

From: Deanna Letts <himaletts@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 7:56 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Upcoming Dogs in Parks Status Review

Hello,

I would like dog-free parks.

I have had dogs run at me while the owner is yelling that the dog is friendly. I would like to go to a park where I don't have to worry about a dog running full speed at me.

Deanna Letts

From: Tracy Doreen <myrealibrary@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 11:34 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dogs in Parks

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

Good morning,

I m unable to attend the meeting tonight that includes reviewing the dogs in parks status in Madison. I have a few comments below that I hope you'll read and seriously consider.

While I truly love dogs, there must be plenty of parks that are dog free for people who are allergic to dogs and those who are afraid of dogs. The later includes many children - and they play in parks. The city must assure access for all - including people who have limited mobility. Getting knocked over by a large dog or tripped by a small dog or a too lengthy dog leash is is something people may choose to avoid when going to a dog free park.

I encourage you to continue the policy of dog free parks at all city beach's AND highlight in ALL press releases that beach parks are dog free.

More user friendly signage is needed at all parks about why the park does or does not allow dogs and where the (nearest?)parks are that are dog friendly or dog free. Also perhaps explain though images what dog friendly means - a dog on a short leash heeling, not a dog walking way out in front or dragging the dog behind you.

There are too many dogs on the isthmus and some dog owners choose to ignore the park ordinance signs. Some of these dogs are aggressive breeds. Often, I see people letting their dogs run at BB Clarke Beach. I call the park ranger when I see them or the dog waste they left behind. Recently there were dog free park signs put up at BB Clarke which were kicked down and now have disappeared. Will the signs return?

There are not enough parks on the isthmus especially for the added human population density - some who come with or acquire dogs. More people live in Madison who do NOT have dogs. Unfortunately, sometimes dogs are unlicensed with no tag or collar except for a long leash. Perhaps a real study of dogs in Madison is warranted before making policy changes. How many dog owners are in each neighborhood? How many are there that aren't licensed? (Maybe students could help with such a study - work study job perhaps?)

I am concerned that the city parks commission will slowly keep changing the rules to allow dogs in all city parks and then the city beaches. There are real needs for dog-free parks.

Sincerely,
Tracy Dietzel
Madison, WI

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