

**From:** [Gnam, Emily](#)  
**To:** [Freiwald, Ann](#)  
**Cc:** [Grant Frautschi](#); [Moirra Harrington](#); [Webster, Stephen](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Dogs in Parks  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 10:11:50 AM

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Ann, here is the letter from the Cannons.

Emily R. Gnam  
emily.gnam@cunamutual.com  
(608) [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Cannon <[REDACTED]@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 17, 2018 12:05 PM  
**To:** Kay Rutledge <krutledge@cityofmadison.com>; Ed Jepsen <edjepsen1950@gmail.com>; Grant J. Frautschi <avid9000@aol.com>; Gnam, Emily R. <Emily.Gnam@cunamutual.com>; Moira Harrington <moira@aqu.wisc.edu>; Stephen A. Webster <sawebster@gmail.com>; Ledell Zellers <district2@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs in Parks

Dear Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee members,  
We understand that Parks staff would like the Madison Long Range Planning Committee to help with the development of a policy for allowing dogs on-leash to the majority, if not all parks in the system. City parks are stress reducers--a place for people to relax and enjoy the outdoors. Allowing dog owners to bring their animals produces stress for many people. Is the dog friendly? Will two dogs end up in a fight?  
Our local park (Tenney) does not allow dogs, but people bring them anyway. Sometimes the dogs are on leash but we often encounter dogs off leash.  
The Parks Department currently has trouble posting and enforcing the current regulations, at least in the parks we visit. Mixing dogs and people in most or all city parks is a dangerous idea. Don't do it!  
Peter & Marsha Cannon  
--  
Pete & Marsha Cannon  
[REDACTED] Sidney St.  
Madison WI 53703  
608. [REDACTED]

**From:** [Parks](#)  
**To:** [Freiwald, Ann](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Parks Contact Submission: General Parks Questions  
**Date:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 8:10:39 AM

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Dogs in Parks for LRP

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**From:** Parks  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 03, 2019 8:09 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: Parks Contact Submission: General Parks Questions

Hello Margaux,

Thank you for your email to Madison Parks. We appreciate your feedback regarding our off-leash dog parks. The Parks Long Range Planning Committee is working on a new dog policy for the park system based on research and feedback we have received over the years. We will forward your message to them for consideration.

Best,

Ann Shea  
Public Information Officer  
[Madison Parks](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 30, 2018 4:49 PM  
**To:** Parks <[parks@cityofmadison.com](mailto:parks@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Parks Contact Submission: General Parks Questions

**Contact Information:**

=====

**Name:** Margaux Sorenson  
**Street Address:**  
[REDACTED] Ice Age Dr  
Madison, WI 53719  
**Phone:**  
**Email:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com

**Comments / Questions:**

=====

**Subject:** General Parks Questions

**Comments / Questions:**

Hi,

I was not sure who to contact about this but there is an immediate need for signs on all dog parks in Madison about children in the parks. This is the third time in the past two weeks I have had to remove my dog from a dog park because of children playing throughout the dog

park. My dog is not aggressive but likes to chase running things, such as children. I have been yelled and screamed at by the parents of these children, majority toddler age, about my dog chasing and trying to play with the children. These parks are DOG parks not parks for children to play in or even be in. There are numerous large dogs and hazards to children under the age of 16. There needs to be a sign or rule added to the dog park signs about children potentially being at risk by entering or children under 16 not being allowed in the dog park during peak hours. It is getting ridiculous, my dog comes to the dog park to be able to run around and have fun with other dogs without me having to worry about her potentially knocking over a child.

**From:** [Knepp, Eric](#)  
**To:** [Furman, Keith](#)  
**Cc:** [Rutledge, Kay](#); [Freiwald, Ann](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Dog park discussion  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 11:47:58 AM

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Alder Furman – Thanks for the guidance. We certainly know dogs are an issue we need to be working on and will keep this on our radar. Certainly with the redevelopment around Hill Farms we will likely be pushed on an off leash area in this general vicinity over the coming years.

Thanks,

**Eric M. Knepp**  
**Madison Parks Superintendent**  
**608.266.4711**

[www.cityofmadison.com/parks](http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks)

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**From:** Furman, Keith <[district19@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district19@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 9:44 AM  
**To:** Knepp, Eric <[EKnepp@cityofmadison.com](mailto:EKnepp@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Cc:** Rutledge, Kay <[KRutledge@cityofmadison.com](mailto:KRutledge@cityofmadison.com)>; Freiwald, Ann <[AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com](mailto:AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Dog park discussion

Hi Eric,

Thanks for the reply. Continue to focus on the priority areas. I don't feel strongly the need to explore this area more at this time. We can pay more attention to this if it starts to be an issue I hear a lot about.

-Keith F.

-----

Alder Keith Furman, 19th District, Madison, WI

[district19@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district19@cityofmadison.com)

608-352-3502

Subscribe to my blog: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district19/blog/>

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**From:** Knepp, Eric <[EKnepp@cityofmadison.com](mailto:EKnepp@cityofmadison.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 28, 2019 10:42 AM

**To:** Furman, Keith <[district19@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district19@cityofmadison.com)>

**Cc:** Rutledge, Kay <[KRutledge@cityofmadison.com](mailto:KRutledge@cityofmadison.com)>; Freiwald, Ann <[AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com](mailto:AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Dog park discussion

Alder Furman –

I apologize for the delay in responding. We have been working on the issue of dog exercise areas a lot over the past few years and that work is continuing (though the focus at this moment is on on-leash access at the policy level, see LRP's topic/task list [here](#)). I don't believe we have ever had a request for Indian Hills before, and I'm not sure if it could meet our standards or not ( more info on our [Policies page](#)). I suspect that it would fall short of the highly desired 2 acres. At this point the priorities are to address the most extreme deficiencies in our system. These deficiencies have been identified over time using data from permits/licenses and proximity to off leash areas. Currently those priority areas are the Near East/Isthmus; Far East/Grandview; and the West/SW parts of town. Certainly as a dog owner and someone who lives relatively close to the area being discussed, I can appreciate that there isn't a walkable off leash option. I would think that over the intermediate term we should consider what can be done in this area (possibly Spring Harbor, maybe Indian Hills). If you would like to discuss this in more detail, I'd be happy to do so.

Thanks,

**Eric M. Knepp**

**Madison Parks Superintendent**

**608.266.4711**

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**From:** Furman, Keith <[district19@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district19@cityofmadison.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2019 7:54 AM

**To:** Knepp, Eric <[EKnepp@cityofmadison.com](mailto:EKnepp@cityofmadison.com)>

**Subject:** FW: Dog park discussion

Hi Eric,

Not sure if you heard, but Shorewood is not allowing dogs off leash at the Blackhawk Golf Course.

A resident just sent in a suggestion that an off-leash dog park be considered at the Indian Hill park. What's the best way to handle a suggestion like this? I agree there is a decent chance nearby

neighbors won't like this idea.

-Keith F.

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Alder Keith Furman, 19th District, Madison, WI

[district19@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district19@cityofmadison.com)

608-352-3502

Subscribe to my blog: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district19/blog/>

**From:** Candy Schrank <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 8:44 AM

**To:** Furman, Keith <[district19@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district19@cityofmadison.com)>

**Subject:** Dog park discussion

Keith,

You have probably seen the discussion on Next Door about the crackdown on dogs on the Shorewood gold course. People are looking for an alternative for off leash dog running.

I had already sent this idea to Parks a few years ago but rather than a leashed dog park at Spring Harbor, next to the stream, how about a fenced off-leash park at the Indian Hill park near the underpass?

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/find-a-park/park.cfm?id=1238>

It is more of a thoroughfare park, serves to hold runoff which is good so it wouldn't need to be filled/raised. There is backstop that I have used but rarely see anyone else using it. It used to be flooding in the winter by the city for ice skating but that doesn't happen anymore.

The nearby neighbors may not like that idea however.

Thanks for thinking about this.

Candy Schrank

Spring Harbor, Madison

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Rutledge, Kay](#)  
**To:** [Freiwald, Ann](#); [Lerner, Sarah](#); [Grant Frautschi](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Dogs in Parks  
**Date:** Monday, March 4, 2019 3:52:28 PM

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**From:** Finn Ryan <[finnryan@gmail.com](mailto:finnryan@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 04, 2019 2:33 PM  
**To:** Rummel, Marsha <[district6@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district6@cityofmadison.com)>; Parks <[parks@cityofmadison.com](mailto:parks@cityofmadison.com)>; Park Commission <[pacommission@cityofmadison.com](mailto:pacommission@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Dogs in Parks

Dear Marsha and Madison Parks,

I noticed the column in the Eastside news about trying to increase dog infrastructure. As an Atwood resident, I use Madison Parks multiple times a week. Frequently, I'm with my young kids and dogs are a major challenge to deal with. Last week while XC skiing on Lake Monona near Yahara Place Park, a dog off leash in Yahara Place Park aggressively charged and barked at my son and I. The owner who could not control her dog, even from close range, tried to convince me that she was not in the wrong. This situation is a common occurrence. Most of the time I am in parks with my kids or exercising, I have to deal with off leash dogs. I have called Park Rangers in the past, but there are dogs off leash all the time. I don't really want to spend my time calling to complain or telling dog owners to leash their dogs (and not have them in the Yahara Place or Olbrich parks to begin with). I have witnessed a runner get bit by an off-leash dog in Olbrich Park, and I have family members and friends who have been bitten by dogs recently.

Please put more resources and effort into enforcing existing dog rules.

Thanks,  
Finn Ryan

**From:** [Shea, Ann](#)  
**To:** [Freiwald, Ann](#)  
**Subject:** FW: More meetings on dogs  
**Date:** Monday, July 1, 2019 9:02:22 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Judy Middleton <[REDACTED]@charter.net>  
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 5:33 PM  
To: Shea, Ann <AShea@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: More meetings on dogs

I think you should have more meetings on the west side, especially  
Near parks like Hoyt. We could meet at the new police station  
That is on Mineral Point Rd.

Thanks,

Judy Middleton

[REDACTED] Plymouth Cr. (Hoyt Park neighborhood)

PS, How about making some of these money losing golf Courses into paying dog parks?



**From:** [Parks](#)  
**To:** [Freiwald, Ann](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Parks Contact Submission: General Parks Questions  
**Date:** Monday, July 1, 2019 11:12:03 AM

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**From:** miscskal@tds.net <[REDACTED]@tds.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2019 8:51 PM  
**To:** Parks <parcs@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Parks Contact Submission: General Parks Questions

**Contact Information:**

=====

**Name:** Peggy Kalscheur

**Street Address:**

[REDACTED] Autumnwood

**Phone:**

**Email:** [REDACTED]@tds.net

**Comments / Questions:**

=====

**Subject:** General Parks Questions

**Comments / Questions:**

Dogs in Parks

As new rules are considered for dogs in Madison Parks, I would like to share some feedback as I will be unable to attend of the meetings scheduled.

I do not have a dog but I do really like dogs, and hope to have one some day. I understand they are an important part of families. I usually don't have issues with dogs but rather their owners. I live not far from Redden Soccer Park & Badger Prairie Park. I walk the nature trails and ride the bike trails in the that area. Dogs are supposed to be leashed on the trails & bike trails (I am not talking about the dog park). Owners often let them run and it is scary to have an unfamiliar dog run up to you out of nowhere on a nature trail. I try to say nicely, I think they are supposed to be on a leash. Owners just smile. When riding on the bike trail it is dangerous to have dog run across path in front of you. A big culprit are the retractable leashes. Could there be a law no retractable leashes? Leashes have to be something like no longer than something like 8 feet, preferably 6 feet. Just tonight I was on neighborhood street riding my bike and a dog ran from the sidewalk at me because it had so much leeway due to retractable leash. Once again, owner seems oblivious. Thanks for listening and for all you do for the city of Madison. Dog owners need to understand their responsibility. Not everyone wants to greet their dog.

**From:** [Shea, Ann](#)  
**To:** [Freiwald, Ann](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Regarding public statement about change in dog park policy  
**Date:** Monday, July 1, 2019 8:52:12 AM

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**From:** Allen DeWitt <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 28, 2019 6:27 AM  
**To:** Shea, Ann <AShea@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Regarding public statement about change in dog park policy

I find it highly problematic given your office's chosen language,

*"We recognize that our existing policy is outdated and needs to be revisited. Despite the significant growth in licensed dogs in the city and the growth of multi-family housing, most of our parks are not dog-friendly. We also recognize that not everyone wants dogs to be allowed in Parks. We want to hear from the community and have a goal of finding an appropriate policy balance that enhances the quality of life for residents,"*

You are beginning with the premise that there IS a problem. How can anyone who feels that things are MORE than fine the way they are now supposed to believe that there will be any real attempt at hearing them out, if the very superintendent for the park system is beginning from the premise that is something wrong.

I fear that this entire online polling and meeting set-up is solely to justify policy that has already been decided, likely to garner political capital. I pray that I am wrong.

If nothing else, you might want to consider how your office breeches ideas in the future, if you don't want to appear prejudiced. The optics are highly skewed on this.

Thank you for your time, and I sincerely hope you have a pleasant weekend,

Allen

**From:** [Shea, Ann](#)  
**To:** [Freiwald, Ann](#)  
**Subject:** FW: dogs in parks  
**Date:** Monday, July 1, 2019 8:46:38 AM

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]@znet.com <[REDACTED]@znet.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 28, 2019 6:47 AM  
**To:** Shea, Ann <AShea@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** dogs in parks

Parks;

Parks are for people. I could almost accept some dog-parks, but it is extremely rare to see a dog on a leash in any park. And if asked to put the dog on a leash, the owner shows you a leash in her hand, but not attached to the dog which is chasing birds and pooping/pissing along the pathway. No to any relaxing of current restrictions.

Yours,  
John

**From:** [Shea, Ann](#)  
**To:** [Freiwald, Ann](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [greenbushneighborhood] Dogs in Parks: Madison Parks Seeks Community Input  
**Date:** Monday, July 1, 2019 8:45:27 AM

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**From:** CAROL GRAHAM <[REDACTED]@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 28, 2019 11:50 AM  
**To:** Shea, Ann <AShea@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Fw: [greenbushneighborhood] Dogs in Parks: Madison Parks Seeks Community Input

I live near Vilas, Brittingham, and Klief parks. Lots of dogs are walked past my house daily and I walk the neighborhood a lot and always encounter dogs.

It is nice to find a place that is dog free. I am sure the wildlife appreciate it as well.

Thanks for listening.

---

**From:** [greenbushneighborhood@yahoogroups.com](mailto:greenbushneighborhood@yahoogroups.com) <[greenbushneighborhood@yahoogroups.com](mailto:greenbushneighborhood@yahoogroups.com)>  
on behalf of Cindy Schlichte [REDACTED].org [greenbushneighborhood]  
<[greenbushneighborhood-noreply@yahoogroups.com](mailto:greenbushneighborhood-noreply@yahoogroups.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2019 5:18 PM  
**To:** Greenbush Neib Assn; [VilasNA@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VilasNA@yahoogroups.com) [VilasNA@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VilasNA@yahoogroups.com)  
**Subject:** [greenbushneighborhood] Dogs in Parks: Madison Parks Seeks Community Input

You may or may not be aware of this but leashed dogs are technically not allowed in Vilas park with the exception of the main roads (my understanding). If you have an opinion on this, these meetings might be of interest to you.

Best,  
Cindy

**From:** "Shea, Ann" <[AShea@cityofmadison.com](mailto:AShea@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Date:** June 27, 2019 at 3:37:17 PM CDT  
**To:** "Shea, Ann" <[AShea@cityofmadison.com](mailto:AShea@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** **Dogs in Parks: Madison Parks Seeks Community Input**

**For Immediate Release**

The City of Madison Parks Division and the Parks Long Range Planning Committee are

hosting a series of community engagement meetings and a public survey. At the community meetings, staff will provide background information on the current policy ([Madison General Ordinance 8.19](#)) and provide a forum for both dog owners and non-dog owners to voice their opinions.

The ordinance, originally created in 1973, and updated several times since essentially prohibits dogs in most parks and public spaces. Currently, the City of Madison offers 8 off-leash dog parks and 26 parks where dogs, on-leash and on path are allowed. The majority of the more than 270 parks do not allow dogs.

*“We recognize that our existing policy is outdated and needs to be revisited. Despite the significant growth in licensed dogs in the city and the growth of multi-family housing, most of our parks are not dog-friendly. We also recognize that not everyone wants dogs to be allowed in Parks. We want to hear from the community and have a goal of finding an appropriate policy balance that enhances the quality of life for residents,”* said Eric Knepp, Madison Parks Superintendent.

Information gathered at the community engagement meetings and through the public survey will be the first step in a process of potentially updating or changing the current ordinance. Parks Long Range Planning Committee began considering this project earlier in 2018. With guidance from the public, the LRP will send recommendations for review to the Board of Park Commissioners and Madison Common Council.

Five public input meetings are scheduled during July from 6:30-7:30pm at locations throughout the city. The survey will open on July 15 and continue through mid-August and will be posted on the Parks Project page.

- [Tuesday, July 16, Warner Park Community Recreation Center](#)

1625 Northport Dr, 53704  
Community Rooms 1 & 2

- [Wednesday, July 17, Memorial High School](#)

201 S Gammon Rd, 53717  
Auditorium

- [Tuesday, July 23, The Village on Park Street](#)

2300 S Park St, 53713  
The Atrium Community Room

- [Thursday, July 25, Madison Public Library- Central Branch](#)

201 W Mifflin St, 53703  
Room 302

- [Tuesday, July 30, Sennett Middle School](#)

502 Pflaum Rd, 53716

Dowden Auditorium

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/dogs-in-parks-madison-parks-seeks-community-input>

Ann Shea

Public Information Officer

**MADISON PARKS**



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Posted by: Cindy Schlichte <[REDACTED].org>

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**From:** [Parks](#)  
**To:** [Freiwald, Ann](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [Web Feedback] Dogs in Parks: Madison Parks Seeks Community Input  
**Date:** Monday, July 1, 2019 11:05:39 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@cityofmadison.com <noreply@cityofmadison.com> On Behalf Of Webadmin  
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2019 6:43 PM  
To: Webadmin <webadmin@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: [Web Feedback] Dogs in Parks: Madison Parks Seeks Community Input

Page Title: Dogs in Parks: Madison Parks Seeks Community Input

Breadcrumbs: Home » News & Updates

Page URL: news/dogs-in-parks-madison-parks-seeks-community-input

Was this page helpful to you? Yes

Why or why not? We'd love to be able to walk our dog in our Orchard Ridge parks, that we pay taxes on.

This feedback was submitted from:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/dogs-in-parks-madison-parks-seeks-community-input>

**From:** [Parks](#)  
**To:** [Freiwald, Ann](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [Web Feedback] Dogs in Parks: Madison Parks Seeks Community Input  
**Date:** Monday, July 1, 2019 11:05:51 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@cityofmadison.com <noreply@cityofmadison.com> On Behalf Of Webadmin  
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2019 6:35 PM  
To: Webadmin <webadmin@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: [Web Feedback] Dogs in Parks: Madison Parks Seeks Community Input

Page Title: Dogs in Parks: Madison Parks Seeks Community Input  
Breadcrumbs: Home » News & Updates  
Page URL: news/dogs-in-parks-madison-parks-seeks-community-input  
Was this page helpful to you? Yes  
Why or why not? We would like to be able to bring our dog to parks.

This feedback was submitted from:  
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/dogs-in-parks-madison-parks-seeks-community-input>



**From:** [Shea, Ann](#)  
**To:** [Freiwald, Ann](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Dogs in Parks  
**Date:** Monday, July 1, 2019 8:29:22 AM

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**From:** Peggy Rakow <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 30, 2019 2:11 PM  
**To:** Shea, Ann <AShea@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs in Parks

Hi!

I am not able to attend a public hearing and wished to share my stance on leashed dogs in parks.

Being near a park that already allows leashed dogs I have several concerns. As a former professional groomer I love dogs but find owners can totally ignore the comfort/rights of others.

Very often owners will bring their dog right up to the children's play equipment...and when asked NOT to bring their dog near they will reply , "oh, he doesn't bite" while totally ignoring that some children and adults do NOT like dogs. People FIRST!

Dogs will often "mark" play areas with urine/poop ..ewww. Even if the owner is responsible and cleans up...eww!

And it is VERY common to see owners drop the leash and allow the dog to run free ...where children are running and shouting and excited...which can arouse a dog's prey drive. And having a strange dog run up to them can be frightening to many young children...when they back away the dog continues to advance on them. Children have rights...dogs have none.

NO dogs, even leashed, should be allowed where there is children's play equipment. Except service animals...who ARE trained.

Thank you!

Peggy Rakow

[REDACTED]@yahoo.com

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**From:** [Shea, Ann](#)  
**To:** [Freiwald, Ann](#)  
**Subject:** FW: I would like the continuation of the current ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, July 1, 2019 8:45:50 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Don Lark <[REDACTED]@me.com>  
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2019 8:50 PM  
To: Shea, Ann <AShea@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: I would like the continuation of the current ordinance

I take my young grandchildren to the park & people do not pick up behind their dogs consistently! I see the same thing on the bike path. Plus they don't keep them on a leash so they come rushing up to you like they may bite & some have been traumatized by dog attacks in the past. My wife has been bitten in the neighborhood. Plus I see more pit bulls & rotweilers around lately. Not exactly you're friendly neighborhood dogs. Why mess with the current ordinance when it has been working. There are dog parks around.

Don Lark

**From:** [noreply@cityofmadison.com](mailto:noreply@cityofmadison.com) on behalf of [Webadmin](#)  
**To:** [Webadmin](#)  
**Subject:** [Web Feedback] Dogs in Parks: Madison Parks Seeks Community Input  
**Date:** Saturday, July 6, 2019 10:10:24 AM

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Page Title: Dogs in Parks: Madison Parks Seeks Community Input

Breadcrumbs: Home » News & Updates

Page URL: [news/dogs-in-parks-madison-parks-seeks-community-input](https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/dogs-in-parks-madison-parks-seeks-community-input)

Was this page helpful to you? No

Why or why not? i want to vote against dogs in parks online

This feedback was submitted from:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/dogs-in-parks-madison-parks-seeks-community-input>

**From:** [Parks](#)  
**To:** [Freiwald, Ann](#); [Close, Sarah](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Dog Park Input  
**Date:** Monday, July 29, 2019 7:30:50 AM

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**From:** Merikay Payne <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 26, 2019 4:36 PM  
**To:** Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dog Park Input

Dear Madison park personnel,

My husband and I have lived near Sycamore Park in the Burke Heights neighborhood since 1975. I'm addressing the call for input about increasing the number of dog parks in Madison. More dogs and owners do not necessarily indicate dog park expansion. Responsible pet owners play a role and there should be enforceable consequences for those who are not.

I've been bitten by a dog. I don't dislike dogs, but am wary of all dogs and their owners. I walk the path though Sycamore Park almost every day, which means my path intersects with many dogs and their owners. Perhaps more dog parks will mean fewer dogs at Sycamore.

There are two dog entrances to Sycamore Park. One is through the green space and one is off Sycamore St. parking lot. On my walks I have observed owners without dog leashes, owners with leashes not attached their dogs, owners with multiple dogs and one leash, small children with leashed dogs twice their size, dogs on leashes of excessive length, and dog waste on the path. One way to alleviate some of the problem at Sycamore Park would be to move the adjacent green space entrance to separate park users from dog park users.

Dogs need to be on leash and under control. The rules posted to the park entrance are not always followed. Dog owners love their dogs and dogs want to protect their owners. It's a lovely concept until a stranger walks by. Perhaps some obedience training needs to be a component of purchasing a dog license.

Contacting the animal control officer is sometimes futile. Often when I see a dog not on leash I call out to the owner asking if they have a leash. If they say yes, I ask them to put the dog on leash. If they say no, I ask them to please hold their dog while I pass. When this technique does not work I phone the animal control line with concerns. Often it seems no one is available. Perhaps there need to be more animal control officers, or the geographic area for which they are responsible needs to be reviewed and redrawn, or another type of worker needs to be trained as back up.

Please take these thoughts under consideration.

Merikay Payne  
[REDACTED] Redland Dr.  
Madison, WI 53714  
608-[REDACTED]

**From:** [Parks](#)  
**To:** [Dog and Parks](#)  
**Cc:** [Freiwald, Ann](#); [Close, Sarah](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Parks Contact Submission: General Parks Questions  
**Date:** Monday, July 29, 2019 2:52:17 PM

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**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2019 2:40 PM  
**To:** Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Parks Contact Submission: General Parks Questions

**Contact Information:**

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**Name:** thomas kozlovsky

**Street Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com

**Comments / Questions:**

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**Subject:** General Parks Questions

**Comments / Questions:**

dear parks administrator

i was not able to get to the meetings of dogs in parks. i do think certain parks should not permit dogs. these are some of my concerns.  
unleashed dogs  
large dogs like mastiff  
unlicensed dogs.i believe that even with all .dogs that are, many new and old owners do not keep them up.  
do the applyicans require dogs to have their shots for rabies and distemper?  
it has recently been reported,of a dog biting someone at a dog park, did not tell the person if it had its shots, leaving the person having to get rabies shots.  
large dogs like mastiffs are a concern, even if if leashed, if the get out of control. the same with kids/others who walk leashed .dogs that are not under control.  
older ro handicapped people who are walking and are afraid of dogs or people that can not handle them .

**From:** [Lerner, Sarah](#)  
**To:** [Freiwald, Ann](#); [Close, Sarah](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Dog Park Policy question  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2019 11:07:05 AM

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**From:** Celesnik, Marion <[REDACTED]@att.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 14, 2019 10:59 AM  
**To:** Lerner, Sarah <SLerner@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dog Park Policy question

Dear Sarah,

I live near Sheridan Triangle Park which is one block long and quite narrow. At our Neighborhood Association board meeting I brought up concerns about possible changes where dogs might be allowed in the park---on leash, but still it would be a change. People thought the park would stay as it is because it is so small, and the main thing there is the playground. I am not so sure about that. So I was asked to check with Parks to see if we need to consider the possibility that changes to Park policy would affect this little park. If there might be changes, we could the poll neighbors and take a position.

I don't actually see how you could say nothing will change, because how would you know. Anyway, I have to ask.

It would be odd, though, to have a sign saying dogs permitted except on playground, and then what is the border of the playground? Logically, it's where kids are playing including grass around gravel area if you want to separate kids and dogs. But others would disagree. So it's easier if the whole park, which used to be called a play lot is off limits.

Thank You,

Marian Celesnik