

From: Lauren Van Buren <laurenuvanburen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 3:14 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill: Dog Friendly

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

Lauren U. Van Buren
608.467.9070
808.342.2197

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the proposal to change Madison City Park, Forest Hill Cemetery, from a dog-friendly park to a dog-free park. I live a block from the park and walk my dog through the cemetery twice a day – on leash, on path. For a large green space in an urban area, the park is underutilized.

It's difficult to guess why anyone complained - I rarely encounter anyone in the park. I think any complaints related to piety or social mores because the park happens to be a cemetery are a little silly. The residents don't mind. In fact, I've collected some evidence that three of the residents are quite fond of dogs:



I love the park. I think it's neat and I spend a lot of time there which includes attending Talking Spirits every year. This year I have observed cranes, wild turkeys, great horned owls, and a litter of three foxes in the cemetery. I'm careful to not disturb wildlife or mourners. In the hundreds of hours I have spent in Forest Hill Cemetery, I have never seen any problem dog behavior.

Thank you for the invitation and opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

/s/ lauren

Lauren U. Van Buren
2441 Norwood Place

From: Brian Schildroth <schildroth@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 4:54 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Feedback on Dogs in FH Cemetery

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

Hello Madison BPC,

My family lives a stone's throw from the Forest Hill Cemetery and occasionally goes on walks through the grounds. We love the peace and history of the walks, and lack of motorized vehicles to dodge. On walks we bring our baby stroller and our small dog on leash, who loves looking for squirrels she cannot actually chase. We always pick up our dog's poo and have never seen dogs off leash with other humans on the grounds.

We consider this walking route a benefit and amenity of living in this neighborhood. While house hunting, we passed on several homes that abutted to nice conservancies (notably Owen) because we would not be able to take our dog along while walking through them, even on leash. We respectfully ask that the decision makers continue to allow leashed dogs in the FH cemetery and if necessary, take intermediate actions to cut down on off leash dogs in the cemetery which again, we have yet to see in our first year living in this neighborhood. Our impression is that humans and dogs are respectful of the cemetery's legacy and landscaping - and we consider it an honor to be a part of that. If anything should be adjusted, we would suggest more patrol presence for vehicles hanging out in the cemetery toward dusk that don't seem to have a

cemetery related reason for being there. Perhaps this action would also cut down on possible off leash dogs.

Thank you for the consideration,

Brian & Kathleen Schildroth
11 Virginia Terrace
608-501-1616

From: Scott Rajski <sr Rajski@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 10:03 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>;
Scott Rajski <scott.rajski@wisc.edu>; Scott Rajski
<sr Rajski@gmail.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery Dog-Friendly status request

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

Dear Parks Commission Colleagues,

I wish to formally request herein that the current status of Forest Hill Cemetery as a Dog-Friendly park be retained. This park provides a beautiful, peaceful, quiet and most importantly, safe location in which to walk dogs on leash (on roadway only) for families nearby. While I can certainly sympathize with those select people who have difficulties being in the presence of dogs or have witnessed dogs being off leash or being permitted in cemetery regions not currently permitted, it is my contention that a blanket "Dogs Prohibited" status is not going to reconcile such problems and will really only punish those of us who follow the rules and respect the sacred grounds within the cemetery. Individuals that do not respect the current rules stated (dogs on leash on roadways only) will certainly not respect a "no dogs" policy either. In addition, a blanket "no dogs" policy will most likely remove the comforting periodic presence of dogs to those visiting the cemetery (and likely in various states of mourning and/or distress). It is my contention, based on personal experience, that the number of cemetery guests who are somehow comforted by the sight of well cared for dogs in the cemetery probably far exceeds the number of cemetery guests who are unsettled at the sight of said dogs and their owners. In all, I believe that the current Dog-Friendly status of the Forest Hill Cemetery vastly improves the experiences of those walking dogs in the neighborhood and those visiting the cemetery relative to the former Dog-Free status. Relatedly, it should be noted that, the presence of dog walkers in the cemetery provides an increased presence of generally law abiding, anti-polluting and community-minded individuals who might otherwise not be present. Collectively, a Dog-Friendly status has overwhelmingly positive effects for the vast majority of individuals that frequent a given area.

It should also be noted that there are, depending on time of day, significant safety benefits to be considered by having Forest Hill a Dog-Friendly site. Pedestrians traveling along Speedway Ave. are able to use a sidewalk only on one side of this often busy road. Depending on the time of day

and locations involved, it can be very tricky to cross Speedway Ave. in order to access the sidewalk bordering Resurrection Cemetery. By allowing those with dogs to access the Forest Hill Cemetery roadways, pedestrians are offered, at all times of day, a safe way to travel along Speedway Ave. It is highly likely that this consideration, as important as it may be to pedestrians near, but not in, Forest Hill Cemetery, is likely not a consideration to those seeking a banning of dogs within the cemetery. I feel, especially as we head towards winter and the amount of daylight diminishes, this is a factor that Parks Commission members might give considerable thought to.

In sum, I thank all those with input and suggestions for how to move ahead with dog-related policies in Forest Hill Cemetery. Nobody's considerations should be discounted. However, in light of what has been gained by the current Dog-Friendly status for the majority of those impacted, it would seem counter productive to revert to earlier Dog Free status.

Sincerely,
Scott R. Rajski

From: Jane Powers <jfmemp@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 6:33 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.

I write to strongly support keeping Forrest Hill cemetery dog friendly. I have been walking our dog there twice weekly for years and have yet to see a dog owner who disrespects the rules. Dogs are always on leash, on the paths and owners carry waste out. It is such a peaceful place to walk other than sittings of cranes, turkeys and foxes who can be noisy too. I urge you not to take away this wonderful place to commune with my dog and nature in the bustle of the very busy near west side.

Jane Powers
515 South Prospect Ave
Madison, WI

From: Kamal Calloway <kamal.calloway@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 2:26 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Kamal Calloway <kamal.calloway@gmail.com>; Christin Calloway <christin.calloway@gmail.com>
Subject: Dogs in Parks - Sugar Maple Park

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider this a formal request to keep Sugar Maple Park DOG FREE. Animals coexisting with children of homes who don't have animals present an interesting integration cohabitation challenge.

My home is animal free as we don't do well with dogs, cats or anything of the sort and neither do our three children. We have nothing against animals personally, however it's just our personal preference.

Allowing dogs to saunter free in the parks invites irresponsible pet owners to be lackadaisical when cleaning up pet feces in all sorts of weather conditions. In the especially, inclement weather (i.e., rain or snow) pet owners are less likely to clean up after their furry family members.

I personally do not want my infants and toddlers falling, walking or accidentally encountering feces or urine compromising their health.

There are various places to allow animals to roam free for those individuals who choose to own pets in their homes.

My wife and I implore you to consider keeping this park dog free for all Birchwood Point families to enjoy a clean environment.

All My Best,
Kamal Calloway

From: bryan/molly cooper <stewartcooper@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 7:28 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status at Forest Hill Cemetery

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

Dear City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners, As a frequent dog walker and neighbor of Forest Hill Cemetery, I strongly encourage you to keep the Cemetery status as "dog friendly". I often walk with our family dog through the cemetery and enjoy its beauty and the sacredness with full respect of those that have gone before us. I imagine there are dog owners buried there and if/and when ky time comes and I'm buried I would enjoy knowing people/humans and canines alike are visiting the land that many before us have thought as sacred and beautiful.

Sincerely,

Molly Cooper
206.795.1804 (mobile)

From: Cooper, Amelia <amelia.cooper@edgewoodhs.org>
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 7:36 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dog Status at Forest Hill Cemetery

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

Dear Madison Board of Park Commissioners,

My name is Amelia Cooper and I'm in the 12th grade at Edgewood High School of the Sacred Heart. I have lived on Hillington Way since I was 8. In my "younger years" I went to Blessed Sacrament School. I have been a patron of the Forest Hill Cemetery for a long time. I remember taking a class trip in the Sixth grade to the Cemetery to see amazing actors and learn about the history of the area as a whole. During the spring months, I would participate in track, and my favorite memory would be having a scavenger hunt through the cemetery running and winding through the different pathways to find different tombs on the outsides of the trails. Through the years I have made new memories in the cemetery including driving lessons in the cemetery with my mom and sister holding on for "dear life". But one of my favorites is when I got my dog Daisy. She's a goldendoodle and is my favorite thing in the whole world. She is one of my newest memories at the cemetery. I love taking her on long walks on the beautiful paths and pointing out different names on the tombstones to my mom. Just recently I saw the news that Forest Hill Cemetery will soon become a dog-free park. At first, I was confused and pondered the reason for this change. I always clean up my dog's waste and never allow her to go to the bathroom in the cemetery in general. I also always keep her on a leash out of respect for those who lie at rest. But I realized maybe some do abuse the opportunity to use this great park by letting their dogs off leash or not cleaning up waste. But as I've aged I have grown to know this amazing community and can't see anyone in this community wanting to damage it. I have personally never seen anyone break the rules but I'm obviously not there twenty-four-seven. I've pondered some solutions on how to prevent any issues in the Cemetery and I have come up with a few. Including having different waste drop-off points that also include waste bags if needed. To prevent the leaving of waste around the cemetery. There could also be hours when dogs are allowed in the cemetery and times when dogs are not allowed. As someone who has grown up as this Cemetery has grown old I hope to continue to get to use this amazing place with my furry friend. Please remember all those who hold so much respect for this amazing place when taking into consideration removing dogs from it.

Sincerely, Amelia Cooper

From: Joe Schubert <njschubert5@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 9:29 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery and Dogs

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

While I do not own a dog, I greatly appreciate the freedom of pet owners to walk their dogs in the cemetery. I frequently walk in the cemetery and usually see dogs. They are almost always leashed and I have never had any problem. Having dogs in the park adds (in a very positive way) to my walking experience.

Please keep the status as "dog friendly."

Sincerely,

Joe Schubert
2238 Hollister Avenue

608.852.9439

From: Amy Robertson <robertson.v.amy@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 8:27 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: New dog walking rules in Forest Hill Cemetery

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

Dear Board of Parks Commissioners,

I heard that the Board of Parks Commissioners is considering making Forest Hill Cemetery a dog free park, and I would like to share my opposition to this change. Forest Hill Cemetery is a beautiful, peaceful park where dog owners should be able to walk with their controlled, on-leash dogs.

Thank you,

Amy Robertson
217 Richland Ln
Madison, WI 53705

From: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 8:30 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: FW: Forest Hill Cemetery

From: yaghaffar.yaghaffur@gmail.com <yaghaffar.yaghaffur@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 3:17 PM
To: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Contact Information:

Name: Katrina Thompson
Street Address:
606 Copeland Street
Madison, WI 53711
Phone:
Email: yaghaffar.yaghaffur@gmail.com

Comments / Questions:

Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery

Comments / Questions:

I understand you are considering making the cemetery dog free. There are very few parks in Dudgeon Monroe where dogs are allowed. I hope you will keep the status as-is, with dogs allowed on leash on paved areas.

From: Kimberly Haupt <kimberly.haupt@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 9:57 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Forest Hill Cemetery - Dog Status

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

To whom it may concern,

I live at 3624 Speedway Rd, which is directly across the street from Forest Hill Cemetery. It is a beautiful green space! We use the paths in the park at least once a week for walking or jogging.

My husband and I are strongly opposed to changing the park to a “dog free” status. We have not encountered a problem with a dog or with dog waste during our use of the park. We also have a view of the park from our front living room window, and we see dozens of neighbors walking their leashed pets on the paths every day. Forest Hill is a valuable park in our neighborhood, and we think everyone who lives nearby should be able to enjoy it with their pets if they would like to.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kimberly Haupt

From: Jessica Weeks <jessica.weeks@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 12:58 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: leashed dogs in Forest Hill

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

Dear commission,

I write to ask you to please not reverse the decision to allow leashed and licensed dogs at Forest Hill! It is so important for the community to have green spaces where pets are allowed, especially given the lack of dog parks within walking distance. Please, please, please continue to allow the use of this valuable community resource!

Sincerely,
Jessica Weeks
2234 West Lawn

From: David McMurray <rdavidmcmurray@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 1:00 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Forest Hills Cemetery and Dogs

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

Hello Board of Park Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for preserving the dog friendly status of Forest Hills Cemetery.

During the pandemic, when I learned that the rules concerning dogs in the cemetery had changed, I have enjoyed my daily walks in Forest Hills with my dog. It's a place that allows room for social distancing, it's virtually car free, it's beautiful, and I find it to be a place of great historical and sacred importance.

For the past two years, I have spent time in Forest Hills nearly every day. In all of that time, only once did I notice a dog off leash in the cemetery. The dog appeared to have broken free of its owner who was walking down by the South West bike path. The dog departed as quickly as it appeared. Every other dog I have encountered has been on leash and on the roads.

I am not sure of the reasons that have caused the BPC to reconsider the rules concerning dogs in the cemetery, but I encourage you to maintain Forest Hills Cemetery as a dog friendly place.

Sincerely,

David McMurray

From: Michelle Turek <turekm@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 2:29 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Leashed Dogs in Forest Hill Cemetery

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

I live around the Forest Hill Cemetery and work at the UW-Madison. I love the neighborhood. It's a civil community that takes care of itself. I walk my dog in the area regularly, including in the cemetery. I have never witnessed any disrespectful dog behavior in the cemetery, nor encountered any frustration about the presence of my dog. The number of people I've encountered in the cemetery is quite few despite my frequent

visits. I've encountered people taking a walk but it's never what I would call busy. If a person is visiting a resting loved one, I always take care to stay out of their way. Here again, I have never encountered frustration. It's usually the opposite. Folks smile at the sight of the dog. I am in favor of continuing the leashed dog policy at the cemetery. Thank you for considering my input.

Michelle Turek

From: Julia Billingham <jaymaycat@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 3:17 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Stephen Billingham <scblnghm@aol.com>
Subject: Support leashed dogs in Forest Hills Cemetery

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

Please vote to continue to allow leashed dogs in Forest Hills Cemetery.

In our urban residential neighborhoods where the Arboretum forbids dogs, it is very very helpful to have a large, nearby, pleasant area that we may walk our dogs. The commuter path is not a safe place to walk our dogs because the bike traffic can be very fast. At the cemetery, I do not see many dogs there anyway, and I believe that it is good urban planning to allow more uses of this semi-natural space.

Thank you.

Julia Billingham
648 Sprague Street
Madison 53711

From: The Sheahan Family <sheahan1@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 9:10 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: issue - dog's in cemetery rule for Forest Hill Cemetery

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

Dear Sir and Madam,

I do not agree that the requested change to dog free designation for Forest Hills Cemetery is necessary or should be implemented.

I think dogs on a leash in the cemetery are acceptable despite the concern that will be addressed at the 11/9/2022 BPC meeting.

I have a family plot in Forest Hills, Section 40, for the past 14 years. In the summer I water my plants 2 - 3 times/week during the day time. While watering I often see people

walking on roads in the cemetery, but very rarely with a dog. The rare evening that I have walked in the cemetery I have not seen a dog.

My daughter has a very nervous and anxious dog. Her dog does not tolerate other dogs or unknown people. Her dog will lunge and bark at them. Because the cemetery is quiet with few other dogs, my daughter walks her dog on a leash several times per week on the cemetery roads. She cannot safely walk in areas with lots of people or take her dog to a dog park. She controls her dog on the leash. The only time she allows her dog to walk on the grass or near a grave monument is when people do not give her dog enough space on the roadway.

Eliminating dogs in the Forest Hill Cemetery would be a hardship for her and her dog.

Thank you,

Helen Sheahan

1106 Valley Stream Drive

Madison, WI 53711

608-692-7553

From: Paul Kelleher <paul@paulkelleher.net>

Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 7:59 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Please keep Forest Hill dog-friendly

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

Hello,

I am writing to ask that you please keep Forest Hill cemetery dog-friendly. Most of us with dogs in the neighborhood love the ability to walk here--it is a beautiful and peaceful environment, and dog owners are very respectful from what I can tell. I'm sorry if there are a few bad actors. Please ask yourselves whether the bad actors would be deterred by a new dog-prohibition policy. Wouldn't they continue to act badly, since they are already doing so? And if the answer is that now there could be enforcement, I ask why there cannot now be enforcement of the park's current requirement that dogs be on leash?

I also know that there are people with loved ones at rest in Forest Hill who take comfort in walking their dogs there. Please consider that group, as well.

Sincerely,

Paul Kelleher

301 Glenway St.

From: Brooke Keller <brookeckeller@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 8:39 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Dogs in Forest Hill Park

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

Hello,

We write in strong support of continuing to allow dogs in Forest Hill Park. The site is a wonderful resource for the whole community, and dogs have never been an issue here. Dog owners in the community are courteous and conscientious. We have never encountered a dog off leash in the park, nor have we seen mess that hasn't been cleaned up. It also gives us great comfort to have our beloved dog with us when we visit our lost loved ones. Banning dogs from this park is a solution in search of a problem.

Thank you,

Brooke and Richard Keller
609 Sprague Street
Madison, WI 53711

From: Ann McCall <annmccall@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 3:03 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Paul Kelleher <paul@paulkelleher.net>
Subject: Dogs in Forest Hills Cemetery

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

Hi there -

We're writing to express our strong opposition to making Forest Hills Cemetery a dog-free park. We walk our *leashed* dogs in the park often. It's a wonderful and safe place for our family to walk our dogs while our four year old child rides his bike or scooter. We keep our dogs on paved paths and on leashes at all times, and we very much enjoy the beautiful and peaceful setting and the safe, low-traffic setting for our young child. We know that there are individuals who are not respectful of the rules and allow their dogs to wander off leash. We don't feel that these individuals should ruin access to this park for the rest of us. Our hope is that there could be stricter penalties for those not following the rules vs. punishing those of us who do follow the rules.

Best,
Ann

Ann McCall & Paul Kelleher
301 Glenway St.
Madison, WI 53705

From: Layne Larson <layne_larson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 8:53 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Americans Disability Act - Dogs in Parks

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

Hello. My daughter, who loves swinging at Zook Park and has a very severe anxiety and allergies to dogs. Allowing dogs in the park would create an unwelcoming park for her. This anxiety is a disability and an accommodation to this disability would be to keep Zook park dog free.

There are other nearby parks or green spaces that are dog friendly such as Mohican Pass Triangle Park and Odana Hills.

Please keep Zook Park dog free.

Thanks,

Layne Larson

layne_larson@yahoo.com
