

From: Alexandra Sklansky <alsklansky@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 4:44 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Oppose Proposal to Make Forest Hill Cemetery a Dog Free Park

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

Dear Board of Parks Commissioners,

I heard that the Board of Parks Commissioners is considering making Forest Hill Cemetery a dog free park, and I would like to share my opposition to this change. Forest Hill Cemetery is a beautiful, peaceful park where dog owners should be able to walk with their controlled, on-leash dogs.

I do understand that some may be worried about animal excrement on or around graves. Would recommend signs on-site indicating need for: leash, staying on trails, NEED to pick up dog poop, and request to treat those resting here respectfully.

Given that I have heard that adults/teens are playing frisbee in the cemetery, allowing dogs to walk there seems way better/respectful and totally fine.

Thank you,

Alex SKlansky

From: Patrick Sheahan <sheahan62@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 9:24 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Should Remain Dog Friendly

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

Please consider keeping Forest Hill Cemetery dog friendly.

Prohibiting dogs at Forest Hill would be a serious hardship for me and others like me. I do not see how it would provide a comparable benefit to anyone.

I frequently care for my daughter's rescue dog, a dog with genetic aggressive and neurotic tendencies. When taking this dog for a walk, if she comes close to strangers or other dogs she will try to attack them. It is often difficult to restrain the dog in these situations. Extensive dog training, dog owner training, and medical treatments of the dog have not changed this behavior.

We can not safely exercise this dog at any of the wonderful Dog Parks in Madison. It is very difficult to walk this dog on Madison's city streets, because it is difficult to avoid coming close to people or other dogs on the sidewalks.

When we walk the dog in Forest Hill, we can see other people or dogs approaching in time to avoid them. On city streets, we sometimes don't see them approaching or cannot get off of the sidewalk in time to avoid the dog lunging at and trying to attack other people or pets.

Raising and caring for a rescue dog such as this is very difficult. Prohibiting dogs at Forest Hill Cemetery will make that much more burdensome and difficult for me and people like me.

For these reasons, please consider keeping Forest Hill Cemetery dog friendly.

Thank you, Patrick Sheahan, 1106 Valley Stream Drive, Madison WI.

From: Brock Knoble <bm.knoble09@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 7:13 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject:

Hello,

My name is Brock Knoble, and I live at 3624 Speedway Road, directly across from Forest Hill Cemetery. I am writing in regards to the meeting on November 9th about making Forest Hill a dog free park. I strongly oppose changing the status of this park. The cemetery is a beautiful park filled with rich history that is enjoyed by lots of people and their pets. It would be a shame to exclude people from walking their dogs through the area.

My wife and I regularly walk in the park, and while we do see people walking their dogs (both on our walks and from our living room), it has never been a bother to us and it has never seemed like there was an excessive amount of people walking their dog there to begin with. Furthermore, we rarely ever encounter incidents where pet owners have failed to clean up after their dogs.

In conclusion, please keep the park as is, it helps the cemetery feel more like a beautiful green space and less like a cemetery.

Thank you,

Brock

From: Janice Bensky <janicebensky@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 3:19 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Policy

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

I support keeping Forest Hill Cemetery's dog-friendly status. I often walk my leashed dog on the roads running through the cemetery, which is near my home and where my mother is buried. I occasionally see other dogs, also being walked along the roads. I have never seen a dog there that was unleashed or poorly behaved. I urge you to continue to allow this beneficial and low-impact use of Forest Hill.

Thank you for your attention.

Janice Bensky
1801 Rowley Ave.
Madison, WI

From: greg meyer <meyergreg8@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 3:20 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog Status Request: Dog-Friendly Please

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

To whom it may concern,

I am in opposition to changing the dog status at Forest Hill Cemetery and/or Glenway Woods.

I have enjoyed peaceful walks and jogs through Forest Hill Cemetery and Glenway Woods almost every day, twice a day, for the last thirteen years or so. I almost always encounter wildlife including cranes, foxes, turkeys, squirrels, and hawks. I have seen deer prints too. In fact, I encounter far more wildlife than people.

In all of these visits and interactions, I have not witnessed any behavior that would suggest the need for a status change.

Let's strive for rules and ordinances that create the best and most-inclusive Madison we can be!

- Josie Meyer

From: Tom Woitinnik <twoitinnik@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 4:30 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog status Forest Hill Cemetery

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

Hello,

Tom Woitinek and Tara Paredes from 3718 Ross Street. We unfortunately cannot make the meeting tonight. Please consider leaving the area dog friendly. Doges make life good.

Thanks for listening, Tom and Tara

From: Al Matano <almatano.madison@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 4:55 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Agenda item 74470, 11/09/2022, Dogs in parks

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

Greetings, commissioners:

I am writing regarding the dogs in parks item on the agenda for this evening's meeting.

I appreciate the write-up for the agenda item. I agree that the dogs in parks policy has gone smoothly.

The park that is nearest my house is Forest Hill Cemetery. I support the continuation of its status to be dog friendly. I was pleased to see that comments to date have run 103 to 20 in favor of dog friendly status.

The four legged companions that live with me are cats. They do not leave the house, although the screen porch provides them with an almost outdoor experience.

My experience with Forest Hill Cemetery is as a route to get from the southwest commuter trail to Speedway near my house, which is near Glenway and Hillcrest. Usually this is on bicycle from my place of employment in downtown Madison. On other occasions I walk through the cemetery to get to Monroe Street.

I enjoy encountering dogs with their humans when I am in the cemetery. I do not find their presence to be disruptive. I note that the cemetery is, for others as it is for me, a passageway and not entirely a destination. Thus, to remove the dog friendly status would result in creating a great difficulty for people with dogs to get from my neighborhood to the Monroe Street area.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that Forest Hill Cemetery continue in dog friendly status.

Al Matano
3745 Ross St.
Madison, WI 53705
almatano.madison@gmail.com
(608) 238-3045

From: Jesse Mangerson <jesse.mangerson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 2:22 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Glenway woods

Hello,

My name is Jesse Mangerson, I am a responsible dog owner, living on Euclid ave. in the Westmoreland neighborhood in Madison's near West side as a homeowner for the past 12 years. I am contacting you with regards to the proposal to make the Glenway woods a "dog free" space. ***I am in strong opposition to that proposal*** as the Glenway woods have been a dog friendly location within walking distance of the Westmoreland and Dungeon Monroe neighborhoods for decades. The use of the Glenway woods as a Dog Friendly space pre-dates most of us who live in the neighborhood and existed long before the majority of us were of the age to serve our communities as adults.

The proposal to make this space a "dog free" space is an action that excludes dog owners from this space and not just their dogs. Dog owners represent the majority user group for this space and should not be excluded from using it as a walkable location for walking their dogs. Excluding those of us who are responsible dog owners from using these woods as a local and walkable location to take our dogs burdens the community of dog owners to have to drive to other locations to walk our dogs in areas that are wooded and peaceful like this one.

As dog owners we are already excluded from using the wooded areas adjacent to Monroe street, around Lake Wingra, because of its protected status as part of the Arboretum. We accept this and do not take our dogs into that area. By closing the Glenway woods to dog owners and their dogs, you are excluding us from more of the beautiful wooded areas that exist in the neighborhood where we own homes, raise our families, and pay taxes.

Who benefits from excluding dog owners and their dogs from the Glenway woods? No one. This can be a shared space as it has been for decades in the past. Non-dog owners are a small portion of the users of this space and have no grounds to push the majority of users out of that space for no clear or positive outcome or reason. Non-dog owners are welcome in all spaces where dogs are allowed and in spaces that are designated as city dog parks.

In Madison and on the near West Side, we are an inclusive community of reasonable and responsible people. These actions to make the Glenway Woods "dog free" are an action of exclusion and are in opposition to our larger belief systems of inclusion for all with equal access to our outdoor spaces.

By saying that dogs are not allowed in the Glenway woods you are effectively saying that I am not allowed in the Glenway woods as a dog owner. Moving forward with a "dog free" classification of the Glenway Woods is a major mistake and a choice made for the few rather than a choice made for the many.

Sincerely,

Jesse Mangerson
3913 Euclid ave
Madison