

From: Si Widstrand [mailto:si.widstrand@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 11:21 AM
To: Hoffman, Jeanne
Subject: Comments on Sustainability plan

Hello Jeanne, I was out of town when the public meetings were held, so please give my Plan comments to the Committee. Overall, I support the Sustainability Plan and commend you for its preparation. **I have a few comments and suggested changes in bold:**

p. 13 The Plan states the goals of preserving and restoring natural communities, and reducing the impact from invasive species. Actions recommend controlling invasive species and creating a plan for restoring degraded wetlands. **I propose an additional action: “Complete and begin implementing a plan for basic management of all city-owned natural and undeveloped areas. Include inventory, quality assessment, proposed actions, prioritization and cost estimates.”**

p. 14 The Plan states a goal to develop more stringent requirements than those outlined by NR 151 and Dane County Chapter 14 standards. **These have recently been updated for the City and County, and are already stronger than state standards, and should be enforced without attempting to change them. Put more emphasis on finding creative solutions to improving runoff from older areas of the city that were developed without these regulations.**

p. 14 An action is recommended to allow detention ponds and rain gardens to count against impermeable surface charges and toward open space and green space requirements within development guidelines. **“Within development guidelines” is a key phrase. You can’t give some developers a break on park dedication or useable open space without changing the ordinances to give everyone the same break. Then you would have to increase the park dedication or other requirements to make up the loss, so don’t do that. You might be able to find space for rain gardens in the required setbacks or landscaped areas in some developments.**

p. 18 An action is recommended to promote ‘pocket parks’ within developments. **I strongly recommend that you add...promote privately maintained pocket parks..., due to the inability of the Parks Division to maintain these in addition to meeting the other walkable parks standards already endorsed in this and other plans.**

p. 18 The Plan states a goal for the City of Madison to identify and commit 4% land area, including its own property, to urban agriculture by 2020. **I support a small percentage of parkland being used for community gardens where it does not prevent other needed park uses. But 4% of the City area is approximately 2000 acres, an unrealistic goal in a city with 6000 total acres of city-owned open space. Land in older developed areas is in great demand for meeting park deficiencies and for managing stormwater. Dane County is one of the best agricultural counties in the state, so this should be a countywide effort to do it mainly on private property. Production agriculture seems appropriate for rural areas or community separation areas, but not inside the core urban area.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Si Widstrand, 7226 Branford Lane East, Madison 53717