

From: Rebecca Rice <greenonions247@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 27, 2023 11:55 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog rules in city parks

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

Dear Board Members,

Please do NOT approve modified dog rules in city parks! There are enough dog owners who don't restrain their animals or pick up after them. I hear about enough dog bites in the dog parks; why allow that to start happening in city parks, which felt relatively safe?

I have a toddler grandson who uses play equipment in Madison parks. I am scared of the idea of an unleashed dog running up to him, or even worse, biting him.

Please put public safety first, and not the whims of irresponsible dog owners. They have enough other options.

Thank you,

Becky Rice

From: Jenny Mickelson <jmickelson21@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 27, 2023 10:25 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in park

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Hello,

Dogs should not be allowed in more places including parks as not everyone likes dogs like myself, it ruins the experience of enjoying something to be worried about if a dog is coming friendly or not I don't want any dogs around me. I also have extreme allergies to dogs.. absolutely unacceptable and this should not be passed

From: Justin Vander Schaaf <justinvs@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 10:25 PM
To: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs In Parks Feedback

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Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

As a long time citizen of Madison and frequent user of many different city parks, I would prefer that dogs be kept out of parks not specifically designated as dog parks. The proposed change to remove the existing dog-free parks would negatively affect many people who prefer not to be around dogs.

Sincerely,
Justin Vander Schaaf.

From: Eva Lewandowski <elewandowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 7:48 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Fwd: major equity issues in dog park status recommendation

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Hello, I sent the message below to the Parks Long Range Planning Committee, but I never received a response and see that it has not been included in the public comments compiled for the June 14 full board meeting. I am extremely concerned that the plan to re-evaluate the current dog-free park system minimizes participation from those vulnerable groups most likely to be impacted by allowing dogs in all parks- mainly seniors and people like myself with disabilities. There are no signs posted in the parks notifying the people who rely on dog-free parks about the change, all outreach about this occurs online, and there are no plans to reach out specifically to the vulnerable groups who need access to dog-free parks: disabled, elderly, very young, neurodivergent, and those suffering panic and anxiety disorders after dog-related trauma.

It's disappointing to see no effort being put forth to treat this accessibility issue with equitability and justice in mind. I will certainly submit a comment detailing my own terrifying experiences with dogs in parks and why I cannot recreate safely in the presence of dogs, but that doesn't get at the bigger issue, which is the fundamental inequity in making accessibility decisions without reaching out to the people who will most be impacted by the loss of dog-free parks.

Thank you,

Eva Lewandowski

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From: Eva Lewandowski <elewandowski@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, May 22, 2023 at 1:46 PM
Subject: major equity issues in dog park status recommendation
To: <parkslongrangeplanningcommittee@cityofmadison.com>

Hello,

I was alarmed to see in the minutes from the recent Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee that a recommendation is being made to remove dog free status from Madison Parks. As a

disabled person, this is a pure issue of accessibility and equity for me. I cannot safely recreate around dogs, and neither can many of our most vulnerable community members, including the disabled, elderly, very young, neurodivergent, and those suffering panic and anxiety disorders after dog-related trauma.

I'm extremely concerned that nowhere in the committee's recommendation memo is there any mention of accessibility needs or how this issue will be viewed as an equity and inclusion item. The plans for public comment and participation in the topic seem to be exclusively electronic, meaning that these same groups who will be denied a safe place to recreate if dog free park status is eliminated will also be at a disadvantage when it comes to voicing their opinions. The disabled and elderly especially are less likely to have a voice in the process.

Did the committee discuss the equity and accessibility components of the recommendation or consider how to address these issues at all in the public participation process? I think denying multiple groups of vulnerable community members access to safe places to recreate and enjoy nature should be considered with extreme caution and handled in a way that carefully considers the equity and inclusion impacts. So far I am not seeing anything to that effect.

Can you please take a step back and think about this issue with equity and inclusion in mind? Thank you,

Eva Lewandowski
