

From: [Jessi A](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#); [Field, Derek](#); [Madison, Sabrina](#); [Rummel, Marsha](#); [McAuliffe, Daniel](#)
Subject: Recommend the removal of the Nakoosa Trail Extension from the NE Area Plan-written comment
Date: Friday, August 23, 2024 6:05:30 AM

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Hello Commissioners,

My name is Jessi. I live at 821 Bewick Drive. Burke Heights has been my family's home since the 1960's. I plan to live here forever. I've served on our Neighborhood Association and I'm heavily invested in our community. I'm writing to ask you to help us get the planned street through Sycamore Park removed from the greater Northeast Area Plan.

I am both excited and grateful to live in a city that values and plans for our collective future. Our neighbors were provided an opportunity to participate in the City's new Planning Framework. It is a wonderful model. The hard working people in our local government were successful at creating a sense of engagement and belonging throughout the process. Unfortunately -for us- it seems that there may be a disconnect in the layering of all these master plans. Or perhaps we paid closer attention to the wrong plan...Im not sure I guess. What I do know is that a street down here is undesired and would make our park less safe. Sycamore Park is already highly utilized, easily accessible, and plenty visible. Sycamore is a model recreation space. Sycamore offers diversity in its amenities and really has something for everyone.

I attended the Urban Design Commission meeting last week. The City Planner stated that the street through Sycamore Park was in the plan from the beginning and that they were surprised to see many residents just now realizing and opposing this. While this is technically true of the NE Area Plan, the comment felt disingenuous to our neighbors who engaged in the earlier [Sycamore Park Master Plan](#) development process. The three public input sessions, review of the draft master plan, revised master plan, and final adopted master plan, the walking tour with folks from different areas of the City, and the Northeast Area Connect event included **zero mention of a road through Sycamore Park**. Neither did any document, Appendice, slide, proposed amenity nor improvement list. In fact, all proposed drafts and discussions presented the area of the soccer field (where the street now appears in the NE Area Plan) annotated as having an **off-road bike trail corridor**. So yes, while the City Planner is right to say that the Nakoosa Trail Extension street has been in the NE Area Plan from the beginning, it is easy to see why a large number of residents, who engaged in this process and whom you are hearing opposition from now, seem surprised and upset that this greater NE Area plan has a street drawn through our beautiful park.

I attended the Board of Park Commissioners meeting last week. They heard our public comment and supported our residents by voting to adopt the plan with the exception of a road bifurcating the park! Please partner with our residents on Monday August 26th too! Our community has respectfully said NO THANK YOU to a road in the past. We say NO THANK YOU today. We'll say NO THANK YOU in the future.

The unwanted street will fragment our park, open up access to speeding cars where our children and dogs play, and will be an unnecessary & redundant East to West street. Tearing up our community park's green space to lay a street would be a

real loss for everyone in our greater neighborhood area. It is difficult to convey through email how strongly we oppose this. Sycamore Park is a place of respite, health, and peace. Our park is for recreation and connection and sunshine...not cars!

Please help us. **Amplify our voices.** Vote to adopt the Northeast Area Plan with a recommendation of removing the Nakoosa Trail Extension "planned street."

Thank you for your consideration,
Jessi Alter

From: [Merikay Payne](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Cc: [Field, Derek](#)
Subject: Sycamore Park
Date: Thursday, August 22, 2024 5:02:31 PM

You don't often get email from merikay_merikay@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Staff,

Thank you for your work. There are signs in Sycamore Park indicating you will be voting on adding a road through the park. I'd like to give you our input on the situation.

There have been many improvements to Sycamore Park: new playground equipment, trees planted, a bicycle path, soccer fields, dog park, walking path, shelter, prairie creation, and basketball courts; all to make the park user friendly, We walk on the path almost every day. There are kids on the playground, teams playing soccer, people taking their dogs for a walk, and bicyclists trying the new path.

It is a well-used park and seems incongruous to add a road making it more difficult to access and increase the possibility of car/pedestrian accidents and speeding complaints from neighborhood residents. Past speeding complaints resulted in stop signs being put on every neighborhood corner.

Please reconsider your decision to add a road to Sycamore Park and keep our neighborhood safe.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Henry and Merikay Payne
810 Redland Dr.
Madison, WI 53714