

November 11, 2020

Dear City Parks Commission and Alder Tag Evers-

I was unable to be part of the Zoom meeting on Monday night. I am writing to express the thoughts I would have shared.

1. Parks and parkland are primarily for the preservation of green space within a city. Do not take away viable park land for parking. That said, there IS a low land marshy area near the current entrance that could add to parking options (given proper drainage) without compromising space for people.
2. It is imperative to maintain a thick tree and low brush barrier between the street and the park. This is a home to wildlife, which is important in the city. This barrier also helps to mitigate the loud (often raucous) sounds of people yelling, car horns, motorcycles, etc. as they cruise through the park drive.
3. Close the drive. Cars whizzing through this "cut through" to Park Street are dangerous to pedestrians. Observe the hundreds of people who walk there, run there, bike there now, during the pandemic. The drive... the whole park... is at its best use patterns right now. This "cut through" is also a spot for midnight fights and drug use.
4. Finally, do not change the entrance location. The four-way stop is a safe location. It is meant to handle the traffic. With much of the traffic coming from Park Street, there will be a huge backup with a turn-in at Campbell Street. And people using GPS will use the Vilas Circle to find the entrance, shifting traffic to a street never intended for that.

Stephanie Edwards
1510 Drake Street
Madison WI 53711

From: Lee Lazar <llazar@associated.cc>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:18 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Opening of Vilas Park Drive

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

Hello to the Parks Commission,

It has come to my attention that the commission is going to be voting soon on the re-opening of Vilas Park Drive to auto traffic. Please note that as a neighbor it will inconvenience me, but for all the people that use it to access the beach, zoo, fishing, arboretum, and more, it should be open. There will be a large group of Vilas Neighborhood citizens that petition to keep the street closed for their own selfish reasons. They are lockdowners who aren't taking the needs of the masses that drive down the street into consideration. We know that this area is frequented by citizens of Madison and thousands of Wisconsin visitors from outside our community. It is important to re-open the street to vehicles to support the accessibility of area destinations and alleviate increased traffic on adjacent streets. This will be especially important once the pandemic subsides and overall activity increases again. Thank you for your consideration of this communication.

Lee Lazar
Vice President
Associated Agencies, Inc.
1701 Golf Rd., Suite 3-700
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
Phone: (847) 427-3487
Cell: (312) 402-8237
Fax: (847) 427-3430

From: Kathy Gerhardt <gerhardtkathryn@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: vilas park drive reopening

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

please reopen vilas park drive once again. the traffic on drake street and other side streets have increased and disturb the peace and quiet and safety of our neighborhoods where we live. i suggest you open a bike/pedestrian path not directly adjacent to the road to increase safety. I am also disappointed that you plan to enter and exit the zoo from Drake and Campbell. That is not a flow through of traffic as we have now. that will be a bottle neck.

From: Rochelle Engel <rwengel13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 8:52 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Vilas park drive: re-open to cars opinion

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

Parks Commission,

I'm just writing to let you know that not ALL Vilas residents want to keep Vilas Park Drive closed to cars. I am a regular user of that road on foot, by bike, and until the recent closing, by car. It can be used safely by all, and I hope it will be reopened to cars.

No need to reply.

Thank you.

-Rochelle Engel
2114 Adams St.

From: kathy gerhardt <k_gerhardt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 8:20 PM
To: Vilas Master Plan <vilasmasterplan@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: plan

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

The majority are not saying keep Vilas Park Drive closed. Just the loud squeaky wheels are saying that. Don't close Vilas Park drive especially considering that Drake St is going to be a nightmare after you change the entrance to the zoo to Drake and Chandler. This whole plan looks much worse than the beautiful open space we have now. I don't want my tax dollars going to a plan I can't support. You never mention the cost. How much is this going to cost and where do you think you are going to get the money from? To quote Joanie Mitchell 'You paved paradise and put up a parking lot. You don't know what you've got til it gone.'

From: Karen Tolle <kltolle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9:28 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: open/close Vilas Park Pleasure Drive

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

I live at 2005 Madison Street. Although I have enjoyed having the park drive closed to traffic during COVID restriction, I am also glad to consider that it will be re-opened to vehicle traffic. It feels selfish to prevent others from being able to drive through, simply because I enjoy avoiding having to think about cars. I walk and bike that way often, and I also used to drive through as a pleasant way to cross that part of town. I also frequently walked and biked there alongside cars, and it was no more worrisome than any other place I walked or biked.

I am in favor of re-opening it to vehicles.

Yours,

Karen Tolle
2005 Madison St
Madison WI 53711
phone 262-308-5694

From: Chadwick DeVoss <netricate@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Vilas Park Drive

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

Hello I just wanted to register my voice in support of keeping Vilas Drive OPEN. It's a road, we should keep it as a road. There is a loud minority in our neighborhood, but I think generally the neighbors like having that road as an option.

Chad DeVoss
2116 Monroe St, Madison, WI 53711

From: Brad Ricker <pinelakewi@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 29, 2020 8:53 PM
To: Vilas Master Plan <vilasmasterplan@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>; Ann Rivlin <amfrivlin@gmail.com>; Wendy Fearnside <wendy.fearnside@att.net>; VNA President <vnapresident@gmail.com>
Subject: Vilas Park Master Plan fine-tuning

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

Madison Board of Park Commissioners
City-County Building, Room 104
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Friends,

I am writing today to relay to you my overall satisfaction with the Master Plan process that our city has used during this pandemic year to prepare for the future of Vilas Park. There have been many opportunities for citizen involvement, and I appreciate that city staff and the consultants have used that input. Most critically I applaud the effort to reduce vehicular impacts on future park use; Vilas Park is a jewel, in large part, because of its location on Lake Wingra and the proposed elimination of Vilas Park

Drive is indeed respectful of, and relevant to, this fact.

However, there are still a couple of changes that I think must be made in the draft Master Plan before it is approved. I write this letter as someone who first moved to the Vilas neighborhood in 1979, has co-owned four properties and raised two daughters here. I have some perspective.

Most importantly, the current "west" playground near Van Buren Street should be retained as a 3rd playground area. I could (but won't) write two pages about why this playground exists and the many reasons that it should continue to. But I will bullet a few reasons in an effort to inform and persuade you and staff to reconsider its important role in park life:

- Historically this playground exists for the primary benefit of "older kids", allowing the "shoe playground" closer to the zoo to be focused towards younger children and their families. This is a critical distinction and accommodation!
- Children benefit from new experiences and choices; having two playgrounds within walking (or running!) distance of each other isn't a duplication of resources but rather complimentary. If we eliminate the west playground, we permanently eliminate this option.
- Parents and other caregivers benefit from the juxtaposition of these two playgrounds since they can - to some extent - still supervise older children at the west playground while attending to younger children utilizing the shoe playground. Or they can negotiate a split in the time spent at each playground, another important opportunity. Again, if the Master Plan is approved without retaining this feature, it will be permanently lost and thousands of children will be the poorer for it.
- Finally, in case you aren't aware, the west playground at Vilas Park represents a valuable mechanism for engaging neighborhood support of the park. In the mid-90's, residents led an effort that I believe raised more than \$40,000. I can't guarantee anything, but I suspect that a new Master Plan that includes west, east and beach playgrounds will support a very strong, local fundraising effort.

The other change that I think you should seriously consider making is removal of the proposed "satellite shelters" in the park. There currently are none, only the "main shelter" on the lagoon and the "beach house"; I appreciate that these are both maintained in the current draft plan. What I am concerned about is the addition of two "open air shelters", near the west entrance by Edgewood Ave. and near the north parking lot. Staff and consultants probably have a better sense than I of the potential value of these structures, but I question if they have a strong sense of how else these may be used in the future. There have been significant loitering and related problems in the past near Vilas beach, and these shelters seem likely to attract similar activities during non-peak usage times, by those ignoring local laws and social norms. The proximity to residences - close enough for sound to travel but not close enough for line-of-sight monitoring - will exacerbate these problems, especially for the owners of the affected residences. I question the overall risk:reward of these new features and suggest that you take a long, careful look at them before specifying these shelter features in the Master Plan.

I commend you, staff, consultants and my fellow citizens of Madison for a careful and well-conducted master planning exercise and ask that you carefully consider the above two issues before you finalize this plan for Vilas Park.

Sincerely,

Brad Ricker
1815 Adams Street

From: Tom Keepers <forkeeps97@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Maintain Open, Easy Access to Vilas Park

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

To the Madison Parks Planning Team —

This is a request to assure the roads leading into Vilas park remain open for all to easily access this **public** space.

I was recently made aware of attempts by local stakeholders to permanently cut off full access to the park from the western side, leaving only the eastern entrance. Anyone heading further in to the park, to the main shelter for example, would have to inconveniently walk quite a ways. That can get brutal in the winter.

Please resist the urge to cut off easy access to this Madison gem. The locals know what they're getting into then they move to the exclusive Vilas park area (no offense meant to our friendly neighbors).

Having grown up in Madison, I have great memories of skating on the Vilas lagoons until they kicked us out at 9pm (yeah, this was the 1970s), and those memories continue today with family members and our local pond hockey group.

Thanks for your consideration. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Tom Keepers
608-848-4484

From: Angela Trentadue <twoand30@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 9:02 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Vilas Park Drive closure Winter 20-21

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

I would like to add my support to opening Vilas Park Drive for the winter.

This winter, of all winters, it is imperative that the winter activities at one of Madison's most popular parks are fully accessible. Additionally, it seems imprudent to spend money on rash plans at a time when the city is tightening its belt.

Proponents for keeping the drive closed say that it is being used as a cut-through, saying that 96% of car traffic through the park is commuters. But that begs the question then; where are all the park users

coming from? It doesn't make sense. If all the people who drive through Vilas Park aren't there to use the park, then there must be no one using the park, which we know isn't true. And frankly, it seems like a concocted argument by wealthy neighbors to divert traffic to the less-wealthy side of the park.

The Vilas Park Master Plan does, in fact, close the park drive, but it puts into place facilities and well-thought out traffic patterns that will ensure users have full access to all that the park offers. Keeping the road closed as it has been during the Shared Drive program will greatly limit access to ice skating. The alternative proposal to amending traffic patterns on the east side of the park to accommodate skaters will lead to other problems because it was done hastily and against best practices.

I urge you to consider how this will affect all users of this city park as we move into a winter where outdoor activity is one of the only safe ways to connect with friends and family.
Thank you for your time.

--

Angela

From: J <j94903@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2020 12:58 PM
To: Vilas Master Plan <vilasmasterplan@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Draft Final Master Plan Feedback

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

Vilas Park Pleasure Drive - Public Comment

I'm writing today on behalf of people who travel to and through Vilas Park by car. Please consider that some seniors and people with disabilities have lost their access to Lake Wingra and Vilas Park by closure of the pleasure drive. Many people used the pleasure drive for access to fishing, or just sitting in cars parked at the water's edge to enjoy the view of Lake Wingra and the UW Arboretum, and enjoying the sights and sounds of Vilas Park. This loss is indisputable as it is the only place in Madison that provides such an experience.

I drive by Vilas Park frequently to see if the pleasure drive has been reopened, but alas, as of today, it remains closed. I believe that closing the historic pleasure drive to cars is a mistake - especially this year when we're confined to our homes. We seek to escape to nature only to find the pleasure drive closed, preventing us from enjoying nature safely from our cars.

Thank you for considering this public comment.

John Lippitt
Madison, WI
53705

Contact Information:

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Name: Susan Pschorr
Street Address:
2917 Post Rd
Madison, WI 53713
Phone: 608-469-7870
Email: spschorr@charter.net

Comments / Questions:

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Subject: Winter Recreation

Comments / Questions:

Please maintain the rink and Vilas park this winter, and reopen the road so that skaters can have access. If the road remains closed, skaters will have to walk more than a 1/4-mile from the parking lots to the rinks.

This year, outdoor recreation options are more important than ever. Vilas park is a city park, not a neighborhood park, and we should keep it open and easy for us all to use.

Contact Information:

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Name: Todd Streicher
Street Address:
5337 Comanche Way
Madison, WI 53704
Phone: 6085775722
Email: ts@5nines.com

Comments / Questions:

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Subject: Winter Recreation

Comments / Questions:

I'm interested in using the Vilas Park for skating and hockey this winter and were told the road for normal access is blocked off. If the road remains closed, skaters will have to walk more than a 1/4-mile from the parking lots to the rinks. Additionally, the road closure will affect how the city maintains the ice, making it likely that they won't.

Please reopen the roads to Vilas for normal access and parking for skating and hockey.

Contact Information:

=====

Name: Mark Campbell
Street Address:
1923 Reetz Rd
Madison, WI 53711
Phone: 2698734452
Email: markyc85@gmail.com

Comments / Questions:

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Subject: Winter Recreation

Comments / Questions:

Please refund-open the road to allow access to the Vilas skating rinks this winter. Pond hockey at Vilas is the only thing I have to look forward to this winter!!

Contact Information:

=====

Name: JILL SCHLEIS

Street Address:

306 WESTMORLAND Blvd

MADISON, WI 53705

Phone: 6082337928

Email: JILLSCHLEIS@YAHOO.COM

Comments / Questions:

=====

Subject: Winter Recreation

Comments / Questions:

Please open Vilas Park Road. Open Ice Outdoor Hockey is one of the few options for recreation this winter and If the road remains closed, skaters will have to walk more than a 1/4-mile from the parking lots to the rinks. This is a city park and should be open to all, not just the neighbors living near the park.

Contact Information:

=====

Name: Christine Johnstad

Street Address:

1923 Reetz Rd

Madison, WI 53711

Phone: 2698734452

Email: cmjohnstad@gmail.com

Comments / Questions:

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Subject: Winter Recreation

Comments / Questions:

Please re-open the road through Vilas which would allow us winter skaters access to the rinks. This city park is one of my favorite in the city, and the r winter ice skating will be greatly affected in a negative way if we are not allowed access to the ice surface. Please help! We rely on the city of madison to maintain this rink for the myriad of skating and pond hockey enthusiasts who rely on it to get us through the winter doldrums. Thank you!

Contact Information:

=====

Name: David Peterson

Street Address:

Madison, WI 53711

Phone: 6082316925

Email: dpeterson83@charter.net

Comments / Questions:

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Subject: General Park Inquiry

Comments / Questions:

Why is Vilas Park closed? Specifically who made this decision.... please do not respond with, "some board or the County Health Commission".

Tell me: how would driving i, parking and sitting my car in a chair (alone) would add to the virus spread?

I remind you that INDOOR activities- both large and small gatherings- are a problem. Would it not be wise to offer an OUTDOOR alternative??

From: Henry Jasen <hjasen@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 6, 2020 3:26 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Vilas Park Drive

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

Please keep Vilas Park Drive closed to motor vehicle traffic. I live in the Vilas neighborhood and often used the Drive with my car. I also enjoy walking along the Drive. It is clear to me that small benefit to drivers of being able to cut through the park is far outweighed by the benefit to park users, especially for the safety of children, of having this long stretch of walkable area that allows lengthy walks without the interference of traffic. The time saved by driving through the park can't be more than a minute or two per vehicle.

Thanks for your consideration.

Henry Jasen
2105 Madison Street
Madison, WI 53711

From: kathy gerhardt <k_gerhardt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 6, 2020 3:47 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: roads

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

"If we are in fact committed to framing our decision-making around sustainability and equity, we must stop emphasizing vehicular access over and above the needs and interests of our most vulnerable residents." Tag Evers
This is in regards to the triangle and vilas park drive. Stop focusing on parking and roads and traffic. Focus instead on clean air, trees, clean water, maintaining the quality of what we have rather than build more and increasing our debt. Our children are going to have to pay for what we so easily spend.
Resident of Vilas neighborhood.

From: Sally Lehner <sa_lehner@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:52 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@cityofmadison.com>; Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>; Jim Lorman <lorman@edgewood.edu>
Subject: 12/9/20 Meeting, Agenda Item # 17: Vilas Park Drive Winter Operational Plan

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

Please see the attached comment regarding Vilas Park Drive.
Thank you,
Sally Lehner

Dear Board of Park Commissioners, 12/8/2020

I am writing to ask that you keep the motor-vehicle restriction in place along Vilas Park Drive with the barriers at their current location throughout the winter and until it becomes a shared-use path as proposed in the Vilas Park Master Plan Draft.

I am very grateful for the decision by the city's Traffic and Engineering Department to restrict motor-vehicle access along Vilas Park Drive so people can safely use this area while keeping socially distanced. This decision resulted in a silver-lining amidst the pandemic: it created a truly wonderful city amenity, resulting in a striking transformation of this stretch of Lake Wingra shoreline from a dangerous commuter cut through to a vibrant multi-generational community gathering space for people with all abilities. Well into the first week of December, it is still a popular place for respite and exercise.

I was quite surprised to see the Parks Superintendent's statement in his Shared Streets Program Memo that he observed fewer people fishing and enjoying the beach this summer with the motor-vehicle restriction—I noticed many more than ever before from my daily observation (both before and during the pandemic). If there is data on this important point, and the parks division is making an evidenced-based conclusion in order to support re-introducing motor-vehicle through traffic along Vilas Park Drive, then that data and analysis needs to be shared in a transparent way with the public.

In terms of skating access for the winter, I recommend keeping the motor-vehicle barriers where they are currently located and allowing special accommodations for people needing to access the shelter area with a motor-vehicle.

The ice skating lagoon and skating rinks are within a short distance from both parking lots at either end of the barriers. If the entire lagoon is maintained for ice skating, as it used to be, then the eastern part of the lagoon is steps from the eastern motor-vehicle barrier, and the tennis court parking lot is essentially right on the ice skating lagoon. Boards for easy skating access could be placed near both of these areas (as they are used at the shelter).

This option has the added pandemic safety benefit of dispersing the skating entry points. This way, ice skaters won't congregate at one narrow entry point behind the shelter. Maintaining a larger portion of the lagoon for skating would also allow for more space to socially distance.

If ice skate rentals will be occurring inside the shelter, in spite of the pandemic and restrictions on gatherings, the shelter is a walkable distance from the currently accessible parking lots (Ald. Foster said during the Transportation Commission meeting that a 1/4 mile or 5 minute walk is considered a walkable distance by the city for bus stop placement purposes).

In terms of plowing and maintenance, city trucks have been accessing Vilas Park Drive all spring, summer, and fall, and they could continue to do this over the winter to plow the road and maintain the skating areas, as is normally done. No reason has been given as to why this current access for city trucks would change over the winter or lead to increased costs and lower maintenance standards.

The parks division recommendation doesn't solve the associated safety problems with re-introducing motor-vehicles for through traffic along Vilas park Drive.

For one thing, the park use only signs contradict the parks division position that people using Vilas Park Drive as a commuter cut-through are park visitors and should be given equal footing with other people using the park (see park division staff comments during the UDC hearing last week); the problem with this position is that unlike most park visitors, motor-vehicle cut-through use poses a significant danger to people playing, walking, running, and riding their bicycles in the park. This position is also at odds with the overarching purpose of parks—to improve the health and wellness of residents and, in turn, contribute to the well-being of the entire community.

Finally, although the Parks Superintendent believes that motor-vehicle restrictions on Vilas Park Drive will lead to significantly less use for ice skating, this is not an evidence-based conclusion. I've noticed this presumption (that motor-vehicle access equates to people access and inclusivity) being frequently utilized during the Vilas Park Master Plan design and community engagement process. For instance, it was initially made to argue for a continuation of motor-vehicles along the entire stretch of Vilas Park Drive. However, actual community park use along the drive blossomed with the motor-vehicle restriction, and it's now part of the final draft.

Importantly for this agenda item, community stakeholder input favors keeping the Vilas Park Drive motor-vehicle restrictions on through traffic over the winter. I hope you will allow for a bottom-up approach to this issue, considering the community input which overwhelmingly favors restricting cut-through motor-vehicle traffic on Vilas Park Drive— not only during the winter, but permanently.

Sincerely,
Sally Lehner
Madison Street
Madison, WI
53711

From: Kathryn Ryan <katiehowarthryan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Board of Park Commissioners Dec. 9 2020 meeting item 17, Vilas Park Drive

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

December 8, 2020

I live in the Vilas neighborhood and use the park daily. I would like to oppose closing the drive to traffic and support re-opening the drive. Opening the drive increases the accessibility of the park. Car access allows people to park along the shoreline and enjoy the lake, or unload gear for fishing or any number of recreational activities—birdwatching, hammocks, picnics, or just sitting and appreciating nature in the city.

The signage the parks department proposes seems an adequate improvement intended to slow traffic for the safety of all.

Thank you,
Kathryn H. Ryan
1816 Vilas Avenue

From: David Seth Gevers <dsgevers@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: DO NOT REOPEN VILAS PARK DRIVE TO MOTOR VEHICLES

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

Dear Park Commissioners and Ald. Evers,

I can not begin to understand why our Parks Superintendent is pushing to increase commuter cut through traffic through Vilas Park. It flies in the face of everything the Vilas Master Plan is trying to accomplish and that the Shared Streets program wisely put in place at the onset of the pandemic. Last I checked we are not past that. I understand the Superintendent not wanting to devote more resources to unusual practices. But this is not the time to reduce available outdoor space for bikers, runners, and others using this great amenity along the shoreline.

The Superintendent's statement that he can not support keeping it closed to cars because of "the impact on events, shelter users, and those trying to access the shoreline" is absolutely ridiculous. What events is he thinking are appropriate with COVID? Why would the shelter be open with COVID? And how does throwing a bunch of speeding commuters on the road increase access to the shoreline? This is the smallest of small thinking.

I agree that two way access for skaters from the east is OK but so is walking from the tennis or south zoo lots.

I truly do not understand what his agenda is other than, as he states, to reduce staff "resource intensity." I truly hope that the Commission questions the Superintendent on his assumptions. IF THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE TAUGHT US ANYTHING AT THE PARK IT IS THAT CAR TRAFFIC AND ACCESS DOES NOT INCREASE USE AND UTILITY. It is the opposite. The park and shoreline have never been as busy as they have this year. It would be nice to have Parks leadership that understands that.

Disappointingly,

David Gevers
Former Vilas Neighborhood Association President 2014-2015

From: Jim Lorman <lorman@edgewood.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Vilas Park Drive, Agenda Item 17

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

Please see attached regarding BPC Agenda Item 17 for Dec 9 concerning Vilas Park Drive.

Thanks,

Jim

Jim Lorman, PhD
Professor Emeritus
Social Innovation and Sustainability Leadership Program
Edgewood College

From: David Seth Gevers <dsgevers@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
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David Gevers
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To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>

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Please see attached regarding BPC Agenda Item 17 for Dec 9 concerning Vilas Park Drive.

Thanks,

Jim

Jim Lorman, PhD
Professor Emeritus
Social Innovation and Sustainability Leadership Program
Edgewood College

City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners:

I am writing (regarding Agenda Item 17) to encourage the Board of Parks Commissioners to support a design for near-term traffic management on Vilas Park Drive that addresses both safety and access issues by keeping a restriction on commuter and other cut-through motor traffic while allowing access to the park shelter.

I am sharing (separately) a petition (<https://www.change.org/SafeVilasParkDrive>) with about 500 signatures (499 as of this writing) that advocates for maintaining the restriction on pass-through traffic that has been in place for several months. (The petition is consistent with Superintendent Knepp's "Option 3" and with "Alternative 2" prepared by Traffic Engineering.)

I wish to emphasize two points about this petition:

1. The petition does not advocate for restricting motor vehicle access by ice skaters to the shelter parking lot. ("Access to winter ice skating can occur without allowing pass-through motor vehicle traffic along Vilas Park Drive. There are alternatives and accommodation options available that could be implemented easily and without great expense.")
2. The signers of this petition are not just a group of neighbors with only their own self-interest in mind. Supporters are from throughout Madison, many of them year-round bicyclists, runners, and other park users. And it's safe to say that supporters from local neighborhoods (like me) are concerned about the safety and convenience of access by everyone to this area of the park. In fact, since the restriction on pass-through traffic began in early summer, this area has seen a much wider diversity of visitors from throughout the City – small children on bikes, disabled people walking with assistance or in wheelchairs, babies in strollers, etc. – and in much greater numbers than ever before. Many of these are the very people most likely to refrain from using the area if the restrictions on pass-through motor traffic is removed.

In short, there are many of us in the community that hope that costs and other complications associated with TE's design recommendations do not become obstacles to a simpler solution for keeping restrictions on pass-through motor traffic this winter. I believe that the alternative of re-opening the drive to commuter and other cut-through traffic would carry a greater risk to public safety and once again greatly deter diverse use of the park and shoreline, especially on nicer winter and early spring days.

While I have no doubt that Traffic Engineering's design recommendations are good ones based on their professional expertise and model standards, I believe that these standards are being inappropriately applied in this immediate situation. While I support their full implementation when resources become available, TE's current recommendations seem to be based on a higher safety standard (i.e., a lower acceptance of safety risk) than that applied to the past and current situation and to the proposed removal of the restriction on pass-through motor traffic.

The current 2-way portion of the drive does not have pedestrian lanes, bicycle road markings (of any kind), or a centerline marking; yet TE suggests these are needed before the 2-way portion can be extended from the east to the shelter parking lot. It's confusing that a centerline marking and bike sharrows (at a cost of \$7,000) are deemed necessary in order to extend the 2-way portion of the drive, when the comparable 2-way segment has accommodated higher traffic volumes and speeds without such markings for many years.

My understanding is that TE believes these extra measures are needed because users will need help in adjusting to the change in traffic flow (i.e., the extension of 2-way motor traffic to a larger portion of the road). However, users would also need to adjust if Superintendent Knepp's recommendation (his Option

2) is implemented. This latter adjustment would be potentially even more dangerous, as pedestrians, bicyclists, runners and other park users would once again be sharing the road with through motor traffic after they have gotten accustomed over several months to most of the drive being free of cars.

It is also important to note that none of the alternative plans provided by Traffic Engineering are totally consistent with what Eric Knepp recommends (his Option 2). Significantly, pedestrian and bicycle safety issues are addressed by TE's Alternatives 1a and 1b by lane separation, but this is not addressed in Superintendent Knepp's Option 2. I encourage Commissioners to decide in a way that ensures resolution of this discrepancy.

I personally do not favor Superintendent Knepp's Option 1 (since it prevents vehicle access to the shelter), and I encourage the City can find a way to move forward immediately with Option 3 (TE's Alternative 2). However, if the BPC decides that Superintendent Knepp's Option 3 is not feasible as a solution for this winter, I ask that they stipulate the following as part of implementing Option 2:

- "Install signage that posts the speed limit at 15 MPH." This should include 15 MPH speed limit signs: near the entrance at the west bridge; just east of the shelter entrance; and on both sides of the existing 2-way portion near the east entrance.
- The Drive would be closed as it is currently at the end of the skating season or until the BPC acts on an intermediate solution." I ask that BPC strike the "or until..." clause, as I am concerned that it could unnecessarily delay closure of the drive to through traffic after the winter. There is no good reason to allow through motor traffic once the skating season has ended (which could well be February or March). There is ample opportunity to find an appropriate intermediate solution (applied year-round until such time as the design developed by the Master Plan process is implemented) even after the ice skating season.
- In addition, regardless of what "intermediate" design is implemented after this winter, a way should be found to immediately separate pedestrians from motor vehicles entering from the west along as much of the drive as possible (e.g., as in a simpler version of TE's Alternative 1a or 1b).

Thank you for considering this input.

Jim Lorman

516 Wingra Street

lorman@edgewood.edu

From: Jim Lorman via Change.org <change@t.change.org>

Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:43 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: New petition to you: Keep restrictions on pass-through motor traffic on Vilas Park Drive

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

change.org

City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners: you've been listed as a decision maker

Jim Lorman started a petition on Change.org and listed you as a decision maker. Learn more about Jim Lorman's petition and how you can respond:



Jim Lorman is petitioning City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners

Keep restrictions on pass-through motor traffic on Vilas Park Drive

Keep Restrictions on Pass-through Motor Vehicles on Vilas Park Drive We are asking the City of Madison Parks Department to keep the current motor vehicle restriction on pass-through traffic on Vilas Park Drive, including throughout the upcoming winter months. Vilas...

[View the petition](#)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. View the petition: [Learn about the petition and its supporters](#). You will receive updates as new supporters sign the petition so you can see who is signing and why.

2. Respond to the petition: [Post a response](#) to let the petition supporters know you're listening, say whether you agree with their call to action, or ask them for more information.

3. Continue the dialogue: Read the comments posted by petition supporters and continue the dialogue so that others can see you're an engaged leader who is willing to participate in open discussion.

CHANGE.ORG FOR DECISION MAKERS

On Change.org, decision makers like you connect directly with people around the world to resolve issues. [Learn more](#).

This notification was sent to pacommission@cityofmadison.com, the address listed as the decision maker.

[Privacy policy](#)

We'd love to hear from you! [Contact us](#) through our help center.

Change.org · 548 Market St #29993, San Francisco, CA 94104-5401, USA

From: Jim Lorman <lorman@edgewood.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:04 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Petition to keep restriction on through traffic on Vilas Park Drive

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

Regarding BPC Agenda item 17 for Dec 9, please find attached petition (with 499 signature and comments).

Keep Restrictions on Pass-through Motor Vehicles on Vilas Park Drive

We are asking the City of Madison Parks Department to keep the current motor vehicle restriction on

pass-through traffic on Vilas Park Drive, including throughout the upcoming winter months.

Vilas Park Drive being free of pass-through motor vehicles has resulted in a major transformation of

the Vilas Park lakeshore area to a vibrant multi-generational community gathering space for people

with all abilities. There has been a dramatic increase in its use by pedestrians, bicyclists, and other

park users, including small children riding scooters and bikes with training wheels; adults with walkers

and canes; people with wheelchairs; and people hammocking, picnicking, and fishing along the Lake

Wingra shoreline.

Prior to the motor vehicle restriction, 96% of all motor vehicle traffic along Vilas Park Drive was commuter and other cut-through traffic, amounting to more than 200 cars per hour during the afternoon commute. Over half of those vehicles were recorded as exceeding the speed limit (25 mph,

which is already too high for a lane shared by walkers, runners, and bikers traveling in two directions).

The pre-pandemic motor vehicle situation along Vilas Park Drive was untenable, endangering the

safety of our community and deterring the use of the drive and adjacent park shoreline by park users.

A decision to return to that situation now, after the demonstrated success of the current Shared

Streets configuration, would be dangerous and irresponsible.

There is overwhelming community support to keep Vilas Drive free of pass-through motor traffic, and

as a result this is now the proposal in the final draft of the Vilas Park Master Plan. However, the Parks

Superintendent has indicated that reconstruction of Vilas Park Drive to its new configuration, permanently restricting cut-through traffic, is not expected to occur until at least 2024.

Therefore, we are asking Parks to continue using barriers to prevent cut-through motor vehicle traffic until the reconstruction of Vilas Park Drive.

It is important to have continuity in the restriction on cut-through motor vehicle traffic. As a result of

the current barriers, motor vehicle commuters have found alternative routes; non-motorized park

users are safe; and park users are now able to fully utilize the park and Lake Wingra shoreline area in

myriad ways that are comfortable and more enjoyable than ever before. We should build upon this

success, not disrupt it.

Significant numbers of people now enjoy Vilas Park Drive in all weather and will continue to use it

under the current configuration, especially on nicer winter days and in early spring. Younger children,

older people, and people with disabilities will be the first to stop using the drive and adjacent shoreline if commuter and other pass-through motor vehicles are allowed again.

Access to winter ice skating can occur without allowing pass-through motor vehicle traffic along Vilas

Park Drive. There are alternatives and accommodation options available that could be implemented

easily and without great expense. For example, relocating the eastern barrier further west would

allow more convenient access to the shelter (to the lot by the boat landing or even to the shelter lot

itself). While there may be minor challenges in implementing the details of such options, these are

not difficult to overcome and do not justify allowing cut-through motor vehicles into the park.

Even without any changes to the current situation, the ice skating lagoon, hockey rinks, and shelter

are a short distance from parking. (The city considers 1/4 mile, or 5 minutes, to be walkable access to

bus stops, and the skating areas in Vilas are well within this range.)

Whatever the details, the safety and enjoyment of thousands of people using the park and shoreline

should continue to be prioritized over commuter cut-through motor-vehicle traffic.

Signed by:

Name City Postal

Code

Signed On

Jim Lorman Madison 53715 2020-11-12
Mark Wagler Madison 53715 2020-11-12
Tim Storm Madison 53711 2020-11-12
alex wong Madison 53715 2020-11-12
cindy schlichte madison 53715 2020-11-12
Diane Coccari Madison 53703 2020-11-12
Cynthia Koschmann Madison 53713 2020-11-12
Michael Batuzich Washington 20020 2020-11-12
Shawn Schey Madison 53711 2020-11-12
Emily Kohlhase Madison 53715 2020-11-12
Leslie Abadie Madison 53704 2020-11-12
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Andrew Karlson Madison 53715 2020-11-12
Ken Swift Madison 53703 2020-11-12
Diana Cohen Madison 53715 2020-11-12
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Mary Lindstrom Madison 53711 2020-11-12
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Mark Steichen Madison 53703 2020-11-12
Rob O'Connell Madison 53711 2020-11-12
Kathryn Dea San
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Cheryl Gallegos OR 97760 2020-11-12
Benjamin Tarkenton Charlotte 2020-11-12
Christine Kirsch Madison 53711 2020-11-12

Gil Galindo Colton 92324 2020-11-12
Mary Schmit Madison 53711 2020-11-12
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Susan Robbins Madison 53713 2020-11-12
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Rachel Lander Madison 53705 2020-11-12
Joe Gosewisch Elk River 55330 2020-11-12
Kyra Butterfield Lonestar 75668 2020-11-12
Tom Turnquist Madison 53711 2020-11-12
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Randolph Valentine Madison 53711 2020-11-13
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Madeline Garcia Lathrop 95330 2020-11-13
Sofia Ang Brooklyn 11235 2020-11-13
Edith Angelo Savoy 61874 2020-11-13
Liz Lusk Madison 53705 2020-11-13
Aedan Noblett Lackawanna 14218 2020-11-13
Mariah Grigsby Mesa 85208 2020-11-13
Hunter O'Neal 2020-11-13
matthew vest Phoenix 85206 2020-11-13
susan barrano santa paula 93060 2020-11-13
Sachi Cappel East
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Milton Johnson Madison 53711 2020-11-13
Paola Perez Madison 53705 2020-11-13
Amy Williamson Rice Lake 54868 2020-11-13
Colleen Orani Madison 53711 2020-11-13
Jane Bernstein Ashland 54806 2020-11-13
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Janet Stockhausen Madison 53703 2020-11-13

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Susan Nicol Marion 54950 2020-11-14
Sam Zelinka Madison 53711 2020-11-14
George Farah Madison 53715 2020-11-14
Edwin Sibert Madison 53711 2020-11-14
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Robert Summerbell Madison 53715 2020-11-14
Heather Smith Monticello 52570 2020-11-14
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Steve SCHWARTZ Madison 53713 2020-11-14
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Steve Steinhoff Madison 53703 2020-11-14
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Jacob Blasczyk Madison 53711 2020-11-14
**Christine Dillon-
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Pat Sammataro Madison 53711 2020-11-14
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Norm Littlejohn Madison 53713 2020-11-14
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Susan Greblo Madison 53711 2020-11-15
Ashley Petit Madison 53705 2020-11-15
Amy Grunewald Madison 53711 2020-11-15
Richard Reece Waynesboro 30830-7023 2020-11-15
Philip Crawford Madison 53704 2020-11-15
Shira Goldman Madison 53711 2020-11-15
Molly Williams Madison 53705 2020-11-15
Mareena Tibbetts Bemidji 56601 2020-11-15

Harold Potter Homestead 33033 2020-11-15
Nonio Florendo La Mirada 90638 2020-11-15
Hannah Rossi Mesa 85210 2020-11-15
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Nick Gonzales Santa Rosa 95407 2020-11-15
Andre Williams North Richland Hills
76182 2020-11-15
Gabby Goocher Chicago 60602 2020-11-15
Ryan Rush Edison 8817 2020-11-15
Adriana Gastelum Long Beach 90802 2020-11-15
susan brand south boston 2127 2020-11-15
Anahy Barrios San Diego 92111 2020-11-15
Kierstyn Spurlin Atlanta 30306 2020-11-15
lucia m. Tacoma 98409 2020-11-15
Rachael Lancor Madison 53711 2020-11-15
Aileen Berrios Midvale 84047 2020-11-15
Zoe Bartholomew Pompano Beach
33065 2020-11-15
Zayli Vega Clearfield 84015 2020-11-15
Alex Keller Cuyahoga Falls
44223 2020-11-15
Nuhamin Shoarega Las Vegas 89108 2020-11-15
Amanda Gillick Bradenton 34212 2020-11-15
Janet Laube Madison 53711 2020-11-15
Bailee Armstrong Arlington 76006 2020-11-15
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Natalie Farris Manchester 3103 2020-11-15
Carter Knight Layton 84040 2020-11-15
vera robbins Pembroke 2359 2020-11-15
Hailey Brown Garland 81111 2020-11-15
poppy gloria Chandler 85224 2020-11-15
Isabel Rafferty Madison 53711 2020-11-15
Jobin Joseph Buffalo 14260 2020-11-15
Teo Chipres Los Angeles 90022 2020-11-15
Yesenia Gonzalez Houston 77067 2020-11-15
Cassandra Luna Holland 49424 2020-11-15
Alexis R Loganville 30052 2020-11-15
Annamaria Gilley 2020-11-15
Robin Hersha Oak Ridge 37830 2020-11-15
Amelia Knowles Houston 77079 2020-11-15
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Elle Zbierski Chicago 60185 2020-11-15
Michelle Vega Adrian 49221 2020-11-15
Judith Romero Anaheim 92802 2020-11-15
Reese Cunningham Newnan 30263 2020-11-15
Kimberly Chandler Folcroft 19032 2020-11-15
Dakari Robinson Brookshire 77423 2020-11-15
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Ernie Cox Quitman 75783 2020-11-15
Brenda McCallum Kahuku 96731 2020-11-15
Nicole Nelson Madison 53711 2020-11-15
Emily Miller Madsion 53715 2020-11-15
Jean Petersen Union Grove 53139 2020-11-15
Karine Sloan Madison 53703 2020-11-15
Pajarita Charles Madison 53711 2020-11-15
Kathy Wesenberg Madison 53711 2020-11-15
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Hannah BAKER Madison 53719 2020-11-15
Kristie Goforth Madison 53716 2020-11-15
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Ellen Burns Newark 19713 2020-11-15
Margo Plant Madison 53703 2020-11-15
Victor Lutterodt Riverdale 20737 2020-11-15
Erin Smith 2020-11-15
Eric Baker Madison 53719 2020-11-15
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Tom Pedretti Madison 53711 2020-11-15
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Scott Zimmerman Madison 53703 2020-11-15
Anna Larson Madison 53711 2020-11-15
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Lindsay Suttin Madison 53711 2020-11-15
Madeline Batzli Janesville 53546 2020-11-16
Joan Nugent Madison 53711 2020-11-16
Debby Willette Greencastle 46135 2020-11-16
Chloe Willard Atlanta 30341 2020-11-16
Skye Burcham Booneville 38829 2020-11-16
Jennifer Brown Palo Alto 94304 2020-11-16
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Chelsea Johnson Madison 53711 2020-11-16
Nicole Rogers Madison 53705 2020-11-16
Katie Rushmann Madison 53711 2020-11-16
Dustin Schneider Madison 53711 2020-11-16
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Jessica Liu Madison 53719 2020-11-16
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Curtis Huffman Madison 53719 2020-11-16
Jon McGee Madison 53719 2020-11-16
Kari Zelinka Madison 53711 2020-11-16
Tom Klein Madison 53704 2020-11-16
Molly Griffin Middleton 53562 2020-11-16
Claire Wegert Twin Lakes 53181 2020-11-16
Luis Mayorga Fitchburg 53711 2020-11-16
Katie Farness Madison 53711 2020-11-16

Aaron Randall Madison 53703 2020-11-16
Abby Schaefer Middleton 53562 2020-11-16
Lisa Grueneberg Madison 53711-1925 2020-11-16
Kristofer Towe Madison 53716 2020-11-16
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Cade Herman Oak Ridge 7438 2020-11-17
Dana Evans Madison 53711 2020-11-17
Andy Nguyen Madison 53711 2020-11-17
Suzanne Lee Madison 53711 2020-11-17
Cary Forest Madison 53711 2020-11-17
JESUS HERNANDEZ Lubbock 79411 2020-11-17
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JJ Liter Madison 53726 2020-11-17
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Britney Brennan Madison 53713 2020-11-17
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Jerry Jackson La Porte 46350 2020-11-17
Daniel Hansen Madison 53717 2020-11-17
Elizabeth Griffith Madison 53705 2020-11-17
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Jenifer Cole Middleton 53562 2020-11-18
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Barbara Erlenborn Madison 53705 2020-11-18
Sharon Mischio Madison 53705 2020-11-18
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Molly Wecker Los Angeles 90031 2020-11-18
Nick VanDerwerker Madison 53715 2020-11-18
Jack Kear Madison 53703 2020-11-18
Eric Sundquist Madison 53703 2020-11-18
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Peter Warner Madison 53715 2020-11-18
Tyller Logan Mcfarland 53558 2020-11-18
Brian Garfield Madison 53704 2020-11-18
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José Miguel Barros
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Mary Cummins Madison 53711 2020-11-18
Ashley Trujillo Lynnwood 98087 2020-11-18
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Phillip Ferguson Sulphur 70663 2020-11-18
Andy Watts Houston 77025 2020-11-18
Nick LaConte Saint Charles 63303 2020-11-18
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Mary Elizabeth Bathum Madison 53713 2020-11-19
Elizabeth Steinhoff Madison 53704 2020-11-20
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Laird Boswell Madison 53711 2020-11-23
Joseph Clark Madison 53711 2020-11-23
Nick Davies Madison 53714 2020-11-23
Kayne Neigherbauer Madison 53704 2020-11-23
Eric Lynn Madison 53711 2020-11-23
Hayley Tymeson Madison 53711 2020-11-23
Edward Mason Madison 53713 2020-11-23
Neil Gleason Madison 53711 2020-11-24
sandy stark Wisconsin
Rapids
54494 2020-11-24
Nicholas Jacobs Camp Hill 17011 2020-11-24
Matthew Ford Mount Kisco 10549 2020-11-24
Amrita Johel Fort Worth 76131 2020-11-24
Agim Demirovski 2020-11-24
Marcine McBride West
Babylon
11704 2020-11-24
Debra McGill Madison 53717 2020-11-28
Rick Wirch Madison 53705 2020-11-28
Sharon Schubert Verona 53593 2020-11-28
Benjamin Wolma Madison 53704 2020-11-28
Michael Garry Lodi 60642 2020-11-29
Steve Esser MONONA 53716-2712 2020-11-29
Dwight Ricker Madison 53703 2020-11-29
Beth Bruckbauer Madison 53726 2020-11-29
Carol Ricker Madison 53703 2020-12-01
Phoebe Cahill Madison 53703 2020-12-01
Nora Cahill Madison 53711 2020-12-01
Carl Hoven Madison 53711 2020-12-01
Tom Ottenweller Madison 53711 2020-12-01
Sara Campbell Madison 53711 2020-12-01
Gay Seidman Madison 53703 2020-12-01
Shakayla Thomas Compton 90220 2020-12-01
Aurora Porter Chattanooga 37403 2020-12-01
John Mascia Cleveland 44121 2020-12-01
Alecia Engel Loveland 80538 2020-12-01
Stephanie Chen Gardena 90247 2020-12-01
Isha Boyapati Frisco 75034 2020-12-01
Pritt Vyas Tampa 33607 2020-12-01
Alaina Birch Jermyn 18433 2020-12-01
Lily Smith 2020-12-01
Darryll Day Colleyville 76034 2020-12-01
mia carlson Nashville 37216 2020-12-01
Amanda Hoover Nixa 65714 2020-12-01
Jordan Peters 2020-12-01
Katherine Hutchins Phoenix 85050 2020-12-01

Heinz Klug Madison 53703 2020-12-01
Lewis Leavitt Madison 53703 2020-12-01
Judith Leavitt Madison 53711 2020-12-01
Bruce Rheineck Madison 53711 2020-12-01
Abigail Cahill Madison 53717 2020-12-02
Gail Ibele Madison 53703 2020-12-02
Joseph Thome Madison 53711 2020-12-02
Emily Potter Meridian 83642 2020-12-02
Jack Michaud Tyngsboro 1879 2020-12-02
jason swoll grand forks 58201 2020-12-02
Bailey Weaver Las Vegas 89146 2020-12-02
William Harrison Madison 53703 2020-12-02
Brigid Daly Madison 53715 2020-12-03
LINDSEY DAY
FARNSWORTH
Madison 53715 2020-12-03
Sebastian Liuzzo Columbus 43224 2020-12-03
Amy Lam Houston 77064 2020-12-03
Wendy Murillo Las Vegas 89147 2020-12-03
Caitilyn Allen Madison 53711 2020-12-03
Donald Waller Madison 53711 2020-12-03
Monica Hanson Madison 53713 2020-12-06
Kevin Hanson Madison 53713 2020-12-06
Regan Botsford Madison 53703 2020-12-06
Melanie Crawford Madison 53711 2020-12-06
Dave Greene Madison 53704 2020-12-06
Kate MacCrimmon Madison 53713 2020-12-06
Linda Merrill Madison 53715 2020-12-06
Alyssa Tesar Madison 53705 2020-12-06
Marlys Fassett San
Francisco
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Jenny Saffran Madison 53711 2020-12-06
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Joan Sullivan Madison 53711 2020-12-06
Mike Morris Madison 53705 2020-12-06
Joe Bazler Madison 53711 2020-12-06
Jan Axelson Madison 53704 2020-12-06
Kim Kelley Madison 53704 2020-12-06
Sandra Rutherford Madison 53703 2020-12-06
Karen Ecklund Madison 53713 2020-12-06
Lisa Lang Madison 53711 2020-12-06
Andrea Utrie Beaver Dam 53916 2020-12-06
Jeff Carroll Madison 53711 2020-12-06
Laura Berger Madison 53711 2020-12-07
Denis Collins Middleton 53562 2020-12-07
Teri Boundy Madison 53711 2020-12-07
Brad Singer Madison 53711 2020-12-07
Jeanne Smith Madison 53711 2020-12-07
matt lazio madison 53711 2020-12-07
Tyler Smith Easton 18042 2020-12-07
Avah Mary Trenton 8603 2020-12-07
Tammy Coble Royse City 75189 2020-12-07
Shannelle Bishop Cleveland 44119 2020-12-07
Lizz Prescott Yorktown 23693 2020-12-07
Abby Harris New York 10022 2020-12-07

Sasha Kerlow 2020-12-07
Shawn Doherty Madison 53711 2020-12-07
Elizabeth Soechting Madison 53715 2020-12-07
Paul Stoy Madison 2020-12-07
PAUL Karch Madison 53711 2020-12-07
mary murphy Madison 53711 2020-12-07
Jason Hagenow Madison 53713 2020-12-07
Lauren Lacey 2020-12-07
Elizabeth Kingston Marion 54950 2020-12-07
Steve Gilchrist Madison 53715 2020-12-07
lee fassett MADISON 53711 2020-12-07
Ben Sandee 2020-12-07
Emily Hall Madison 53711 2020-12-07
Susan Hollingsworth Madison 53705 2020-12-07
Ben Walker Madison 53711 2020-12-07
John Leonard Madison 53711 2020-12-07
Kelly Forman Madison 53711 2020-12-07
Eunice Conley Madison 53713 2020-12-07
Lisa Cervantes Madison 53711 2020-12-07
Sydney Kwallek Madison 53711 2020-12-07
Seth Collins Madison 53711 2020-12-07
Jhon Koppa Madison 53711 2020-12-07
Kenneth Pennings Madison 53703 2020-12-08
Seth Taapken Madison 53705 2020-12-08
Anne Kolan Madison 53711 2020-12-08
Andrew Shapiro Madison 53711 2020-12-08
Andy Meessmann Madison 53713 2020-12-08
Jiannan Zhang Mequon 53024 2020-12-08
Jess Wiederholt Denver 80210 2020-12-08

Comments:

Name Comment

Pat Alea "I support the restrictions on pass through traffic! Thank you!"

Yael Gen "I support restriction with relocating the eastern barrier to allow access to the shelter for disabled individuals and convenience for families with small children."

Melissa Goelitz "We have definitely utilized this walking path significantly more and my son loves to bike on it. At 4 years old, his ability to pay attention and look for cars on a shared lane is not great and it would be a loss to not have this path available to us."

Karl Taeuber "Removing through-traffic from the lakeshore has unified the Park, Lake, and Arboretum into a spectacular urban recreation area."

Wes Slaymaker "we walk this route daily and its so nice to have the peace and quiet and lack of danger from traffic along Lake Wingra"

Kitty Kocol "Vilas park is positively transformed by the absence of cars. Except near a shelter and on Drake at the Zoo, it would be best to prevent auto thrutraffic."

Leslie Fields "We walk or run along Vilas Park Drive year round, almost every day. Closure to through traffic has allowed us to be safer during the covid pandemic because we can distance more easily from bicyclists and other pedestrians."

Kathleen Satut "It's important to have safe ways to experience Lake Wingra."

mona lazar "Agree. We revolve way too much space in our lives around people in their cars. Everyone would be so much thinner and healthier if they walked more."

Jeffrey Schimpff "The Vilas Park experience is INFINITELY more enjoyable without all the unnecessary car traffic that jeopardizes pedestrian and cyclist safety."

Dan Elsass "When open to thru traffic, Vilas drive is an expressway for cars & trucks that

threatens walkers and small children in strollers. There are no paved paths from Orchard street to the beach house."

Peter Witucki "The pandemic is worse than when the roadway was closed in the spring, so the conditions still exist that require increased space for pedestrians and cyclists. Without the ability to gather and socialize indoors, many Madisonians will be utilizing our fabulous outdoor public spaces even as temperatures plummet. More importantly, we have discovered the joy of being able to use Vilas Park safely and without conflict from commuter traffic."

Bill Barker "I know reducing vehicle traffic around Lake Wingra works to build a stronger and safer community!"

Creal Zearing "We feel SO much safer on our daily (yes, daily, sometimes more than once per day) walks through Vilas on Vilas Park Drive. Additionally, with COVID, it's helpful to be able to spread out on the road away from other walkers, joggers, etc."

Carla Russell "I love riding through Vilas park with my youngchildren, who are still mastering their cycling skills, without the fear of cars."

Robert Summerbell "I love to enjoy my several times weekly bike ride through the Arb without fear of being run down!"

Nicole Nelson "It's so much easier to social distance while running and walking in the park without worrying about cars coming up from behind!"

Hannah BAKER "I believe in safer and greener parks, especially with shorelines where motor vehicles are divested in to increase ecological growth and overall wellbeing indexes for all."

Scott Zimmerman "cars have become overly dominant in public spaces"

Lindsay Suttin "We need safe places for kids to bike"

Jennifer Brown "This is a great idea. And I'm in the Madison area, not Palo Alto."

Lisa Grueneberg "I have loved walking and biking through this year car-free!"

Kristofer Towe "Opening up the arboretum drive was such a mistake. We can do better. Keep Vilas car free."

Sharon Mischio "I love to walk this beautiful road, and enjoy seeing others do the same!"

Nick VanDerwerker "Keeping this section of road car-free will encourage community members to be active, promote community, and enhance our natural areas. Please keep this road motor vehicle-free to keep our community members safe and healthy!"

José Miguel Barros

Hoffens

"This is happening!"

Mary Mussey "It's has been used by many people over the summer and fall. The public needs to have safe access to the wonderful lake and Arborretum."

doria wosk "JUSTICE FOR THE PEOPLE. MAGA"

Mary Elizabeth Bathum "I bike or walk the drive almost daily. Cars seem careful but disruptive at times. There are other alternative routes for cars not used by walkers and bikers! Thanks!"

Eric Lynn "Cars have multiple options throughout the city, which don't need to include a shortcut through a park. With that said, I don't feel safe at peak commute times in this area, on my bike, which is my transportation. I rely on having the safe connection to the Edgewood pleasure drive which links to safe streets into the near west side - it's my bicycle link from downtown."

Sharon Schubert "Make the area more accessible for families with children and bicycle riders."

Dwight Ricker "The petition is right on - this is a matter of long-term stability, security and sustainability for Vilas Park, its users and the environment that surrounds it."

Tom Ottenweller "Too many cars come flying down the hill to the very busy area at Vilas Dr and Edgewood drive."

Gay Seidman "Over the summer, the restrictions on motor vehicles made the park far more enjoyable. We have walked or biked almost every day in the park, and

enjoyed seeing our neighbors doing the same. It has made an enormous difference to our enjoyment of the park, and the view across the lake,, and we have loved seeing families enjoying the space in a way that we haven't seen in the 30 years we have lived here. We hope the city will maintain the restrictions on motor vehicles., it has made a huge difference to the character of the park."

Caitilyn Allen "This roads serves pedestrians and bicyclists who have few lakeside areas to use in this immediate neighborhood. Car drivers have the whole rest of the city - let people-powered transport have this road please."

Melanie Crawford "Vilas Park Drive has been my go-to walk destination - and sanity preservation - during Covid. Definitely am able to relax and enjoy the space more without the vehicle traffic."

Marlys Fassett "I live in the neighborhood! We walk in this park every day."

From: Peter Williams <peterwilliams63@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Item 17: Vilas Drive Opening

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

I strongly support that Vilas Drive be available for running, biking, etc. this summer and fall and want it to continue into the winter to register in opposition to the Parks Superintendent's proposal to reopen it to commuter cut-through traffic. This also creates a traffic mess for the neighborhoods on both sides of Vilas Park.

From: Dana Evans <danaevans906@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:33 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Agenda item 63286

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

I hope that Vilas Park Drive will remain pedestrian only. Since the change, it seems that many more people are enjoying the beauty and abundance that the park offers. It is calmer and more serene, it is safer for all ages, and it is much more inviting. The cars that I typically saw on the drive previously were speeding and using it only as a short cut. It is so much safer for my family of runners and walkers, including for my mother who walks extremely slowly with a walker. I was never comfortable talking her to the park for a walk before the closure.

We can also now move around while we run/walk to avoid close contact with others. If traffic is allowed back on the road, it will be much harder to avoid getting close to others, making it much more undesirable for any activities.

My family loves the closure and have used the park more than ever! The feel and safety of the drive through the arboretum has greatly changed for the worse since it reopened. Please keep Vilas Park Drive closed to traffic!

Dana Evans

From: Tom Wilson <tlwilson1986@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 5:52 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Vilas Park Drive Winter Operational Plan - Legistar 63286

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

Dear Board of Parks Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to consider keeping Vilas Park Drive closed to vehicular traffic through the winter. It is highly unlikely that the pandemic situation will improve to the point that the park shelter is being used this winter, leaving access to the ice skating area as the remaining argument for opening any portion of the drive. As noted by the Transportation Commission, the distance between the tennis court and zoo parking lots and the skating area is about 1/4 of a mile, which is a walkable distance for skaters.

Two days ago, the Transportation Policy and Planning Board discussed and unanimously approved a neighborhood plan amendment that would make half of a proposed street connecting West Washington Ave and Regent Street ped/bike only, restricting automobile access to emergency vehicles only on that section and eliminating the potential for through traffic. I bring this up because the decision represents a shift in thinking about what connectivity means. For at least the last 100 years or so, connectivity has started and ended with automobile access. But cities across the world that are actually getting serious about traffic safety and enhancing spaces like parks for use at a human scale are restricting through motor vehicle traffic. In doing so they are finding that connectivity, defined in human terms, increases dramatically as we've seen along the Drive these past months.

I strongly recommend that the Drive remain closed through the winter to automobile traffic and an appropriate width of street be maintained for ped/bike access, with something like 10-12 feet being maintained. If skating use gets to the point that the zoo and tennis court lots are full and overflowing, then I would support opening one side of the Drive for two-way traffic to access the shelter lot, but under no circumstance would I recommend through traffic.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Tom Wilson

(he, him, his)

719 Clark Ct.

Madison, WI 53715

608-792-7233

tlwilson1986@gmail.com
