is already a current issue.
- There are multiple other route options to access the roads in concern that would have very minimal difference in travel time.
- A portion of the park being separated by the proposed road would be nearly unusable due to its reduced size and location.
- The road would go right through a highly used soccer field that would no longer be functional.
- The draft states the road would increase use of the park, the park is already highly used and has many access points. Is there data to support the claim the park is not well used?
- The road would increase traffic through an otherwise very quiet and well controlled neighborhood (Burke Heights).
- The seemingly not very thought out and last minute road addition would disturb the very highly spoken of changes being made to the park, including the newly paved bike path and prairie area.

**We seek to have the proposed road removed from the aforementioned plan.**

Thank you for considering these concerns from myself and others regarding the proposal.

--

Josh Ledger  
815-978-7246  
[jrledge@gmail.com](mailto:jrledge@gmail.com)

**From:** [Kristina Daleiden](#)  
**To:** [Park Commission](#); [Urban Design Comments](#); [Field, Derek](#)  
**Subject:** Northeast Area Plan - Nakoosa Trail expansion proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 10:18:29 AM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-horizontal.png](#)  
[Outlook-Water Work.png](#)

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Greetings:

I write to express my opposition to the proposed expansion of Nakoosa Trail through Sycamore Park on Madison's far east side. As a long time resident of Burke Heights, specifically Brandie Road, I have first-hand understanding of our neighborhood's needs and traffic patterns, and I am very much opposed to the expansion of Nakoosa Trail through Sycamore Park.

This is a densely populated community with many rental units, so resident access to green space is already limited and Sycamore Park is the only park within walking distance that does not require crossing a busy road.

If you study traffic patterns along Nakoosa Trail, Brandie Road, and Zeigler Road you will see that there is already heavy traffic through our residential neighborhood due to the dense population and proximity to Walmart. Additionally, many residents park on the street as this is a working class area where many units do not provide sufficient off-street parking for the number of working adults who share apartments due to high housing costs. Finally, during winter snow storms Nakooka, Brandie, and Zeigler are regularly limited to one lane of traffic due to on-street parking and lack of alternate side parking enforcement, so the value of creating a through-way from Thompson and Janna Lane simply isn't there.

Historically, this area has dealt with high levels of crime, including violent crime, and the limited vehicular access serves to slow traffic and deter non-residents from using our already crowded streets as a through-way. There is no value to be had by destroying our one large green space in order to connect two low-rent, high-disfunction neighborhoods.

I ask that the commission remove the expansion of Nakoosa Trail through Sycamore Park from the Northeast Area Plan in deference to residents safety and quality of life.

Sincerely,

Kristina Daleiden  
801 Brandie Road

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**Kristina Daleiden**

**From:** [Aaron Ganser](#)  
**To:** [Park Commission](#); [Urban Design Comments](#); [Field, Derek](#)  
**Subject:** Northeast Area Plan - Nakoosa Trail & Sycamore Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 10:31:20 AM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-horizontal.png](#)  
[Outlook-Water Work.png](#)

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This is a densely populated community with many rental units, so resident access to green space is already limited and Sycamore Park is the only park within walking distance that does not require crossing a busy road.

If you study traffic patterns along Nakoosa Trail, Brandie Road, and Zeigler Road you will see that there is already heavy traffic through our residential neighborhood due to the dense population and proximity to Walmart. Additionally, many residents park on the street as this is a working class area where many units do not provide sufficient off-street parking for the number of working adults who share apartments due to high housing costs. Finally, during winter snow storms Nakooka, Brandie, and Zeigler are regularly limited to one lane of traffic due to on-street parking and lack of alternate side parking enforcement, so the value of creating a through-way from Thompson and Janna Lane simply isn't there.

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I ask that the commission remove the expansion of Nakoosa Trail through Sycamore Park from the Northeast Area Plan in deference to residents safety and quality of life.

Sincerely,

Aaron Ganser



**Aaron Ganser**

Owner/ Operator

Water Works Pool & Spa Service

608.235.4755 - cell

608.575.8986 - office

<http://wwpoolservice.com>



*Do you have friends, family, or neighbors with a pool or hot tub? We want to help them too, and we want to reward you for telling them about our services. Refer a friend and you'll both get \$25 off your next service!*

**From:** [Kassidy Dehne](#)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Sycamore park  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 4:24:55 PM

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I am submitting a comment regarding item 6&7 the northeast area plan:

My dog and I go to sycamore park nearly every day to get exercise and socialize. It's crucial we do this as we are living in an apartment complex. This is a largely residential neighborhood and putting a road through sycamore would take away access to a community park for lots of families in the neighborhood, not only the dog park but for kids to play and do sports, runners, and bikers alike. We don't have many opportunities on the far east side to be outside in a safe space and it allows people to get outside and enjoy the weather.

Kassidy Dehne

**From:** [toddtimmerman801@gmail.com](mailto:toddtimmerman801@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Sycamore park  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 6:38:05 PM

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Please no street through sycamore park. None of the neighbors here want it. It is a very bad idea. I have lived here for 20 years and have young kids.

Thanks

Todd Timmerman

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Tom Whitcomb](#)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Road in Sycamore Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 8:27:58 PM

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Hello, my name is Tom Whitcomb. I've lived on Jana Lane for the last 3 years, and I wanted to comment on items 6 and 7 of the Northeast Area Plan, i.e. the proposed extension to Nakoosa Trail that would run through a segment of Sycamore Park.

To me, the road would present a major safety concern. Dozens of children live in this neighborhood, and speeding/reckless driving is a pervasive issue. My street alone has 5 speed control bumps on it to deter this, yet just yesterday someone broke the front axle off their vehicle from taking it too fast.

Likewise, I am sending this just four days after another speeding car took out multiple power lines less than a block away and caused a six hour blackout not just in our neighborhood, but over a huge swathe of Madison's east side. These problems will only worsen with more traffic running through an already compact area.

I urge the commission to reconsider the extension to Nakoosa Trail. I understand the urge to increase visibility of Sycamore Park; it's quite literally one of my favorite places in the world. But I believe generating additional traffic in its vicinity would be at best counterproductive, and at worst, an accident waiting to happen.

Respectfully,  
Tom Whitcomb

**From:** [Josh Ledger](#)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#); [Park Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Field, Derek](#)  
**Subject:** Northeast Area Plan, Agenda Items 6 and 7  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 9:01:17 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to voice concern about the proposed plan to add a street through Sycamore Park as apart of the larger northeast area plan that is to be discussed on 8/14/2024 . My wife and I live on Redland Dr. **We adamantly oppose this proposed plan based on the following concerns.**

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- The draft states the road would increase use of the park, the park is already highly used and has many access points. Is there data to support the claim the park is not well used?
- The road would increase traffic through an otherwise very quiet and well controlled neighborhood (Burke Heights).
- The seemingly not very thought out and last minute road addition would disturb the very highly spoken of changes being made to the park, including the newly paved bike path and prairie area.

**We seek to have the proposed road removed from the aforementioned plan.**

Thank you for considering these concerns from myself and others regarding the proposal.

--

Josh Ledger  
815-978-7246  
[jrledge@gmail.com](mailto:jrledge@gmail.com)

**From:** [Eric Gertner](#)  
**To:** [Field, Derek](#); [Urban Design Comments](#); [Park Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [McAuliffe, Daniel](#); [Puerta, Angela](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Oppose road thru Sycamore park in NE plan  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 8:12:34 AM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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Hello Alder Field, Urban Design Commission, and Board of Park Commissioners (plus Daniel and Angela in City Planning cc'ed).

I oppose the Northeast Area Plan's road through Sycamore Park for three reasons:

**More dangerous park access.**

East-West roads in the area have issues with speeding (e.g. recent Conlin mitigations and speed limit reductions on Sycamore) and many users access the park from the south edge where the road is proposed. Existing paths along the south edge already allow bike/ped access to the park without conflict with traffic.

**Does not fix the intersection at Pulley, Commercial, and Hwy 30 on ramp.**

Planners have mentioned addressing this intersection for better Burke Heights neighborhood access. However, adding another road doesn't fix the problem with people accelerating up Commercial, past the intersection, and onto the Hwy 30 on-ramp. Changes to the intersection could be more focused and cost effective than adding a whole new road elsewhere.

**Diminishes the park outside of the park's master plan.**

This road wasn't part of the more focused neighborhood outreach and discussion surrounding the Sycamore Park Master Plan, as pointed out on p60 of the draft Northeast Area Plan. Neighbors and park users were not asking for a road through a popular soccer field and the prairie restoration.

I hope the road through Sycamore Park can be removed from the Area Plan.

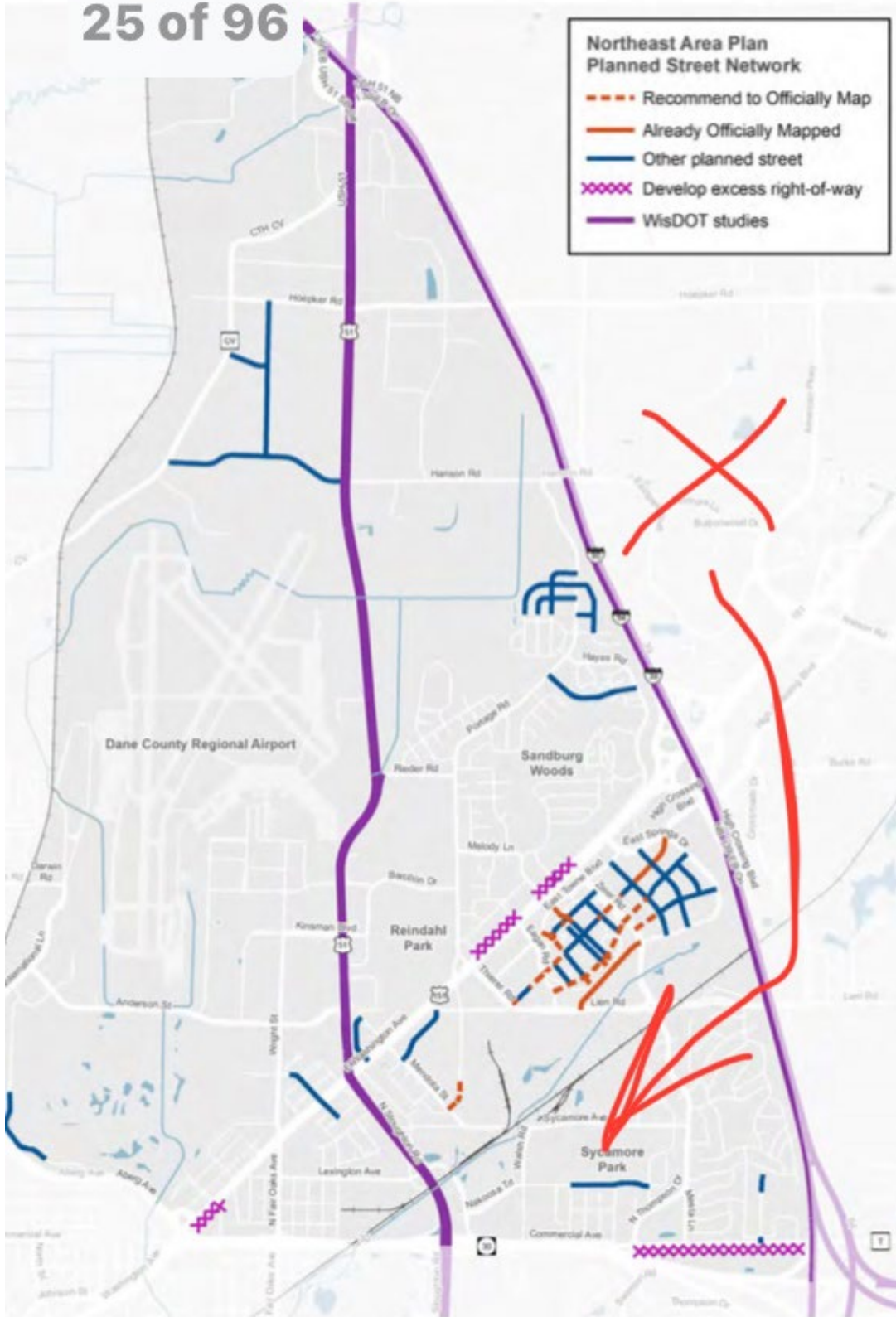
I registered my opposition using the city's online tool but can't make tonight's (8/14/24) meetings.

Thanks for your time.

-Eric Gertner (821 Pulley Dr.)

Annotated map:







park (generally < 5 acres) with amenities that serves the immediate neighborhood. A neighborhood park is generally 5+ acres and serves a larger portion of the neighborhood, with more amenities than a mini park. A regional park is usually 20+ acres that is designed to attract residents from beyond the neighborhood. A natural area is primarily managed to preserve natural resources, scenic views, and animal populations. It is used for passive recreation and enjoyment of visitors.

| # of Parks | Acres in Northeast Area |
|------------|-------------------------|
| 3          | 9                       |
| 4          | 41                      |
| 2          | 162                     |
| 1          | 24                      |

construction in 2025. Other elements of the Master Plan, including a new playground, expanded community gardens, and athletic facility upgrades will be implemented over the next 10-15 years as funding and resources allow.

**Sycamore Park**

The [2023 Sycamore Park Master Plan](#) recommends new trails, a bicycle pump track, and improved connections to the wooded portion of the park north of Sycamore Avenue. Other planned improvements include dog park enhancements, a sun shelter, and a restroom building. The adopted Master Plan does not include the recommended extension of Nakoosa Trail through the park to Jana Lane. However, the extension was reviewed and is supported by the Parks Division.

**Sandburg Woods Conservation Park**

This conservation park features hilly trails through mature forest on the north side of a drumlin. The variety of ecosystems within this conservation park are protected and managed in accordance with the Parks Division's [Land Management Plan](#).



**From:** [Timothy McCarty](#)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Changes with Sycamore Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 8:35:49 AM

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Hello,  
I would like to voice my opposition to any changes and adding roads through Sycamore Park.  
Best,  
Timothy McCarty

**From:** [Shauna Cook](#)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#)  
**Subject:** No street through Sycamore Park  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2024 6:44:46 PM

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Please remove your plan to put a street through Sycamore Park.

Thank you,  
Shauna Cook

**From:** [Jessi A](#)  
**To:** [Park Commission](#); [Urban Design Comments](#); [Field, Derek](#)  
**Subject:** No to road through Sycamore Park in NE Area Plan  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2024 9:26:15 PM

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Hello All,

My name is Jessi. I live at 821 Bewick Dr. My family has been a resident of the Burke Heights Neighborhood since the 1960's. I am excited that our current residents have had the opportunity to participate in the City's new Planning Framework and appreciate the sense of community our local government has created while planning for our future. My husband and I have had the opportunity to attend numerous virtual sessions as well as a neighborhood session and walkabout with folks from multiple city entities (very cool.) Additionally, we are excited to see the new bike track at Sycamore being used already! Such fun enrichment and health benefits!

I do apologize on the front end here, as I've not been paying as much attention as I typically do and also missed the session in May. However, it just came to my attention that the Northeast Area Plan has a "other planned street" (annotated in blue) running directly through Sycamore Park. Our residents do NOT want this and I wish to express strong opposition to this portion of the plan. Can you remove this aspect prior to the adoption meeting on Wednesday please?

There are many reasons why I, and others, feel strongly against putting a street through our park. It would be of great detriment to our neighborhood and our neighbors, especially those who live in surrounding apartments, to lose our precious and highly utilized recreation and natural space. It is also just totally unnecessary and a waste of tax payer dollars.

I am happy to provide more insight about why we do NOT want a road to tear through our beautiful vibrant and diverse park. It truly would be a shame.

Thank you,  
Jessi Alter

**From:** [Macie Brogan](#)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#)  
**Subject:** please remove your plan to put a street through sycamore park  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2024 6:58:31 PM

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please remove your plan to put a street through sycamore park

**From:** [shotscarver@aol.com](mailto:shotscarver@aol.com)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Street through Sycamore Park  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2024 6:42:04 PM

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Do not put a street through Sycamore Park. I walk my dog daily in that park. Janet Carver

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

**From:** [Robin Loos](#)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Sycamore Park - North East Area Plan  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2024 6:16:23 PM

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As a resident of the Burke Heights neighborhood, I'd like to voice my opposition to the proposal of adding a road through Sycamore Park.

As it stands today there are plenty of roads that connect or go around the existing neighborhood. There is no need to destroy green space to add yet another road. Especially through a park which has seen recent investments such as a repaved bike path, new mountain bike trails, additional trees planted throughout, and native prairie landscaping projects.

A new road would squander much of the improvements and make the park more difficult to access. People already speed through the neighborhood and ignore stop signs. Surely this road would be subject to the same behaviors. Not to mention the city can barely keep up with maintaining the current roads it has, relying on chip seal & patch jobs rather than actually repairing and fixing roads.

Let the surrounding neighborhoods enjoy the features & improvements of Sycamore Park without having to cross another road, saving the city the cost of building a road, destroying green space, and alleviating the headache of somewhat maintaining the road.

Sincerely,  
Robin Loos

**From:** [Sue Seeliger](#)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Sycamore park  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2024 6:05:46 PM

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Please remove your plans to place a road through Sycamore Park. This road is not needed as it will add unwanted traffic.

Sue Seeliger

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Sycamore Park road  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 12:37:47 PM

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Please remove you plan to put a street thru Sycamore Park

Thank you

Kelly Alter



**From:** [Linda Best](#)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Sycamore Park Road  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 11:29:41 AM

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You don't often get email from linda.a.best@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please remove your plan to put a road through Sycamore Park. Thank you.

Linda Best  
Madison, WI

**From:** [Carrie Bonin](#)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Sycamore park  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2024 6:28:14 PM

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Please remove your plans to put a street through Sycamore Park. Thank you!  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Adam Bedford](#)  
**To:** [Urban Design Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Urban Design Commission - August 14, 2024  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2024 5:45:49 PM

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I am writing in extreme opposition of the proposed road extension for Nakoosa Trail and through Sycamore park. As a resident of Burke Heights, I as well as MANY of my neighbors find this plan and idea BEYOND insane, HIGHLY unsafe, VERY poorly planned, an EXTREME WASTE of city funds, and a flat out disregard to public safety.

The thought and idea of extending this road through the park is mind blowing. In the past year the city has spent funds to remove and replace the park wide paved walking/bike trail that extends from Nakoosa Trail out to Sycamore Ave, as well as out to Jana Lane. Also and JUST completed, the addition of an AMAZING professionally built, highly requested/demanded Mtn bike trail that JUST opened last week. The addition of this road would require the removal of a good chunk of said walking path and most likely remove a good chunk of the BRAND NEW Mtn bike trails, why? Because people are lazy and can't afford to drive the extra 2-3 minutes along Commercial Ave or Sycamore Ave to get to Walmart?

Among conversations with many neighborhood residents, I have yet to find one that is in favor of this addition as well as DOZENS who had ZERO idea the city had this plan.

So again, I am writing in EXTREME OPPOSITION of this planned addition of a road THROUGH a public park!

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO ME FOR FURTHER COMMENT!

Regards,  
Adam Bedford  
HIGHLY concerned Burke Heights Resident

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