

Matthias, Isaac L

From: C Debevec <cdebevec@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:30 PM
To: All Alders; Mayor
Subject: Agenda item 13 # 80362 VOTE NO on encroachment modifications

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Vote no on this proposed encroachment revision. WHY on earth is this being proposed? Im guessing that its seen to be an easy fix for a legal quandry, but.... this is not the answer. It is wrong for so many reasons:

1. Inequitable and unjustified /unearned privilege. So by virtue of being a LANDOWNER adjacent to city property, they are allowed exclusive use based on... what? A renter cant rent it? Someone else who lives nearby but not adjacent can't rent it? I don't have a driveway, why can't I rent it?
2. City land needs to benefit the public. Period, end of sentence. Now, there is an argument to be made for allowing volunteer gardeners to garden, or to rent space for vegetable gardens (as these become in essence public displays that people can learn from and everyone who uses public land for veg gardens knows that a certain amt will be taken and eaten by passersby). But fire pits? Somebody who foolishly decides to build their house up against the lot line without room for a door gets to use city property? Um, no.
- 3, Higher, better use - In this time of climate change and insect and bird population crash, it's all hands on deck. Create islands of no-fuss habitat, create earth "sponges" to absorb rainfall and lessen flooding. Ask for volunteers to adopt these little odd bits of land and/or get city staff on it.

Thank you for considering my comments
Cathy Debevec
1885 E. Main St, Madison, WI 53704

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Brent Denton <bdenton@uwalumni.com>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 5:18 PM
To: All Alders
Subject: Written Comments: Common Council Meeting 21-Nov-2023 RE 80362

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Hello,

I am writing concerning Legistar item 80362, which would allow exceptions to greenway encroachments and hard surface trails to be constructed therein. I have been actively involved the ongoing planning for the Sauk Creek Corridor (Greenway) project in Alder Conklin's district, but only just today discovered that my first notice of this item was buried at the end of the recent planning meeting that I attended on the 9th (after questions had been asked, I assumed it was safe to leave a few minutes early to make another commitment that evening, but review of the final uploaded portion of the meeting showed this key item was neglected to be mentioned, even after I raised concerns regarding greenway encroachments). As the extensive public response to the Sauk Creek Corridor project has shown, there is a large portion of neighbors who are concerned that the greenway, including its native vegetation and wildlife, is in danger of being lost. This is a critical point in time where we should not be codifying new ways of damaging greenways, but rather allow the Sauk Creek Corridor project to evaluate what the community feels is appropriate. My personal opinions are strongly against any encroachments and that the vegetation should be rehabilitated to its original bounds, but my larger concern is that this proposal is being pushed without seeking input from the people who clearly care and who would strongly object to the city having the ability to authorize future encroachments onto land that should be protected, without community input. Please do not continue forward with this item; instead let it be discussed and evaluated within and part of the Sauk Creek Corridor project - at which point a new proposal can be drafted.

Respectfully,
Brent Denton

7814 W Oakbrook Cr

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Paul Noeldner <paul_noeldner@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 10:30 AM
To: All Alders; Quinlan, Paul; Dumas, Madeline; Knepp, Eric; Jan Axelson; Laurie Yahr Rich
Subject: Kahl - Wild Ones - Publicity; Lance Green - FSC MNC BNA Leader; wolf.kathlean
Parks and Greenways Natural Areas Ordinance

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IN OPPOSITION TO GREENWAY ENROACHMENT

Please strongly oppose a suggested ordinance that would allow private encroachment on public greenways.

PLEASE SUPPORT PROTECTING AND SUSTAINING PARKS AND GREENWAYS NATURAL AREAS

Please help make a motion in committees and vote to adopt the ordinance proposed below that puts a priority on preserving and sustaining Madison urban natural areas and borders to help meet many worthwhile goals.

Madison Parks and Greenways Natural Areas Ordinance

Whereas Parks and Greenways Natural Areas offer numerous benefits to the general Madison public
and

Whereas City management of Parks and Greenways Natural Areas helps meet climate, water, pollinator, tree canopy, public physical and mental health, equitable access to nature, lower infrastructure and management cost benefits, consistent public usage guidelines and sustainable urban ecological biodiversity goals

Madison Parks and Greenways Natural Areas shall be designated as all undeveloped areas and borders with plants that are not frequently mowed or managed for special purposes.

Madison Parks and Greenways Natural Areas shall be managed and utilized for the public benefit with a priority on preserving and sustaining native Wisconsin plants and wildlife biodiversity and offering daily opportunities for eco-friendly public activities and enjoyment of nearby nature in every Madison neighborhood.

Paul Noeldner
Volunteer Madison FUN Coordinator
Wisconsin Master Naturalist Instructor
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608 698 0104

Public Ethics, Facts and Fairness Trump Personal, Family and Religious Values and Profits in Public Decisions in Democratic Government, Laws and Institutions in a Free Civil Society. Simply put being civil is just like sports. Fair rules mean everybody can play hard and cheer for our team, but not keep some people out of the game, skip paying our fair share, wreck the playing field, or cheat to win.

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Matthias, Isaac L

From: annewalker@homelandgarden.com
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 10:37 AM
To: All Alders
Subject: item 13 on the CC agenda

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Dear Alders

you will be considering an item at Council that will affect our greenways and their use going forward. Our greenways are essential to support effective stormwater management and biodiversity. Never did I think I would live in a time where the iconic Monarch Butterfly would be endangered. And yet, it is, and many other species as well. Species essential to a health environment.

I live in a neighborhood that has flooded, repeatedly. The National Guard was required for the most recent flood in 2018. Greenways in my neighborhood, as well as upstream from us...and down..... need to function as effective 'sponges' during and after rain events. Flooding is, increasingly, something we need to plan for and work to minimize.

In the *New York Times*, on Oct 29, 2023, was the article **Recovering From Disaster Can Be its Own Disaster**.

"Americans have long prided themselves on finding rebirth and renewal in tragedy.... (Yet) the help Americans receive after disasters isn't just inadequate, it's complicated to navigate and painfully slow to arrive. From the amount of time it takes to complete recovery--measured in years, not months--to the labyrinth of policies, regulations, false promises and lawsuits, the reward for surviving a disaster is being forced into a system so cruel it constitutes a second disaster.

Insurance was supposed to be a safety net, but as the risks from a warming world increase from North Carolina to California, major insurers are placing new limits on the kinds of hazards they cover--or leaving all together. Government is far from ready to make up the difference."

The article goes on to state that after a disaster, "the emotional toll of recovery is breaking people." And decimating neighborhoods and communities. We need to do better.

As someone who lives in a neighborhood that has repeatedly flooded, and will likely continue to, **it is essential for alders to support maximizing stormwater management and spaces for biodiversity to flourish**. Essentially privatizing our greenways to accommodate patios and fire pits, etc., and less effective stormwater management and less diverse greenways is a recipe for disaster. Your vote matters.

From the article, "Americans approach to disaster recovery was designed to limit government assistance.....This leaves disaster survivors with only their own resources, or whatever they can get from nonprofits....The federal government's approach to recovery tends to favor wealthier homeowners--in part because they often have insurance and their ability to take out a loan." Please do not, essentially, privatize our public right-of ways and our greenways. **We** need them.

Respectfully,

Anne Walker

District 6-- We're flooding now and we need your support