

From: [Stouder, Heather](#)
To: [McAuliffe, Daniel](#)
Cc: [Fruhling, William](#); [Parks, Timothy](#); [Firchow, Kevin](#)
Subject: FW: Support for Saving Hartmeyer Natural Area
Date: January 22, 2020 2:01:39 PM

Please file for 2/10 PC meeting.

From: Kevin Monroe <monrka@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 1:34 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Stouder, Heather <HStouder@cityofmadison.com>; ledell.zellers@gmail.com; vscholtz44@gmail.com
Subject: Support for Saving Hartmeyer Natural Area

Hello! I'm writing in support of the City of Madison Oscar Mayer Special Area Plan Option C - Conservation and other opportunities to purchase and save all 30 acres of the Hartmeyer property historic wetland and surrounding upland ecosystem between Roth Street, the old Oscar Mayer plant, Commercial Avenue, North Sherman and adjacent railroad corridors as a nature park and shared community space. ----- Here is a brief summary of some of the many benefits of preserving this natural area as a community and ecological asset: - Helping address Madison's Social Justice and Racial Equity goals and Madison's special mission to Help Connect Kids with Nature by offering equal access to free publicly owned shared community park natural area open green space and the living ecosystems it supports that can be enjoyed throughout the year by neighborhoods, individuals, families and kids including people of all means and cultures without requiring any special skills, fees, or equipment - Help address Madison's Sustainability goals by preserving and enhancing 30 acres of natural water infiltration, carbon sequestration and other ecological benefits in a time of rising water tables and more frequent rain events to help offset surrounding existing impervious acres and developed and redeveloped areas with streets, homes and businesses - Help address Madison's goal to preserve and enhance neighborhood connections and broader Madison community connections via bike and walk path connections to and through this beautiful and unexpected quiet and peaceful natural area in the heart of Madison - Help Madison preserve and enhance important railroad corridor and bike path nature area ecological connections on the 'String of Pearls' with other Madison parks and natural areas on Madison's North and East Side with green corridor connections from Hartmeyer to Tenney Park, Warner Park, and the Starkweather Creek and Cherokee Marsh - Help North and East Side Madison homeowners and businesses preserve and enhance their property values by enhancing area liveability and community identity assets and benefits of having a large nature park area adjacent and central to increasingly urbanized neighborhoods and businesses - Help Madison's Community Health goals by providing and enhancing free natural health opportunities for individuals and community groups to enjoy the documented physical and mental health benefits of regularly spending time in nature - Offer year round access for North and East Side residents and workers in nearby businesses to regularly enjoy nearby nature - Help provide access to nearby nature to socially and economically disadvantaged families and kids who cannot easily visit outlying parks for nature recreation opportunities or afford regular access to other forms of recreation - Help meet Madison's Social Justice and Community Building goals by offering people and especially kids the opportunity to experience the Awe of Nature - seeing and hearing nature and living things up close - which has been documented to increase empathy for nature and

empathy for other human beings in a time our society is struggling with perceived divisions - Provide Madison community groups and community engagement programming opportunities for Art in Nature, Tai Chi in Nature, Nature Photography, Nature Play and other nature programming to engage kids and adults - Help Madison Schools and MSCR by providing and enhancing Nature Education opportunities for nearby schools and more regular integration of nature into school curricula and after school activity programs - Help provide and enhance opportunities for Madison Parks, MSCR, Volunteers with Friends group and coalitions like Madison FUN Friends of Urban Nature, and organizations like Briarpatch to offer a variety of Nature Recreation activities such as volunteer nature restoration, invasives removal, cleanup days, educational outings about the benefits of Rain Gardens and other public engagement activities that benefit the park and the publi - Help meet Madison's Placemaking goals by creating a special natural area Sense of Place with walk paths and lookouts that provide great opportunities for neighbors to meet and talk, both enhancing social benefits including community building and offering a happy and positive sense of place for North and East Side families, kids and future generations - In its simplest terms providing public access to Hartmeyer Natyral Area as a nature park will help preserve a rare historic large urban natural area where people can enjoy simple outdoor relaxation time visiting this urban wetland natural area gem and enjoying the beauty of nature throughout the seasons - The Ecological Benefits of saving Hartmeyer Natural Area as a nature park are preserving and enhancing this large contiguous parcel of increasingly rare urban wetland and surrounding natural habitat for the cranes, bluebirds, hawks, frogs, pollinators, bees, butterflies, fox, and other birds and wildlife that already live there and future generations of birds and wildlife already facing climate change and many other ecological challenges - Saving this core natural area parcel will also help provide a large urban ecological refugium (preservation area) to help sustain healthy populations of native bees, butterflies, birds, amphibians and other native species throughout smaller parcels and yards in adjoining North and East Side neighborhoods and along connecting nature corridors - There are oppourtunities for the City of Madison to partner with Dane County, DNR, Groundswell and other groups to help find funds and grants for cost of purchasing wetland and surrounding upland ecosystem acres - Saving Hartmeyer Natural Area is an important part of continuing to build collaborative connections to achieve the above goals working together with the City of Madison, Dane County, Groundswell, and local Environmental, Neighborhood, Business, Social Justice, and Sustainability groups



Thanks,
Kevin Monroe