



Department of Public Works  
**Parks Division**

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January 18, 2006

To: Pedestrian / Bicycle / Motor Vehicle Commission

From: Simon Widstrand, Parks Development Manager

Re: Request to Use Bike Path in Accessible Dog Exercise Area at Quann Park

Dear Commissioners:

The Parks Division is currently preparing plans to complete the perimeter fencing of the Dog Exercise Area at Quann Park. Our goal is to have the fencing completed prior to opening the Goodman Swimming Pool in mid-June.

At a Park Commission meeting last year, users of the park requested that we keep part of the bike path open to off-leash dog exercise. They felt that this was the best way to provide easy access to people with disabilities. An area of the path adjacent to the dog area was identified that would not conflict with access to the pool. Bike traffic could use the parallel Wingra Creek Path with minimal disruption. The Park Commission agreed to the concept, and we seek your approval to implement the change as part of our fencing project.

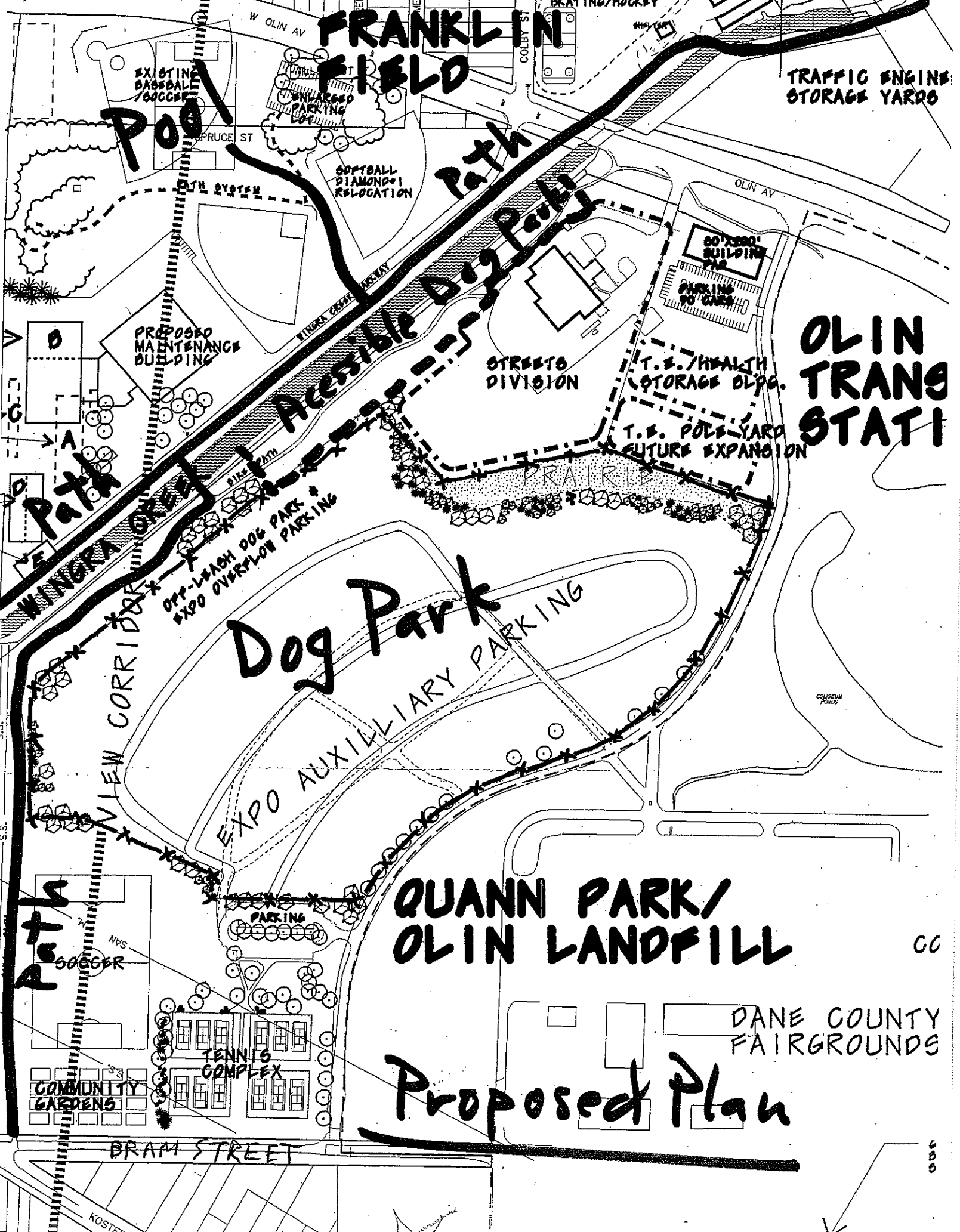
Attached is a poor map of the area and minutes from a Park Commission Subcommittee that will provide background information.

Someone from the Parks staff will be at the meeting to present a better map and additional information.

Sincerely,

Simon Widstrand  
Parks Development Manager

# FRANKLIN FIELD



**Pool**

EXISTING BASEBALL SOCCER

PROPOSED MAINTENANCE BUILDING

VIEW CORRIDOR

**Dog Park**

EXPO AUXILIARY PARKING

**QUANN PARK / OLIN LANDFILL**

**Proposed Plan**

TRAFFIC ENGINE STORAGE YARDS

**OLIN TRANS STATION**

OLIN AV

W OLIN AV

PRUCE ST

COLBY ST

SKATING/HOCKEY

SOFTBALL DIAMOND #1 RELOCATION

60'x200' BUILDING

PARKING 50 CARS

STREETS DIVISION

T.S. HEALTH STORAGE BLDG.

T.S. POLE YARD FUTURE EXPANSION

TRAIL

OFF-LEASH DOG PARK + EXPO OVERFLOW PARKING

**Path**

COMMUNITY GARDENS

TENNIS COMPLEX

BRAM STREET

KOSTER

DANE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

CC

300

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Monday, April 18, 2005 in the Parks Conference Room, Room 120, Madison Municipal Building, 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Members present:	Susan Hamblin, Alan Bessey, Mel Casto, Randy Glysch, Joyce Rosevear and Paul Skidmore, one vacancy
Pool Committee	
Members present:	Randy Glysch, Bonnie Griswold, Judy Compton, Charlie Sanders
Park Commission	
Members Present:	Randy Glysch, Betty MacDonald, Paul Skidmore
City Parks Staff present:	James Morgan, Elinor Riley, Brad Weisinger, LaVonne LaFave
City Staff Present:	Ald. Isadore Knox, Jr.

### ROLL CALL

Chair Hamblin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum of the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee was present and the meeting was properly noticed. There was no quorum of the Ad Hoc Swimming Pool Committee.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Glysch/Skidmore to defer approval of the Minutes of the April 4, 2005 Meeting of the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Dog Park Improvements ~ ADA Request for Handicap Accessible Paths/Lighting at Sycamore Dog Park/ Fencing at Quann Dog Park

It was noted by Chair Hamblin this Committee would receive input regarding the various proposals for dog Park improvements and make a recommendation to the Park Commission who would make final approval on the recommendations. Widstrand explained the Dog Park system that is in place. It is a multiple jurisdictional system of dog exercise areas among Dane County and the Cities of Madison, Sun Prairie and Middleton as indicated in the Dog Park Brochure that was distributed. The off leash dog parks in the city were designated on the large map at the back of the room. He also distributed a spreadsheet listing the different amenities in the various dog parks as well as their sizes. There is perimeter fencing at Brittingham, Warner and Sycamore. There are entry kiosks, picnic tables and pads and dog waste pick-up at all off leash parks. Paver stones were added at three parks to deal with the muddy conditions at high traffic areas near entryways. There are small dog areas at two parks. There is drinking water available nearby at two sites and there is lighting at one site. There is also "beach" access at two sites. There are not accessible paths inside any of the dog parks. There are gravel paths in some of them that can be considered accessible depending on what you read. They are not as good as paved paths and are not good for people who have problems with uneven surfaces or who are in wheelchairs. Many of our sites are on old landfills so there is minimal shade. We have placed shade canopies over picnic tables at those sites and there are trees at the other sites.

He then displayed a Master Plan dated 1998 for the Quann-Franklin area. At that time there was discussion about expanding the parking area and the Parks Maintenance facility. He pointed out the existing parking lot and softball field. The pool and its associated parking have been sited on Olin Avenue. The Water Utility building has been built where traffic engineering uses are shown on the map. He then pointed out Wingra Creek, Franklin Field now known as Goodman Park, the skating area and Quann Park, the tennis courts, the community garden area that has been expanded, the soccer field that was actually made slightly smaller than shown on the map, as well as the Wingra Creek Bike Path on the Goodman side of the Creek and the bike path that comes from Bram Street and crosses at the bridge that many people use for access to the dog area and continues up to Olin Avenue.

There are two access points to the dog exercise area, one is located across from the tennis courts parking lot and the other is from the Goodman (Franklin Field) Maintenance Facility parking area. Currently there is a fence across the south end of the dog park. The Engineering Division will fence another portion when they complete the landfill project. There is a temporary fence in place and they have agreed to keep the

temporary fence up until the permanent fence is installed. What remains to be done in terms of fencing is to fence off the side along the bike path and on the other side along Expo Drive (Quann Olin Parkway). Questions remain as to whether there should be access to the Creek that the dog park users want and the interaction between people getting into the dog park with their dogs and back and forth to the Creek and bike paths.

He then discussed the need for lighting so that people can walk their dogs year round when it is dark by 4:30 p.m. in the winter. It is desirable to have some areas lighted for safety. Lights were installed at Brittingham. There are two areas that would be relatively easy to do at Warner Park where there is already existing lighting in the parking lot and the other is at Sycamore. While light poles cannot be installed at Sycamore because it is an old landfill, lights could be installed along the parking lot to provide lights along the north side. The other alternative is to add solar lights on pads at landfills. The light levels would be reduced and more would be required to provide the same amount of light as standard poles, but could be used throughout the landfills. They cost approximately \$2,000-\$3,000 each. One question is how much lighting is needed.

The last item is accessible routes and accessible use of dog areas. Parks tries to make everything in its parks accessible and the long term goal would be to have all of the entrances to the dog areas accessible with paved accessible paths. The paths could extend in 100 feet or so and then look at whether a looped trail system could be added. It would cost approximately \$5,000 per entrance.

The Quann Park Dog Park map includes improvement goals in no particular order, based on what has been done or what is proposed for the dog parks. They are: complete the perimeter fencing, provide safe bike-pedestrian access from Bram to the Pool and Olin Turville, provide dog access to Wingra Creek, provide a drinking fountain near the main entry, provide lighting, provide an accessible path, provide a small dog area, provide an alternate dog area during Alliant Center events and allow for unrestricted use of Quann soccer, tennis, gardens, etc. He noted Parks would like to find an alternate area for dog use during the Alliant Center events when they use the area for trailer parking. Parks would also like to maintain access to the remainder of the park facilities for the general public.

He believes there is approximately \$72,000 in the dog permit fund. Approximately \$16,000 is allocated for administration and enforcement charges this year. The balance would then be available for improvements. He estimates the cost of fencing at \$10 per foot is \$16,000 on each side of Quann for a total of \$32,000. At both Sycamore and Warner, lighting could be extended at a cost of approximately \$5,000 each. Accessible paths could be easily added at Warner and relatively easily at Quann. There is a mud problem at the one entrance at Quann where paver stones were not installed.

There are other things that Parks needs to continue to look at, such as the access to the Creek and how that would ultimately be handled. That access point would be a high priority when money becomes available. His goal would be to have the Quann items taken care of prior to the time the Goodman Pool opens next year. He also noted that additional sites are needed on the far West, the Southeast and near East sides of Madison. Those are the areas that do not have ready access to unleashed dog parks; keeping in mind money will be needed to fence any new parks.

In response to a question about accessible access, Widstrand noted in parks we don't provide access to everything or everything would be paved which would include all the trails in conservation parks and everything right up to a facility. In community parks good path access is typically provided to all of the major facilities. In smaller neighborhood parks if a path is within 100 feet of a playground, basketball court, and/or a park shelter, which may be adequate. There is no absolute rule that states something in particular is required. In many cases, a hiking trail might not be accessible, but a gravel trail that is 4 to 6 feet wide can be considered accessible for wheelchairs. Accessibility isn't just about wheelchairs. Some people have trouble walking for a variety of health reasons and can't climb hills or can't walk on rough paths. It doesn't automatically mean you have to make a paved path to every facility in the park system.

In this case the goal would be to make sure people have a good accessible surface at a proper grade, which might pose a problem at some entrances, adequate width gates and a path going into the dog area. Benches along the path are also desirable. There is a group interested in having access into Warner Park that does not include wheelchair travel over wood chips.

He also proposed two lights each to start at Warner and Sycamore Parks. The question is how much of the dog exercise area should be lit and how well should it be lit. Two lights at each of those parks would be a start and additional lights could be added in future years. The fees that come in this year can't be spent until next year.

Another item on the Quann map was a drinking fountain. There was a contract last year that was not done and is being rebid this year to relocate the drinking fountain that is in the middle of the soccer field at Quann and move it closer to the parking lot entrance at the dog area.

Dogs currently are gaining access to Wingra Creek in an area that has become eroded where they are going in and out. He suggested that it could be fenced off with a gate to allow entry into the Creek so they wouldn't be roaming free across the bike path.

Registered Speakers:

NAME	Comment
Judy Cline	Would like ADA access at Dog Parks; fencing at Quann Park
Barbara Gilligan	Suggests ADA request fulfilled at Quann by the bike path; fencing at Quann Park
Marguerite Payne	Completely enclose dog area at Quann, volunteered to fundraise
Bill DiCarlo	Has fencing concerns relative to City/County use agreement for Quann Park. There are event implications.
C. Britt Carlson	Fencing at Quann Park
Heidi Beckman	Fencing at Quann Park
Mary Caulfield	Fencing at Quann Park
Jessica Bullen	Fencing at Quann Park
Kelly Roark	Fencing at Quann Park
Catherine Gilligan	No comment, didn't speak
Virginia Link	Fencing at Quann Park
Ald. Isadore Knox	Representing his constituents
Various e-mails from citizens and Ald. Knox were also received into the record	

Widstrand stated he believes the fencing along Expo Drive is essential for the dog safety. Parks is willing to work with the Alliant Center on a gate system to allow their patrons access for parking. There are issues with the combined use of the property that need to be worked out. He noted that it would be a question for the City Attorney as to whether fencing was allowed.

a. A motion was made by Glysch/Skidmore to approve ADA requests at the entrances at Warner and Quann Parks in the sum of \$10,000, lighting at Warner and Sycamore Parks in the sum of \$10,000 and fencing the two sides of Quann Park in the sum of \$32,000. Further that a Memorandum of Understanding be entered into between the City and the County/Alliant Energy Center regarding the fencing. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Motion was also approved by Park Commission  
on May 11, 2005