

**From:** [spwilliams@uwalumni.com](mailto:spwilliams@uwalumni.com)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Median Replacement Alternative: Bee Lawns  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 10:32:24 AM

---

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Scott Williams  
**Address:** 1308 Gray Hawk Way, Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
**Email:** [spwilliams@uwalumni.com](mailto:spwilliams@uwalumni.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Hello, I saw a recent article regarding the planned replacement of several medians in Madison with either turfgrass or concrete. I would like to suggest an alternative that maintains some greenery and plant diversity and is still relatively easy to maintain through mowing: Bee Lawns. The University of Minnesota has been studying flowering plants such as white clover and creeping thyme that can be mixed in with turfgrass and maintained similar to turfgrass i.e. mowing but provide food for bees and other beneficial pollinators:  
<https://extension.umn.edu/landscape-design/planting-and-maintaining-bee-lawn>

Once established, it may need to be mowed even less than traditional turfgrass, saving money on maintenance. The UW-Madison Office of Sustainability helped fund a Bee Lawn pilot project recently in several spots on campus: <https://sustainability.wisc.edu/greenfund/greenfund-projects/>

**From:** [karenahome@gmail.com](mailto:karenahome@gmail.com)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Paving Medians  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 27, 2022 7:51:52 AM

---

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Karen Matteoni  
**Address:** 1710 Yahara Place, Madison, WI 53704  
**Email:** [karenahome@gmail.com](mailto:karenahome@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

Your policy of paving medians will hurt the environment and the beauty of Madison. Other communities like Monona have been able to maintain their medians without drastic measures like paving them.

If you are unable to find contractors to do this work, please consider having this done by City employees.

**From:** [Kathy Sajdak](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** paving over medians  
**Date:** Thursday, April 28, 2022 11:23:20 AM

---

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

OPPOSED! Come to your senses.

I love biking and truly appreciate Madison's bike paths. But sometimes I think there is overkill on making bikers happy. One example: the newish bike light at Cottage Grove and Dempsey. Where did the data for the need for this come from? Was there any? I've never seen a biker use that light. In fact, that corner doesn't even have that many bikers. How about the construction of the path from Dempsey back to Cottage Grove Rd. Totally unnecessary.

Rethink priorities. Keep the little green spaces wherever we find them.

Kathy Sajdak  
804 Bowman Ave

**From:** [nlerner@charter.net](mailto:nlerner@charter.net)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Please say no to paving city medians  
**Date:** Thursday, April 28, 2022 12:00:59 PM

---

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

All City Alders,

I'm a 40-year resident of Madison who grew up in the inner city of Philadelphia. Inner cities are primarily concrete, ugly, and hot in the summer. As Madison continues to grow, is that what we want for our neighborhoods?

I want to express my disappointment in the city's announcement to pave and turf medians in Madison. Even the small green spaces give us necessary biodiversity, as well as flood and ground water management. Please consider presenting or voting on sustainable alternatives, such as low maintenance shrubs, clover seeding, or rain gardens.

Volunteers - Another idea is that neighborhood volunteers can be used to maintain the medians. This is not unprecedented as there are literally thousands of volunteers maintaining Madison and Dane County Parks. I believe many people would volunteer their time to keep their neighborhood streets looking pretty and support birds, bees, and other pollinators.

I appreciate there are many very important issues before the council including equity in all facets of our city. Nature and biodiversity are also important. Let's not needlessly pave over even more of our landscape. It will cost money to pave over these medians so how much will really be saved in the coming year? Concrete also needs maintenance. It cracks, heaves and weeds and grass will grow in the exposed spaces. So how much will be saved in succeeding years versus low maintenance shrubs? Shrubs and other plantings create a brighter, more pleasant streetscape and concrete is ugly. They also help connect landscapes for birds, bees, and other important pollinators.

Thank you for your consideration.

Neil Lerner  
1 Laredo Court  
Madison, WI 53719

**From:** [Marcel Maul](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Garden islands  
**Date:** Thursday, April 28, 2022 7:32:58 PM

---

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

I can't tell you how disappointing it is to discover the cities idea to concrete in garden islands. The small amount of money spent on this in comparison to the beauty it brings to people of Madison and visitors is worth it. I have cared for two in my neighborhood for years. Was there any thought given to seeing if groups would adopt and care for them if the city didn't want to? Other options besides concrete.

I have to say we have been given the wheel tax, now a recycling tax, exorbitant property taxes, urban forestry fees, reassessing our houses to raise property taxes and yet less services. Slighting of our police force. The waste of money on studying the police department could have obviously been better spent. Do city officials not understand the predicament that many people are in with the pandemic or do you just choose not to care. You are pricing the elderly as well anyone who isn't middle to upper middle class out of living in Madison Our mayor is one of the worst, pole your constituents. You will find most are very unhappy with how the city is being run.

**From:** [Jeffrey Schimpff](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Cc:** [Jeffrey Schimpff](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose proposal to cover medians in concrete  
**Date:** Friday, April 29, 2022 12:09:25 PM

---

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

Hello,

I urge the Council to REJECT the proposal to cover a large number of roadway medians with concrete - of any kind.

At the very least, require that all medians proposed for concrete fill be planted in grass instead.

We property tax payers are assessed a fee for all our impermeable surface area. This is purported to be a means of helping to finance stormwater projects across the city. Huge sums of money are being spent to address stormwater problems, which have been severe in recent decades.

Even though these medians represent only a small portion of all the vast expanse of impermeable surface in our watersheds, every little bit of permeable surface can help reduce flooding. Adding more impermeable surface to our public spaces sends a TERRIBLE message to all people who care about our stormwater problems and expenses.

I urge you to REJECT all proposals to add more impermeable surface to our public spaces.

Jeff Schimpff  
2721 Kendall Avenue  
Madison, WI

It's easy to tell how much rain has backed up on University Avenue by noting the unusually heavy traffic on Kendall during major rain events...

**From:** [lisamehannon@gmail.com](mailto:lisamehannon@gmail.com)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** [All Alders] median paving, and thank you  
**Date:** Friday, April 29, 2022 1:18:28 PM

---

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Lisa Hannon  
**Address:** 222 S CARROLL ST, MADISON, WI 53703  
**Email:** [lisamehannon@gmail.com](mailto:lisamehannon@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

I saw a comment from a property owner on Nextdoor noting that she has to pay a fee for projected water run-off and I'm so glad Madison mitigates that, but won't paving medians increase run-off?

I respectfully ask we don't pave them. I'm okay with grass, though I'd prefer zero-maintenance native plants. Bloodroot, maybe? Apparently blooms in spring and goes dormant in summer: [https://www.bhg.com/gardening/gardening-by-region/midwest/native-plants-for-the-midwestern-garden/?slide=slide\\_7ccc0dfb-6d50-451c-b11b-84b5dad63d66#slide\\_7ccc0dfb-6d50-451c-b11b-84b5dad63d66](https://www.bhg.com/gardening/gardening-by-region/midwest/native-plants-for-the-midwestern-garden/?slide=slide_7ccc0dfb-6d50-451c-b11b-84b5dad63d66#slide_7ccc0dfb-6d50-451c-b11b-84b5dad63d66)

While I'm on the subject of lawns, I was thrilled when I moved here in 2019 to see wild growth in lawns as I walked around the city. I'm guessing you're the ones to thank for that. : More of that, please! We Americans need to break our manicured lawn addiction and improve our soil and biodiversity, so I'm all for it!

Regards,

**From:** [Karen Phillips](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** medians  
**Date:** Saturday, April 30, 2022 9:59:43 PM

---

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

please keep our medians environmentally friendly and sustainable madison does not need more concrete thank you for your consideration



**From:** [Charles Cohen](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Medians  
**Date:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 1:27:09 PM

---

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

To the Hon. Alders of the City of Madison:

I ask you to reconsider plans to pave some of the City's medians with concrete. I am most concerned about the increased water runoff. I understand that the runoff would not be concentrated in a single area, and that the City Engineer has argued that the amount of spillage would not be significant. Nevertheless, the time has come to take every step that we can to mitigate excess runoff and the consequent pollution of our lakes. Given the near-certainty that climate change will increase the frequency and amount of rainfall in our area, we cannot be sure that what may at this point seem like "insignificant" runoff will not in the future amount to enough to cause flooding in areas that now seem relatively "dry," and we can be sure that spillage into the lakes will increase as rainfall rises. At what point do we stop putting making excuses—even "reasonable" ones—for taking every action we can to avert the consequences of climate change? To cite the great sage Hillel, "If not now, when?"

Although I would prefer that all the medians would continue to feature plants—whether shrubs or low-mow grasses—I understand that maintaining greenery in some of the medians in high-traffic areas may not be feasible because of economic and/or safety concerns. I have not, however, seen any discussion of other ways of eliminating run-off, such as constructing "dry beds" capped with filters (similar to house gutter-guard systems) so that the dry material does not run into the streets. I am not an engineer and so cannot recommend any particular system, nor can I estimate the possible cost, but, at the very least, I would ask you to consider some such possibilities before you vote to concretize everything.

--

Charles L. Cohen, E. Gordon Fox Professor of American Institutions, Emeritus  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
<https://history.wisc.edu/people/cohen-charles-l/>

**From:** [Carrie Ketcham](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Green spaces in medians  
**Date:** Friday, May 6, 2022 6:45:23 AM

---

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

At this moment of crisis in regards to global warming and environmental inequities, I respectfully ask the City of Madison to not move forward with removing median green space. What cities need is not more concrete. There are so many environmental, gardening and horticulture groups in Madison, would it not be possible ask these groups to consider "adopting" a median? I would sign up to help maintain native plants in medians and I know many others who would also. There has got to be a better solution to the problem than throwing up our hands and pouring concrete.

Respectfully,

Carolyn J Ketcham  
4901 Goldfinch Dr  
Madison, WI 53714

**From:** [annewalker@homelandgarden.com](mailto:annewalker@homelandgarden.com)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** medians--plants  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 10, 2022 4:06:01 PM

---

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

Dear Alders

I strongly encourage you to continue to support medians in our city continuing to be planted with perennials. District 6, my district, is over 62% impervious. We are also park deficient, greenspace deficient, and canopy tree deficient. Increasingly heat is an issue in our cities, both from the urban heat island effect as well as climate change. As well, being over 62% impervious, we struggle to deal with our stormwater. More concrete is not the answer. Additionally turf is less resilient, less drought tolerant than planting the right plants in the right place, namely drought tolerant, salt tolerant native plants.

I do not support converting our greenspaces to turf or concrete.

Respectfully,

Anne Walker